

Round Lake

Located in Eden Prairie, Round Lake is a part of the Purgatory Creek Chain of Lakes. With a park and trail system around the lake, it is a popular recreation spot.

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).

Round Lake is classified as a "Deep Lake" by the MPCA. To be considered healthy, the lake must have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.4 meters (4.6 feet) or greater.

| Round Lake Water Quality Snapshot | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Parameter | Deep lake standard | 2025 average | Note |
| Total Phosphorus | Less than 0.04 mg/L | 0.036 mg/L | Since the alum treatment in 2012, the lake has consistently met the standard. |
| Chlorophyll-a | Less than 14 µg/L | 14.4 µg/L | The lake has consistently met the standard, however the 2025 average was above the standard, though still a decrease from 2024. |
| Water Clarity | Greater than 1.4 meters | 2.3 meters | The lake has consistently met the clarity standard since the 2012 alum treatment. |

Water quality trends shown on the back page.



Plant update: In 2025, the City of Eden Prairie conducted a point intercept survey to evaluate plant diversity and density. This is a method used to assess the current plant community and compare year-to-year plant variation. The survey found 12 native species, which is higher than previous years. Coontail and yellow water lily were the most abundant species.

Lake & watershed characteristics

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Lake size | 30 acres |
| Average lake depth | 11 feet |
| Maximum lake depth | 37 feet |
| MPCA lake classification | Deep lake |
| Watershed size | 440 acres |
| Impervious surface | 32% of watershed |
| Impaired Waters listing | Mercury |
| Common fish | Bluegill, Yellow Bullhead, Black Bullhead, Black Crappie |
| Invasive species | Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Brittle Naiad |

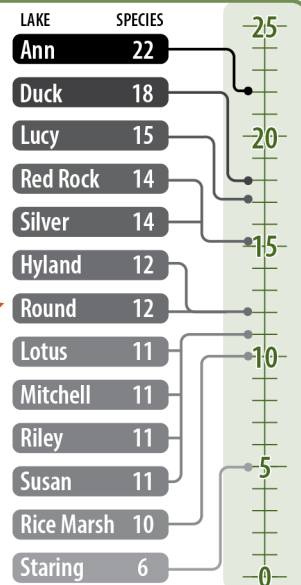


Watershed Boundary



Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

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



Round Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

Water Quality Report Card

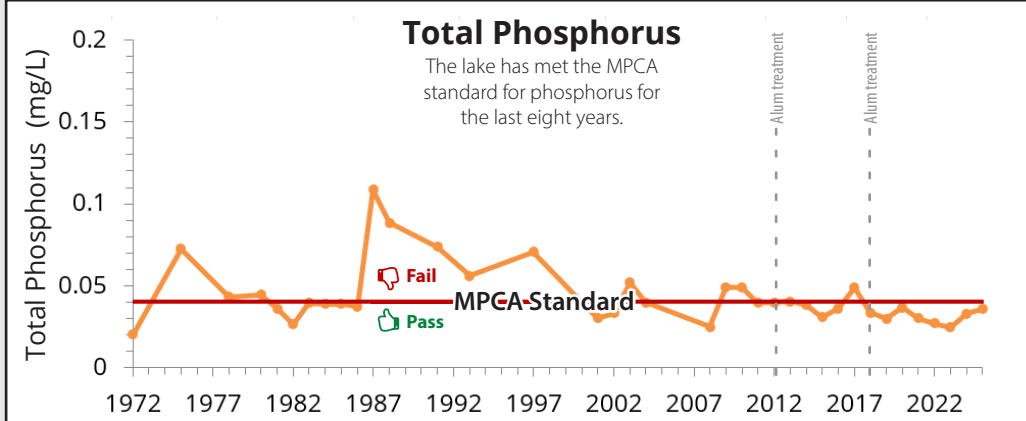
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rpbcd.org/grades



