



# **BOW LAKE SEPTIC SURVEY RESPONSES**

# SURVEY SUMMARY

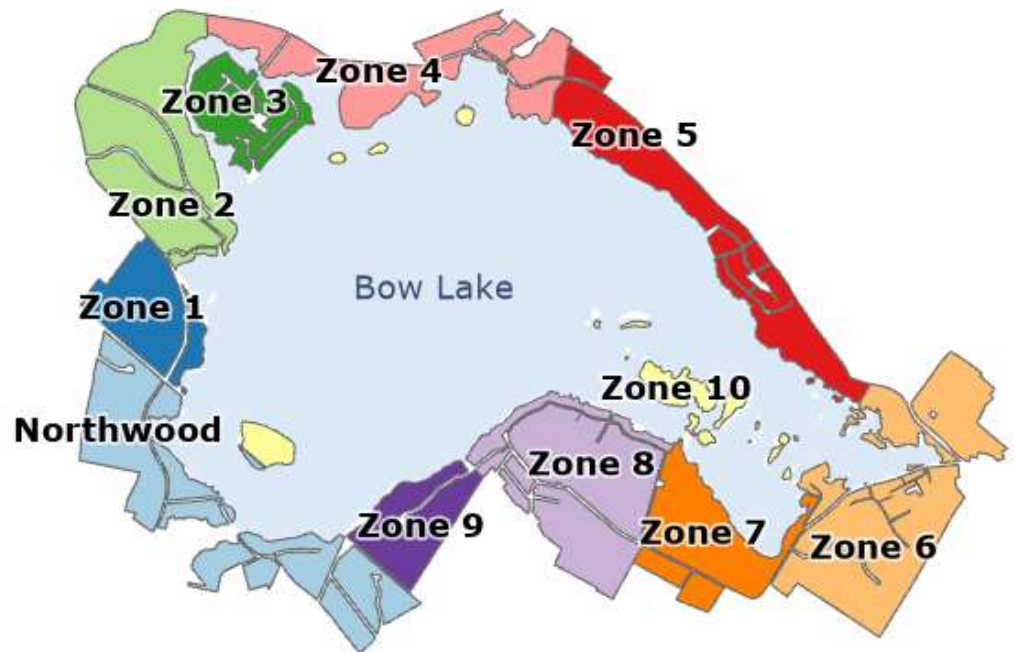
**580** Letters Sent by Mail

**154** Responses

**26.6%** Response Rate

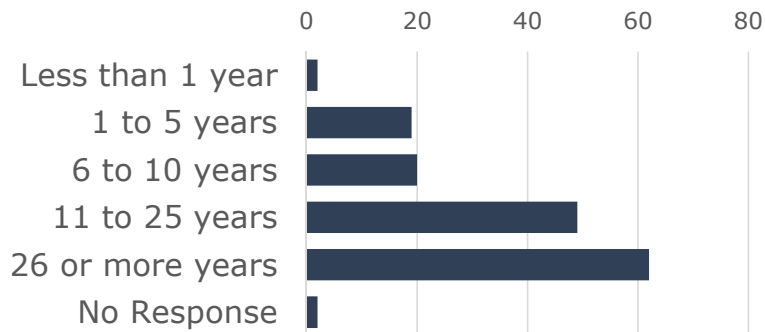
**10 Zones** in Strafford  
(see map)

