






# **Turtle Lake Homeowners Association**

## **Augmentation Survey (sent 09/27/2011) RESULTS**




**1. While not all contact information is required, it is mandatory that you include your last name and your street address as only one survey per property will be counted. Your individual answers will not be disclosed unless you indicate so; otherwise, answers will only be shared collectively. If you provide your email address, it will be entered in the database so you can be kept informed of TLHA issues.**

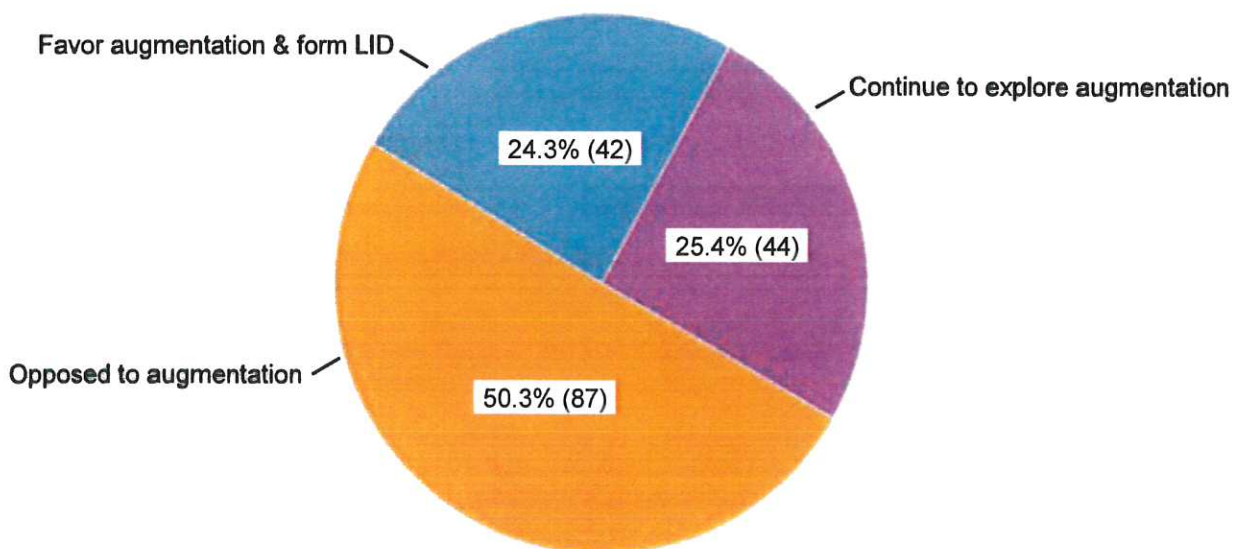
		Response Percent	Response Count
Name:		100.0%	173
Address:		100.0%	173
Email Address:		85.5%	148
		answered question	173
		skipped question	0

### **2. Is it okay to share your specific survey answers?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, it is okay to share my specific survey answers.		56.6%	98
No, I am providing my input for collective purposes only.		43.4%	75
		answered question	173
		skipped question	0



