

Red Rock Lake

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

From June to September every year, City of Eden Prairie consultants 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).

Red Rock 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.

Red Rock Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.077 mg/L	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (0.082 mg/L) but still did not meet the standard. Early spring rains likely flushed TP-laden nutrients and sediments into the lake.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	65.9 µg/L	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (75.2 µg/L). The lake has not met the standard for the last 8 years.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.1 meters	The 2025 average improved from 2024 (0.9 m). The lake has met the standard 9 out of the last 10 years.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



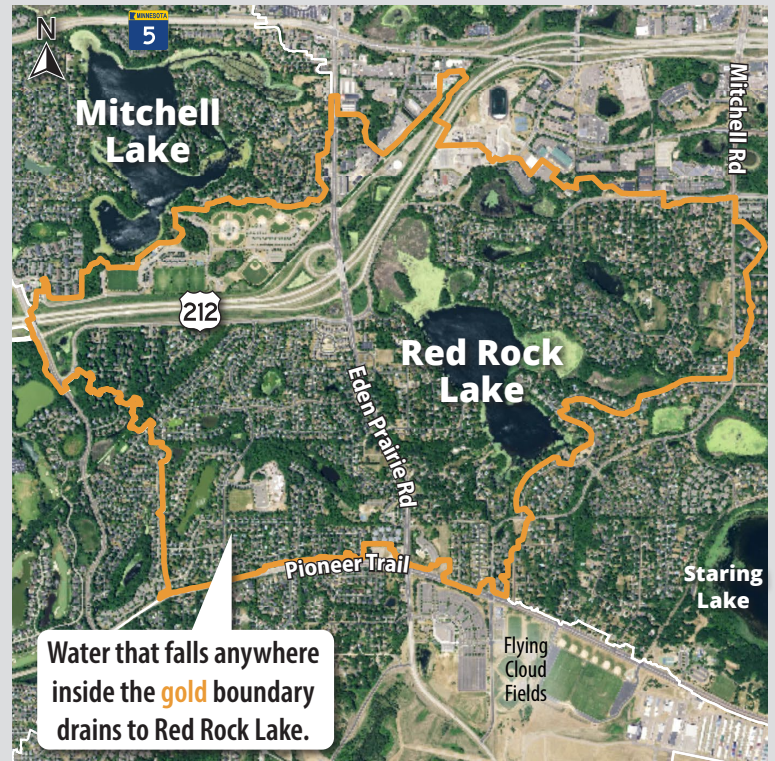
Plant update: In 2025, an RPBCWD consultant conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. Dominant species were coontail, yellow water lily, and leafy pondweed. In spring of 2025, RPBCWD treated 12.8 lake acres to control invasive curly-leaf pondweed.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Size	121 acres
Average depth	4.7 feet
Max depth	19 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	1,286 acres
Impervious surface	25% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Mercury
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Black Crappie, Largemouth Bass
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed



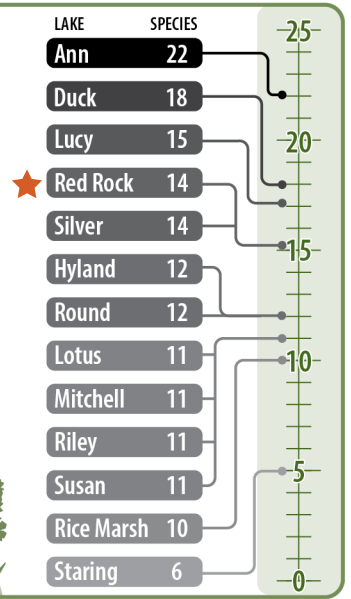
Watershed Boundary



Water that falls anywhere inside the gold boundary drains to Red Rock Lake.

Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

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



Red Rock Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

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 Red Rock Lake.

