

Silver Lake

Located in Shorewood, Silver Lake sits at the edge of the watershed district. It is the only lake in the District with a native wild rice population, a rarity in metro area lakes!

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).

Silver 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.



Watershed Boundary



Silver Lake Water Quality Snapshot			
Parameter	Shallow lake standard	2025 average	Note
Total Phosphorus	Less than 0.06 mg/L	0.092 mg/L	No significant trend. For the last three years, the lake has failed to meet the MPCA standard for total phosphorus.
Chlorophyll-a	Less than 20 µg/L	40.0 µg/L	No significant trend. In 2025, the lake failed to meet the standard and average chlorophyll-a increased to 40.0 ug/L from 30.1 µg/L in 2024.
Water Clarity	Greater than 1.0 meters	1.4 meters	Since 2017, the lake has consistently met the standard for water clarity. This is correlated with the reduced water levels that occurred after the outlet became cleared.

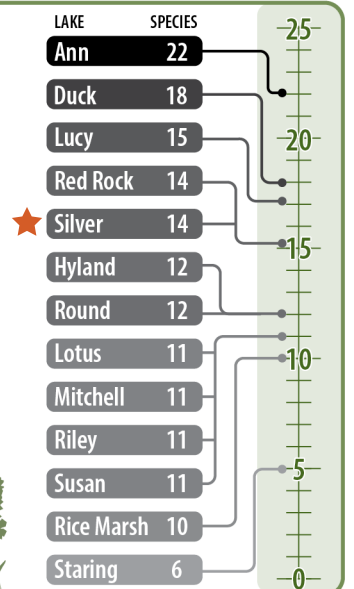
Water quality trends shown on back of page.

Lake & watershed characteristics

Lake size	71 acres
Average lake depth	5 feet
Maximum lake depth	14 feet
MPCA lake classification	Shallow lake
Watershed size	391 acres
Impervious surface	14% of watershed
Impaired Waters listing	Nutrients
Common fish	Black Bullhead, Fathead Minnow, Central Mudminnow
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife

Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

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



Silver Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

2025

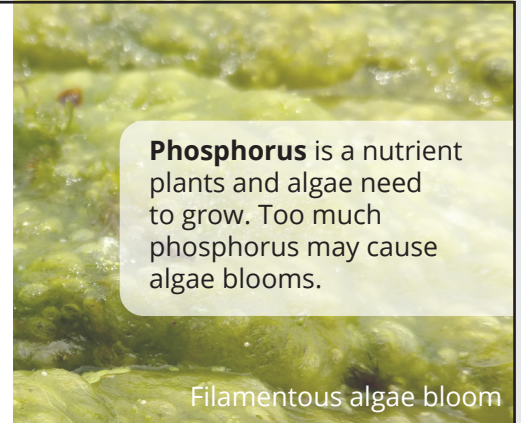
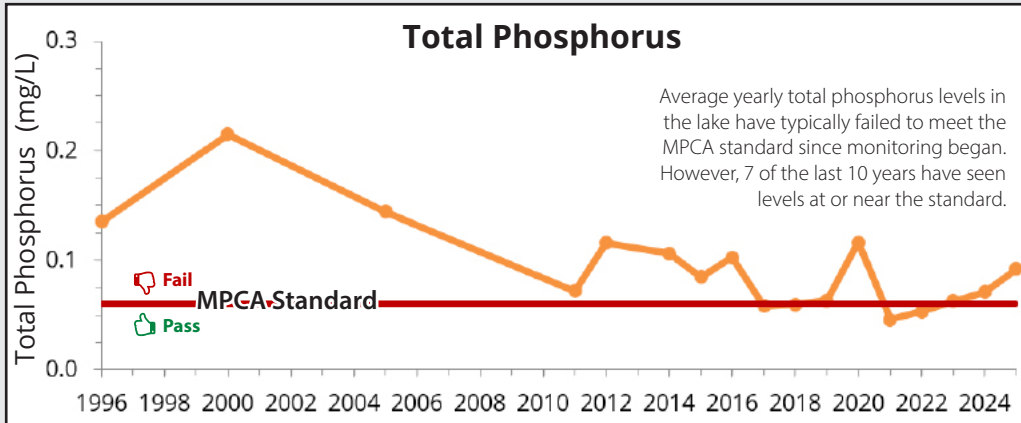
Water Quality
Report Card

