

Wakes and Boats Initiative

Boating Activity on Clam Lake: 56% increase in Last Three Years

Since 2008, Friends of Clam Lake (FoCL) has conducted a Boat Capacity Study on Clam Lake each year. This study was not done in 2009 and 2018 due to the weather.

For each of the 13 years in the study, on the Saturday in July after the July 4th weekend, volunteers perform a consistent count as follows.

Average Boat Loading:

At the top of each hour, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, volunteers motor down the lake to do a physical count of all boats operating on Clam Lake. The count starts at the No-Wake Zone by Dewitt Marine and continues to the Grass River, five times during the afternoon. Only boats that operate on the lake are counted. No boats that are docked or in boat lifts are counted. The average boat loading on the lake is then calculated from the count results.

From 2008 – 2019: Average Boat Loading = 29.005 boats

From 2020 – 2022: Average Boat Loading = 45.2 boats

Increase in last three years = 56%

Boat Traffic In/Out:

From 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, both at the Grass River and at Clam River, a physical count of all boats going into and out of Clam Lake is taken. For those seven hours, the total traffic, in and out, is calculated from the count results.

From 2008 – 2019: Boat Traffic In/Out = 661.5 boats

From 2020 – 2022: Boat Traffic In/Out = 1039 boats

Increase in last three years = 57%