

## Mitchell Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Mitchell Lake is a part of the Purgatory Creek chain of lakes. During high water events it outflows through an overflow pipe to Red Rock Lake.

From June to September every 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 is no longer visible. The data indicates the lake's health based on standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Mitchell Lake is classified as a "Shallow Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must meet standards set for shallow lakes. This includes low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater.

Mitchell Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2024 average	Note
<b>Total Phosphorus</b>	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.072 mg/L	The lake did not meet the standard in 2024. The average increased from the 2023 average (0.052 mg/L).
<b>Chlorophyll-a</b>	Less than 20 µg/L	62.0 µg/L	The lake did not meet the chlorophyll-a standard in 2024 and has not met the standard since 2014.
<b>Water Clarity</b>	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.1 meters	No significant trend. The lake has frequently met the standard for the last 15 years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



**Plant update:** In 2024, the City of Eden Prairie conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. In spring of 2024, RPBCWD treated 13.9 acres to control invasive Curly-leaf Pondweed.

### Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	124 acres
Average lake depth	5.3 feet
Maximum lake depth	19 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	937 acres
Impervious surface	30% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Bullhead, Black Crappie, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Purple Loosestrife, Brittle Naiad

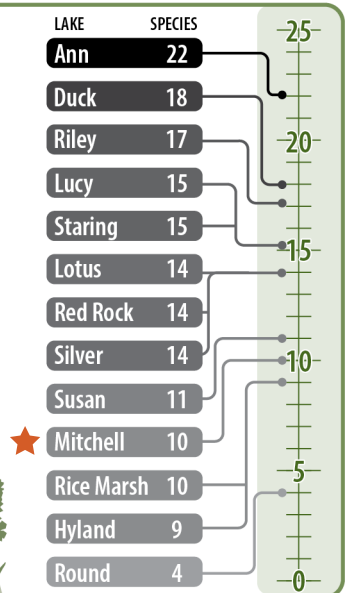


### Watershed Boundary



### Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

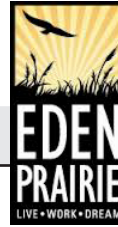
How does Mitchell Lake compare to other lakes in the District in number of native plant species?



# Mitchell Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2024

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes. For the last few years, the City of Eden Prairie has collected water quality data for Mitchell Lake.

