

## Rice Marsh Lake

*Located in both Eden Prairie and Chanhassen, Rice Marsh Lake is aerated in the winter. This management practice helps keep bluegill sunfish alive so that they can feed on invasive carp eggs in the spring.*

During June through September of each year, District staff visit the lake every two weeks to collect water samples and take readings. Samples are sent to a laboratory to be tested for nutrients and other compounds. Staff also measure water clarity by lowering a Secchi disk into the water and measuring how deep it goes before it's no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Rice Marsh Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater. See summary below; data details may be found on the other side of the page.

**Total Phosphorus:** Levels have decreased since monitoring began in 1972. In 2021, the lake met the MPCA standard with an average total phosphorus level of 0.037 mg/L.



**Chlorophyll-a:** Levels have decreased since monitoring began in 1972. In 2021, the average reading for chlorophyll-a was 10.9 µg/L.



**Water clarity:** Since 1972, average Secchi disk depths have increased, and the lake consistently meets the standard for water clarity. The average reading in 2021 was 2.6 meters.



**Fish:** Rice Marsh Lake has had consecutive winterkills (depleted oxygen levels) the past few years limiting native fish survival. The District stocked 800 bluegill into the lake in 2021 to limit the potential of Common Carp reproducing.

### Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	83 acres
Average lake depth	5 feet
Maximum lake depth	11 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	966 acres
Impervious surface	32% of watershed
Impairment listing	Nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Yellow Bullhead, Pumpkinseed Sunfish
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife, Common Carp



### Watershed Boundary



Water that falls anywhere inside the gold boundary drains to Rice Marsh Lake.

### Top 3 things you can do at HOME to protect the LAKE



#### Protect storm drains.

Prevent grass clippings, lawn fertilizer and debris from entering storm drains so they don't end up in the lake.



#### Pick up dog waste.

Did you know that pet waste pollutes water? It's full of nutrients and bacteria. Bag it and toss it in a trash can.



#### Reduce stormwater runoff.

Reduce the flow of stormwater off your property by installing a rain garden, native planting, or rain barrel.

# Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

Over the last few years, Rice Marsh Lake has met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line showing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

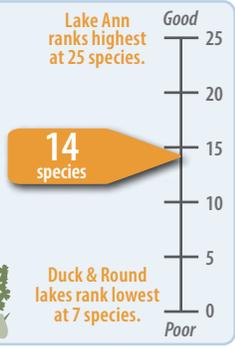
## Averages

Water Quality Parameter	Historical average	2021 average	MPCA standard: Shallow Lakes
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.118	0.037 ★	< 0.06
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	33.0	10.9 ★	< 20
Water Clarity (meter)	1.7 ★	2.6 ★	> 1.0

★ = Standard met

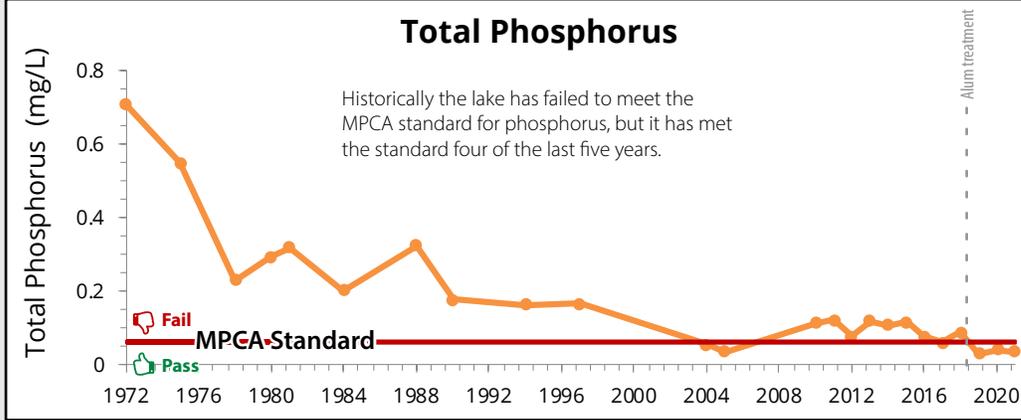
## Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does **Lake Lucy** compare to **other lakes** in the District?