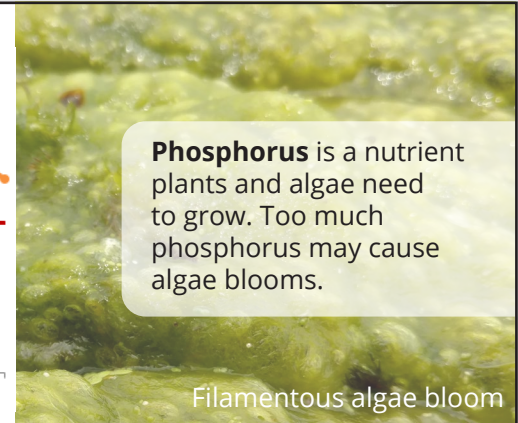
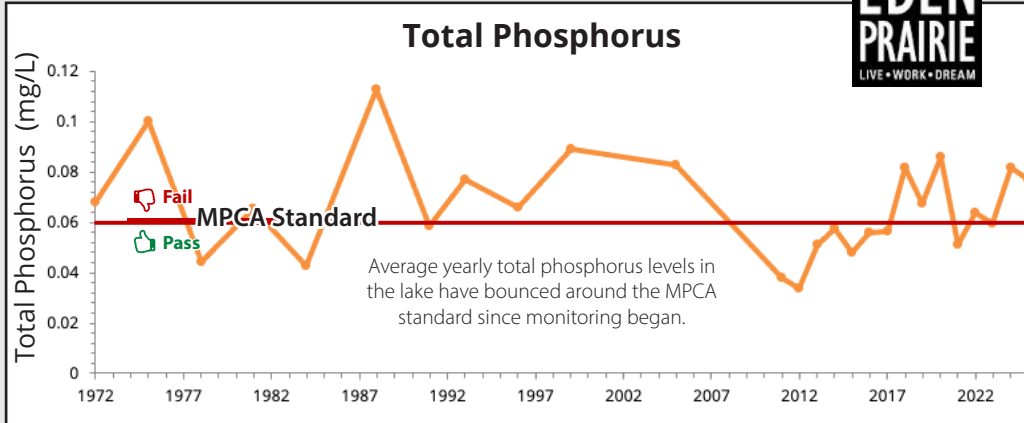


Water Quality Report Card

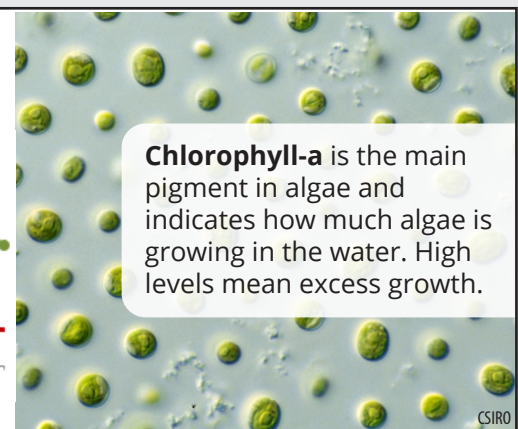
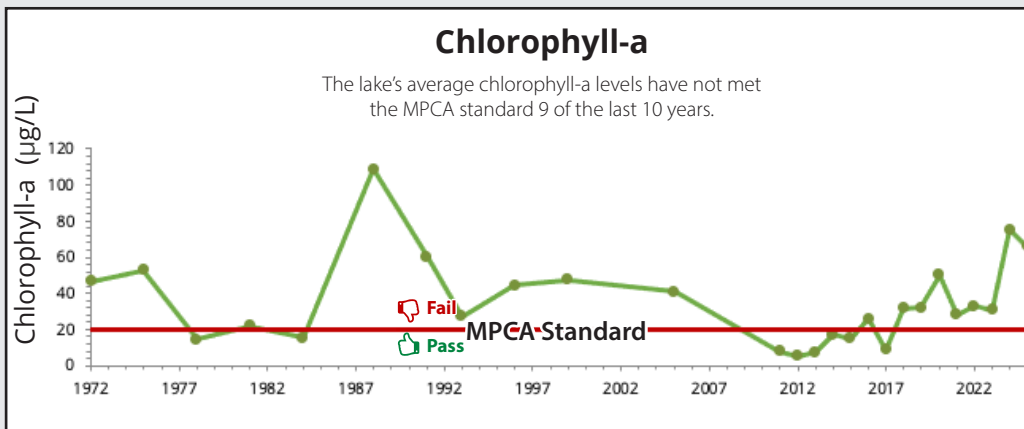
rpbcd.org/grades



