RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

2025 Update

Hyland Lake

Located in Bloomington, Hyland Lake is surrounded by Hyland Lake Park Reserve, a Three Rivers Park District facility. Visitors can paddle the lake in the summer, hike nearby trails, and ski in the winter.

During June through September of each year, Three Rivers Park 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).

Hyland 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.

Hyland Lake Water Quality Snapshot

Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.035 mg/L	The lake has consistently met the standard since first alum dose in 2019. Three Rivers Park District applied a second alum dose in 2022.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	5.446 µg/L	Since the 2019 alum treatment, levels have been decreasing.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	2.234 meters	Clarity has improved since the 2019 alum treatment.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.

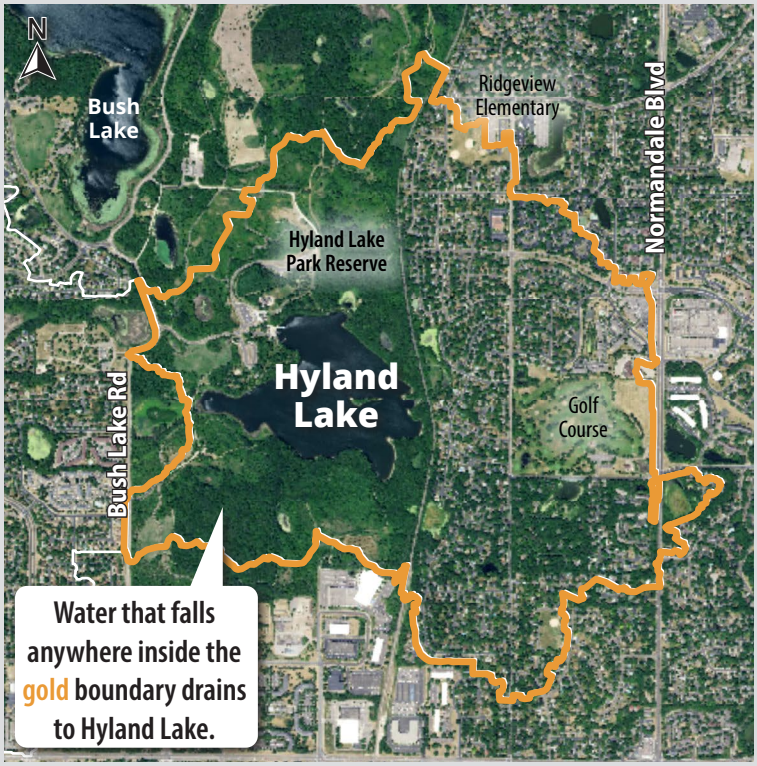
Plant update: After four consecutive years of herbicide treatment, Hyland Lake was not treated in 2025. Native plants have expanded to 94% of the littoral areas on Hyland Land, with a significant reduction seen in invasive Curly-leaf pondweed. The number of native species increased to 12 compared to 9 in 2024.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	84 acres
Average lake depth	7.5 feet
Maximum lake depth	12 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	922 acres
Impervious surface	17% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Black Crappie, Walleye, Black Bullhead, Largemouth Bass
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed

