2025 Lake Water Quality

Description

Lake water quality monitoring was conducted with the purpose of detecting water quality trends and diagnosing the cause of changes. Summary sheets for each lake are provided below.

Locations

Lakes Monitored in 2025:

- Typo Lake
- Martin Lake
- Lake Sullivan
- Highland Lake
- Sunfish Lake
- Round Lake

All Monitored Lakes:

- See next page for a list of all lakes monitored by ACD.

Monitoring Schedule

2x per month
10 sampling occasions
May - September

Parameters

- Total Phosphorous
- Chlorophyll-a
- Secchi Transparency
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Turbidity
- Temperature
- Specific Conductance
- pH
- Salinity

Lake Water Quality Summary

The table below provides a general overview of lake water quality results and trends from the several organizations which monitor these resources. Rows highlighted in orange indicate lakes that were sampled in 2025 by ACD. An overview of all current and historical data can be viewed on ACD's Online Database.

LAKE WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

Lake	Acres	Last Year Monitored	Phosphorus Average (ug/L)	Recent Grade	Phos. Trend	Seechi Transparancy Average (ft.)	Seechi Trend	Chl-a (Algae) Average (ug/L)	Chl-a trend
Boot	92	2021	33.8	C	n/a			9.2	n/a
Cenaiko	31	2020	13.0	A	n/a			2.7	n/a
Centerville*	472	2019	58.0	C	-			33.0	-
Coon East	412	2024	25.3	B+	+	5.7	=	8.4	+
Coon West	1092	2024	22.4	B	n/a	6.3	=	5.6	n/a
Crooked	115	2020	23.6	A	+			9.7	+
East Twin	97	2024	20.8	A	+	10.6	=	6.3	=
Fawn	50	2019	17.1	A	=			4.0	=
Pike	35	2019	79.0	D	n/a			47.0	n/a
Pine Tree	179	2019	32.0	B	=			5.0	+
George Watch*	486	2018	155.0	F	=			52.0	=
Golden*	59	2019	33.0	C	+			9.0	+
Ham	177	2020	21.7	A	+			9.2	+
Highland	15	2025	273.0	F	=	1.2	=	69.7	=
Howard*	433	2019	64.0	C	=			19.0	=
Laddie	67	2020	23.6	B	=			7.6	=
George	470	2024	25.3	B	=	6.44	-	11.8	=
Linwood	559	2024	39.0	C	=	3.7	=	19.1	=
Locke*	23	2019	115.0	D	=			24.0	=
Martin	218	2025	50.0	C	+	3.8	=	28.5	+
Moore, East*	28	2019	58.0	C	n/a			25.0	n/a
Moore, West*	68	2018	23.0	B	n/a			7.0	n/a
Netta	162	2019	21.8	A	+			3.5	+
Peltier*	574	2019	145.0	D	+			43.0	=
Pickerel	236	2014	16.4	A	n/a			1.6	n/a
Rice*	442	2019	196.0	F	=			65.0	=
Round	253	2025	18.9	A	=	9.3	=	5.9	=
Spring*	47	2019	35.0	C	=			5.0	=
Sullivan	13	2025	116.0	D	=	2.36	=	52.3	=
Sunfish/Grass	35	2025	20.5	A	=	4.4	=	7.1	=
Sunrise	159	2019	39.1	B	n/a			21.0	n/a
Typo	280	2025	177.8	F	=	0.97	=	83.8	-
* Sampled by RCWD									

Grade

Grade is determined by the most recent summer-average for phosphorus. The scale used to assign grades is the same used by Metropolitan Council.

Phosphorus Trend

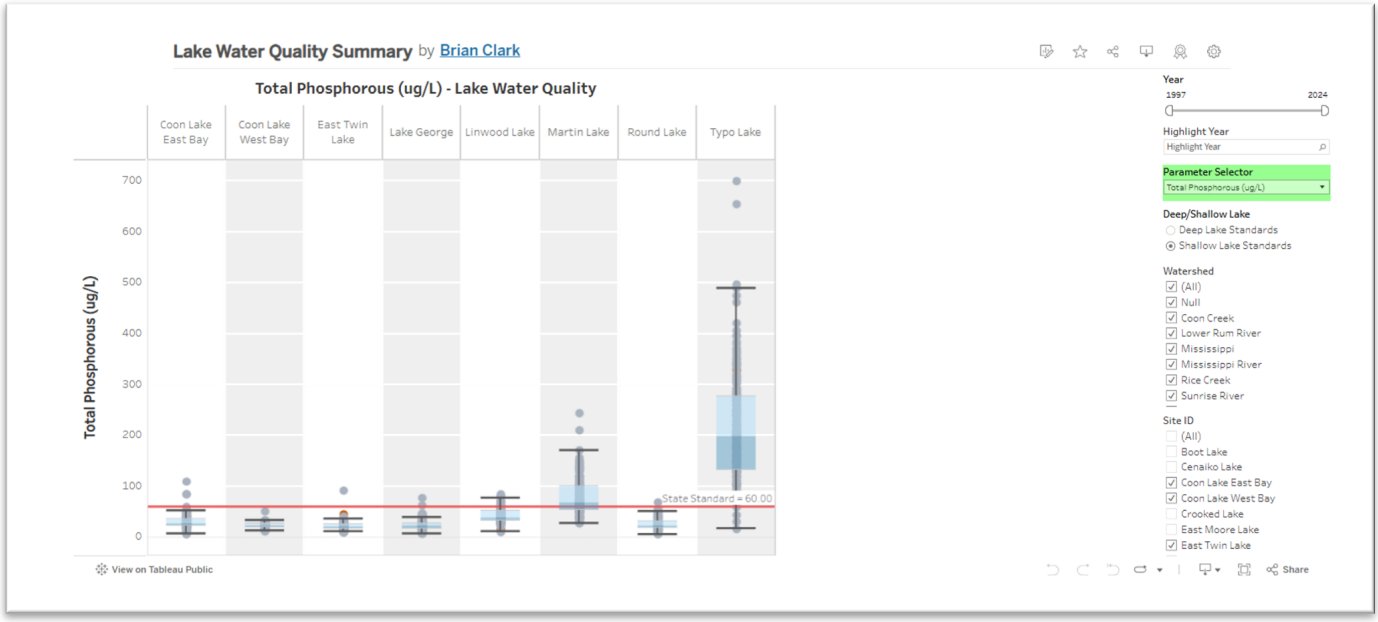
+ Indicates improving trend (decrease) in phosphorus concentrations

- Indicates worsening trend (increase) in phosphorus concentrations

= Indicates no trend

Tableau - How To View Data

ACD uses the software Tableau as a powerful tool to visualize our lake water quality data. Historical and current data can be viewed through [ACD's Online Database].



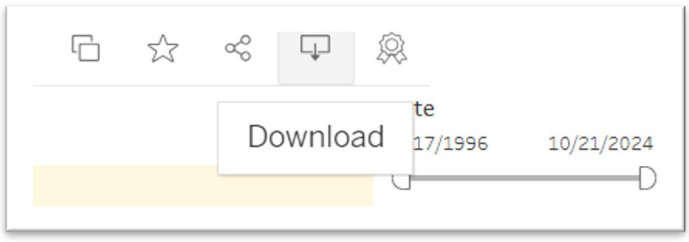
To view a specific dataset of a particular site, check its respective box on the right side of the graph under the "Site ID" table. Filtering by "Watershed" will limit the available sites in this table to the selected watersheds.

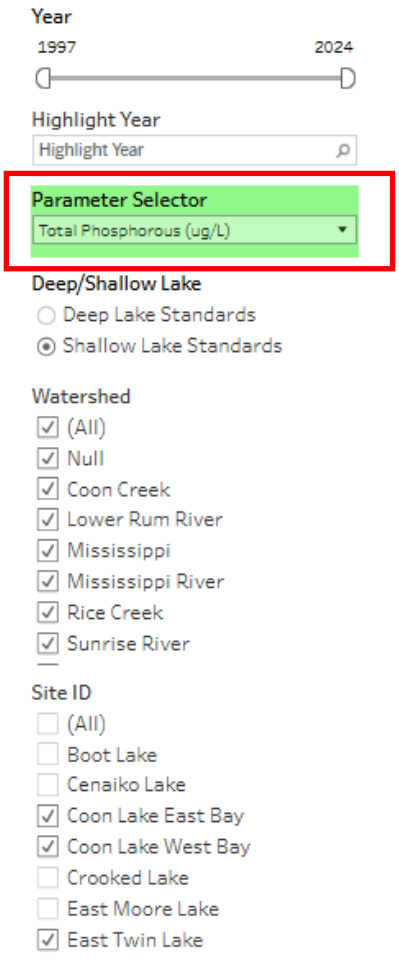
Additionally, the data can be filtered by a specific year or range of years using the slider on the top right of the graph.

Use the "Parameter Selector" tool to switch between graphs of different parameters.

Use the "Highlight Year" tool to highlight data from a specific year. Data collected this year is colored in red.

Additionally, the full dataset or filtered portions of the dataset can be downloaded through Tableau. To download data, click the image shown below on the top ribbon of the graph.





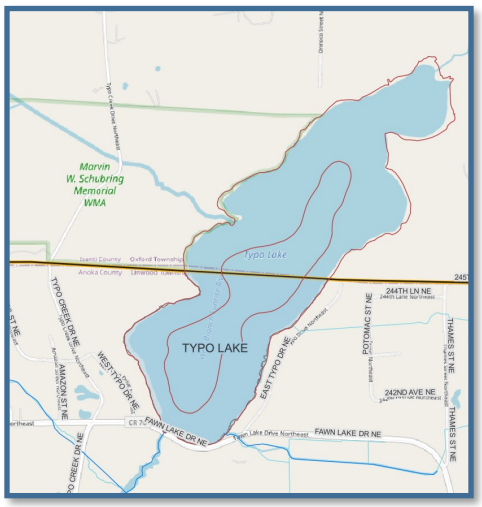
Typo Lake

Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

Background

Typo Lake is located in northeast Anoka County with the north end of the lake in southeast Isanti County. Typo Lake is used little for fishing or recreational boating because of the shallow Transparency and extremely poor water quality. Typo Lake is listed as impaired for excess nutrients and water quality in the lake is being monitored for best management practice (BMP) effectiveness.

