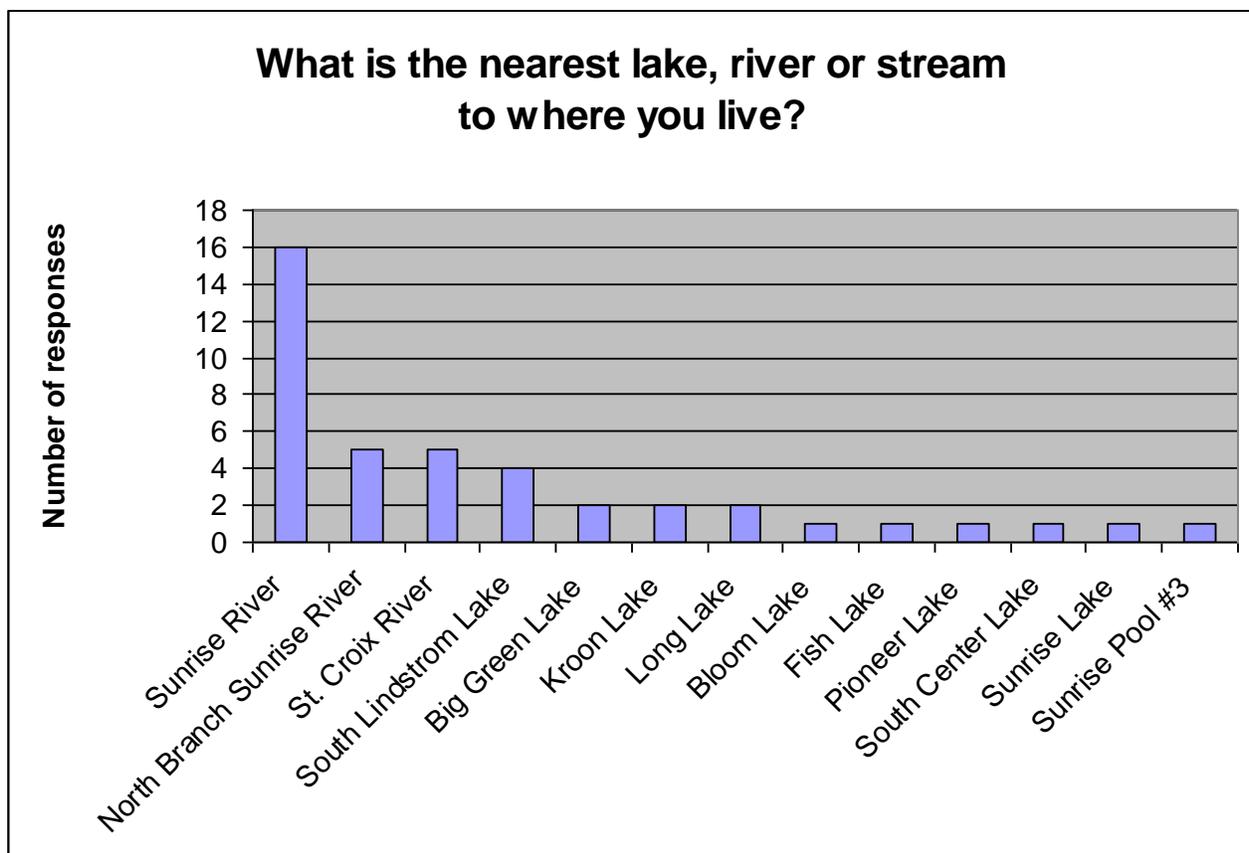
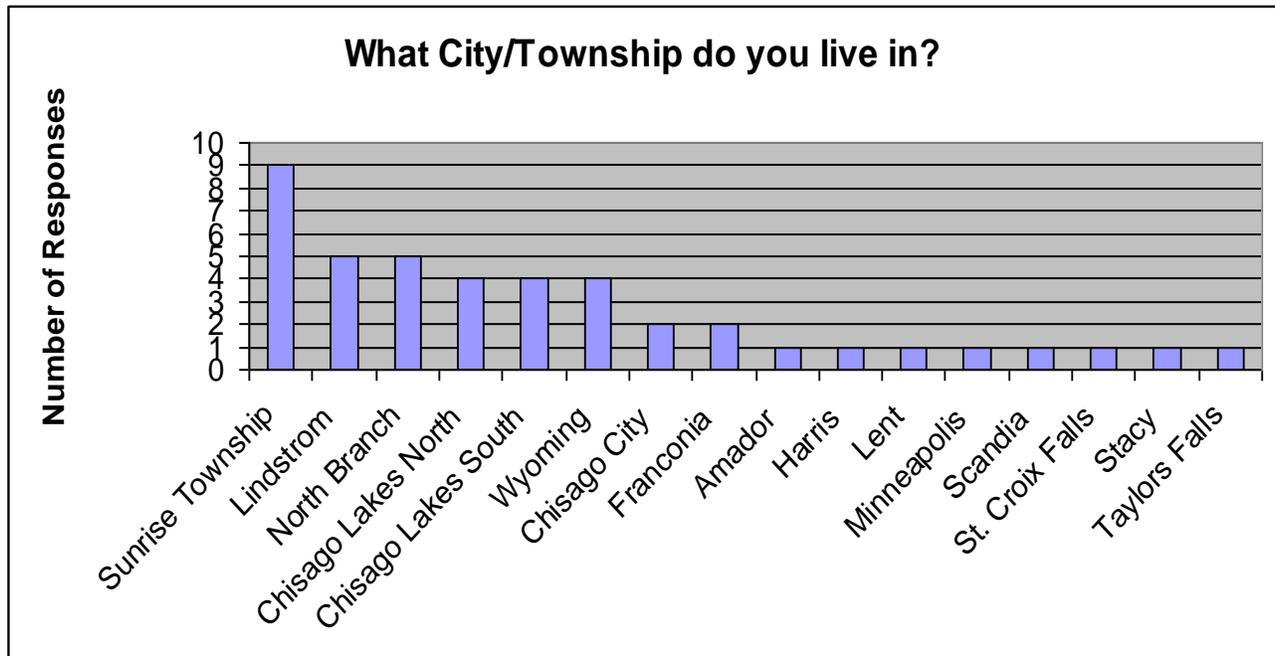