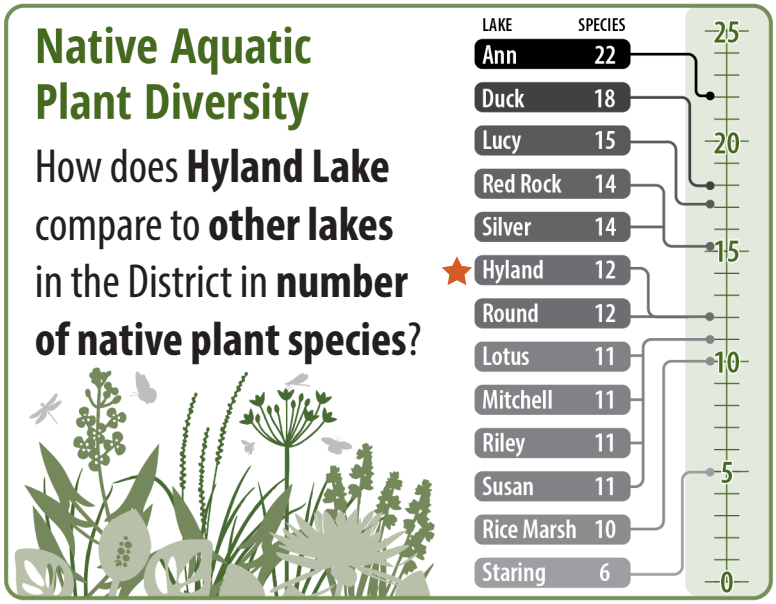
Great news! Hyland Lake's 10-year water quality average is meeting standards, so the lake is in process of removal from the nutrient category of the MPCA Impaired Waters List.

Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

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



RPBCWD Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317 rpbcwd.org info@rpbcwd.org 952-607-6512 @rpbcwd

Hyland Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for **shallow lakes**. Three Rivers Park District provides most of the water quality and plant survey data for Hyland Lake.

ThreeRivers PARK DISTRICT

2025 Water Quality Report Card

rpbcwd.org/grades

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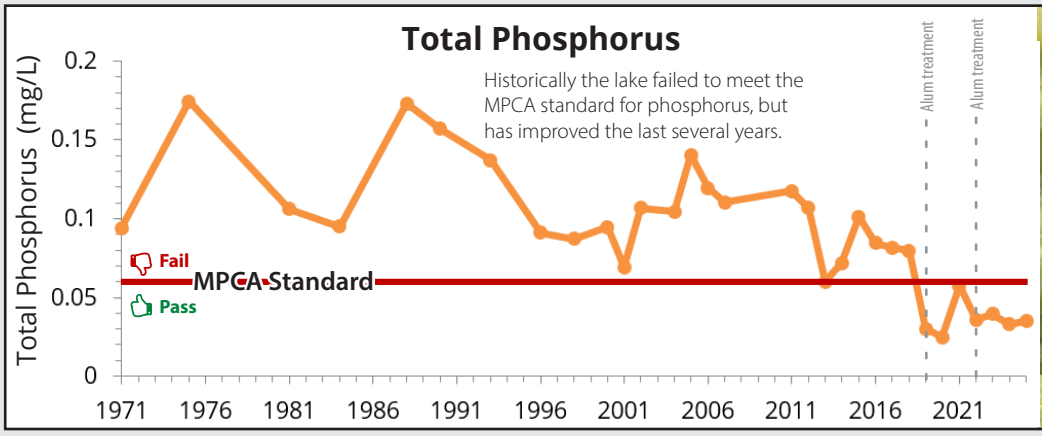
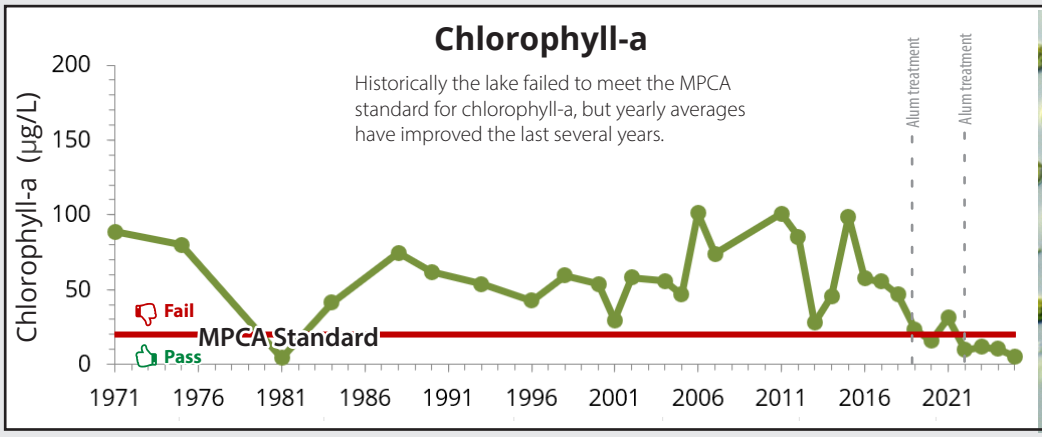
Trends Over Time: 1972-present