### 3. What best describes your opinion concerning Turtle Lake augmentation with Mississippi River water?

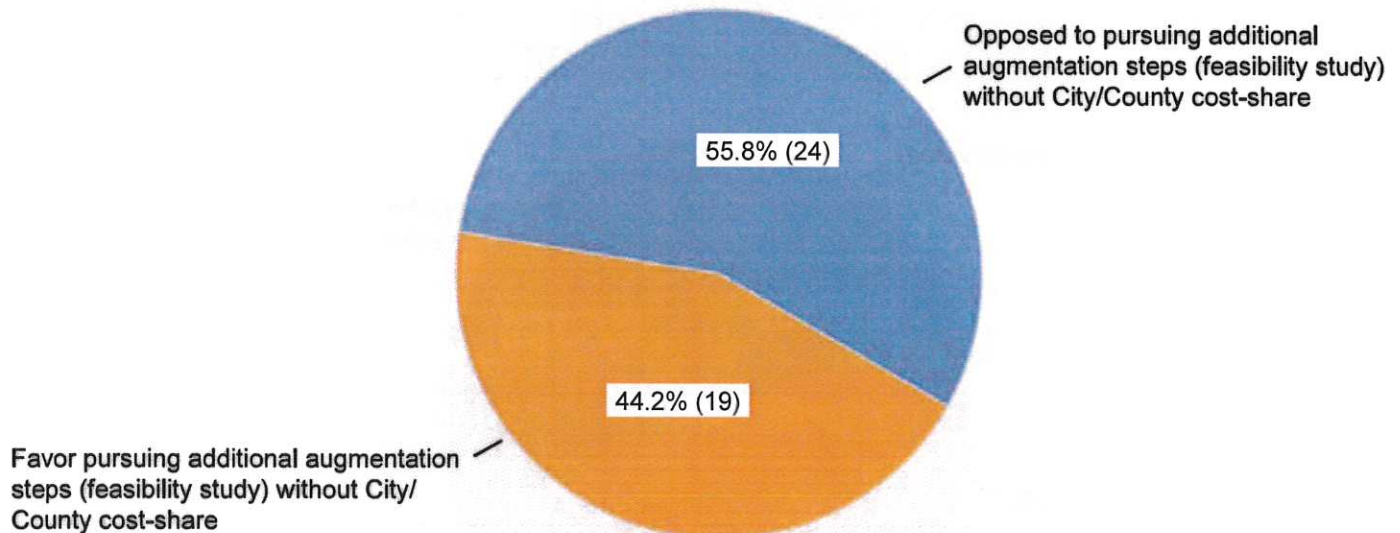
		Response Percent	Response Count
3A. I am opposed to lake augmentation. (Please proceed to Question 6.)		50.3%	87
3B. I am in favor of augmentation and would like to move forward with forming a Lake Improvement District (LID) as soon as possible. I am willing to be assessed my full portion of the project capital cost (preliminarily estimated at \$5,000 per homeowner with a 30% margin of error) and annual operating costs (preliminarily estimated at \$200-\$300 per home owner). (Please proceed to Question 6.)		24.3%	42
3C. I am in favor of continuing to explore augmentation, understanding the next step is a feasibility study at a total cost not to exceed \$38,000. (Please proceed to Question 4.)		25.4%	44
answered question			173
skipped question			0








**4. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION ONLY IF YOU SELECTED 3C ABOVE. Understanding the feasibility study is the next step in augmentation and does not ensure that augmentation will be pursued, I am in favor of moving forward with the feasibility study under the following 'cost share' conditions:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Although I would like cost-share by the City of Shoreview and Ramsey County (and others if applicable), I am in favor of moving ahead even if all costs are assessed to the home owners.		44.2%	19
I am not in favor of pursuing additional steps in augmentation unless there is cost-share by the City of Shoreview and Ramsey County.		55.8%	24
answered question			43
skipped question			130