## Survey Zones

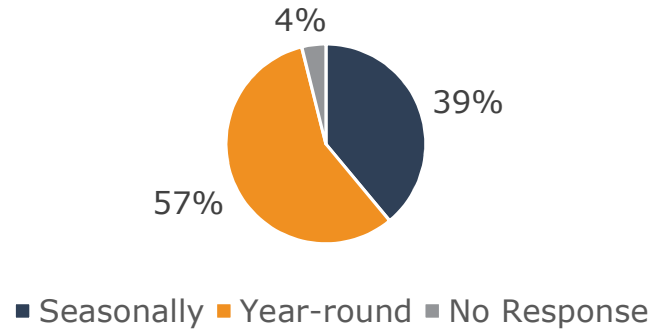


# ABOUT THE PROPERTIES

**Years Owned**

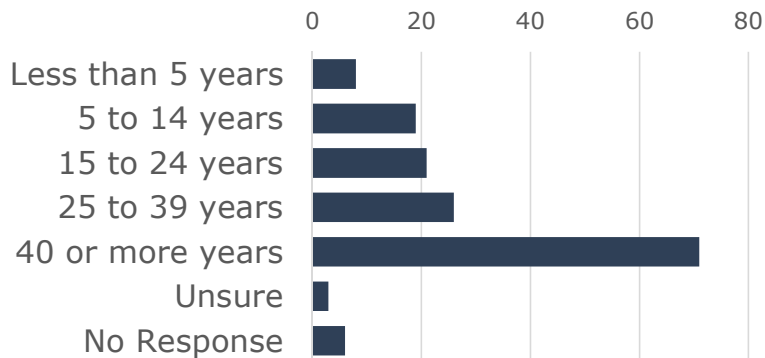


**Occupancy**

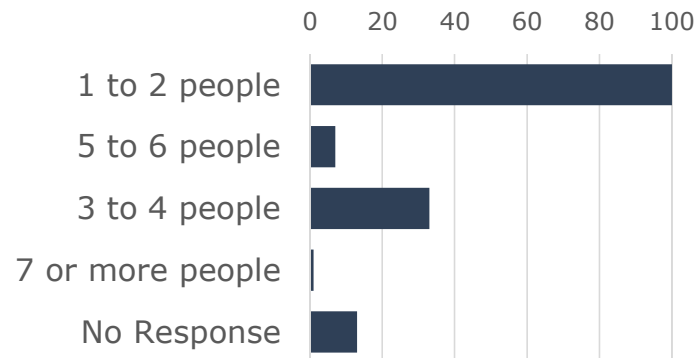


**1.9%**  
Rent the Property  
In the Off-Season

**Age of Home**



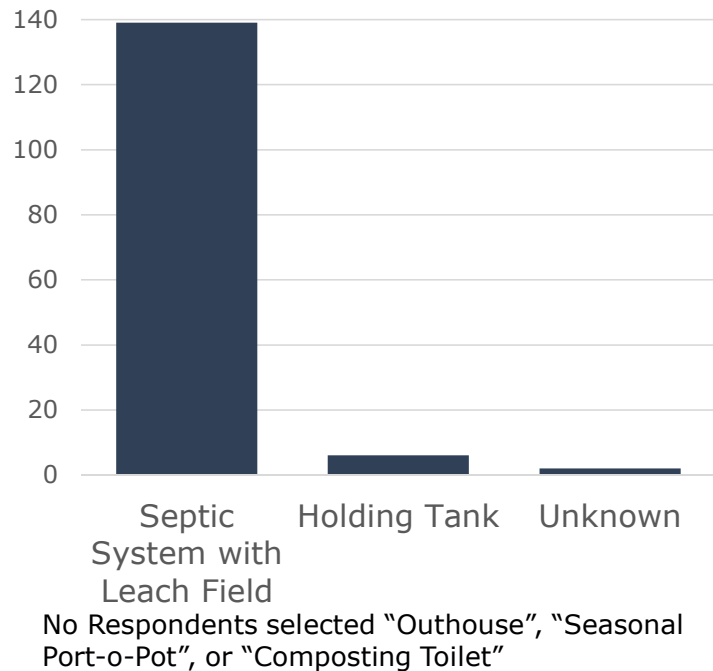
**Household Size**



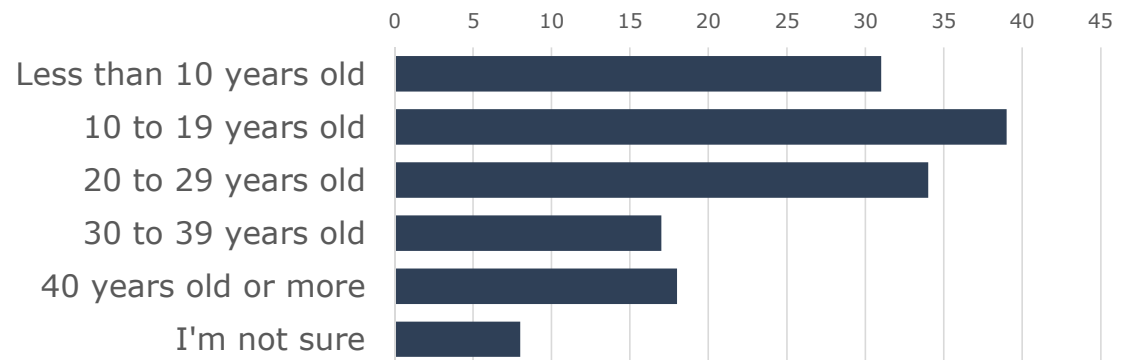
**9.7%**  
Have an ADU

# WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

**Type of Waste Water System**



**Age of Waste Water System**



*"New septic system to be installed spring 2026, plans approved by the state" (Respondent with a 20 to 29 year old system)*

