

The Lakes of Maple Grove

Lake Water Quality Report for 2015

Maple Grove Lake Quality Commission

**Prepared December 2015
by Steve McComas, Blue Water Science**

The Lakes of Maple Grove Status Report - 2015

Prepared for the Maple Grove Lake Quality Commission.

Commission Members - 2015

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Prepared by Steve McComas, Blue Water Science

December 2015

Introduction and Background

The City of Maple Grove has numerous lakes and smaller water bodies within the City limits. In 2015, a total of 12 lakes were monitored. Blue Water Science monitored nine lakes over the summer months, including Cedar Island, Cook, Eagle, Edward, Norwood, Pike, and the three Arbor Lakes. Three Rivers Park District sampled Fish, Rice, and Weaver Lakes. This report summarizes the summer sampling data from May-September for all 12 lakes. A summary of general lake characteristics is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. General lake characteristics of Maple Grove Lakes. Watershed acreage is from the 1996 Stormwater Management Plan.

Lake	State ID Number	Watershed District	Size (acres)	Maximum Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)	Total Watershed Size (ac)	Lake Classification (shallow or deep)	Lake Water Retention Time (years)
Cedar Island	27-119	Shingle Creek	86	7.0*	4.3	389	shallow	1.8
Cook	27-0120	Elm Creek	16.5	20	8	196	shallow	2.3
Eagle	27-111	Shingle Creek	285	37	10.5	1,838	deep	3.1
Edward	27-121	Elm Creek	33	9.5	5.5	102	shallow	
Fish	27-118	Elm Creek	239	48*	17.7	860	deep	9.1
Pike	27-111-02	Shingle Creek	75	25	4.9	746	shallow	1.0
Rice	27-116	Elm Creek	333	11	6.6	13,400	shallow	0.3
Weaver	27-117	Elm Creek	165	57*	21*	320	deep	20

* from Hennepin Conservation District

**from Met Council

Guide to Interpreting Water Quality Information

SD = Secchi disc - a black and white disc lowered into the water until it can't be seen from the surface. This is the Secchi disc transparency reading.

TP = Total phosphorus - the fertilizing nutrient most responsible for causing excess algae to grow.

Chl a = Chlorophyll a - the green pigment in algae that is analyzed in the laboratory. It is correlated to the amount of algae in a lake.

ppb = parts per billion - concentrations of phosphorus and chlorophyll are often reported in ppb.

Lake Goals (based on eutrophication criteria for North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion)

- Secchi disc: 5-7 feet of transparency as a summer average.
- Total phosphorus: try to keep phosphorus concentrations below 40 ppb as a summer average for deep lakes and less than 60 ppb for shallow lakes.
- Chlorophyll a: try to keep chlorophyll concentrations below 14 ppb as a summer average for deep lakes and less than 20 ppb for shallow lakes.

2015 Summer Sampling Results - Status Report

The objectives of the 2015 water quality sampling program were to check the health of the lakes in the City of Maple Grove and to see if they were improving, degrading, or staying the same. Water quality parameters monitored included Secchi disc (measure of water clarity), total phosphorus (measure of the primary nutrient that stimulates algal growth), and chlorophyll (measure of the amount of algae in the water).

Water quality was checked from May through September and results are shown in Table 2. North Arbor Lake had the best transparency and Cedar Island had the lowest transparency in 2015 (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2. Water chemistry summer averages for Maple Grove Lakes in 2015 (source: Three Rivers Park District collected data for Fish, Rice, and Weaver Lakes. Other data collected by Blue Water Science).

	May - Sept Averages, 2015		
	Secchi Disc (ft)	Total Phosphorus (ppb)	Chl a (ppb)
Cedar Island	1.0	133	65
Cook	5.6	33	3.1
Eagle	4.7	41	10
Edward	4.8	58	7.7
Fish*	6.1	44	25
Norwood	16.4	14	2.1
Pike	4.3	67	14
Rice*	2.2	236	88
Weaver*	6.7	37	15
North Arbor	15.0	12	1.7
South Arbor	12.0	18	3.2
West Arbor	5.0	57	14

*sampled by Three Rivers Park District

Water Quality Summaries

Secchi Disc, Phosphorus, and Chlorophyll a

A twenty year summary of water quality results for Maple Grove Lakes is shown in Table 5. City lakes have been stable in regard to water quality except for Lake Edward and Rice Lake. Fluctuating clarity in Lake Edward may be influenced by fish kills that occurred in 1995, 2000, and 2013. Rice Lake may be impacted by the drawdown on 1997-1998. Rice and Cedar Island Lakes have the highest phosphorus concentrations in town and Cook and Eagle have the lowest.