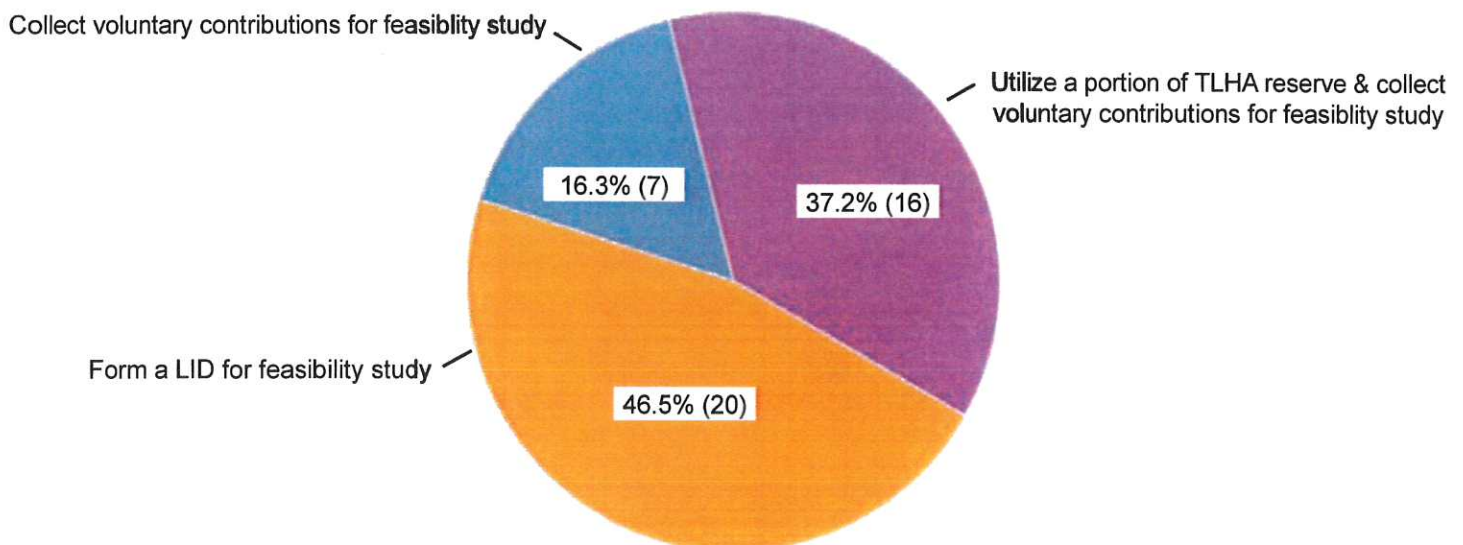


**5. PLEASE ANSWER THIS QUESTION ONLY IF YOU SELECTED 3C ABOVE. Understanding the feasibility study is the next step in augmentation and does not ensure that augmentation will be pursued, I am in favor of moving forward with the feasibility study under the following 'LID vs.voluntary assessment' conditions:**

		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<b>Form a LID as soon as possible to assure all property owners share equally in the \$38,000.</b>		<b>46.5%</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Collect voluntary contributions to pay for the feasibility study (estimated at \$38,000); reserving action on the formation of a LID until we have the data from the feasibility study.</b>		<b>16.3%</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Utilize a portion of TLHA reserve account and collect voluntary contributions for the remainder of the \$38,000; reserving action on the formation of a LID until we have the data from the feasibility study.</b>		<b>37.2%</b>	<b>16</b>

**answered question 43**

**skipped question 130**





**6. Thank you for completing the TLHA Augmentation Survey. Please share any comments here:**

**Response  
Count**

71

answered question

71

skipped question

102

- 1 I'm replying on behalf of my mother, who owns the property. Thanks!
- 2 I can't believe with all mankind trying to keep pollution from getting into water, people want to bring contaminates into our lake.
- 3 Based on the water level data over decades cited in the report, it's entirely possible that the current low lake level is part of a cycle of waxing and waning water levels that are seen over time. Just 7-8 years ago, I was worried about needing to do shoreline restoration because the water level was up on the bank and creating significant erosion. Let's give this a few more years and see where the trend for the lake level is going. There was some rebalancing of the lake level this past summer. Maintaing the highest possible water quality should be our paramount concern.
- 4 If all costs are shared by ALL homeowners in Ramsey County, AND user fees to people launching their boats and using the beach, then we MIGHT reconsider our support.
- 5 Turtle Lake was augmented for many years for a reason. The added stress of additional homes in the area has put more demands on the water supply. The lake is why we live here and we need to protect our common asset for both our enjoyment and property values.
- 6 We appreciate the efforts of the TLHA
- 7 If the only way to conduct the study is with voluntary contributions I reluctantly support that as I believe augmentation is critical. I am strongly against any super-majority requirement, it is not required for other initiatives. This survey seems a bit biased as it does not indicate some portion of the cost may well be borne by the city / county and will be financed over 10 - 15 years nor does it indicate Snail and Gilfillan Lakes have commenced augmentation efforts due to a realization that the watershed is permanently altered (and that even before that pumping was done to maintain a healthy, usable lake).



Q6. Thank you for completing the TLHA Augmentation Survey. Please share any comments here:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 8  | Watercrafts from outside should share in the cost to offset operating costs - thru Ramsey Co.   |
| 9  | I am definitely opposed to augmenting from the Cty Rd I site.   |
| 10 | We cannot afford many extra costs with the cost of our mortgage and two kids in college   |
| 11 | I think it is too early to do this. We have time to wait and see if the natural cycle of the lake will replenish.   |
| 12 | Lived on lake for 87 years and the lake goes up and down; no need augmentation.   |
| 13 | If the city and county do not contribute to the process. then the lid should follow up legally for the city and county contribution.  |
| 14 | Thanks for your time in coordinating this survey.   |
| 15 | we believe that a competitive bidding process should be utilized and the emphasis should be how do we introduce the cleanest form of water into Turtle Lake when augmenting lake levels.  |
| 16 | If golf courses can use ground water to water their grass and commercial buildings in downtown can use aquifer water to cool buildings, why can not pumping be allowed? The water pumped into the lake is not lost. There is elementary science called the water cycle!!!   |
| 17 | Barb and I would be willing to have the lake augmented, if the water does not change the quality of the lake. We like the depth of clarity and how pleasant it is to swim in. We would be willing to pay our share for a study to verify what kind of water we are accepting into the lake. It would be nice to have the lake level be more constant but not if we change the high quality of our water. We don't need a lid if we don't augment. |
| 18 | Thanks for all of your hard work in addressing this important issue   |
| 19 | Mother nature will take care of the lake level, it has in the past.   |
| 20 | Let's get it done!  |