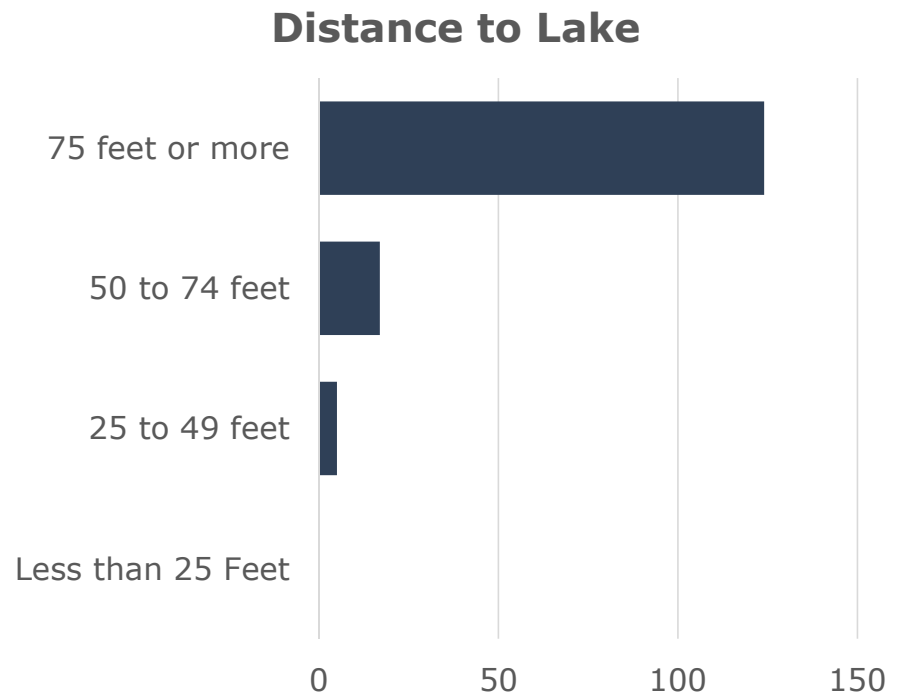
*"My septic is brand new replacing a 70 year old failed system" (Respondent with a Less than 10 years old)*

# PROXIMITY TO THE LAKE

Septic setbacks are \_\_\_\_\_ around the lake. This question sought to estimate the impacts to the lake, but also provides insight into why these systems might not be easy to replace.

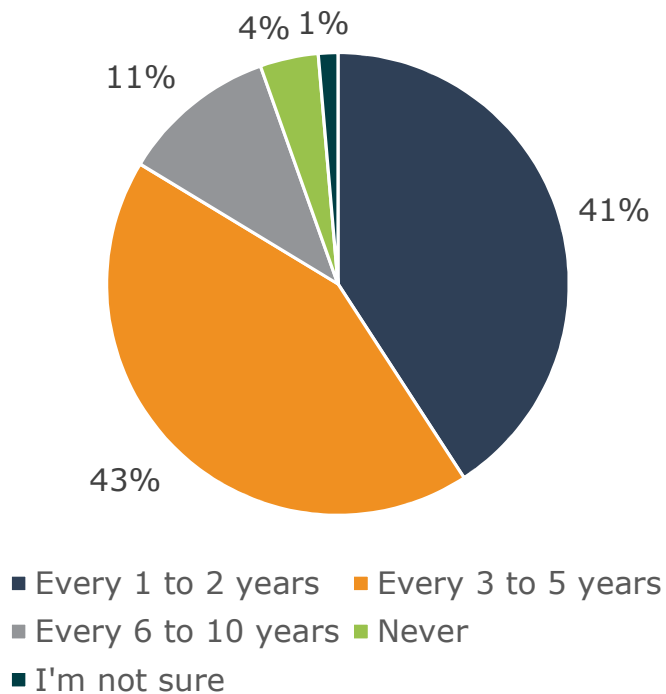
**50%** of respondents with island properties have wastewater systems **within 75 feet** of the lake.