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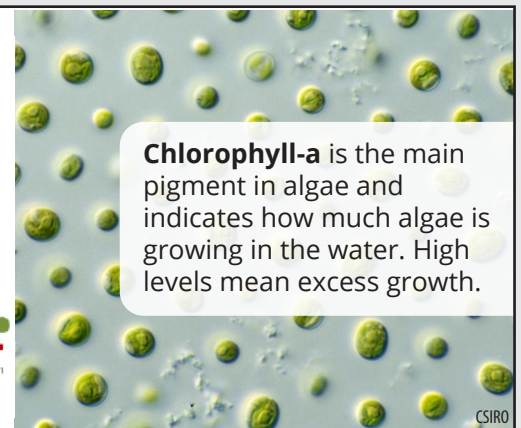
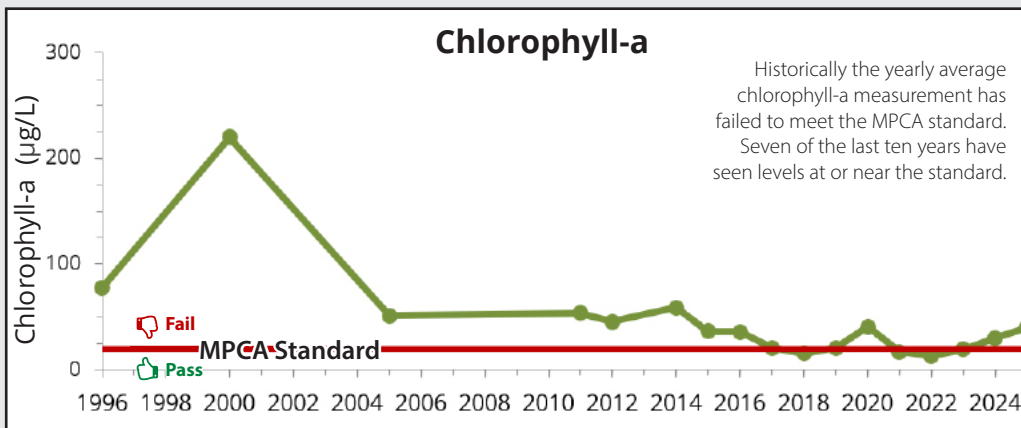
rpbcwd.org/grades

The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line representing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

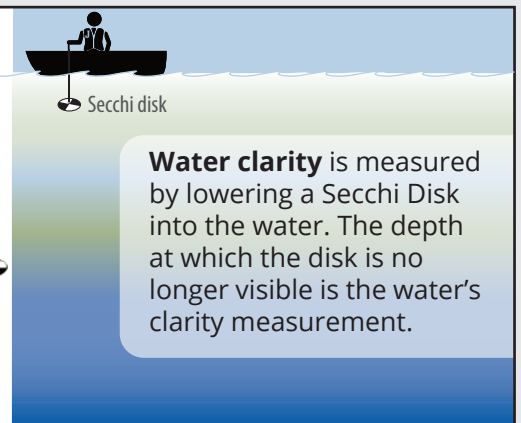
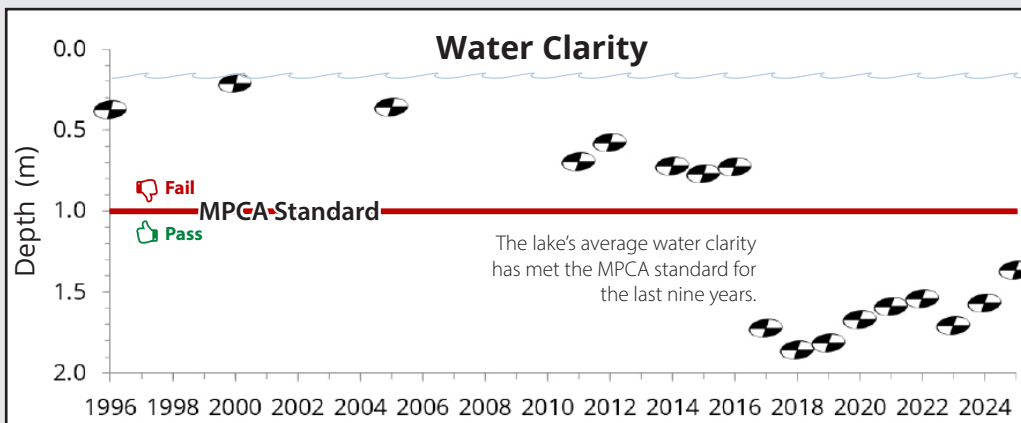
Trends Over Time: 1972-present



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



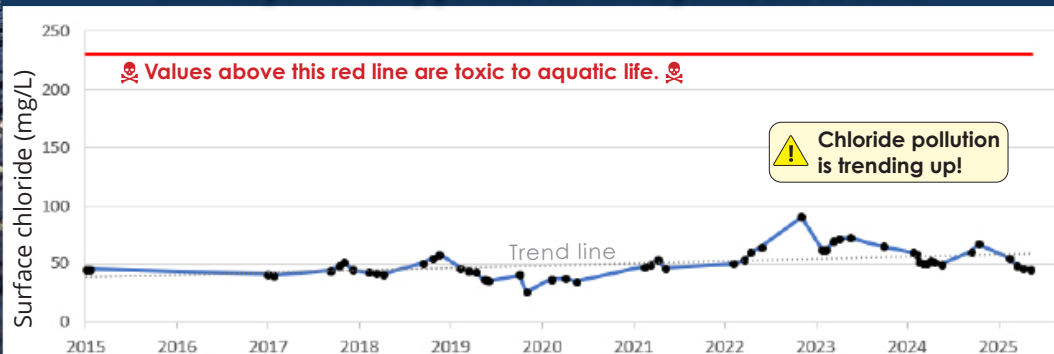
Chlorophyll-a is the main pigment in algae and indicates how much algae is growing in the water. High levels mean excess growth.



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

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