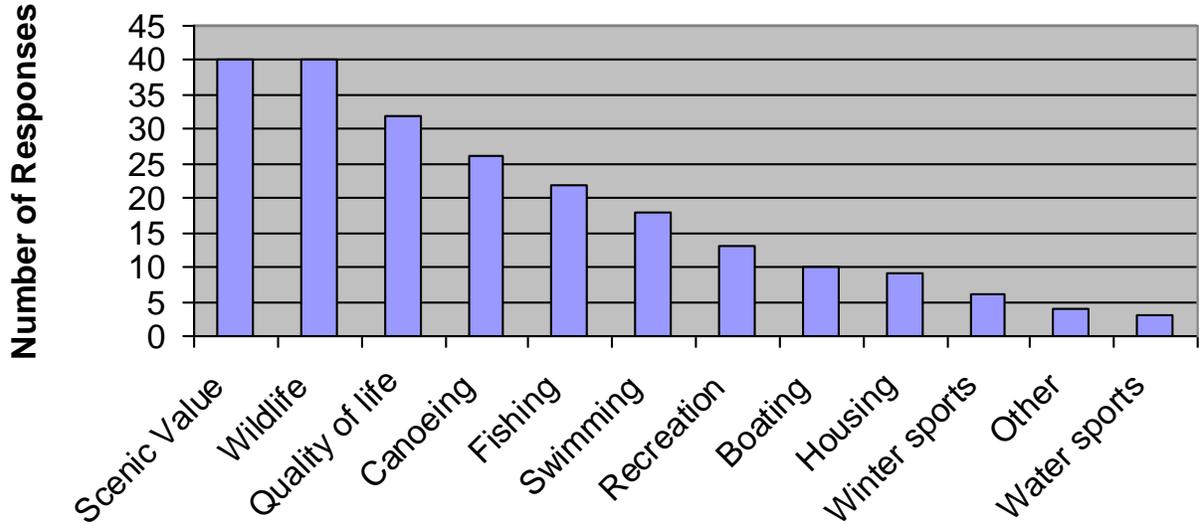