## Trends Over Time: 1972-2021

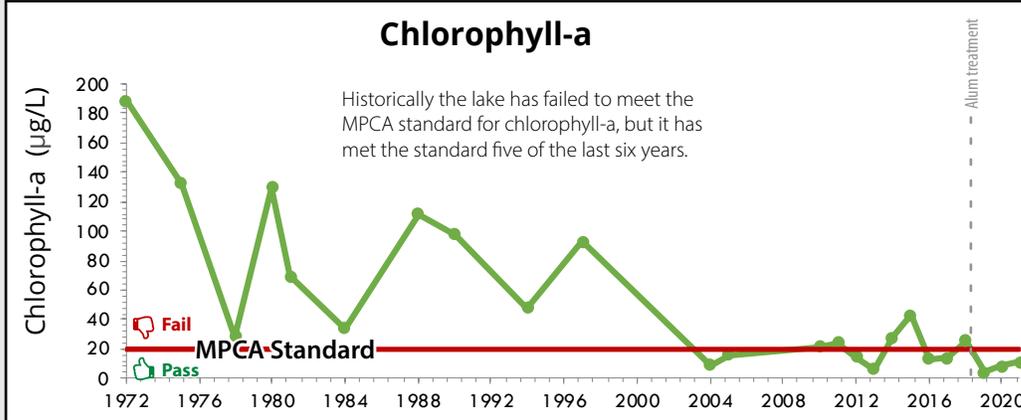
Read the **2021 Water Resources Report** at [rpbcwd.org/annualreport](http://rpbcwd.org/annualreport)



Rice Marsh Lake received an alum treatment in 2018. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

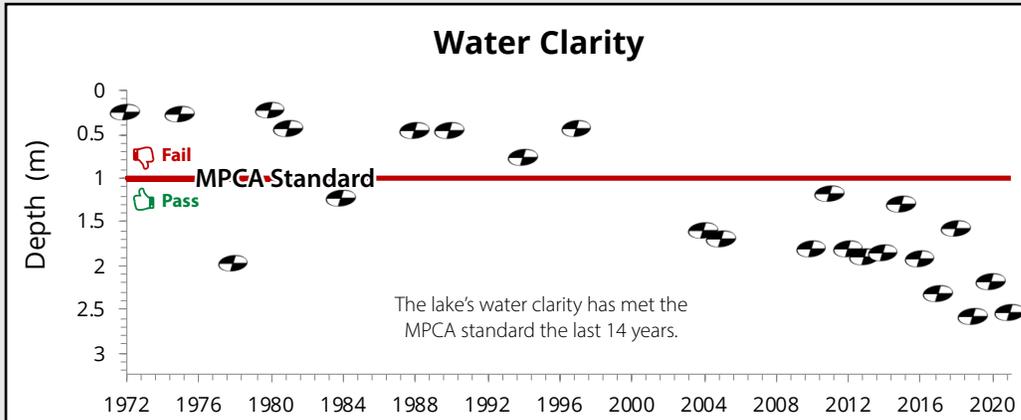
**Phosphorus** is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

Filamentous algae bloom



**Chlorophyll-a** is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.

CSIRO



Secchi disk

**Water clarity** is measured by lowering a Secchi Disk into the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is the water's clarity measurement.



### Grants for Shoreline Restoration

The watershed district offers up to **75% cost share** assistance for restoring your shoreline! Learn more: [rpbcwd.org/grants](http://rpbcwd.org/grants)



### Contact us

18681 Lake Drive East  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
[www.rpbcwd.org](http://www.rpbcwd.org)

[info@rpbcwd.org](mailto:info@rpbcwd.org)  
952-607-6512  
[@rpbcwd](https://www.facebook.com/rpbcwd)