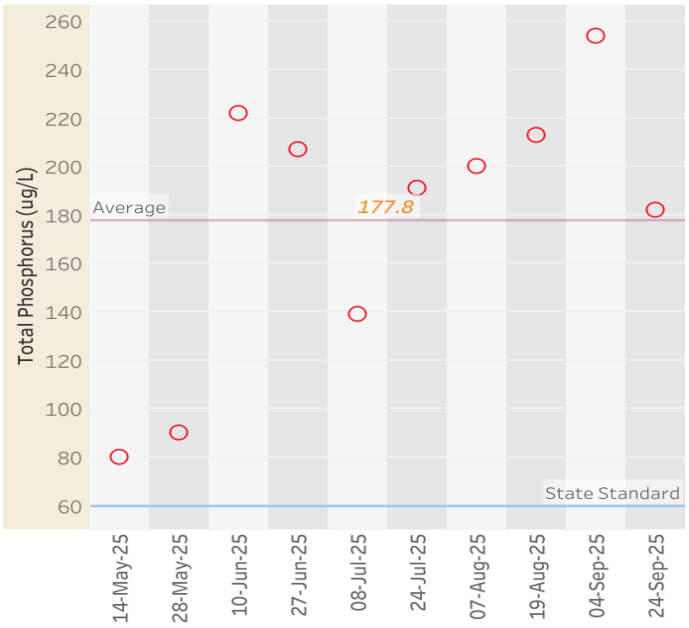
MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Max Depth:	6 ft. (1.82 m.)
Lake Size:	298 acres
Shore Length:	3.96 miles
Watershed Size:	11,520 acres
Impairments:	Nutrients



2025 Water Quality Summary

Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	80	254	177.8	F
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	20	36.0	136.2	83.79	F
Secchi Transparency (ft)	3.3	0.5	1.42	0.97	F

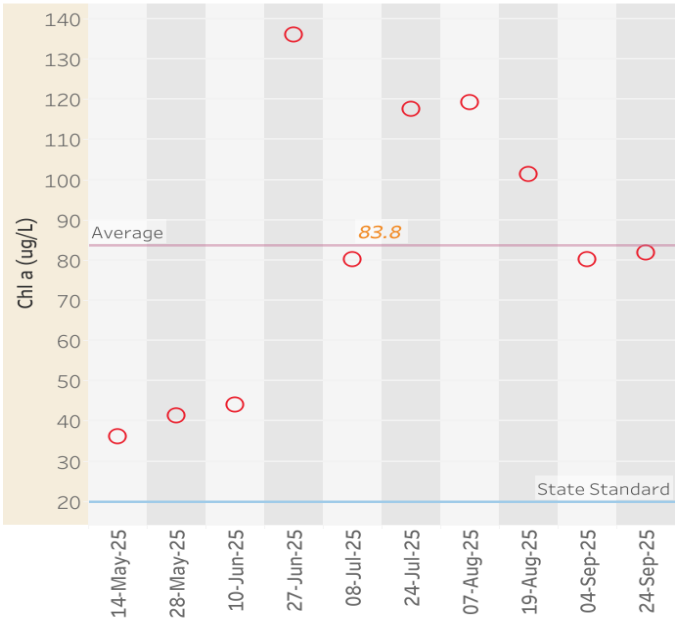
Typo Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

In 2025 average total phosphorus concentrations stayed below the historical average (198.5µg/L) but are still many times higher than the state standard.

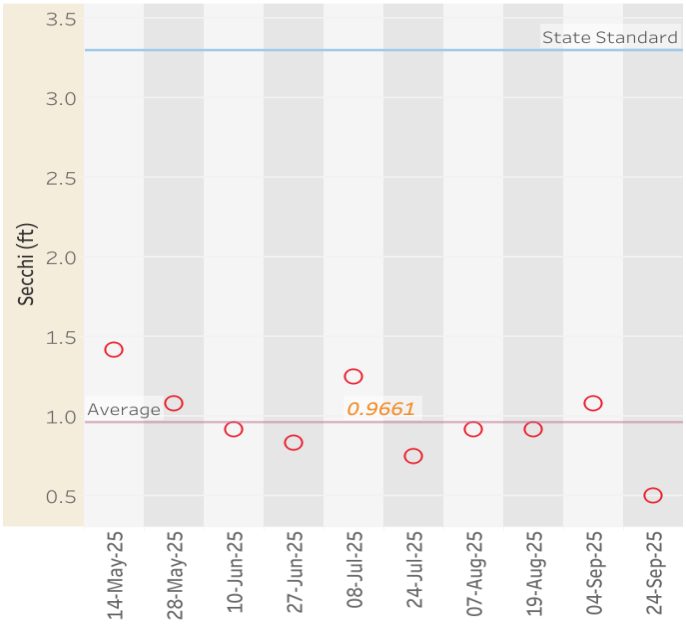
All 2025 readings exceeded the state standard with peak phosphorus levels observed in the summer and fall.



Chlorophyll-a

Mean chlorophyll-a concentrations in 2025 exceeded the state standard.

Algae levels were severe from mid-June through the remainder of summer, often 4x or more higher than the state standard.



Secchi Transparency

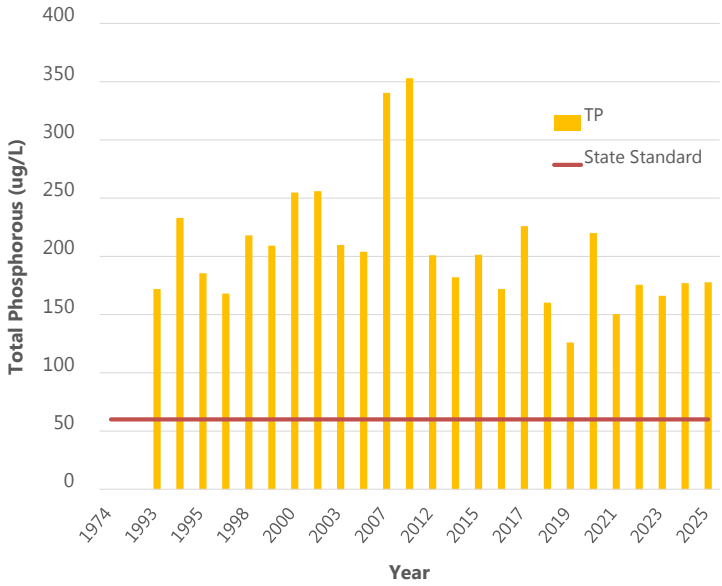
Secchi transparency was similar throughout 2025, at around 1 foot.

Typo Lake - Historic Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

In 2025, total phosphorus concentrations have stayed below the historical average (198.5µg/L) but are still many times higher than the state standard.

TP trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.

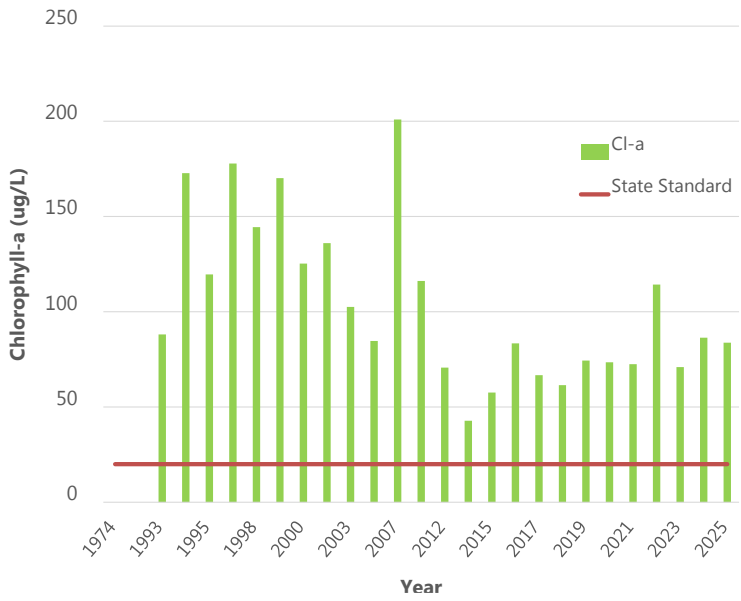


Chlorophyll-a

In recent years, chlorophyll-a concentrations have stayed below the historical average for the lake, but are much greater than the state standard.

Over time, Chlorophyll-a levels in Typo Lake have statistically improved.

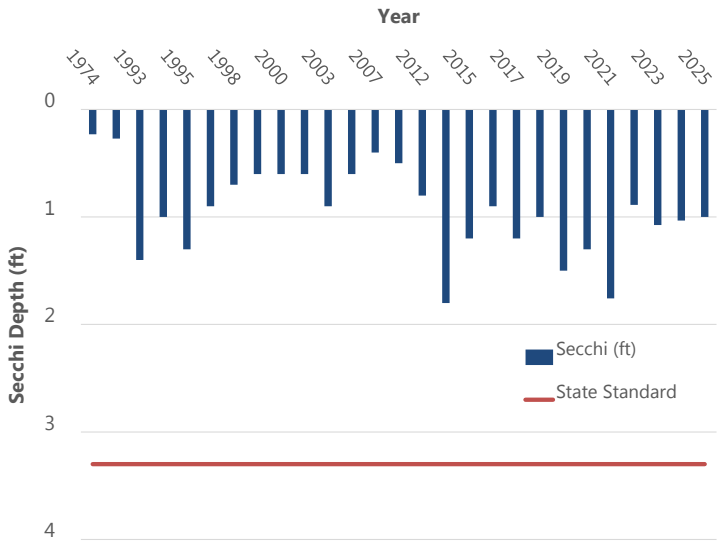
Chl-a trend decrease; water quality improvement.



Secchi Transparency

While Secchi transparency has shown improvements in recent years (greater transparency), it remains much poorer than the state standard.

Transparency trend constant; no noticeable change.



Only years with data are shown in the graphs above.

Typo Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP	Cl-a	Secchi	**Overall**
1974			F	**F**
1975			F	**F**
1993	F	F	F	**F**
1994	F	F	F	**F**
1995	F	F	F	**F**
1997	F	F	F	**F**
1998	F	F	F	**F**
1999	F	D	F	**F**
2000	F	F	F	**F**
2001	F	F	F	**F**
2003	F	F	F	**F**
2005	F	F	F	**F**
2007	F	F	F	**F**
2009	F	F	F	**F**
2012	F	D	F	**F**
2014	F	C	F	**D-**
2015	F	D	F	**F**
2016	F	F	F	**F**
2017	F	D	F	**F**
2018	F	D	F	**F**
2019	D	D	D	**D**
2020	F	C	F	**F**
2021	D	D	F	**D**
2022	F	F	F	**F**
2023	F	D	F	**F**
2024	F	F	F	**F**
2025	F	F	F	**F**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Typo Lake - Discussion

In 2025, Typo Lake had poor water quality and continues to be at an F letter grade, similar to the results observed in previous years. Water quality has improved in a statistically significant fashion since 1993. When TP, Secchi, and Chl-a are tested individually, TP and Secchi levels show no significant change across this time period. Cl-a concentrations, however, are showing a statistically significant improvement and are the major driver of improving water quality in Typo Lake ($P<0.001$).