Sunrise River Watershed Survey Spring 2008

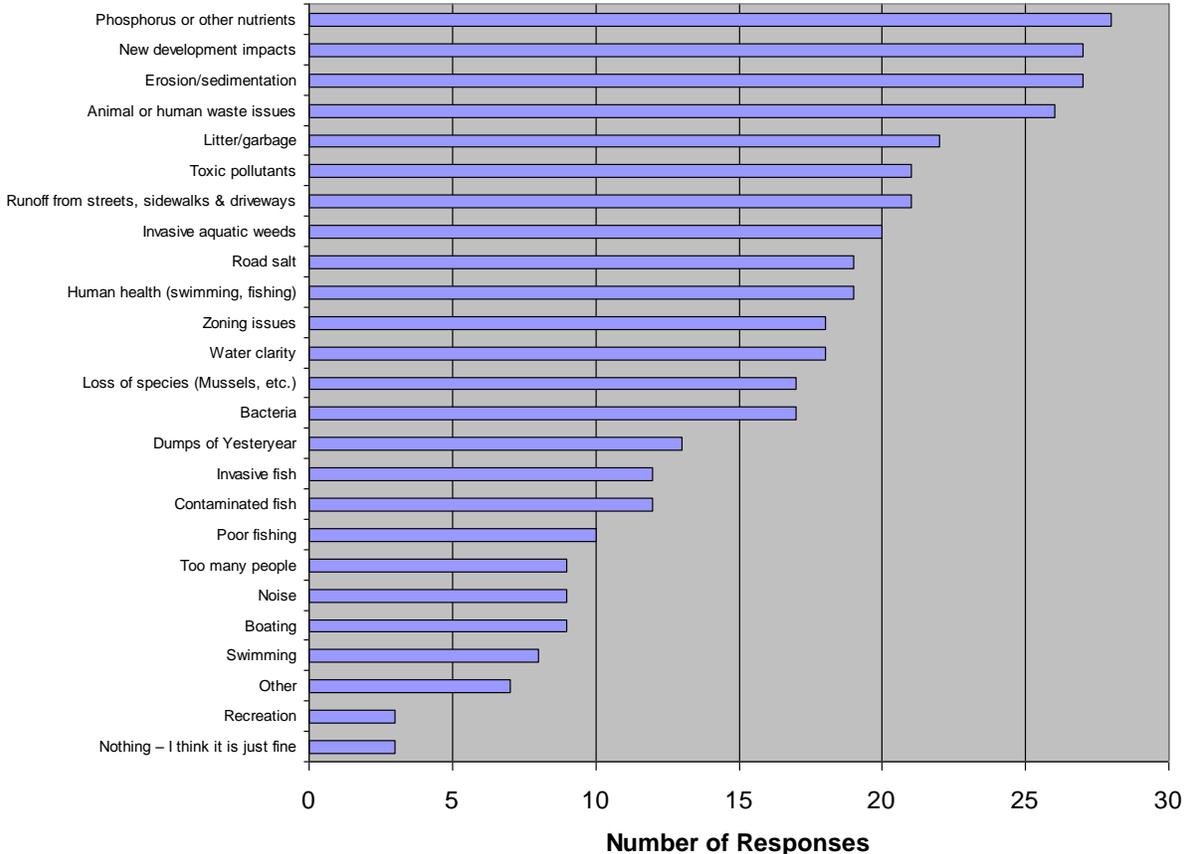
We would like to hear from you about your values and perceptions of the lakes and rivers within the Sunrise River Watershed. To do so, please complete this survey. The survey takes only minutes to complete and answers will be anonymous. We thank you in advance for your help.