Table 5. Growing season (May - September) averages for the Maple Grove Lakes [SD = secchi disc (ft), TP = total phosphorus (ppb), Chl a = chlorophyll a (ppb)].

	Cedar Island			Cook			Eagle			Edward			Fish			Pike			Rice			Weaver		
	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl
1995	2.0	106	73	--	--	--	5.8	51	7	5.0	61	16	6.4	51	16	3.9	78	20	2.2	233	44	7.8	40	18
1996	1.8	--	--	--	--	--	5.9	33	9	8.1	104	2	7.0	55	9	3.4	66	23	2.9	453	37	6.5	35	6
1997	1.5	117	40	--	--	--	5.4	31	11	5.8	47	4	5.4	50	17	3.6	76	24	2.3	316	39	6.6	32	10
1998	1.4	102	44	--	--	--	5.9	29	11	4.1	46	11	5.9	46	13	3.3	70	31	3.3	469	20	6.6	40	14
1999	1.1	203	66	--	--	--	5.9	53	23	4.5	43	13	4.8	45	19	3.9	74	35	3.5	248	35	6.4	42	21
2000	--	--	--	--	--	--	9.5	36	5	5.5	45	6	4.6	53	19	4.3	65	30	5.2	175	23	6.6	43	15
2001	2.1	78	47	--	--	--	11	34	18	7.1	26	4	5.4	38	17	4.9	83	30	4.5	339	22	5.5	42	38
2002	1.8	90	55	--	--	--	3.3	42	67	6.7	48	13	3.6	51	26	--	--	--	4.2	152	18	8.3	43	20
2003	1.1	163	116	--	--	--	7.0	44	31	3.2	118	102	4.5	55	37	3.5	80	60	3.2	185	35	6.6	46	31
2004	1.0	147	133	6.2	26	4	6.8	45	28	2.2	77	47	7.9	47	29	3.5	97	65	3.9	207	36	8.9	51	40
2005	1.1	123	134	6.6	51	2	8.8	18	20	2.4	104	61	5.4	40	25	3.5	95	54	4.6	214	44	16.5	23	4
2006	0.7	161	173	7.5	22	33	5.8	47	36	1.9	95	55	3.9	49	29	4.3	89	47	3.0	187	50	14.4	25	7
2007	0.8	240	194	7.8	19	6	--	--	--	1.6	115	62	4.1	51	31	--	--	--	2.2	206	48	9.0	35	7
2008	0.7	455	226	8.0	20	2	--	--	--	3.2	105	67	2.7	47	17	--	--	--	2.6	436	51	8.0	30	8
2009	0.6	330	147	10.6	23	3	5.7	44	30	2.2	149	82	4.6	57.9	17	3.5	80.6	20	3.5	395	151	9.2	30.8	5
2010	0.7	143	67	7.4	18	3	5.9	50	21	3.6	88	58	4.9	48	14	3.9	89	29	3.4	227	57	13.1	31	5
2011	1.8	94	61	5.7	32	3	5.4	38	25	2.5	94	40	6.2	50	19	3.6	52	14	3.7	153	36	7.9	30	8
2012	0.9	130	58	5.0	34	3	5.7	42	25	3.4	72	41	5.5	42	26	3.5	34.8	15	2.5	256	53	7.6	31	11
2013	1.0	138	49	5.6	31	2	5.7	30	6	3.2	97	50	4.9	53	33	3.9	66	14	2.5	326	114	7.2	37	17
2014	1.7	88	27	6.1	36	2	6.2	34	7	4.7	43	7	7.1	40	22	4.5	48	8	4.2	232	60	6.9	37	21
2015	1.0	133	65	5.6	33	3.1	4.7	41	10	4.8	56	7.7	6.1	44	25	4.3	67	14	2.2	236	88	6.7	37	15

Cedar Island Lake data: Met Council - 1995; MPCA - 1996; and Blue Water Science - 1997 through 2015.