A 2012 TMDL study documented nutrient input sources to the lake. Factors affecting water quality in Typo Lake include rough fish, ditched wetlands west of the lake, and internal lake sediment. Recent work on Typo Lake has included the annual maintenance of carp barriers, carp removals (2017-2022), and a wetland restoration along Ditch 20 that is being installed in 2026.

Martin Lake

Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization

Background

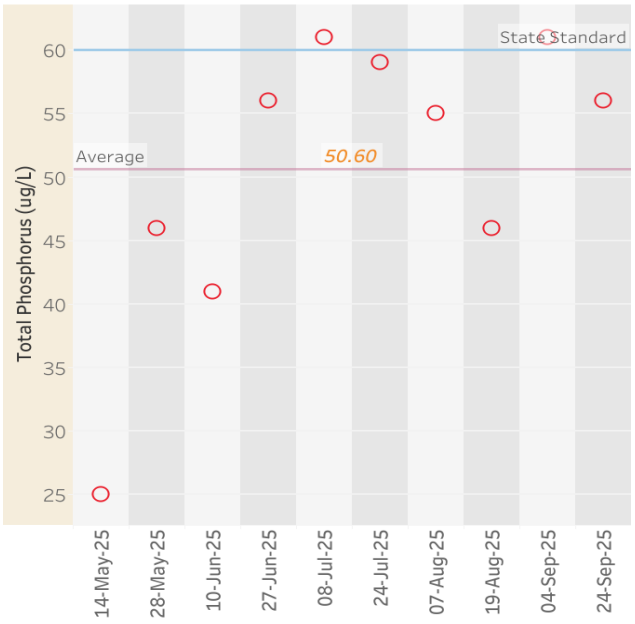
Martin Lake is located in northeast Anoka County. The lake is used extensively by recreational boaters and anglers and an active lake associations in the area. Martin Lake is almost entirely surrounded by private residences. Martin Lake is listed as impaired for excess nutrients and water quality. Water quality is also being monitored for BMP effectiveness and possible delisting as it nears reaching water quality standards.

MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Max Depth:	20 ft. (6.10 m.)
Lake Size:	223 acres
Shore Length:	3.15 miles
Watershed Size:	5,402 acres
Impairments:	Nutrients; mercury in fish

2025 Water Quality Summary

Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	25	61	51	C
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	20	6.7	56.1	28.52	C+
Secchi Transparency (ft)	>3.3	2.3	8.8	3.8	D+

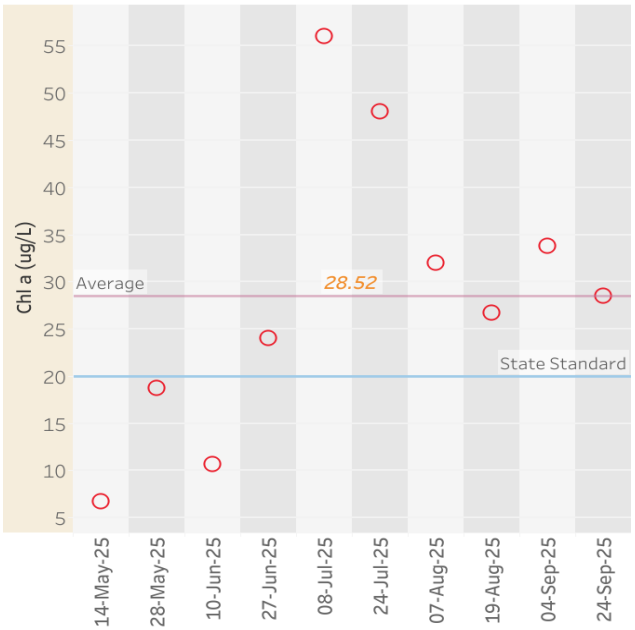
Martin Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

The majority of 2025 readings were below the state standard, with one reading exceeding 60 µg/L in July.

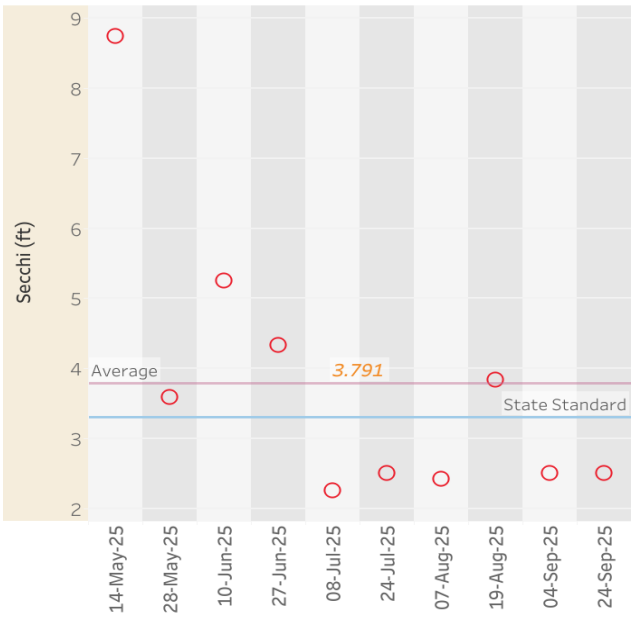
Average total phosphorus concentrations in 2025 decreased from the 2024 monitored year (62.9 µg/L) also staying below the historical average (78.6µg/L).



Chlorophyll-a

Algae levels were severe from mid-June through the remainder of summer.

In 2025 the majority of chlorophyll-a readings exceeded the state standard. The 2025 average for chlorophyll-a stayed below the historical average for Martin Lake (37.8 µg/L).



Secchi Transparency

In 2025 transparency was better then the state standard in May & June, then mostly poorer than the standard.

Average Secchi transparency improved by 1 foot compared to the 2024 mean.

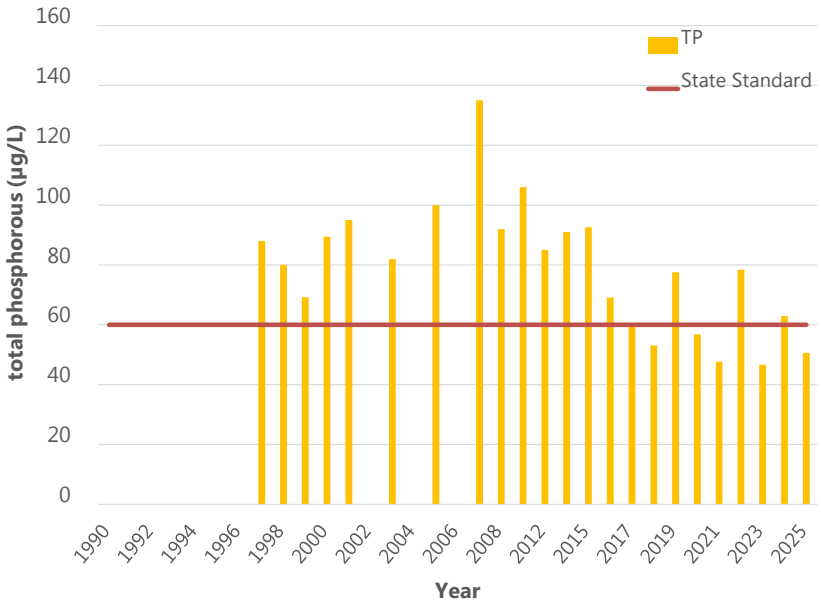
Martin Lake - Historic Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

The 5-year average for total phosphorus concentrations (57.24 µg/L) are below the state standard and is similar when compared to the 2025 mean.

Historically, Martin Lake has shown statistically significant improvement in decreasing total phosphorus levels.
P=<0.05

▼ *TP trend decrease; water quality improvement.*

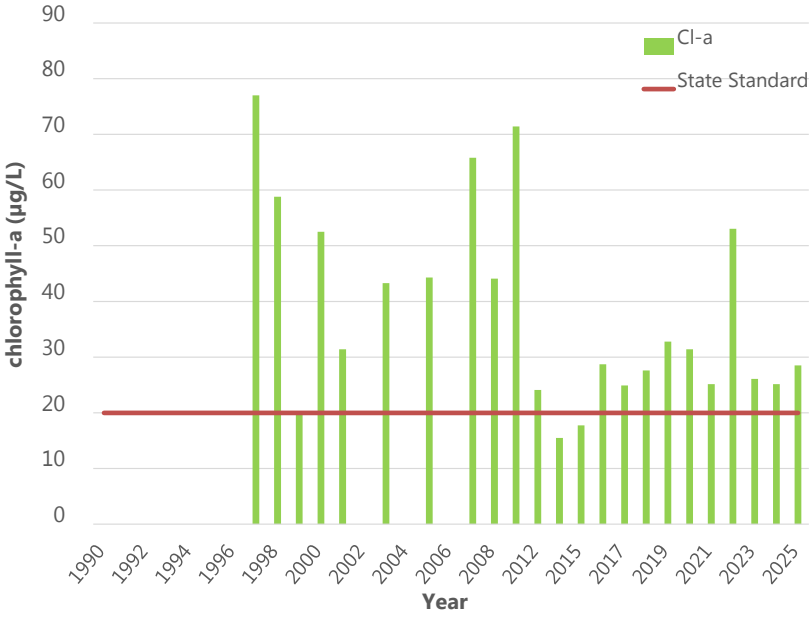


Chlorophyll-a

The historical annual averages for Martin Lake are higher than the state standard.