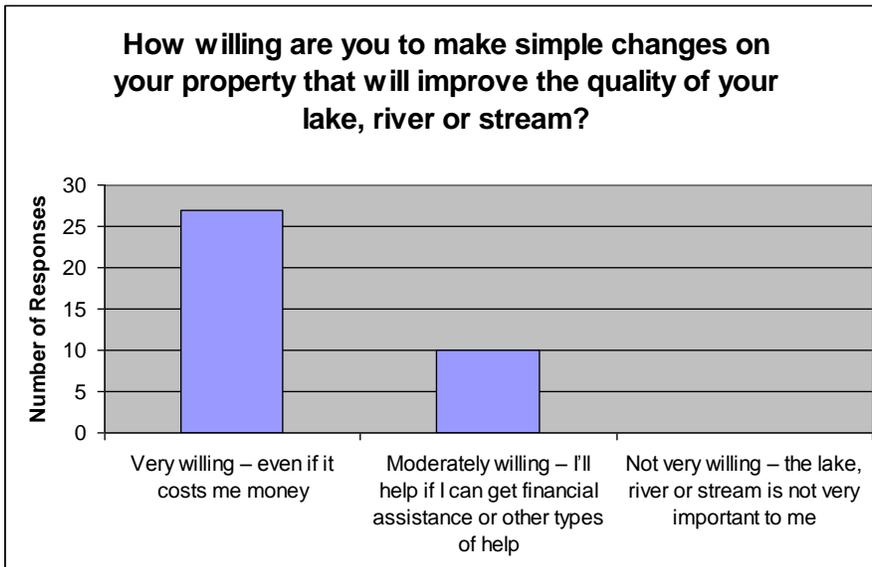
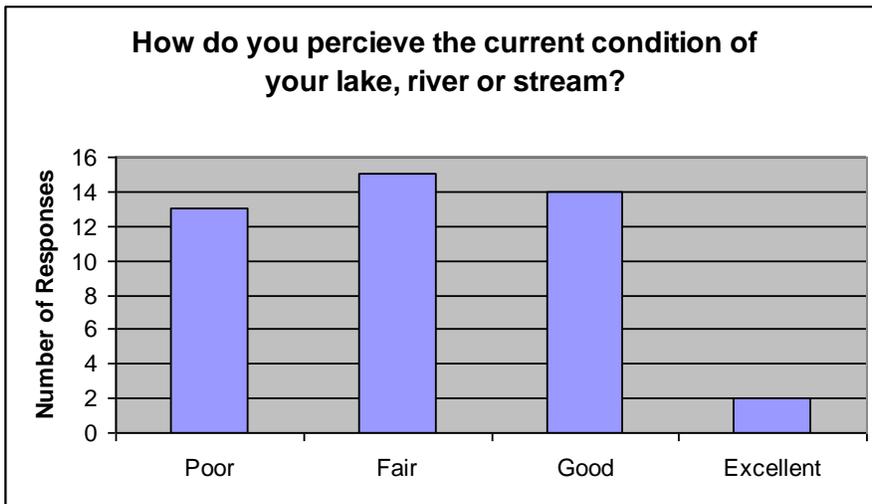
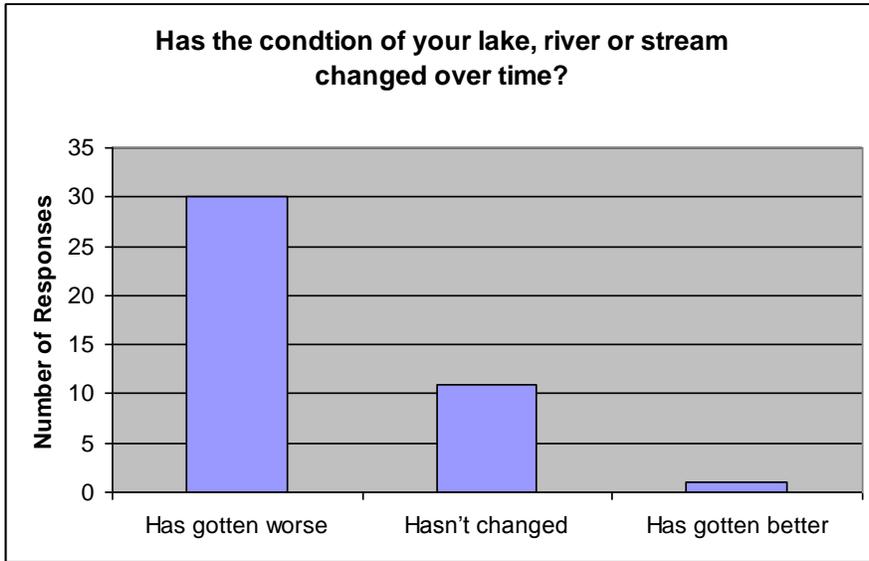


What do you enjoy most about your nearby lake, river or stream?



What is your biggest concern for your lake, river or stream?





What would you like us to know about the Sunrise River Watershed?

Survey 1: Why should the City of North Branch be allowed to deposit snow, containing salt, sand, animal wastes, etc., directly into the floodplain at Riverwalk Park?

Survey 9: I bought my place in 1997. The water level in the pool and the river was much higher, then ducks unlimited got involved and we lowered the water level to get the wild rice to grow. The pool #3 turned into a mud hole during the summer, when it rains there is not enough water depth so the mud gets stirred up and runs down stream adding to the sediment. The low and stagnant water level would also get warmer resulting in the algae problem. I have a fairly shallow well as most do out here, the water quality has deteriorated due to lower ground water levels, will ducks unlimited pay for a deeper well? You can't even canoe down the river from Stacy to get to pool #3 during the summer months. I understand we are now draining the sanctuary lake for more wild rice. I've been waterfowl hunting on the pool long before I moved up here, it looked like a beautiful lake and river system and it stayed that way until the water level was lowered and it turned into a stinky mud hole. In the last four years the duck hunting has turned into a waste of time if you have to retrieve a bird most of the time it falls into muck making it almost impossible to retrieve. I don't believe ducks swim in mud very well, I do believe that contributes to low populations. The low water level is allowing the bogs and weeds to take over. Raise the water level in the pools so the black muck has some water over it and it won't wash away when it rains. The river is sand, gravel bottomed it doesn't wash away as easily. Put some waders on and try to walk in the edges of the pool be careful the muck makes it tough, now go to the river below the dam its hard bottomed allowing water to pass over it without washing it away. It would be cheap and easy problem to fix, add boards to the dams, raise water level, DON'T WORRY ABOUT WILD RICE!!! P.s. please respond.

