

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.

During June through September of each 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 have very low average phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels and average water clarity of 1.0 meter (3.3 feet) or greater. See summary below. Additional details are located on the next page.



Total Phosphorus: Levels have decreased since monitoring began in 1972. In 2022, the lake met the MPCA standard with an average total phosphorus level of 0.037 mg/L.



Chlorophyll-a: Levels have decreased since monitoring began in 1972. In 2022, the average reading for chlorophyll-a was 12.8 µg/L.

Water clarity: Since 1972, average Secchi disk depths have increased, and the lake consistently meets the standard for water clarity. The average reading in 2022 was 2.4 meters.



Plants: A plant survey was conducted in 2022 to assess aquatic vegetation in the lake. Coontail was the most common plant found at 94% of sites, and Flatstem Pondweed was the second most common plant, found at 62% of sites. Overall, plant growth in Rice Marsh covered 100% of the lake area. Watermeal and duckweed covered approximately 50% of the lake.

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
Impairment listing	Nutrients
Common fish	Bluegill, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Yellow Bullhead, Pumpkinseed Sunfish
Invasive species	Curly-leaf Pondweed, Purple Loosestrife, Common Carp



Watershed Boundary



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

Top 3 things you can do at HOME to protect the LAKE



Protect storm drains.

Prevent grass clippings, lawn fertilizer and debris from entering storm drains so they don't end up in the lake.



Pick up dog waste.

Did you know that pet waste pollutes water? It's full of nutrients and bacteria. Bag it and toss it in a trash can.



Reduce stormwater runoff.

Reduce the flow of stormwater off your property by installing a rain garden, native planting, or rain barrel.

Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality by the Numbers

Over the last few years, Rice Marsh Lake has met the clean water standards set by the MPCA. The graphs below show water quality trends over time with the red line showing the MPCA standard for shallow lakes.

Averages

Water Quality Parameter	Historical Average	2022 Average	MPCA Standard: Shallow Lakes
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.113	0.037 ★	< 0.060
Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	31.7	12.8 ★	< 20
Water Clarity (meter)	1.7 ★	2.4 ★	> 1.0

★ = Standard met

Native Aquatic Plant Diversity

How does Rice Marsh Lake compare to other lakes in the District?



Lake Ann ranks highest at 25 species.

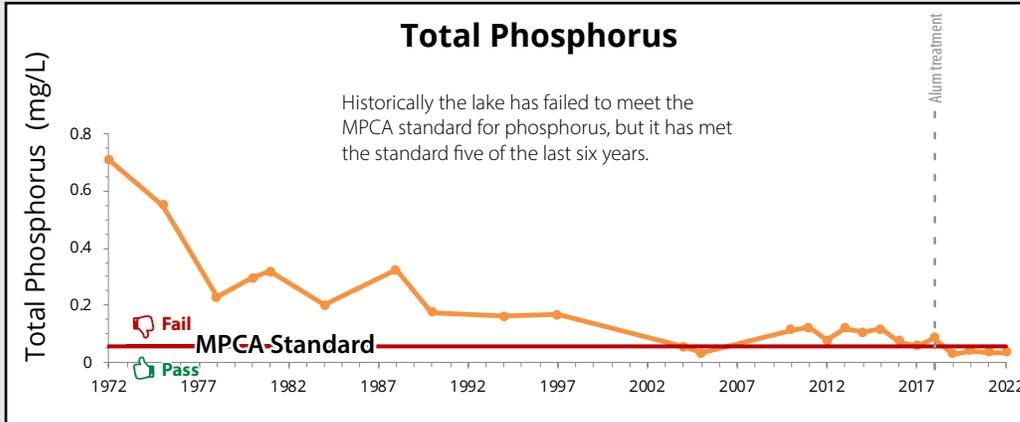
10 species

Hyland & Round lakes rank lowest at 4 species.



Trends Over Time: 1972-present

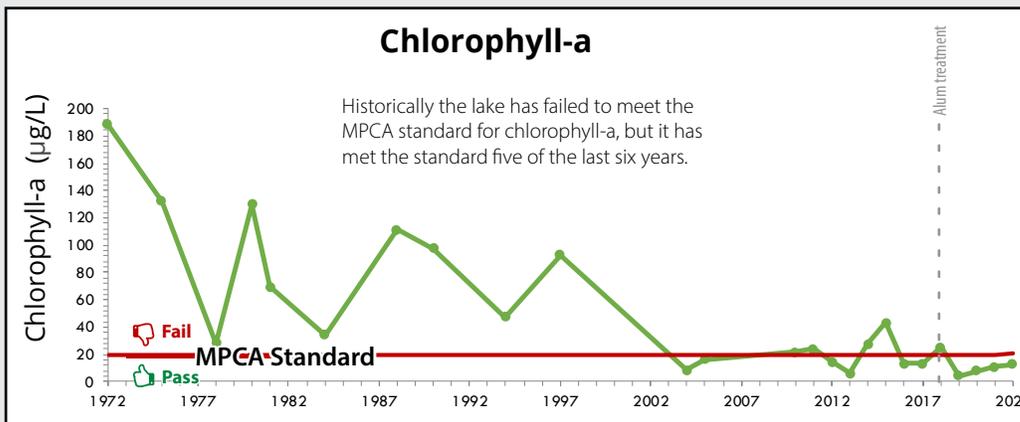
Read the [Water Resources Report](http://rpbcd.org/annualreport) at rpbcd.org/annualreport



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

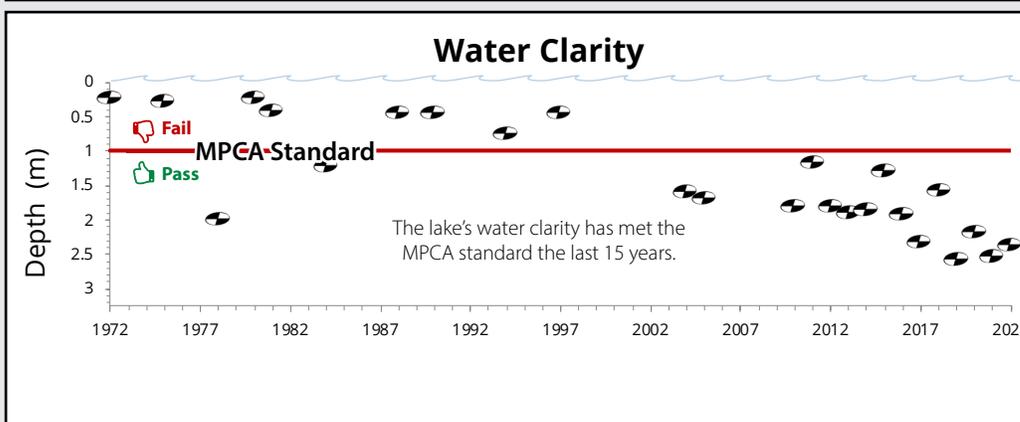
Phosphorus is a nutrient plants and algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus may cause algae blooms.

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



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.

Secchi disk



Grants for Shoreline Restoration

The watershed district offers up to **75% cost share** assistance for restoring your shoreline! Learn more: rpbcd.org/grants



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