Overall Chl-a levels in Martin Lake have statistically improved over the years.
P=<0.01

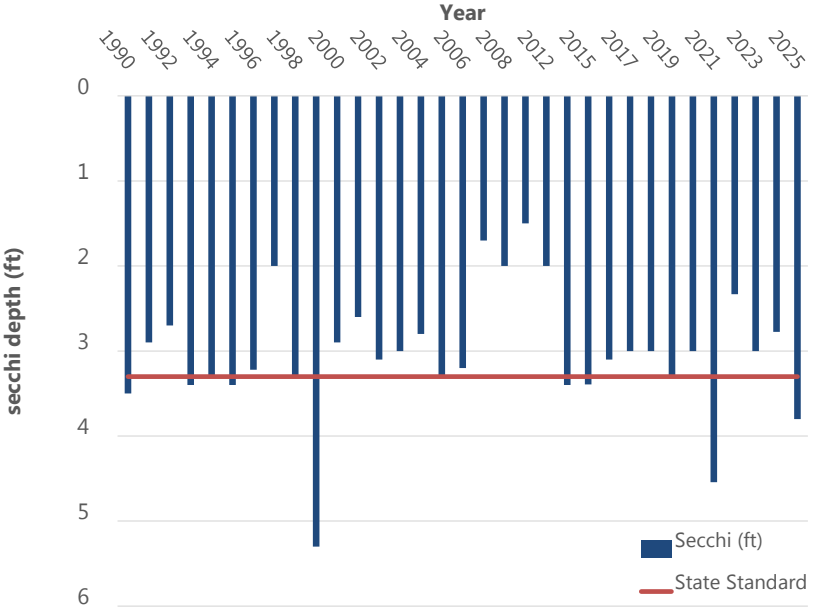
▼ *Chl-a trend decrease; water quality improvement.*



Secchi Transparency

While Secchi transparency has shown improvements in recent years (becoming deeper = greater transparency), it remains near than the state standard.

◆ *Transparency trend constant; no noticeable change.*



Martin Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP	Cl-a	Secchi	Overall
1996			D	**D**
1997	D	D	F	**D**
1998	D	D	D	**D**
1999	C	B	C	**C**
2000	D	C	D	**D**
2001	D	C	D	**D**
2002			D	**D**
2003	D	C	D	**D**
2004			D	**D**
2005	D	C	D	**D**
2006			D	**D**
2007	D	D	F	**D**
2008	D	C	F	**D**
2009	D	D	F	**D**
2012	D	C	F	**D**
2014	D	B	D	**C**
2015	D	B	D	**C**
2016	C	C	D	**C**
2017	C	C	D	**C**
2018	C	C	D	**C**
2019	D	C	D	**D**
2020	C	C	D	**C**
2021	C	C	C	**C**
2022	D	D	D	**D**
2023	C	C	D	**C**
2024	C	C+	D-	**C**
2025	C	C	D+	**C**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Martin Lake - Discussion

In 2025, Martin Lake received an overall C letter grade for water quality. A 2012 TMDL study prioritized nutrient inputs and their impacts on water quality in the lake. The TMDL also provided potential lake rehabilitation strategies. Low quality water flowing downstream from Typo Lake and internal loading (carp, septic systems, sediment, etc.) are two of the largest negative impacts on Martin Lake's water quality. Carp management efforts, septic system replacements, and stormwater retrofits have been implemented in recent years.

Water quality in Martin Lake has shown a statistically significant improvement since 1983, but even a more significant improvement when examining only the last decade. Further examination of the data shows that while Secchi has not changed in a significant way, Chl-a and TP concentrations have both shown a significant improvement over this time period.

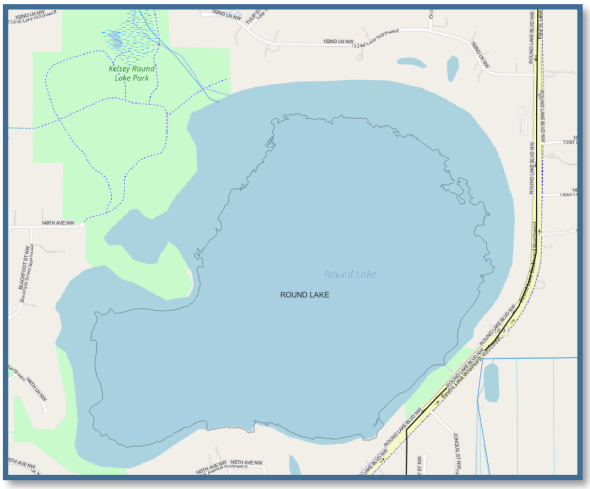
Round Lake

Lower Rum River WMO

Background

Round Lake is located in southwest Anoka County. It has a maximum Transparency of 19 feet, although the majority of the lake is less than 4 feet deep. The lake is surrounded by cattails and has submerged vegetation interspersed throughout the lake basin. This lake has a small watershed and is not subject to many of the negative impacts that occur on more developed lakes. Recreation is minimal and primarily consisting of canoeing, kayaking, and wintertime fishing.

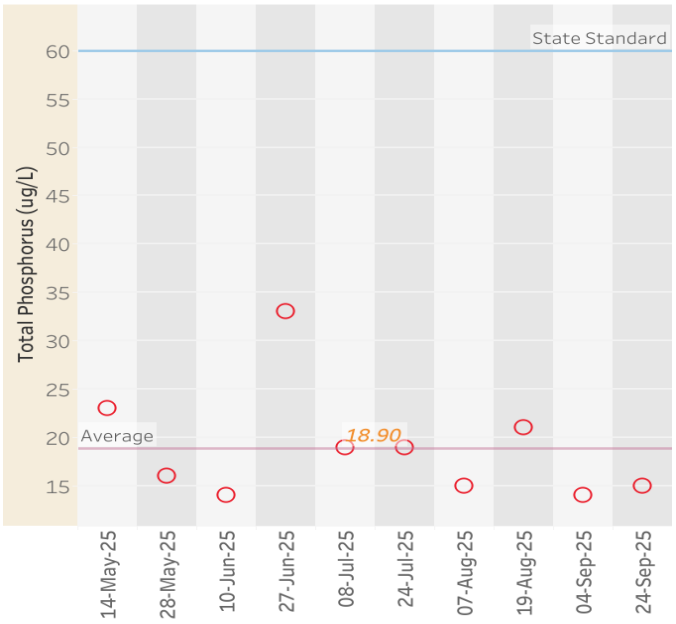
MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Max Depth	19 ft. (5.79 m.)
Lake Size:	220 acres
Shore Length:	2.95 miles
Watershed Size:	1,573 acres
Impairments:	None



2025 Water Quality Summary

Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	14	33	18.9	A
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	30	1.34	18.7	5.9	A
Secchi Transparency (ft)	>3.3	7.50	10.9	9.3	B+

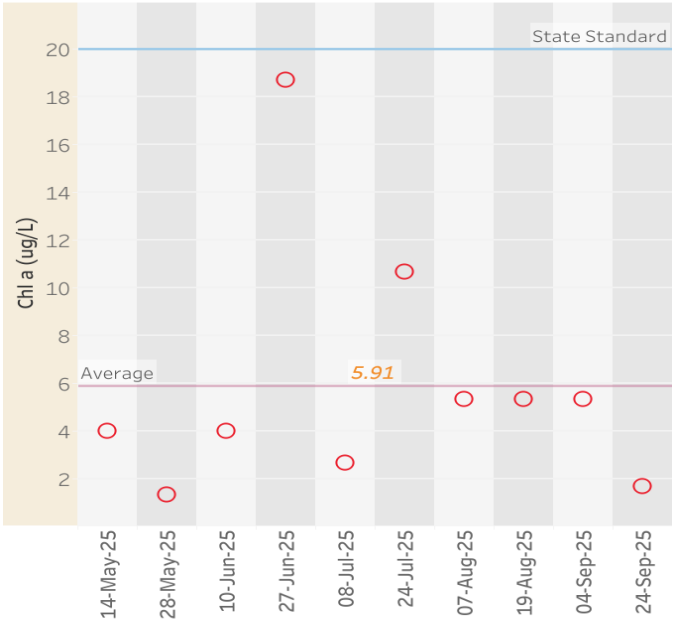
Round Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

All total phosphorus measurements in 2025 were well below the state standard.

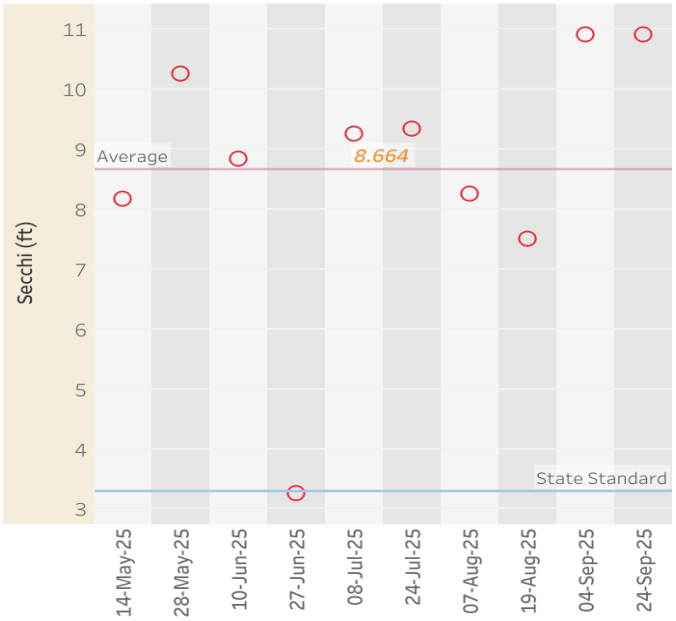
Historically, average total phosphorous concentrations are regularly less than the state standard. The recent 5-year average remains similar to the historical average.



Chlorophyll-a

All measurements in 2025 were below the state standard.

The average chlorophyll-a level in 2025 was similar to previous monitored years.



Secchi Transparency

The 2025 average was an improvement compared to the historical average from for Round Lake (8.44 ft.).

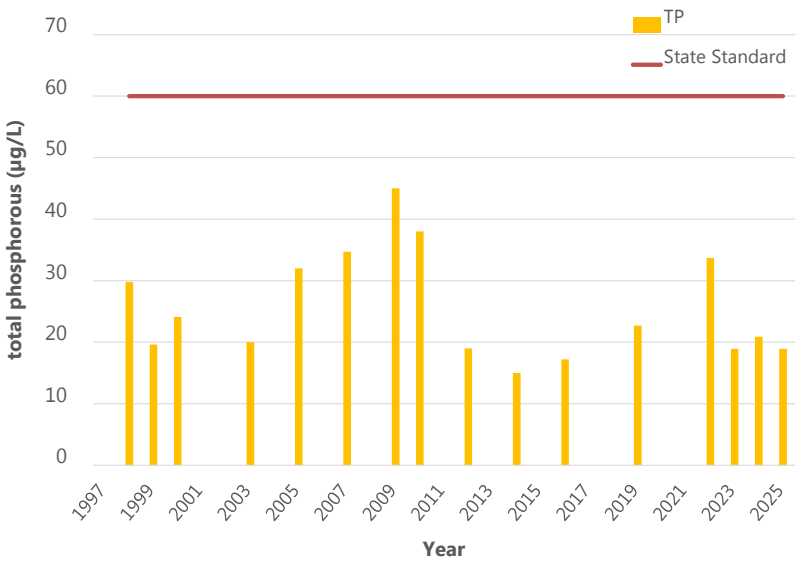
Mean Secchi transparency in 2025 improved substantially compared to the 2024 average of 7.7 ft.