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

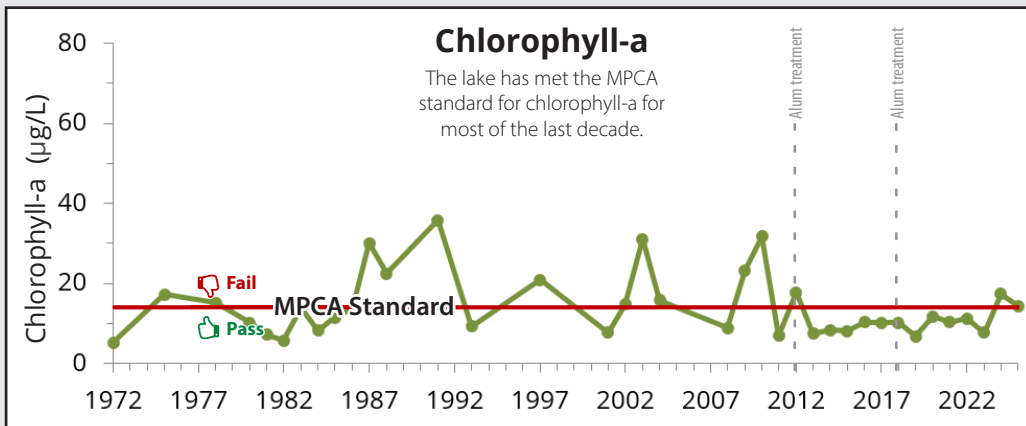
Water Quality Graphs, 1972-present



Round Lake received an alum treatment in 2012 and 2018. Alum limits the availability of phosphorus in lakes to control algae growth & improve water clarity.

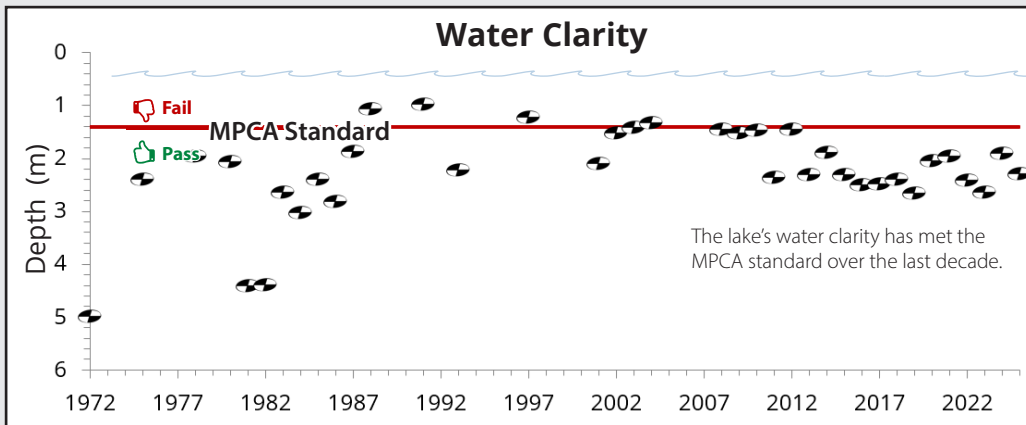
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

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.

CSIRO

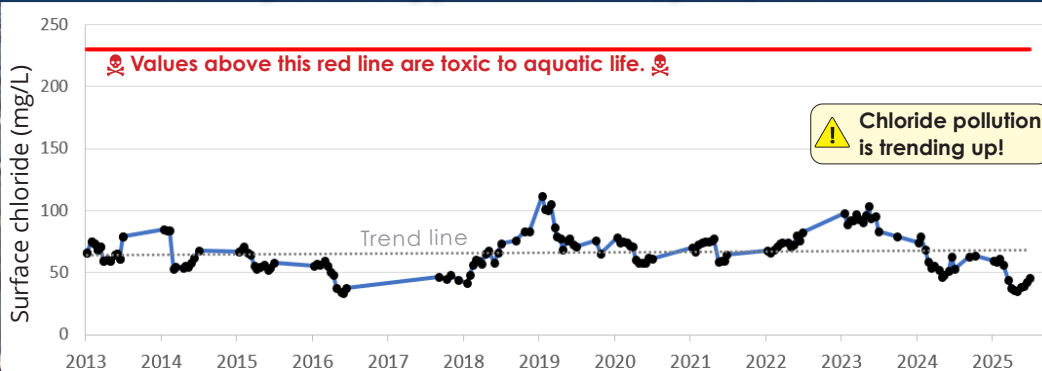


Secchi disk

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 rpbcd.org/salt