

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.

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).

Rice Marsh 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.

Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2024 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.063 mg/L	In 2024, the lake crept just above the standard. A 2nd dose of aluminum sulfate is scheduled for fall 2024 which will further reduce available phosphorus levels.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	8.80 µg/L	The lake met the standard. Levels have decreased since monitoring began in 1972.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	2.1 meters	The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since the early 2000s.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



Watershed Boundary



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
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients

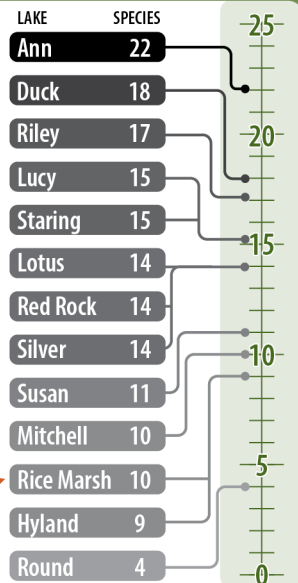
Great news! Because Rice Marsh Lake's 10-year water quality averages meet shallow lake standards, the District is requesting that the MPCA removes it from the Impaired Waters List.

Common fish Bluegill, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Yellow Bullhead, Pumpkinseed Sunfish

Invasive species Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife, Common Carp

Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

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



Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2024

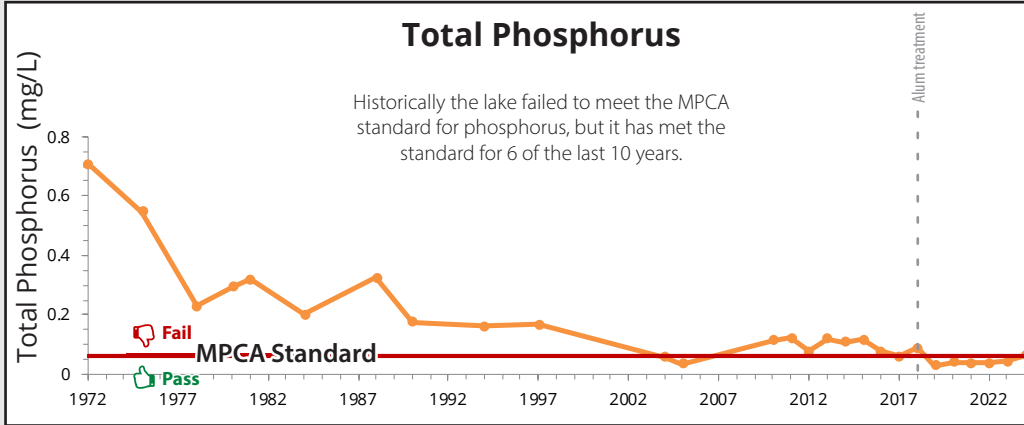
Over the last few years, Rice Marsh Lake has met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

Water Quality Report Card

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rpbccd.org/grades

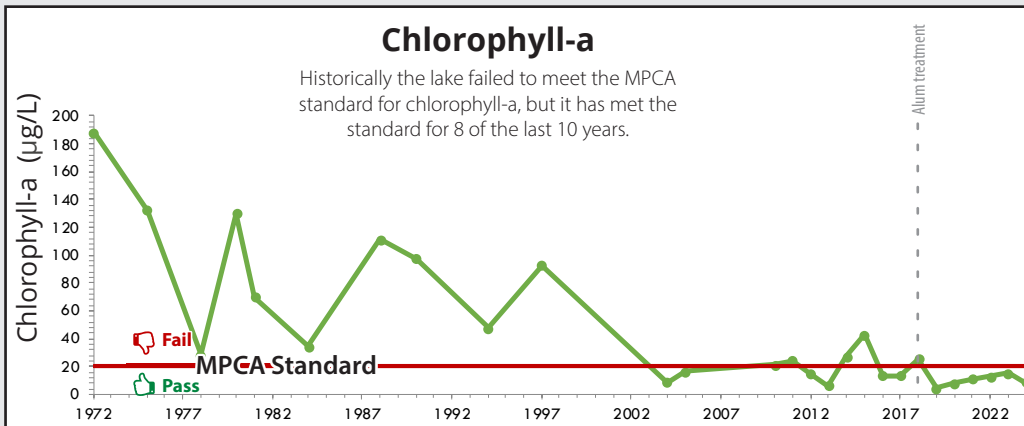
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Rice Marsh Lake was treated with alum in 2018. Alum reduces phosphorus to control algae & improve clarity. A 2nd treatment is scheduled for fall 2025.

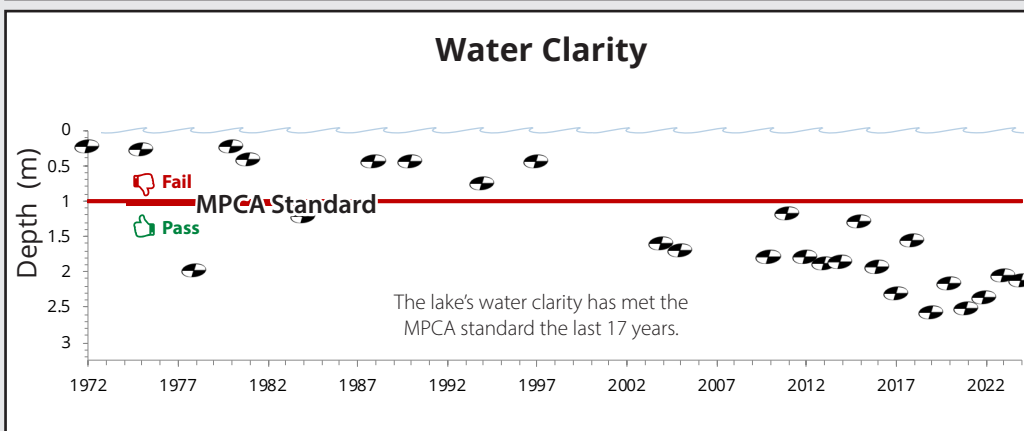
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

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

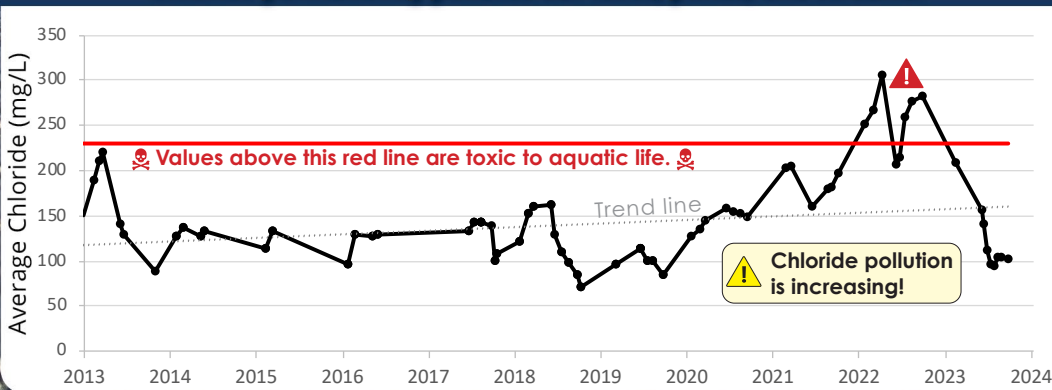


Secchi disk

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.

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 rpbccd.org/salt