Eagle, Fish, Pike, and Weaver Lake data collected by Three Rivers Park District.

Rice Lake data: Met Council and by Three Rivers Park District

Report Card

Water quality data have been converted to grades based on a Met Council grading scale. Grades are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Lake grades for Maple Grove Lakes.

	Cedar Island			Cook			Eagle			Edward			Fish			Pike			Rice			Weaver		
	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl
1995	F	D	D	--	--	--	C	C	A	C	C	B	C	C	B	C	D	B	F	F	C	B	C	B
1996	F	--	--	--	--	--	C	B	A	B	D	A	C	C	A	D	D	C	D	F	C	C	C	A
1997	F	D	C	--	--	--	C	B	B	C	C	A	C	C	B	D	D	C	D	F	C	C	B	B
1998	F	D	D	--	--	--	C	B	B	C	C	B	C	C	B	D	D	C	D	F	D	C	C	B
1999	F	F	D	--	--	--	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	B	C	D	C	D	F	C	C	C	C
2000	--	--	--	--	--	--	B	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	B	C	C	C	C	F	C	C	C	B
2001	F	D	C	--	--	--	A	C	B	C	B	A	C	C	B	C	D	C	C	F	C	C	C	C
2002	F	D	D	--	--	--	D	C	D	C	C	B	D	C	C	--	--	--	C	D	B	B	C	B
2003	F	F	F	--	--	--	C	C	C	D	D	F	C	C	C	D	D	D	D	F	C	C	C	C
2004	F	D	F	C	B	A	B	C	C	F	D	C	B	C	C	D	D	D	D	F	C	B	C	C
2005	F	D	F	C	C	A	B	A	B	D	D	D	C	C	C	D	D	D	C	F	C	A	B	A
2006	F	F	F	B	A	C	C	C	C	F	D	D	C	C	C	C	D	C	D	F	D	A	B	A
2007	F	F	F	B	A	A	--	--	--	F	D	D	C	C	C	--	--	--	F	F	C	B	C	A
2008	F	F	F	B	A	A	--	--	--	D	D	D	D	C	B	--	--	--	D	F	D	B	B	A
2009	F	F	F	A	A	A	C	C	C	F	D	F	C	C	B	D	D	C	D	F	F	B	B	A
2010	F	D	D	B	A	A	C	C	C	D	D	C	C	C	B	C	D	C	D	F	D	A	B	A
2011	F	D	D	C	B	A	A	C	C	D	D	C	C	C	B	D	C	B	D	F	C	B	B	A
2012	F	D	D	C	C	A	C	C	C	D	D	C	C	C	C	D	C	B	D	F	D	B	B	B
2013	F	F	D	C	B	A	C	B	A	D	D	D	C	C	C	D	C	B	D	F	F	B	C	B
2014	F	D	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	A	C	F	D	C	C	C
2015	F	D	D	C	C	A	C	C	B	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	B	F	F	F	C	C	B

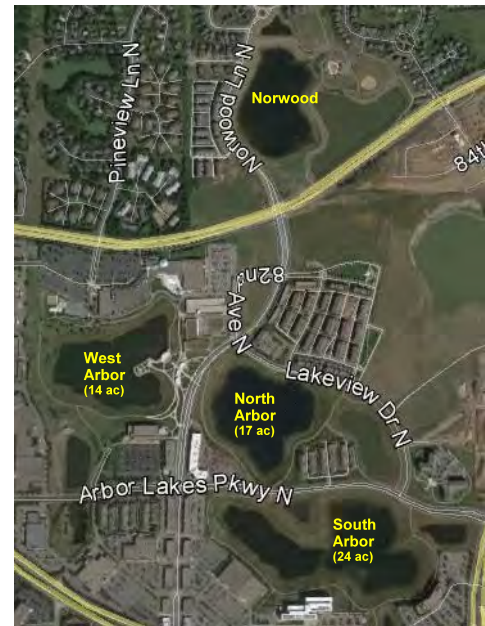
Arbor and Norwood Lakes: Results from sampling three Arbor Lakes and Norwood Lake are summarized in Tables 7 and 8 and Figure 1. All four have good water quality and relatively low phosphorus concentrations.

