

## 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	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.100 mg/L	In 2025, the lake continued to not meet the MPCA standard. The lake has met the standard for 5 of the last 8 years.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	25.08 µg/L	Chlorophyll-a levels tripled in 2025 and did not meet the standard.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.76 meters	The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since the early 2000s.

Water quality trends shown on back of page.



**Carp update:** Electrofishing surveys occurred on Rice Marsh Lake in 2025 to assess adult biomass. Very low numbers of large adult carp were captured indicating carp are not currently impacting the lake. The aeration unit is operated every winter to prevent a winterkill and carp reproduction which has been successful.

### 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

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

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

#### 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.



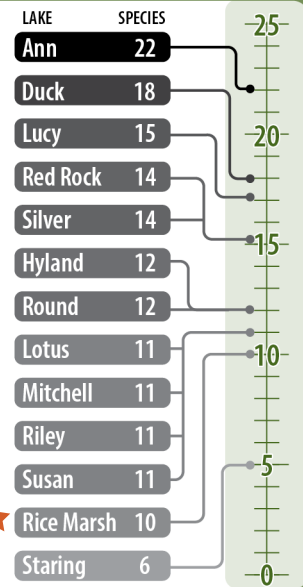
### Watershed Boundary



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

### 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 2025

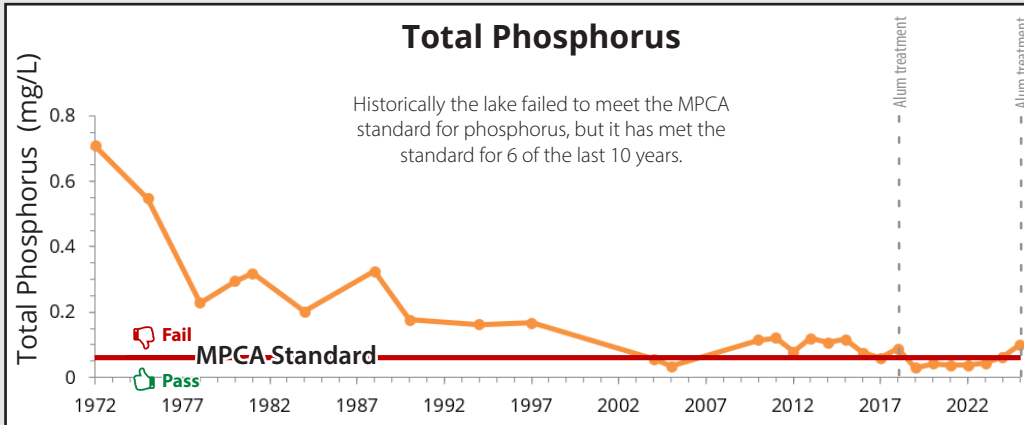
Over the last few years, Rice Marsh Lake has met the clean water standards set by the MPCA, with some changes in 2025. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the

**Water Quality Report Card**



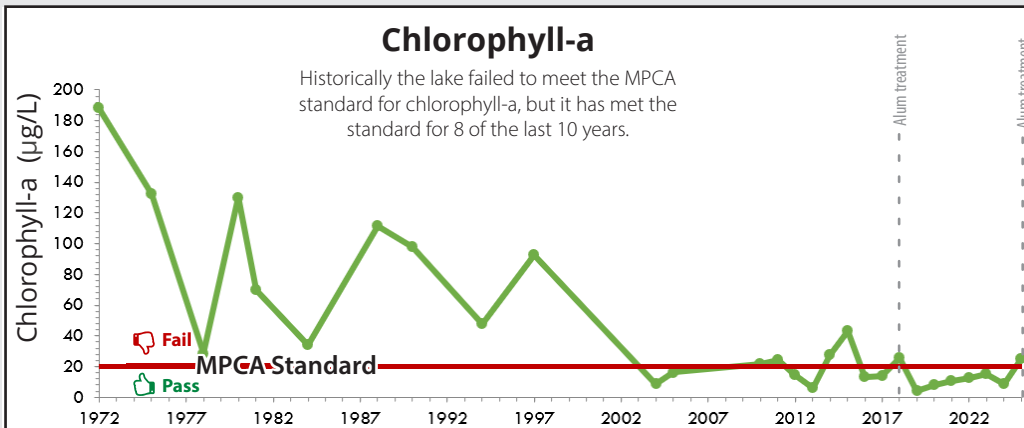
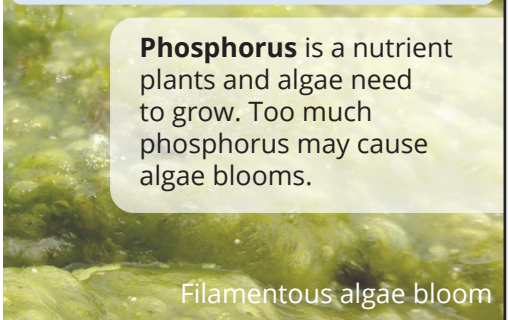
[rpbcdw.org/grades](http://rpbcdw.org/grades)