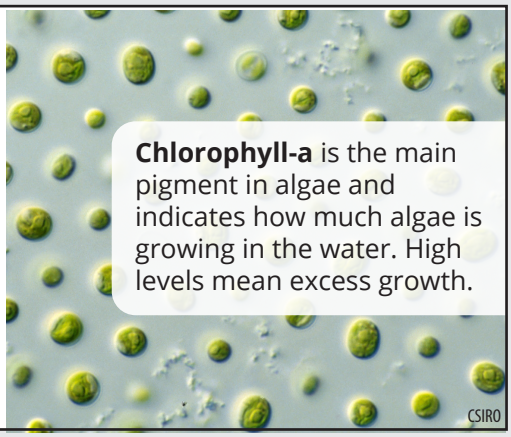


Hyland Lake received alum treatments in 2019 & 2022. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

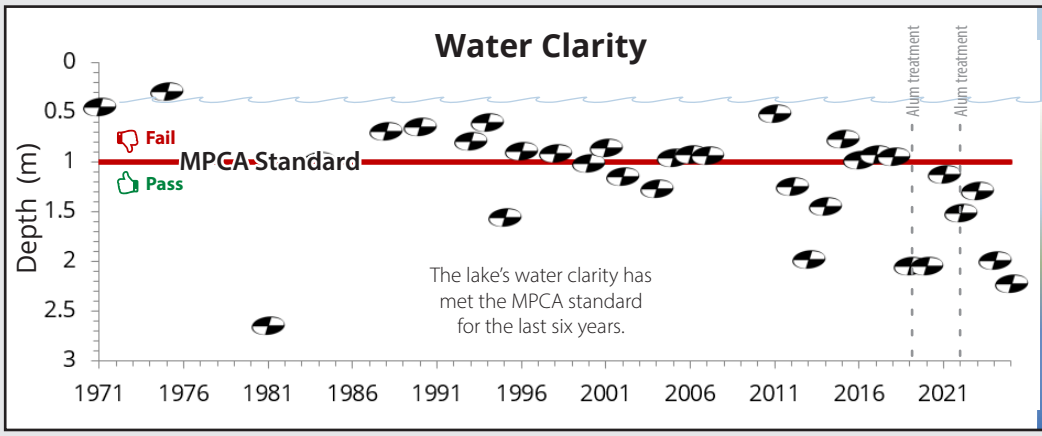
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

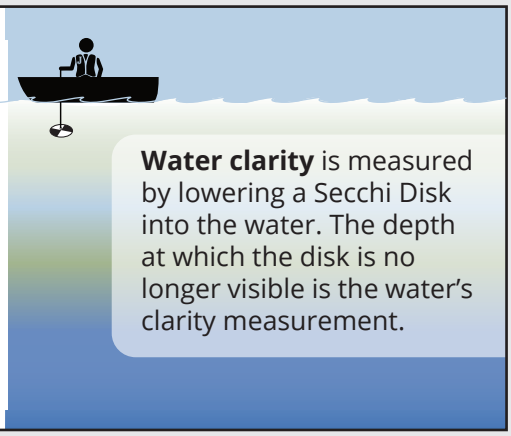
Filamentous algae bloom





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





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 lakes, ponds, & streams!

Using excess winter salt does not equal greater safety.

It does mean higher cost for you and more water pollution.

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

Learn more rpbcwd.org/salt