Table 7. Growing season averages for the Arbor Lakes and Norwood Lake.

	West Arbor			North Arbor			South Arbor			Norwood		
	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl
May-September Average												
1999 (1 date - Aug)	3.1	18	11	6.7	20	<1	5.4	13	<1	--	--	--
2001 (1 date - Sept)	5.3	--	--	16.0	--	--	8.2	--	--	--	--	--
2002 (3 dates)	9.0	16	1	8.9	11	2	13.0	12	1	--	--	--
2003 (5 dates)	7.0	19	4	12.3	9	3	11.7	10	3	--	--	--
2004 (5 dates)	9.6	18	5	11.5	12	2	12.4	12	2	--	--	--
2005 (5 dates)	10.7	28	2.4	13.2	17	3	10.7	17	2	--	--	--
2006 (5 dates)	9.7	23	2	13.8	13	2	7.9	29	17	--	--	--
2007 (5 dates)	9.4	19	2.6	12.1	9	2.2	11.3	15	5	--	--	--
2008 (5 dates)	8.4	24	7.0	14.3	12	3.7	10.2	16	4.4	--	--	--
2009 (5 dates)	9.6	28	5.3	13.9	14	1.1	13.9	17	2.0	--	--	--
2010 (5 dates)	7.9	36	11	13.8	9	1.7	13.4	14	1.7	--	--	--
2011 (5 dates)	7.1	27	12	12.7	12	4.4	12.4	14	2.6	--	--	--
2012 (5 dates)	6.6	28	12	14.5	11	6.1	13.0	15	5.3	--	--	--
2013 (5 dates)	7.6	24	5.7	15.3	11	1.5	12.2	18	2.7	--	--	--
2014 (5 dates)	9.1	24	6.7	18.1	8	1.1	12.9	11	2.4	14.9	13	2.2
2015 (5 dates)	5.0	57	14	15.0	12	1.7	12.0	18	3.2	16.4	14	2.1

Table 8. Lake grades for the Arbor Lakes and Norwood Lake.

	West Arbor			North Arbor			South Arbor			Norwood		
	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl	SD	TP	Chl
1999	D	A	B	C	A	A	C	A	A	--	--	--
2001	C	--	--	A	--	--	B	--	--	--	--	--
2002	B	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2003	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2004	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2005	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2006	B	B	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	--	--	--
2007	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2008	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2009	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2010	B	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2011	B	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2012	C	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2013	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	--	--	--
2014	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2015	C	C	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A



Location map of lakes.