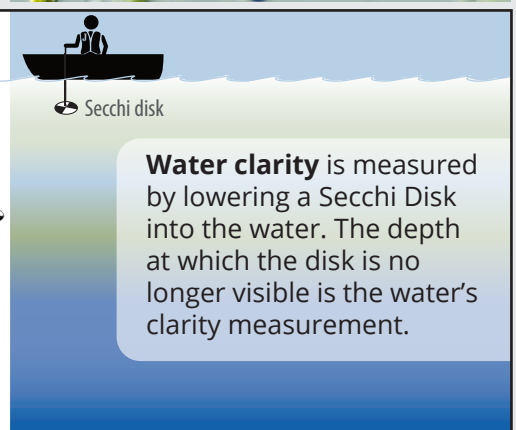
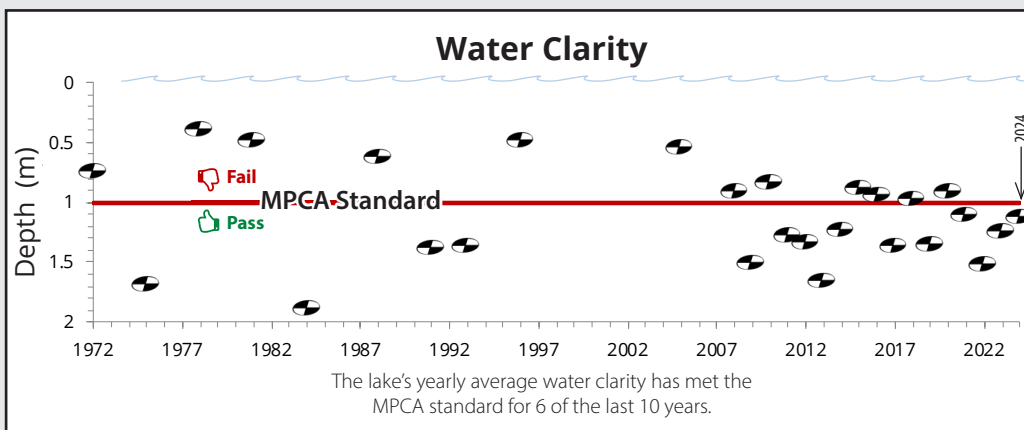
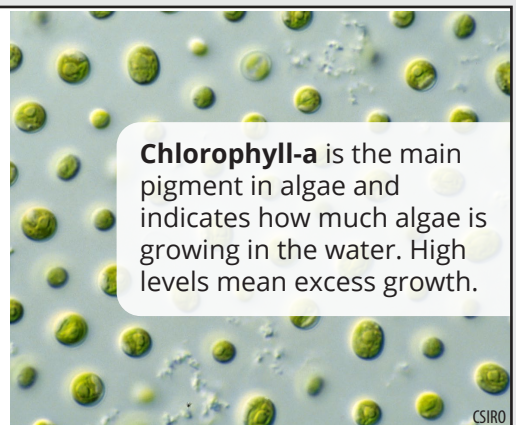
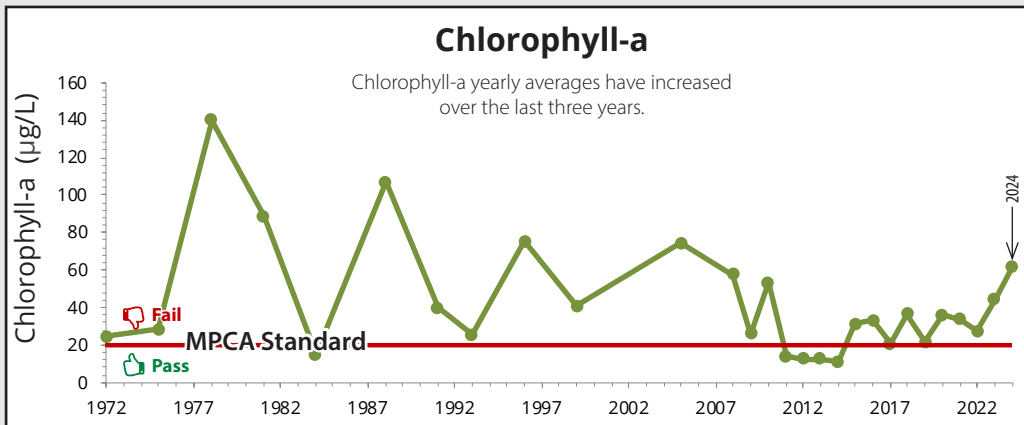
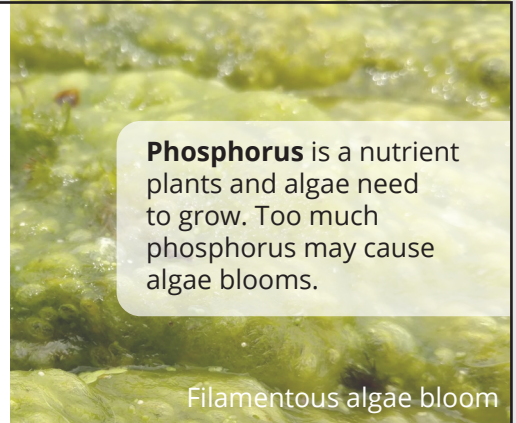
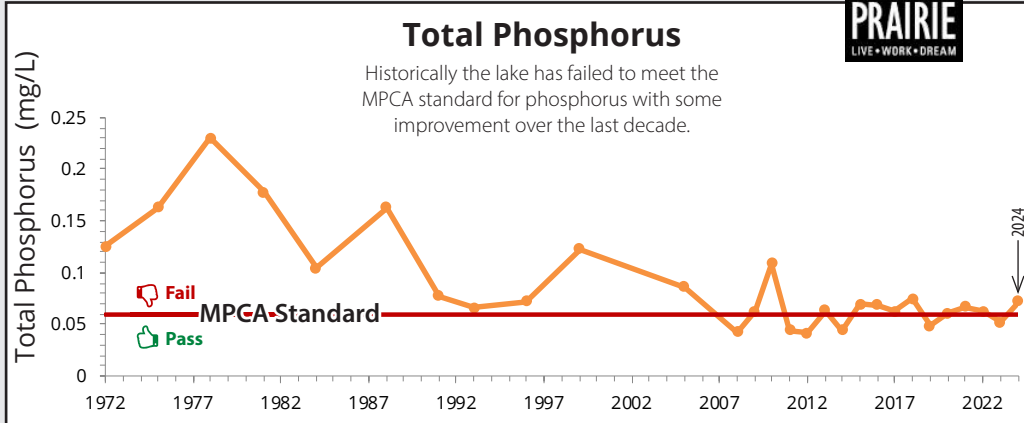


Water Quality Report Card

[rpbcmd.org/grades](http://rpbcmd.org/grades)

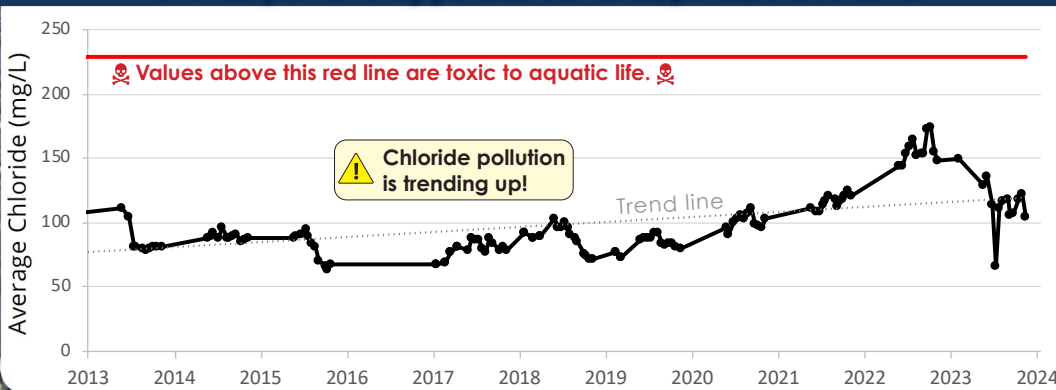


## Trends Over Time: 1972-present



## Chloride: A Growing Concern

Chloride permanently pollutes our lakes, ponds, and streams!



### What can I use instead of winter de-icers?

All affordable & effective residential de-icing products contain chloride, even those labeled as "eco-friendly" or "pet safe."

Focus instead on reducing build up of ice on your property:

- Shovel early & often
- Prevent ice formation, avoid driving or walking on snow
- Pile snow where it won't melt & refreeze on walkways

ONE TEASPOON of SALT POLLUTES 5 GALLONS of WATER FOREVER

Learn more [rpbcmd.org/salt](http://rpbcmd.org/salt)