



Lake Tomah was created in 1937 as a WPA project on land donated by A.L. Butts. The lake has been used extensively throughout the years as a prime fishing location, for sailing and boating during the summer months, as a haven for waterfowl during migration patterns and for numerous winter activities.

From the time of construction until 1990, silt from the 19,000-acre hilly farmland watershed continuously filled in the lake bottom. It decreased the average depth to 4.4 feet. These shallow conditions, along with high nutrient levels, encouraged an uncontrollable weed infestation. Chemical spraying was attempted during the 1960's but was discontinued in 1969 as ineffective, cost prohibitive and environmentally unacceptable.

The communities desire to preserve this valuable resource continued. After a long tedious process to consolidate and facilitate planning/design restoration, the Lake Tomah Protection and Rehabilitation District was formed in 1975.

For the next 50 years, the Lake District, through its Lake Tomah Committee, along with many other partners, tried to create and maintain the lake as the best resource possible for the multitude of diverse users. The many dedicated members of the Committee have worked endlessly to realize problems and vet possibilities to provide effective cost-conscious remediations of these problems.

The following are some of the highlights:

1977 – Lake District Study (Environment Resource Assessment)

1979 – Lake Tomah Feasibility Study (WI DNR)

1983- Lake Tomah Management Reports (Massal/Gibson)

1984- Purchase of Weed Harvesting Equipment

1985- Monroe County Natural Area Inventory (WI DNR)

1985/86 – Preliminary Engineering Design (Foth/Van Dyke)

1989 – Lake Tomah Protection Management Plan

1990 – Dredging Permit Granted (April)

Voter Approval to Proceed with Project (April)

Major Flood – Dam Condemned by DNR (August)

Approval of Grant for Watershed

1991 - Approval of \$200,000 Grant for Dam

Dam Plans/Design Submitted to DNR

Receipt Of Bids for Lake Basin Project

Special Meeting to Approve/Disapprove Proposed Dredging and Dam Repair (October)

1992 – Dredging Begins by Hoffman Construction Co. - \$3,372,067 for a 1.2 million Cubic Yard Project

1993 – Dredging Completed with Total Of 1,639,136 Cubic Yards

1993 – Rotenone Project to Eradicate Carp Before Refill Rails

1995-2009 – Various Carp Control Measure Taken and Failed

1999 – Silt Trap Maintenance by Monroe County and Rezin Construction

- County \$40,000
- Rezin \$65,000 Draglines

2004 – DNR Restocked 11,240 Fingerling Walleyes

2005 - Informal Lake Committee Created by Joe McDaniel

2008 – Revised Lake Management Plan

2009 - Lake Draw Down for Carp Eradication Rotenone Applied Successful

2010 – Water Level Raised to Normal

2010-2012 - Fish Stocking

- 16,400 Blue Gill
- 19,000 Large Mouth
- 23,000 Northern

2010 - Fish Sampling – Electrofishing (DNR)

2011 – Summer Water Quality Sampling Begins, Reporting to WI DNR

2011 - Fish Sampling – Electrofishing (DNR)

2012 - Rip Rap Islands to Preserve Shorelines

2013 - Handicap Fishing Pier Winnebago Lagoon

2013 - Lake Committee Receives Stewardship Awards from WI Lakes Partnerships

2013 - Fish Sampling – DNR

2014 - Fish Sampling – Electrofishing (DNR)

Fish Sampling Report Released

2014 - Eagle Scout Project – Fish Cribs

2015 - Updated Lake Management Plan

2016 - Completed Lake Limnology Study, Dr Bill Janes, UW Stout

2017 - Started Watershed Adaptive Management Plan With WWTF

2019 - Pasture Restoration, Herd Reduction, Streambank Work – Linehan Farm, \$250,000

2019 - Streambank Work – Rassmussen Farm

2020 – Forebay Dredging – 1,649 Cubic Yards

2020 – Streambank Work 200’ Chub Creek Tributary

2020 - Streambank Work 220’ Lemonweir River

2021 - Vetted Two Modern Technology Weed Controls – Solar Bees and Eco Soar

2022 – 2 Project Pending

2022 - Stream Buffer Efficiency

2022 - Lake Tomah Fishery Assessment

2023 - New boat landing completed. \$91,000.00

2023 - Donation to Fire Dept. for rescue boat. \$15,000.00

2024 - Kayak launch installed Winnebago lagoon. \$10,000.00

2024 - Sediment Measurement – Town and County Engineering

2025 - Weed Survey

2025 – Curly Leaf Pond Weed Control Treatment