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- 21 I still think there is a need for a study to find out if there is a breach in the lake bottom or a leak in the lake. Also Money should come from Ramsey County, City of Shoreview and the residents also because everyone has access or uses the Lake. DNR forced the access to the Lake and they along with the State should also be party to keeping up the lake levels and quality. We need water soon before the lake won't be able to recover even with increased levels. The weeds, increased cattails and invasive vegetation are infringing on the south eastern part of the lake. Survey could have included more details other than if we want water then we pay for it without knowing exactly if it will solve the problemy
- 22 Let mother nature do her thing. Keep raking the sand to keep down weeds. Money is too tight now. Why attempt to spend more of what people and governments do not have?
- 23 We feel strongly homes w/ easement access, esp. dock rights, should be included in all cost sharing and the LID.
- 24 Assessment should be based on lake front footage
- 25 I think there also needs to be a geological survey similar to the one done for White Bear Lake to determine the real cause for the low lake level. Lake augmentation is treating the symptom (low lake level) and we do not know the cause. This may also impact responsibility for the cost of lake augmentation. The fact that the lake level rises in the winter may be due to diminished pumping by the City and others around the lake since water is not used to irrigate everyone's lawn in the city. Aquifers are not separated by uniform impermeable layers of rock and silt. Pumping from a lower aquifer creates a vacuum which draws water from the higher level aquifer(s) through the cracks and fissures to the aquifer being pumped.
- 26 If there is development for a new stadium, it will take alot of water and put more stress on the lake. If you vote against the augmentation,you better vote against any more development on the west side of lexington or Turtle Lake will never come back.
- 27 The city & country have not made any committment to sharing in this expense, yet are committing \$1 Million dollars to upgrade the Park. Without water in the lake, the park will never be fully utilized. I think we are putting the cart before the horse.
- 28 Discontinue pumping water out of the lake
- 29 Thank you for all your hard work protecting our lake!



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- 30 We are in favor of a LID even if augmentation is voted down to insure funds for continued lake improvements.
- 31 Reason: discoloring lake and changing purity.
- 32 1. I believe the study is naive re the potential for damage to water quality; Damage from agricultural runoff, invasive aquatics/microorganisms may go well beyond mussels/milfoil. Consider the possibility of a large fish kill. 2. The proposed cost is a minimum figure. Even at that it is an unaffordable addition to our taxes. 3. We find it very disturbing that the company (SEH) responsible for the concept study has a financial interest in seeing the project approved.
- 33 "This too shall pass" - low water.
- 34 I am concerned with water clarity, introduction of foreign species and cost.
- 35 WE ARE VEHEMENTALLY OPPOSED TO LAKE AUGMENTATION. BE PATIENT, IT HAS ALWAYS COME BACK. BEEN HERE MOLLY 78 YEARS, HAROLD 53 YEARS.
- 36 I am in favor of the lake rising and falling naturally.
- 37 The lake level will come back in time. It has before and I know it will again.
- 38 THIS MAY BE A DUPLICATE - PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK!
- 39 Thank you all for the time and energy you have given to this project!!!
- 40 One lake cannot be compared to Snail Lake.. They had little choice but to accept river water. Turtle is too important to mess with nature at this point.
- 41 We would support funding a study to determine WHY water levels are fluctuating on Turtle Lake. Once an understanding of the lake watershed dynamics are understood, we may be willing to support a study to evaluate augmentation options that include settling ponds and restoration of the natural watershed to fill the Turtle Lake Basin. We strongly oppose the current augmentation proposal due to potential for permanently altering the composition of Turtle Lake's water.
- 42 Stop panicking about the ebb & flow of mother nature. It's a problem that has happened in the past & corrects itself. We're already paying dearly to live on the lake. We don't want to pay anymore!!! Once again, the homeowners are asked to pick-up the tab for everyone else that uses the lake! How about making an access fee at the boat launch, then everyone who uses the lake shares the cost?
- 43 My home is for sale - don't know how long I will be here.