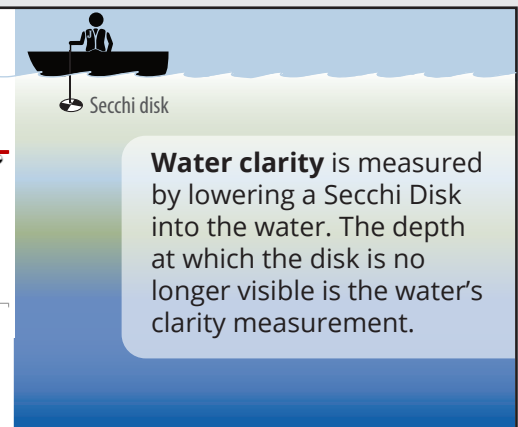
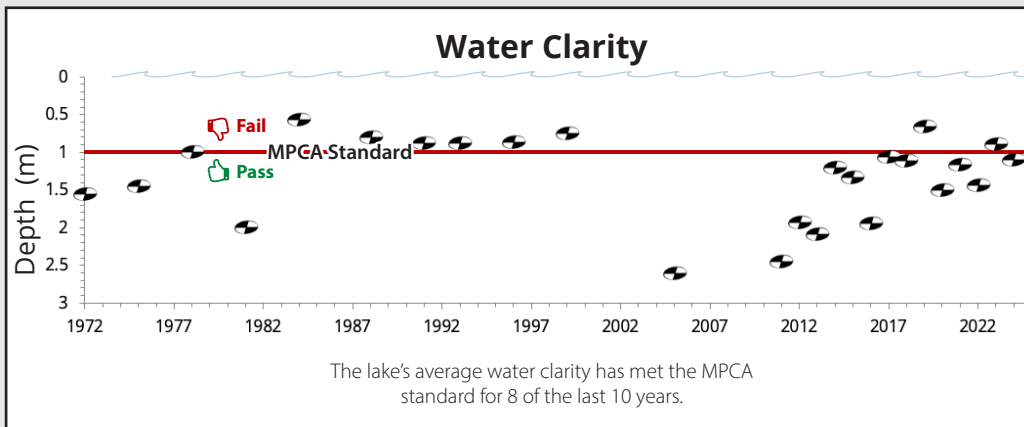
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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



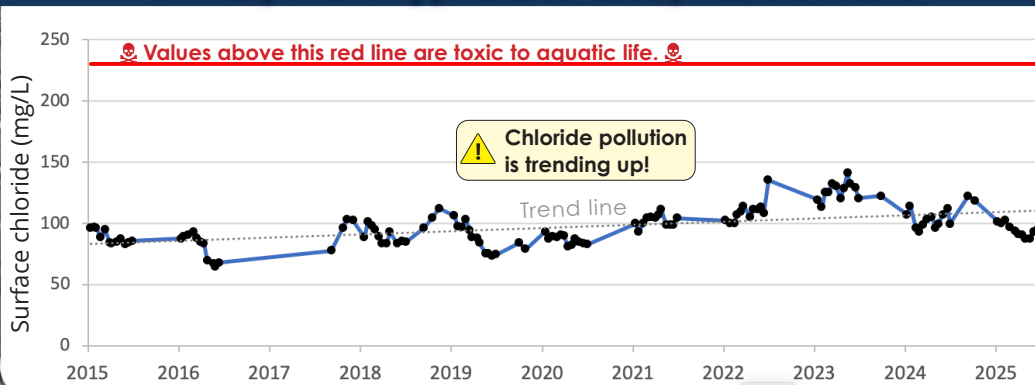
Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.



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 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 rpbcd.org/salt