Arbor Lakes Secchi Disc and Total Phosphorus Data

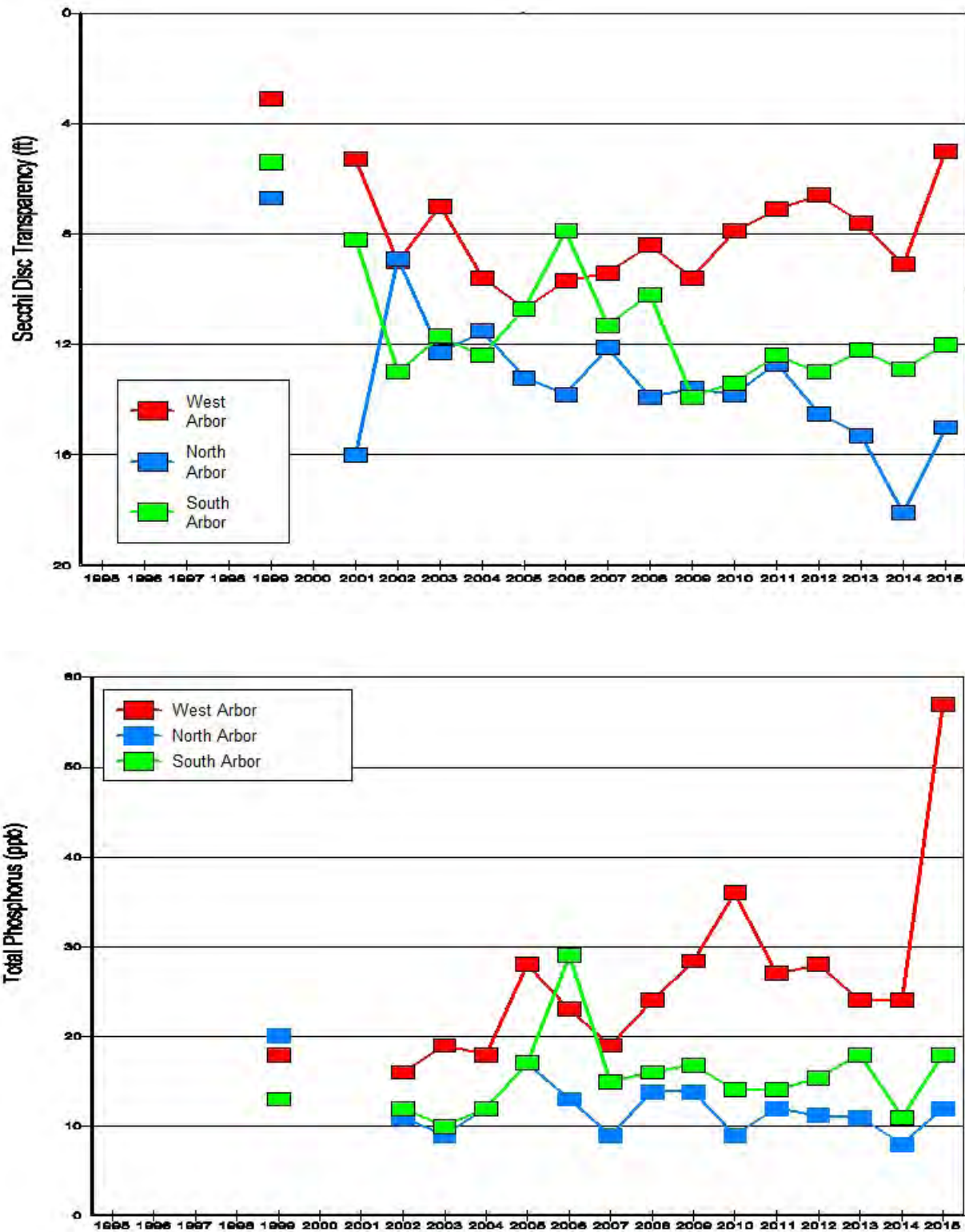


Figure 1. Secchi disc transparency (top) and total phosphorus concentrations (bottom) for the Arbor Lakes from 1999 - 2015.

Secchi Disc Transparency Graphs for Maple Grove Lakes

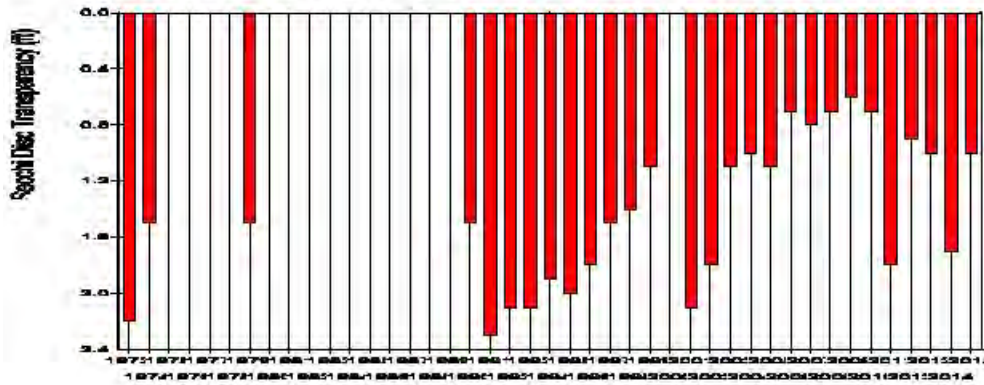
Graphs of average summer water transparency over the years for each of the major Maple Grove lakes are displayed on the next two pages. Eagle, Fish, and Weaver Lakes have summer water clarity averages generally over five feet. Cedar Island Lake generally has a summer average less than two feet. Pike and Rice Lakes averages are right around 3 to 5 feet. Transparency goals for all lakes should average 5 to 7 feet over the summer.