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- 44 I am not in favor unless there is cost-share by the City and County.
- 45 We would finally like to proceed and stop fooling around.
- 46 Please, no water from any place in this lake.
- 47 I have lived here for 81 years and the lake level has always returned to normal.
- 48 Our family's experience after 100 years of residence on Turtle Lake is that water level always fluctuates. We believe the level will again, naturally, return to higher levels.
- 49 Having lived in the community all our lives and on Turtle Lake for 27 years, we think augmentation would be a big mistake on several levels. The lake level has always fluctuated.
- 50 The lake has come back a great deal this year, therefore I would like to watch it over the next few years to see if it will recover on its won as many of the "old timers" say it will. If it were to continue to decrease I would consider augmentation, but certainly not with water from the Mississippi.
- 51 We believe that normal levels of rain and snow fall can restore the lake over time.
- 52 It is utterly shameful the way in which this survey was constructed. You constructed it to get the answer you wanted and then had a board member use her knowledge of when it was coming out to spread fear and false information, how sad. Nowhere does it tell the homeowners that their expense can be spread over 10-15 years, that the city/county helped pay an aggregate of 55% (I may be a bit off, it could be 45%) for Snail Lake, that there would be a filter system put in place (no, most people will not read the whole study, you imply direct Mississippi would flow to the lake), and your pumping costs are wrong (it was 100-200 \$/yr and pumping was done two out of three years). When you leave out critical financial information and mislead lakeowners, you have committed malfeasance and that can call for legal action.
- 53 only augmation ok with us would be restarting the pumps
- 54 I am opposed to using Mississippi River water in combination with any engineered system involving pumps, pipes and filters discharging water directly into Turtle Lake. If at some time there is a large-scale wetland restoration project where water could filter naturally through the ground water table into the lake, I might be interested. Our property is right next to the storm sewer that is the cheapest entry point for the river water. The prevailing winds from west and southwest blow right in there too. I am afraid the "bad stuff" would be stuck at our end of the lake.



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- 55**      **Reasons not to augment: Protect the lake from contamination of river water, let nature take its course as higher levels are returning, costs are high and will certainly exceed estimates**
- 56**      **I believe we need to see how this goes for a while longer before spending any money.**
- 57**      **Want to see water level restored. Haven't put dock out for 4 years.**
- 58**      **I want us to know exactly how much augmentation will cost us each yr before we go forward.**
- 59**      **While I favor moving forward with the feasibility study, unless FLOC is adequately addressed in the feasibility study we will be wasting our money.**
- 60**      **The homeowners should be asked about their opinion regarding contributing to a USGS study. I do not understand why those questions were not included. As a homeowner association we need to make sure the flock issue is resolved as part of the feasibility study. If SEH keeps potential flock solutions (such as holding ponds) out of their study scope because of cost or other reasons we will be throwing our money away because augmentation will not happen if the flock issue is not resolved.**
- 61**      **I would like a wait and see approach to see if the level continues to increase. If it does not, I would be open to augmentation. I am not in favor of a LID unless it is very limited in its powers. I don't wish to have a board begin to add new regulations and requirements beyond assessing taxes for the operation of the augmentation and for weed control.**
- 62**      **The lake will come back on it's own, there is no need to increase already high taxes to do something that could potentially harm our beautiful lake. A couple more big rain storms or a snowy winter and things will be fine, it's called nature and man shouldn't mess with it. I also think people that vote no shouldn't have to pay for the LID.**
- 63**      **I have seen this lake this low before when I was a child. I also have pictures of my mother going back to the 1920's. The lake was at also as low or lower as is was last year. The lake has made a dramatic comeback this summer and will continue to do so. We all have to relax and realize this is nature taking its course.**
- 64**      **There is no reason for this. The potential harm is enormous. The quality of our water is invaluable to our wonderful lake and thus standard of living. We are very fortunate to live on this lake so lets not screw it up. Mother nature will take care of it as she has always done.**



**Q6. Thank you for completing the TLHA Augmentation Survey. Please share any comments here:**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 65 | That was easy---   |
| 66 | I would like to give Mother Nature a chance to provide the water for Turtle Lake. At this time I don't want to spend any time or money on augementation of Turtle Lake   |
| 67 | I really support augmentation for Turtle Lake. I am willing to be assessed for part of the construction and operating costs. However, since this lake has a public access the city should share part of the costs. We are Shoreview residents who pay property taxes so we should reap some rewards from paying local taxes.   |
| 68 | Question 3B should also note that the assessed approximated cost of \$5000 could be paid over a period of time- I think it could be up to 10 years.  |
| 69 | While I am slightly more in favor of further exploration than against it, my overall impression is that this is an expensive longterm venture designed to solve a most-likely short-term problem, with multiple potential negative future effects, including a long-term decline in the water quality of a very clean metro lake. I plan to proceed with an open mind, but given the information that has been gathered up to this point, I would most likely vote against the proposal in the future. |
| 70 | Thank You Beth and all your helpers for all the hard work you have done  |
| 71 | The natural rise and fall of the lake should be allowed to continue for the health of the lake and purity of the water   |