

# LILLY LAKE NEWS

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### IMPACTS (from 1977 to 1981):

#### Swimmers at beach:

- Before: < 5
- After: > 50 on occasion

#### Piers around lake:

- Before: < 5
- After: 65

#### Waterskiers:

- Before: none
- After: yes

#### Moored Boats:

- Before: 5-10
- After: 109

### Other Benefits (based on a 1980 report)

Property values increased approximately 47%.

Membership in the Association increased from 45 to 115 families.

Additional fish stocking from the WI DNR.

Fishing and boating hours more than tripled.

## DREDGING OF LILLY LAKE

### PART 3 – DISPOSAL AND RESULTS

This is the last of a three part series on the history of dredging of Lilly Lake. The past two installments covered how and why the project came to be. This segment will discuss the completion of the project and the short-term and long-term outcomes.

As mentioned previously, there were two disposal sites used - a modified gravel pit located about two miles from the lake and a 160 acre area of farmland approximately one-third of a mile from the lake. At the gravel pit, two settling ponds were constructed (see photo below). The primary basin was 25-30 feet deep equipped with an overflow pipe to the second basin. At the farm site, six shallow (~4-6 ft deep) settling basins were constructed. The slurry of dredge sediment, which was 95% water, was pumped to these basins.

Operations did not go so smoothly. The basins filled rapidly and frequently equipment breakdowns delayed the project.

Spray irrigation was tested in 1978, with the intent of spraying the slurry onto farm fields. However, numerous problems such as clogged pipes, lack of pressure, and over all messiness of the effort, caused the practice to be stopped.

After dredging was completed in 1979, the disposal sites were rehabilitated. At the farm site, surface sediments dried quickly, but heavy equipment was needed to expose deeper sediments to evaporation. At the gravel pit sites, the basins were allowed to develop into a marsh and water-fowl habitat.

One of the concerns many residents had during the project was the possibility of objectionable odor during the dredging, but these odors did not occur.

There are no records of any final party, either after the project was complete or after the loan was finally paid off several decades later. However, the current and future

users of the lake have certainly benefited.



The gravel pit disposal site, located between County Roads FR and W.