Survey 10: I don't know how you do it when people don't know or don't care, but people are really uneducated about what degrades the watershed.

Survey 14: Stop the development!!! No matter what steps are taken to improve the environment, unless human populations are kept under control, pollution and destruction of the natural resources cannot be stopped.

Survey 18: My answer to the above question regarding a "willingness to make simple changes on my property to improve water quality" is not among those listed. I cannot perceive a need to change anything at my point of contact with the river. I've conducted water clarity tests many times over the past several years using the secci disk technique, and have always found the clarity to be excellent. Absent the chemical analysis, there seems to be not visible need for intervention.

Survey 21: I believe that there should be an official Sunrise River Watershed District established.

Survey 30: I think you also need to include a representative of the local NRCS in your forums.

Survey 31: The Sunrise River valley is a corridor for migrating birds, particularly warblers. I have seen many, many species moving through the leafy corridor in May. Migrating birds, particularly the neotropicals, are really hard-pressed, in danger of dying out. The phenomenon of migration, in danger of dying out!!! Every effort should be made to keep the banks of the river well vegetated

with native species. Likewise, the Chisago Lakes are big stopping off points for migrating wildfowl. This morning, we have 6 loons on Pioneer, migrating through. Water quality has drastically declined since my father-in-law was a boy here. We need to bring back the vegetated shorelines and clearer water. I applaud your Watershed approach to water issues in Minnesota. This is the way to go.

Survey 34: My property has wetland and farm fields that are in the watershed. We do not own riverfront property but enjoy the river very much from neighboring access or the county park.

Survey 36: I believe an inventory of fish and other aquatic species should be completed. I believe Isanti County needs to work cooperatively with Chisago to improve the North Branch of Sunrise which was once a cold water stream supporting trout and may be suitable for that still with proper care – like improving tree canopy, eliminating cattle along the banks and stopping the pooling of feeder creeks.

Survey 39: Phosphorus contribution to the St. Croix main stem is my primary concern. Clearly there needs to be some changes in land use practices, to significantly reduce the phosphorus load.

Survey 40: When we first started canoeing the Sunrise river 17 years ago it was very clean and clear. Over the last 5-7 years the condition of the river has worsened. This concerns me not only for the Sunrise itself but for the St. Croix River also. I feel people need to be constantly educated about how the things they do and the way they live affects the rivers and lakes. Education and Laws will help us to stop the degradation and will help us restore the river to its original state.

Survey 41: We really need the cooperation of other counties where the headwaters lie, and so I think we are on the right track with Jerry Spetzman reaching out to them. We may need to find out which tributaries are the highest contributors of major pollutants. Continue monitoring development for erosion control. Evaluate wetlands for functional capacities. Mass education campaign on runoff (phosphorus and nitrogen primarily) and providing some cost-share \$\$ for restoration of riparian shoreline, especially for farmers.

Survey 42: The Sunrise is a key tributary to the St. Croix River, which is a National Scenic Riverway. The St. Croix is generally considered to be near pristine. Many are not aware that there are water quality concerns and that a TMDL must be developed in response to an impaired waters listing because of excess phosphorus in Lake St. Croix. Water entering the St. Croix from the Sunrise is known to be one of the largest contributors of phosphorus and other nutrients in the St. Croix, so the water planning is being done in the Sunrise watershed is extremely important to restoring water quality in downstream locations as well as in the Sunrise itself. Thanks for all your work.

Survey 43: I am very concerned about the Sunrise. We have been here for 17 years and we canoe parts of the Sunrise from Cross Lake to the St. Croix annually and we can tell that the quality is dropping, water clarity, wildlife, mussel population, and so on. A couple years ago we canoed the Cannon river with some friends and I could not believe how dead that river was. It was gorgeous in the seventies when I was a kid – gravel and sand bottoms, huge abundant mussels, they're all gone now. It was depressing. There's the future of the Sunrise even sooner than we might think!

Survey 45: We are grateful that a group is concerned and working on issues related to the river and its watershed.

Survey 46: There are numerous old garbage dumps leaking who knows what in the ravines along the Sunrise and its tributaries. Runaway residential development across the watershed is spoiling the water quality with more and more people dumping chemicals on lawns that drain into the nearby river and its tributaries.

Survey 47: Having a lake or stream “near you” is different than owing it ... which is implied with the verbiage “your”.