Round Lake - Historical Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

The 5-year average for total phosphorus concentrations (19.57µg/L) were below the state standard and below the historical average for Round Lake (25.27µg/L).

TP trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.

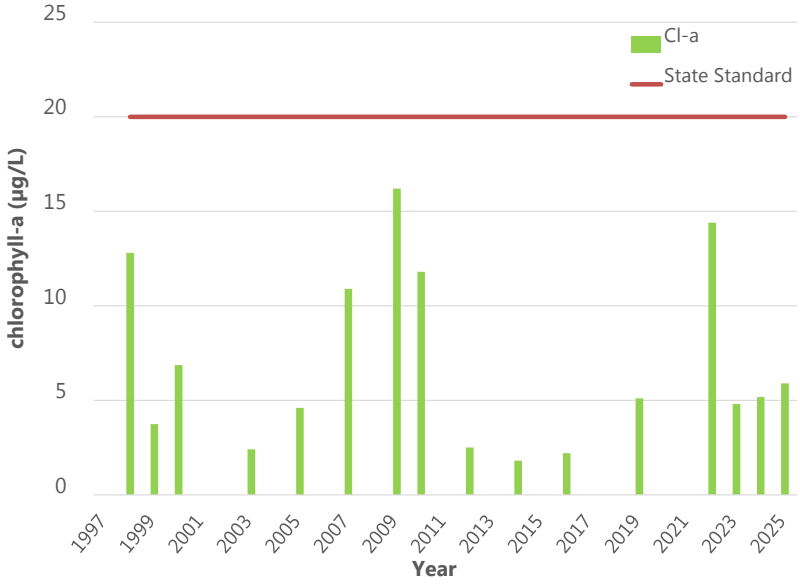


Chlorophyll-a

Chlorophyll-a concentrations in recent monitored years have stayed below the historical mean for the lake (6.48 µg/L).

In general, chlorophyll-a levels have shown neither an increase or decrease, but all annual averages have stayed less than the state standard.

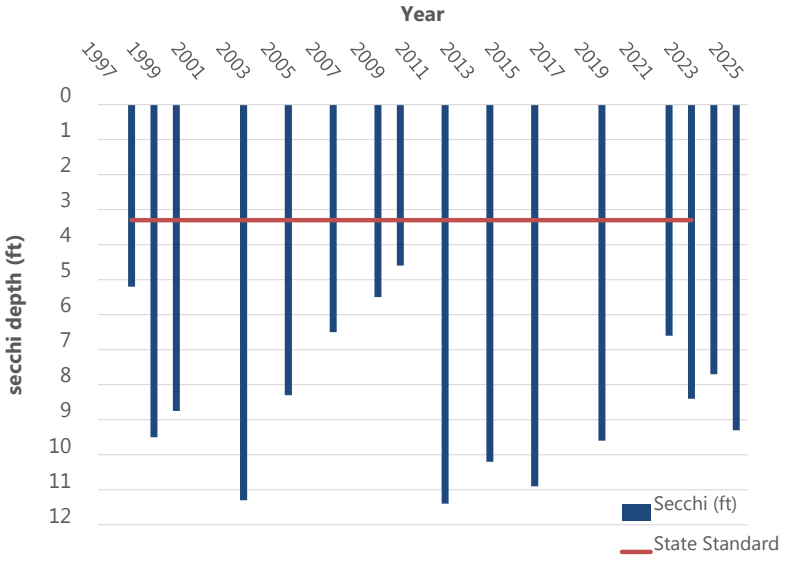
Chl-a trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



Secchi Transparency

Historical annual means for Seechi transparency in Round Lake have all been greater than the state standard.

Transparency trend constant; no noticeable change.



Round Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP	Cl-a	Secchi	Overall
1998	B	B	C	**B**
1999	A	A	B	**A**
2000	B	A	B	**B**
2003	A	A	A	**A**
2005	B	A	B	**B**
2007	C	B+	C	**C**
2009	C	B	C	**C**
2010	C	B	C	**C**
2012	A	A	A-	**A**
2014	A	A	A	**A**
2016	A	A	A	**A**
2019	A	A	B	**A**
2022	C	B	C	**B**
2023	A	A	B	**A**
2024	A	A+	B-	**A**
2025	A	A	B+	**A**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Round Lake - Discussion

In 2025, Round Lake received an overall A letter grade for water quality, similar to many previous monitored years. When analyzing water quality (1998 and 2025), no statistically significant trend was detected. Fluctuating lake water levels are likely the main drivers of elevated TP and Cl-a concentrations due to dilution.

Poorer water quality at Round Lake appears to be correlated with a lower water level. From the mid-1990s through 2010 water levels in Round Lake decreased by more than 4 feet and during that period there was a statistically significant decline in water quality.

Internal nutrient sources and wind-driven sediment mixing are likely contributors to elevated phosphorus levels during low water. Staff have also noted a visible reduction in chara (a plant-like algae) during periods of prolonged low water. Chara typically carpets the basin bottom and can help minimize wind-driven sediment mixing.

There have been concerns that surficial groundwater levels are being negatively impacted possibly impacting lake levels. Conservation of groundwater is a regional and local priority. Lake levels are regularly monitored.

Sunfish/Grass Lake

Lower Rum River WMO

Background

Sunfish/Grass Lake is located in the City of Ramsey in southwestern Anoka County. The lake does not have a public boat landing, but there is a small access within Sunfish Park, located on the west side of the lake. This access is designed specifically for canoes and kayaks and Sunfish Park also has a large floating fishing pier. Due to the shallow lake depth and high water transparency, the native aquatic vegetation is abundant and diverse including a variety of floating leaf, emergent, and submergent aquatic vegetation. A small portion of the shoreline is developed with residential homes but the majority of the lake is surrounded by park or woodland. Gas motors are not allowed.

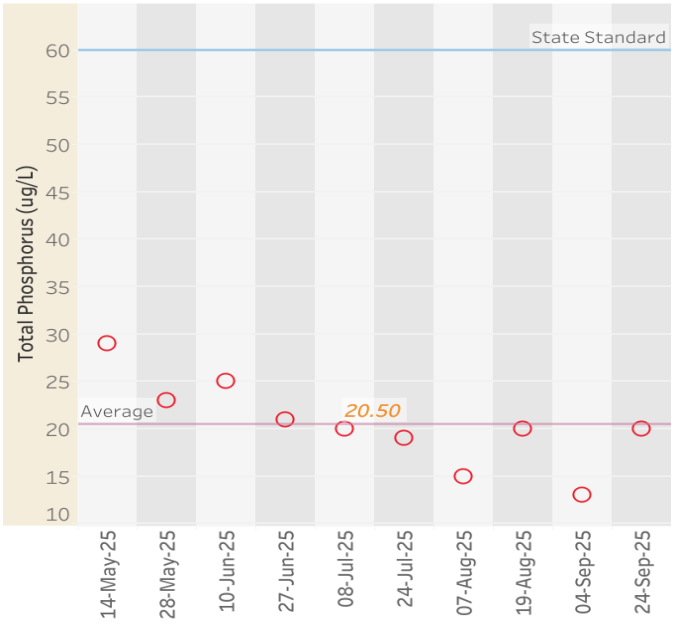
MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Max Depth:	~5 ft.
Lake Size:	35 acres
Shore Length:	1.24 miles
Watershed Size:	178.37 acres
Impairments:	None

2025 Water Quality Summary

Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	13	29	21	A
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	30	2.7	20.0	7.1	A+
Secchi Transparency (ft) *	>3.3	>4.1	>4.8	>4.42	n/a

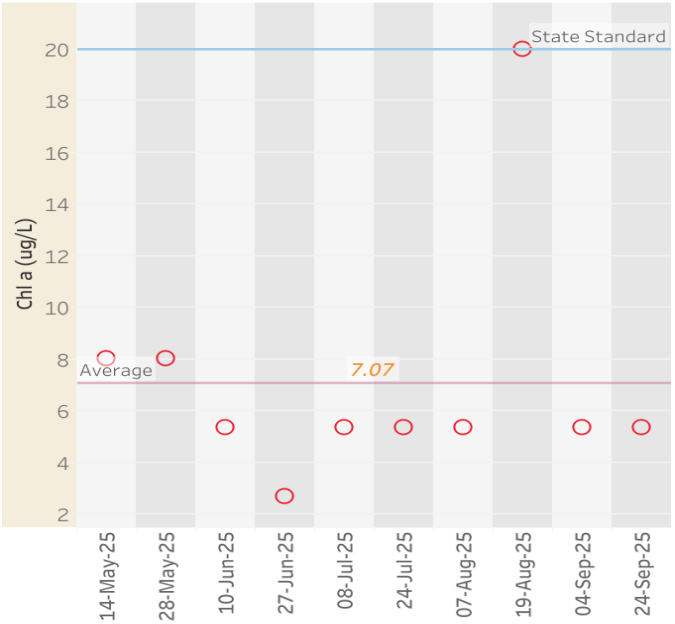
*Note: Secchi depth exceeds lake depth.

Sunfish/Grass Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

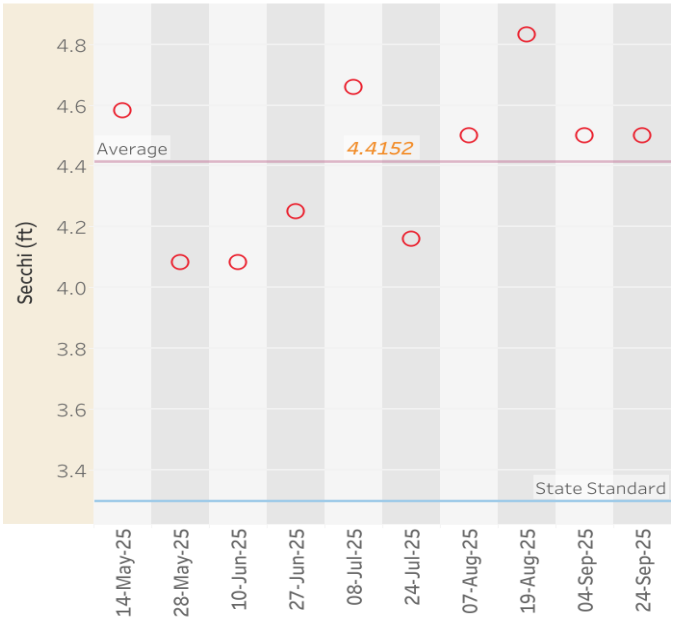
All 2025 total phosphorus readings were well below the state standard with peak total phosphorus levels staying below 30 µg/L.