## Trends Over Time: 1972-present

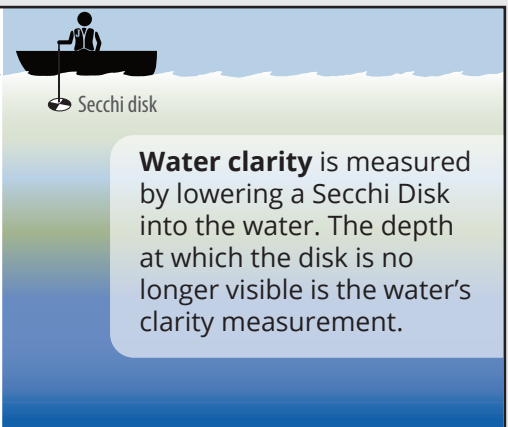
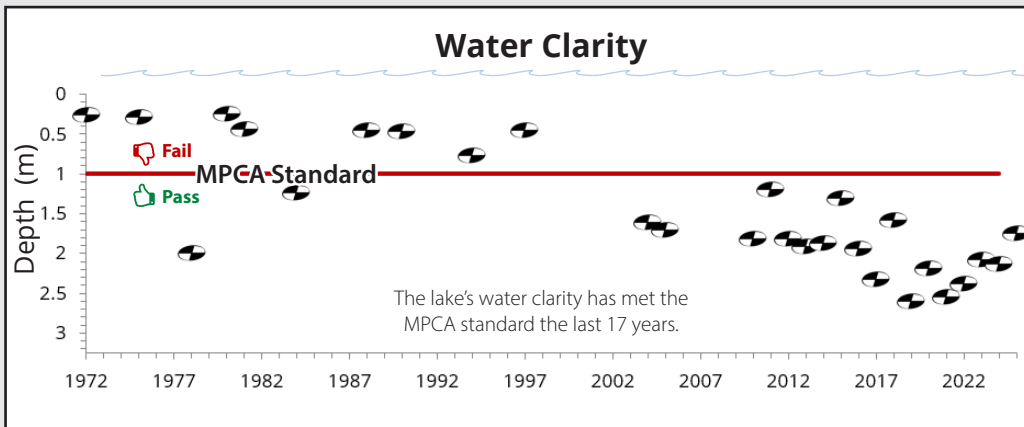
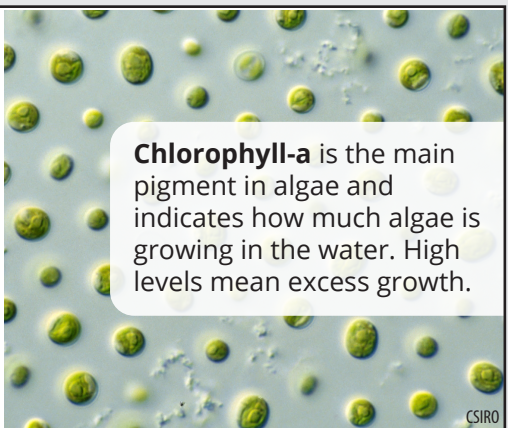


Rice Marsh Lake was treated with alum in 2018. Alum reduces phosphorus to control algae & improve clarity. A 2nd treatment occurred in fall 2025.

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

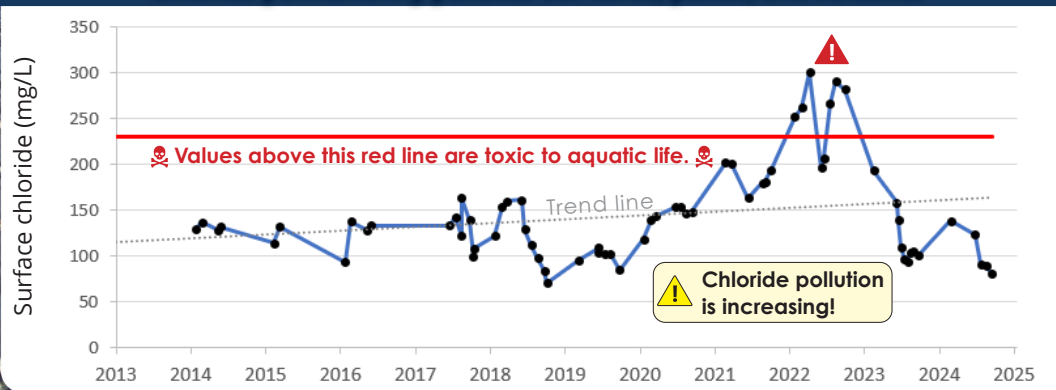


**Chlorophyll-a** is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.



## 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 [rpbcdw.org/salt](http://rpbcdw.org/salt)