**17%** of respondents with wastewater systems over 40 years old are **within 75 feet** of the lake.

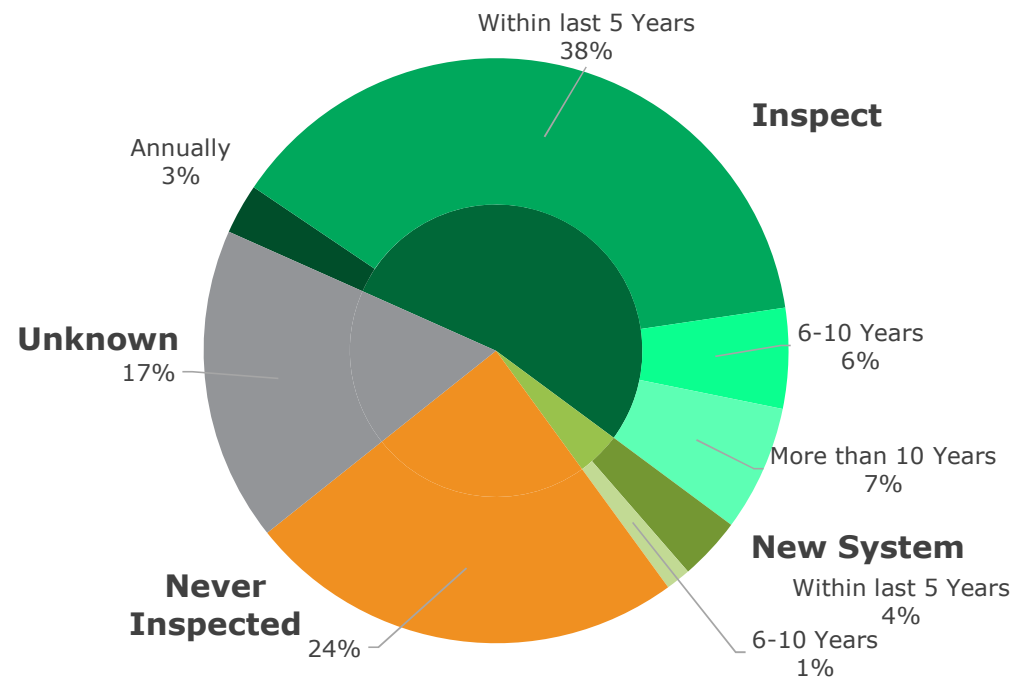


# SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

**Pump Frequency**

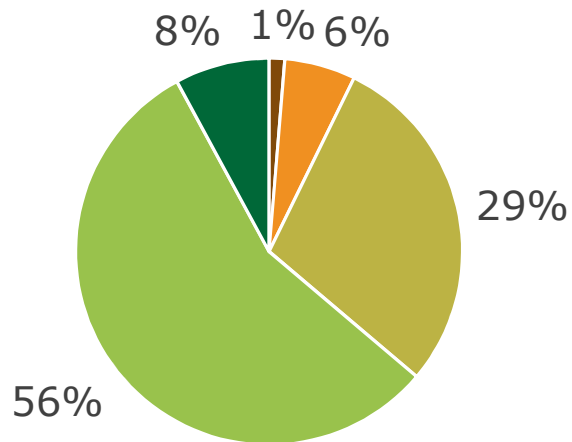


**Inspections**



# PERCEPTION OF WATER QUALITY

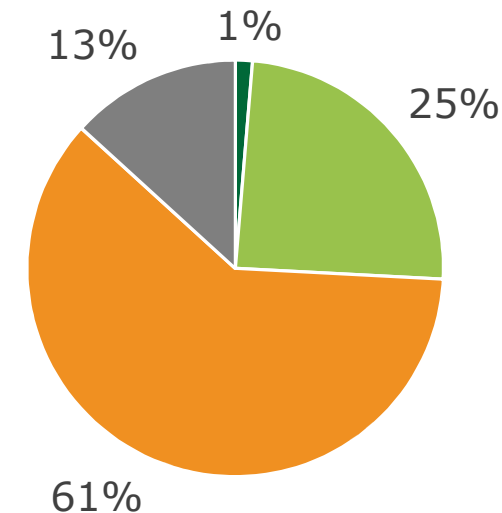
**Bow Lake Water Quality**



**Rating Low to High**

1 2 3 4 5

**Water Quality Over the Last 5-10 Years**



Improving Stable  
Worsening Unsure

*"Cyanobacteria has become a big problem the last few years!"*

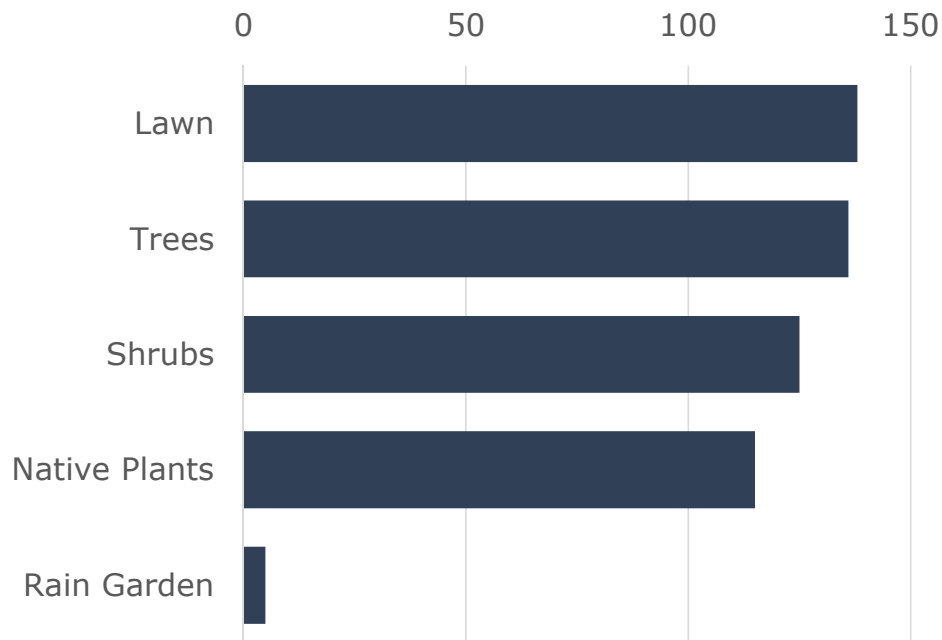
*"Visiting the lake since 1983. Water quality has worsened over time."*