Chlorophyll-a

All measurements collected in 2025 met or were below the state standard.

The average chlorophyll-a level in 2025 was similar to previous monitored years.



Secchi Transparency

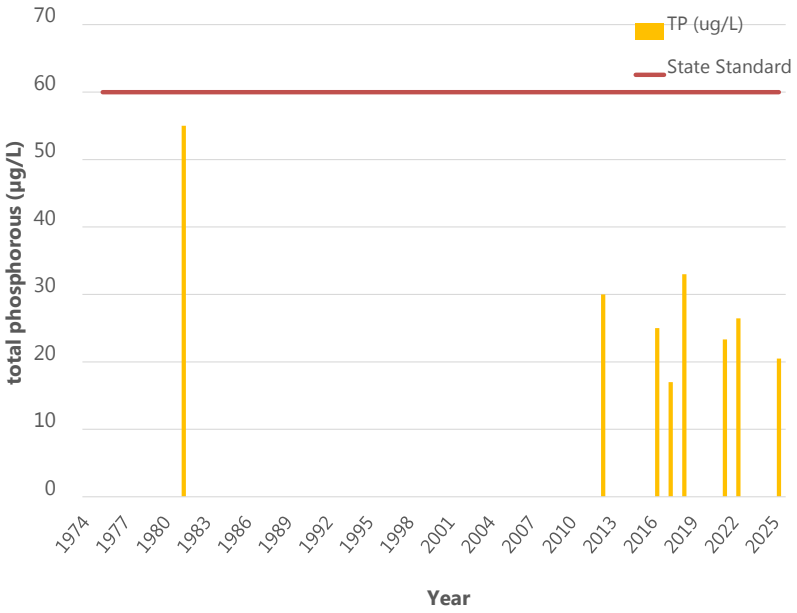
Secchi transparency readings were obscured by dense vegetation in the lake, limiting the usability of these readings. All Secchi readings in the table below are denoted as “greater than”, meaning that that the actual Secchi transparency was more than the number recorded.

Sunfish/Grass - Historic Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

Historically, average total phosphorus concentrations have stayed below the historical average (23.61 µg/L) and are well below the state standard.

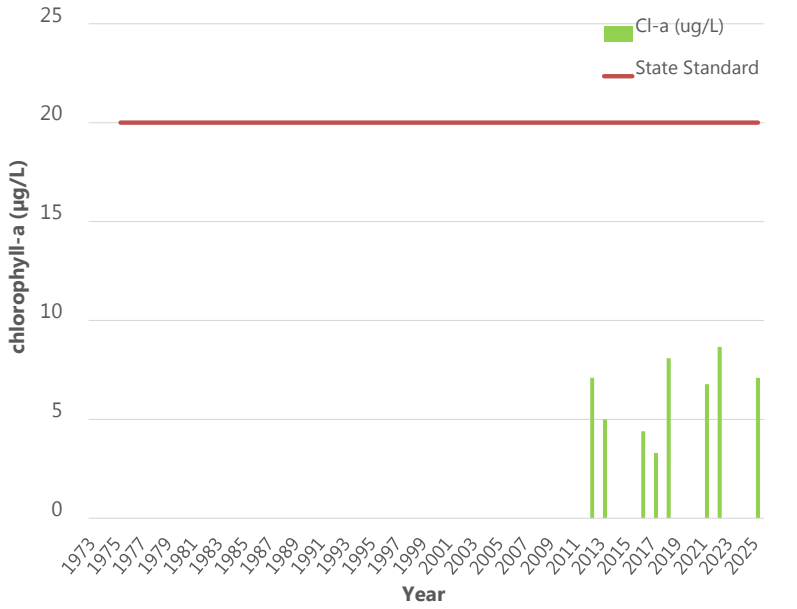
TP trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



Chlorophyll-a

In recent monitoring years, average chlorophyll-a concentrations have stayed below the historical average for Sunfish/ Grass Lake, and are well below the state standard.

Chl-a trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



Secchi Transparency

The transparency data is meaningless. Accurate measurement could not be made due to aquatic vegetation. The graph depicts measurements that are when the disk disappeared into the vegetation. Actual transparency was greater.

Sunfish/Grass Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP (µg/L)	Cl-a (µg/L)	Secchi (m)	Overall
2012	B	A	C	**B**
2013		A	C	**B**
2016	C	A	NA	**B**
2017	A	A	NA	**A**
2018	C	A	NA	**B**
2022	B	A	NA	**B+**
2025	A	A	NA	**A**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Sunfish/Grass Lake - Discussion

In 2025, water quality in Sunfish/Grass Lake was excellent compared with other lakes in this region (NCHF Ecoregion), receiving an overall A letter grade.

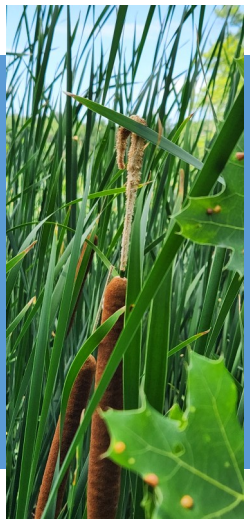
Sunfish/Grass Lake appears to be in good health. TP and Chl-a a concentrations remain well below state water quality standards for shallow lakes. A healthy population of native aquatic vegetation is consistently observed in the lake, along with abundant aquatic wildlife and waterfowl.

Although trends were observed on Sunfish/Grass Lake, any water quality changes are not statistically significant. Ten years of water quality data are typically needed, and 2025 marked the sixth year ACD has monitored the lake.

The lake should be managed to protect this high-quality resource. Detecting small changes now allows for proactive management before water quality declines. The city, as a major owner of shoreline, has been a key partner in protecting this lake.

Highland Lake

MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION



Background

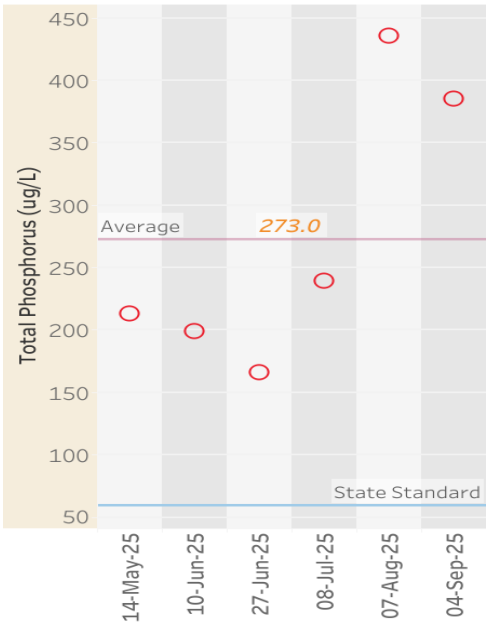
Highland Lake is a shallow lake located within Kordiak Park in southcentral Anoka County. The park is wooded and features a popular paved trail around the lake boundary. The basin bottom is silty and floating vegetation is heavily concentrated across most of the lake's surface. The contributing watershed to Highland Lake is primarily residential land that drains directly through storm sewer discharge. There is no formal public boat access to the water and due to water quality the lake is unsuitable for swimming throughout the open-water season.

Max Depth:	~3.3 ft. (1 m.)
Lake Size:	15.50 acres
Shore Length:	0.99 miles
Watershed Size:	190 acres
MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Impairments:	Nutrients/Aquatic Recreation

2025 Water Quality Summary

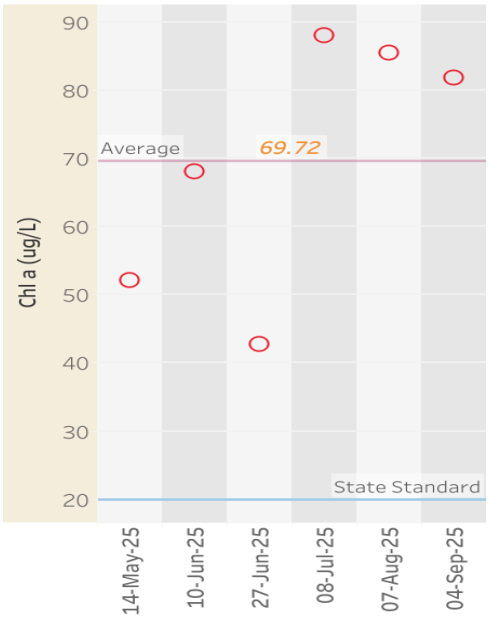
Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	166	436	273	F
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	30	42.7	88.1	69.71	D
Secchi Transparency (ft)	3.3	1.16	1.4	1.16	F

Highland Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

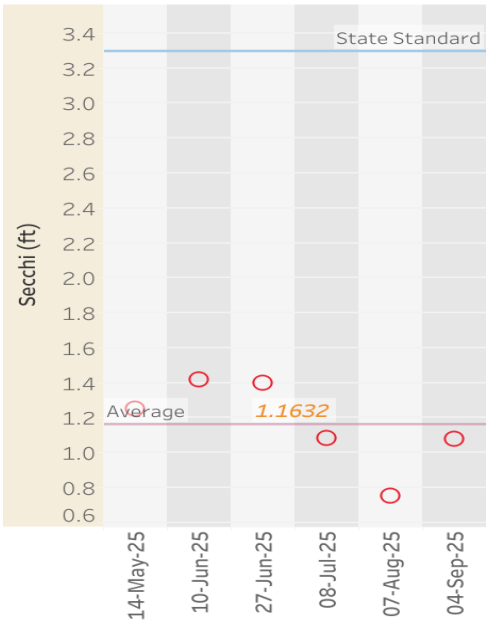
Average total phosphorus concentrations in 2025 improved slightly from the 2024 mean (285 µg/L) but remained many times higher than the state standard.



Chlorophyll-a

The 2025 average chlorophyll-a level was comparable to previous monitored years.

All 2025 measurements were below the state standard.



Secchi Transparency

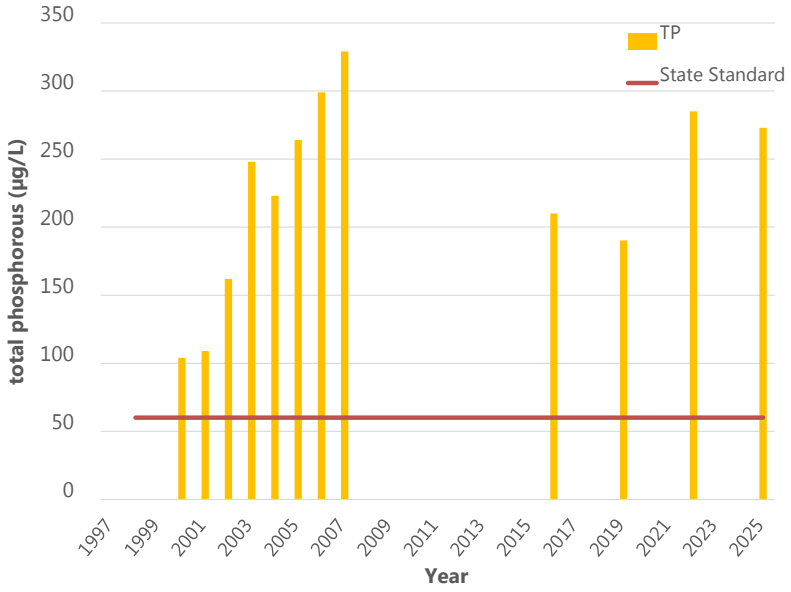
The 2025 average Secchi transparency was comparable to other monitored years.

Highland Lake - Historic Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

In 2025, average total phosphorus concentrations exceeded the historical average for Highland Lake (198.5µg/L) and are many times higher than the state standard.

TP trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.

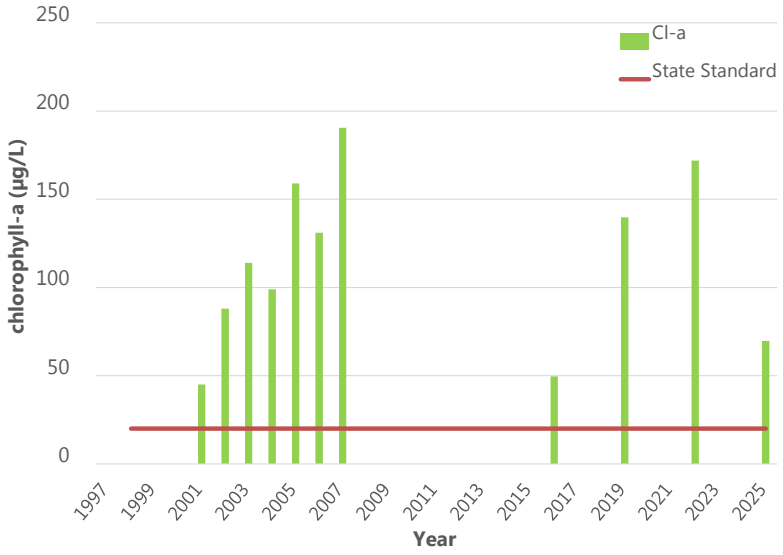


Chlorophyll-a

In recent years, chlorophyll-a concentrations have stayed below the historical average for the lake, but are still much greater than the state standard.

In general, chlorophyll-a levels have shown neither an increase or decrease, but all annual averages exceeded the state standard.

Chl-a trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



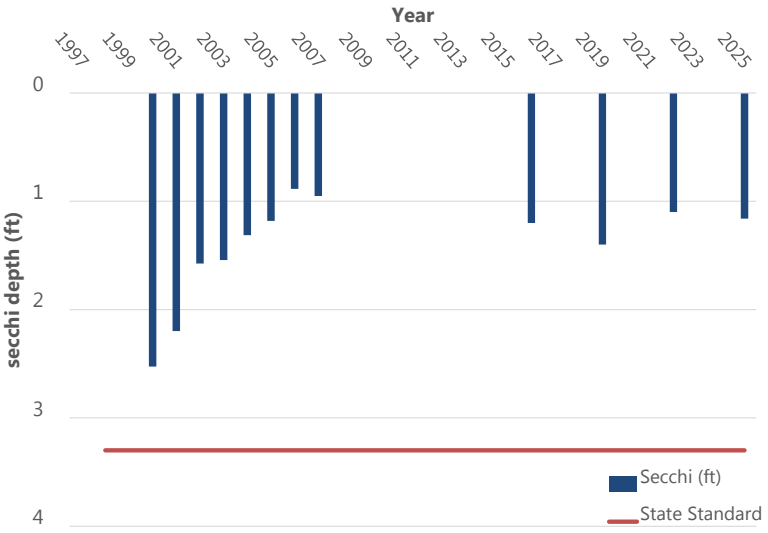
Secchi Transparency

Secchi transparency has shown a decline in recent years (less deep = less transparency).

The 2025 average remains much poorer than the state standard.

Secchi transparency have shown neither an increase or decrease in recent years.

Transparency trend constant; no noticeable change.



Highland Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP	Cl-a	Secchi	Overall
2000	D		D	**D**
2001	D	C	F	**D**
2002	F	F	F	**F**
2003	F	F	F	**F**
2004	F	F	F	**F**
2005	F	F	F	**F**
2006	F	F	F	**F**
2007	F	F	F	**F**
2016	F	D	F	**F**
2019	F	F	F	**F**
2022	F	F	F	**F**
2025	F	D	F	**F**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Highland Lake - Discussion

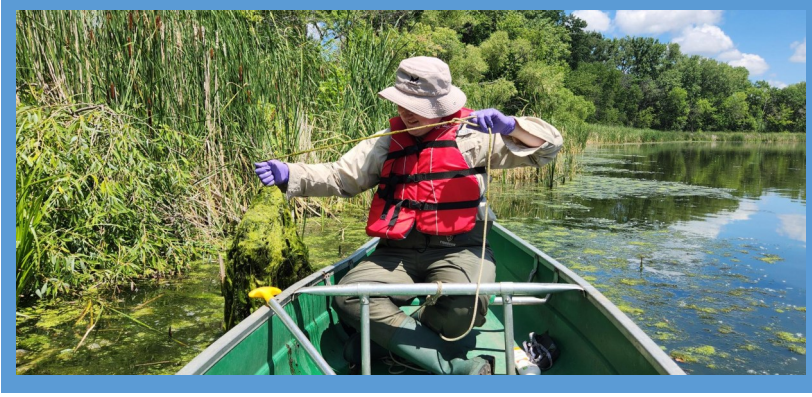
In 2025 Highland Lake received an overall F letter grade for water quality. This was the 10th consecutive year with that grade. When analyzing water quality (1998-2025), no statistically significant trend was detected.

Highland Lake's poor water quality is likely related to the high volume of stormwater runoff that enters the basin. Stormwater from urbanized areas often has high concentrations of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants. The current stormwater infrastructure discharges into Highland Lake with minimal treatment. Capital improvement projects to the current stormwater infrastructure that could benefit Highland Lake should be explored, particularly those ranked highly in the 2019 Subwatershed Assessment Analysis. Enhanced street sweeping could be cost-effective, depending on the current sweeping regime.

Some local residents have expressed concern about the abundance of dense vegetation. ACD completed an aquatic vegetation survey for Highland Lake in 2023. The survey revealed that this lake is heavily dominated by the native water lily Nuphar variegata. Chara (a genus of macroalgae) is present along with curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant, and five native submersed plants. Cattails and broad-leaf arrowhead are the dominant emergent plants.

Sullivan/Sandy Lake

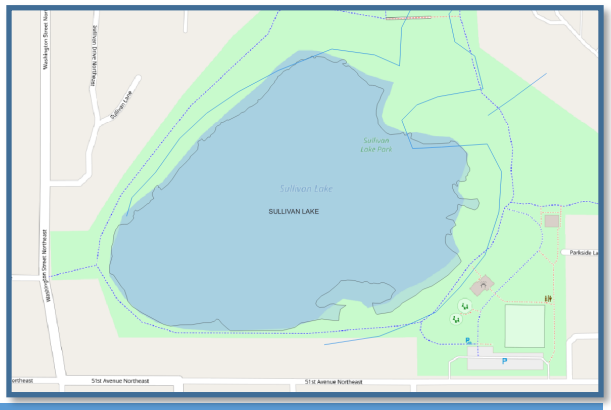
MISSISSIPPI WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION



Background

Sullivan/Sandy Lake is a small, shallow lake located in the City of Columbia Heights. The lake is surrounded primarily by residential and industrial development. There is no boat access, but the lake is largely surrounded by public trails and parkland. The contributing watershed to Highland lake is primarily residential land that drains directly to the lake through storm sewers. Due to poor water quality the lake is unsuitable for swimming throughout the open-water season.