*"My parents lived on Bow Lake for 30 years & had 1 cyanobacteria outbreak so the health of the lake is worsening."*

*"Some blooms in our cove, and an increase in Lilly pads."*

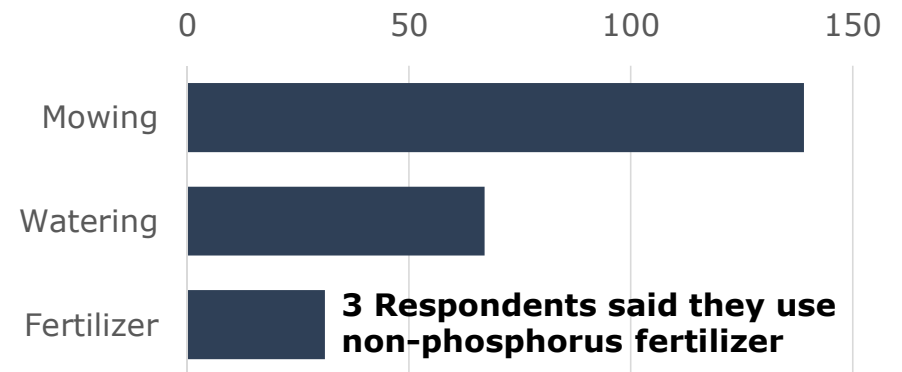
# LANDSCAPING

**Types of Landscaping Present**



**Write-ins:** Rocks, Walls, Perennial Flowers, Wild Flowers, Natural Woodland, Moss, Lime, Meadows, Container Gardens

**Landscaping Activities**

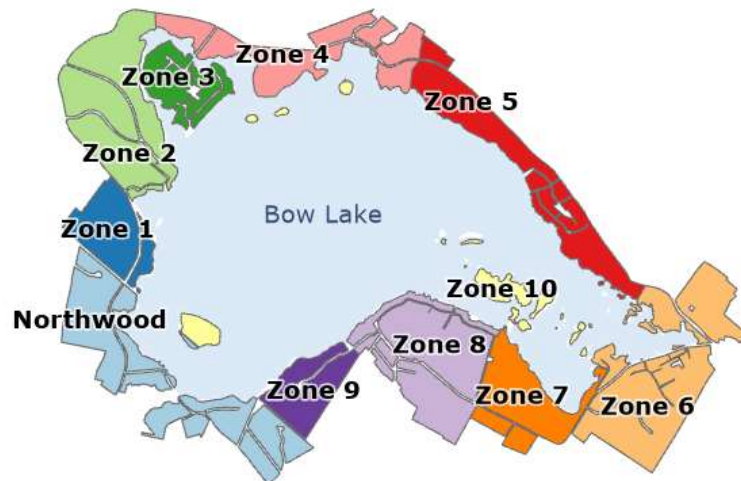


**3 Respondents said they use non-phosphorus fertilizer**

**Write-ins:** Cultivating Moss, Trim Shrubs, Raking, Epsom Salt, Leaf Blower

## RESPONSES BY ZONE

- Average of 25% of each zone responded (min=14%, max=42%)



### All Responses By Zone