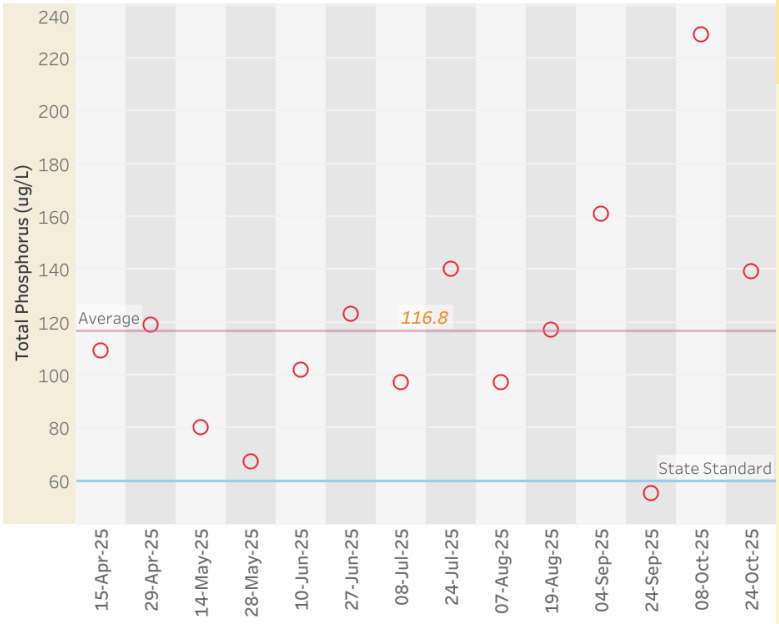
MPCA Classification:	Shallow (< 15 ft. or > 80% littoral)
Max Depth:	~9 ft. (2.7 m.)
Lake Size:	16.9 acres
Shore Length:	~1 mile
Watershed Size:	433 acres
Impairments:	Nutrients/Aquatic Recreation



2025 Water Quality Summary

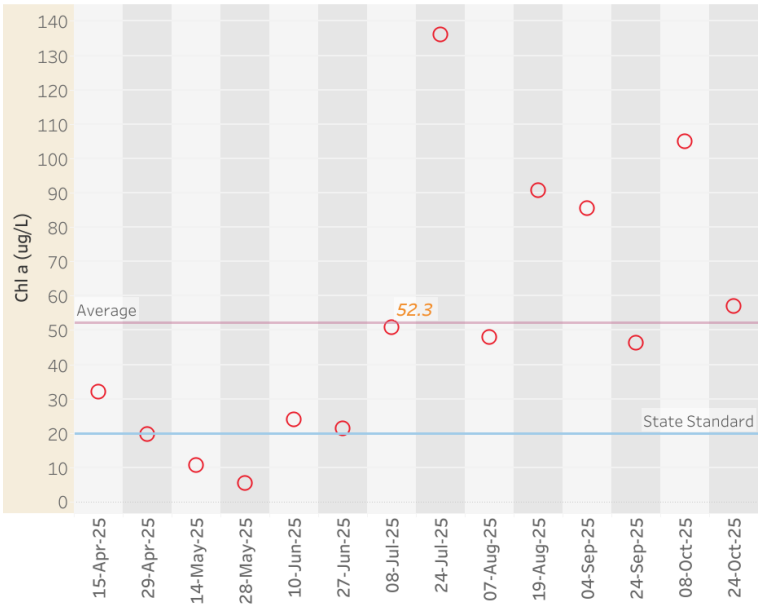
Water Quality Parameters	MPCA Standard	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Grade
Total Phosphorous (µg/L)	60	55	229	117	D
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	30	5.34	136.17	52.35	D
Secchi Transparency (ft)	>3.3	0.75	4.25	2.36	D

Sullivan/Sandy Lake - 2025 Water Quality Monitoring Results



Total Phosphorous

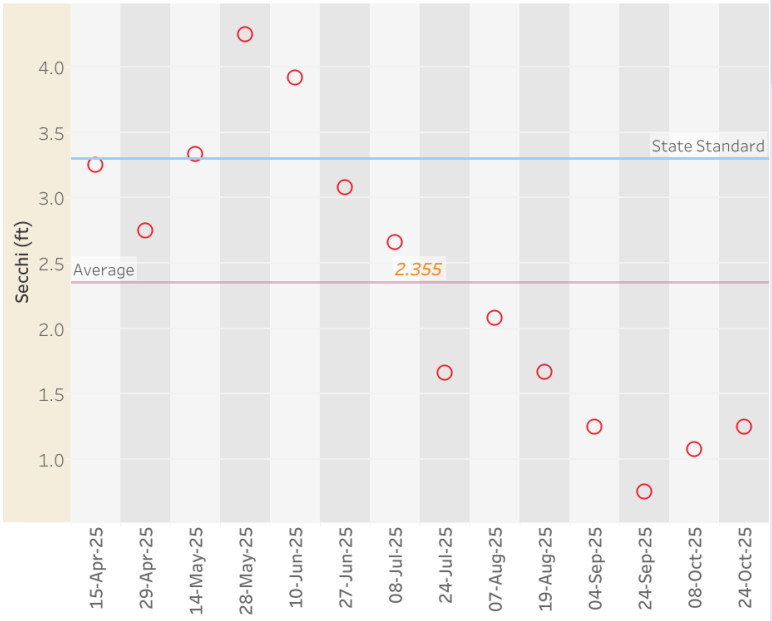
The mean total phosphorous level in 2025 was similar to the 2022 average of 119 µg/L.



Chlorophyll-a

The mean chlorophyll-a level in 2025 was similar when compared to previous monitored years.

All 2025 measurements were below the state standard.



Secchi Transparency

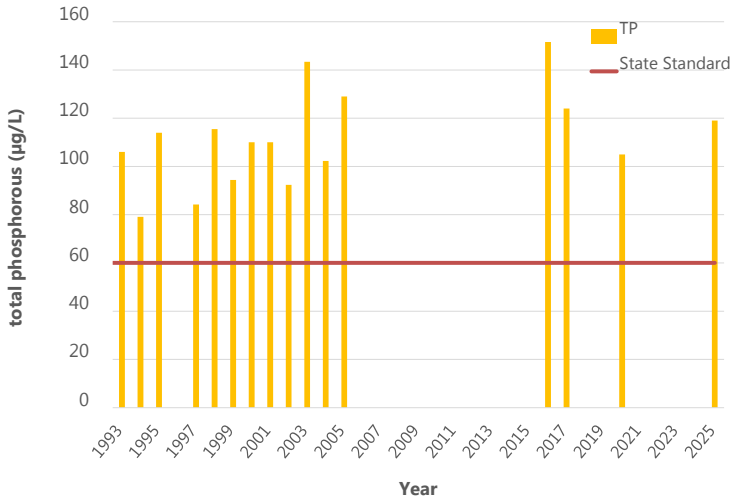
Average Secchi transparency in 2025 improved by about 0.5 feet from the 2022 average of 1.9 feet.

Sullivan/Sandy Lake - Historic Annual Average Data

Total Phosphorous

Average total phosphorous levels regularly exceed the state standard, the 5-year average remains similar to the historical average.

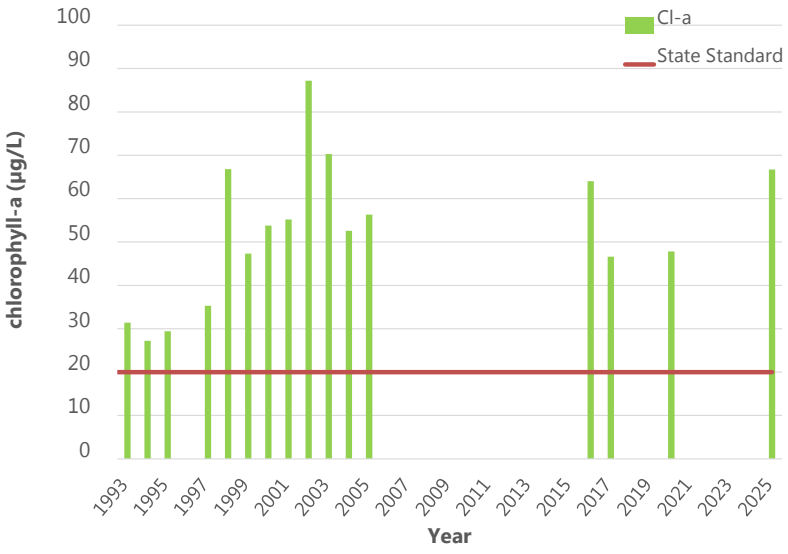
TP trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



Chlorophyll-a

In recent years, chlorophyll-a levels have stayed below the historical average for the lake, but are still many times higher than the state standard.

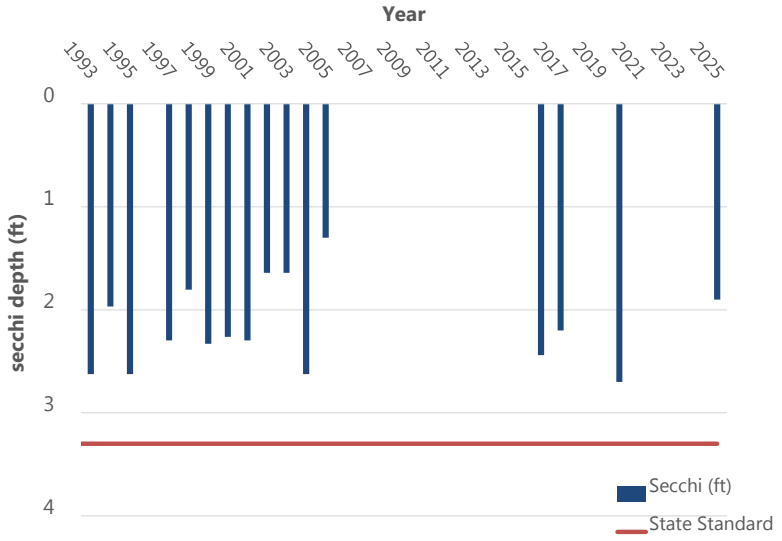
Chl-a trend constant; no noticeable change in water quality.



Secchi Transparency

Historical annual averages have consistently remained poorer than the state standard.

Transparency trend constant; no noticeable change.



Only years with data are shown in the graphs above.

Sullivan/Sandy Lake - Water Quality Grades

Year	TP	Cl-a	Secchi	Overall
1993	D		D	**D**
1994	D	C	F	**D**
1995	D	C	D	**D**
1997	D	C	D	**D**
1998	D	D	F	**D**
1999	D	C	D	**D**
2000	D	D	D	**D**
2001	D	D	D	**D**
2002	D	F	F	**F**
2003	D	D	F	**D**
2004	D	D	D	**D**
2005	D	D	F	**D**
2013	D	D	D	**D**
2016	D	C	D	**D**
2019	D	C	C	**D**
2022	D	D	F	**D**
2025	D	D	D	**D**
State Standards	60 ug/L	20 ug/L	>3.3 ft	

Sullivan/Sandy Lake - Discussion

In 2025, Sullivan Lake received an overall D letter grade for water quality. A grade of D or F has been found every monitored year back to 1993. No statistically significant trend of water quality change was found for 1998 to 2025.

The lake's poor water quality is likely linked to the high volume of stormwater runoff entering the basin from the surrounding urbanized watershed. Stormwater runoff often carries elevated levels of pollutants. Much of the existing stormwater infrastructure discharges to the lake with limited treatment. Capital improvement projects to enhance stormwater treatment and reduce nutrient loading should be explored, particularly those identified as priorities in past watershed or subwatershed planning efforts. Enhanced street sweeping may also serve as a cost-effective strategy.

In 2025, ACD conducted an aquatic plant survey on Sullivan Lake. We documented a mix of native emergent and submersed species, along with the presence of invasive species typical of shallow urban lakes. The most common plants were coontail, Canada waterweed, and the macro-algae chars (muskgrass). Non-native, invasive curly-leaf pond weed is present.