Total Phosphorus Graphs for Maple Grove Lakes

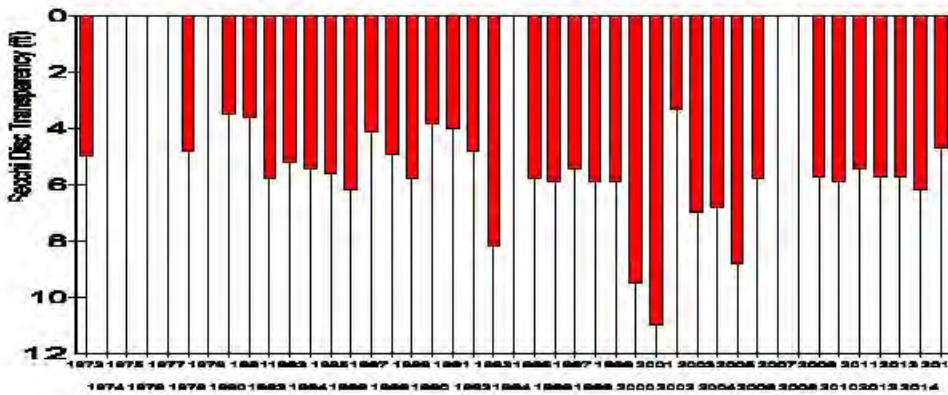
Graphs of average summer water total phosphorus for the major Maple Grove Lakes (not including the Arbor Lakes) are shown after the Secchi disc graphs. Cook Lake had the lowest summer phosphorus concentration of the lakes (although the Arbor Lakes also have low phosphorus concentrations). Rice Lake and Cedar Island Lake had the highest total phosphorus in 2015.

Shingle Creek Watershed District - Secchi Disc Data

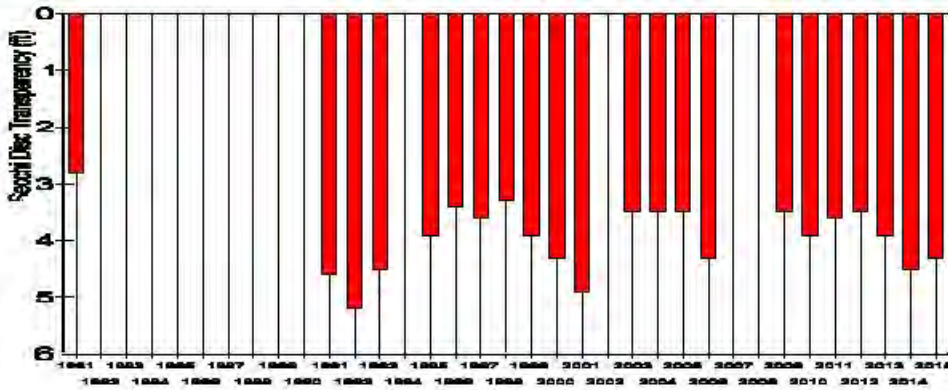
Cedar Island Lake



Eagle Lake



Pike Lake

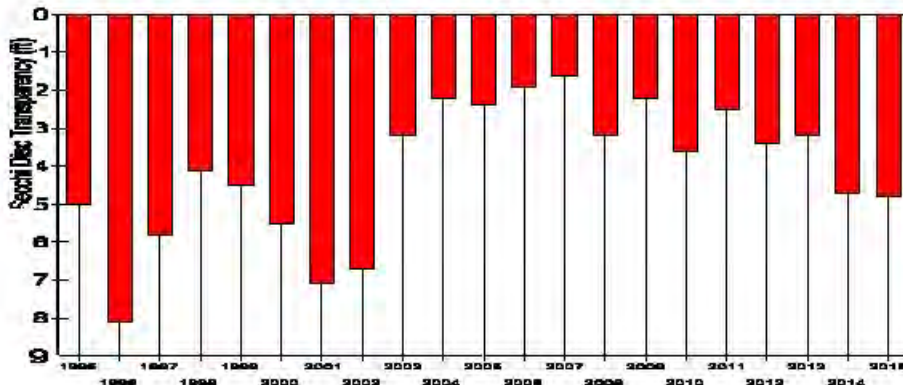




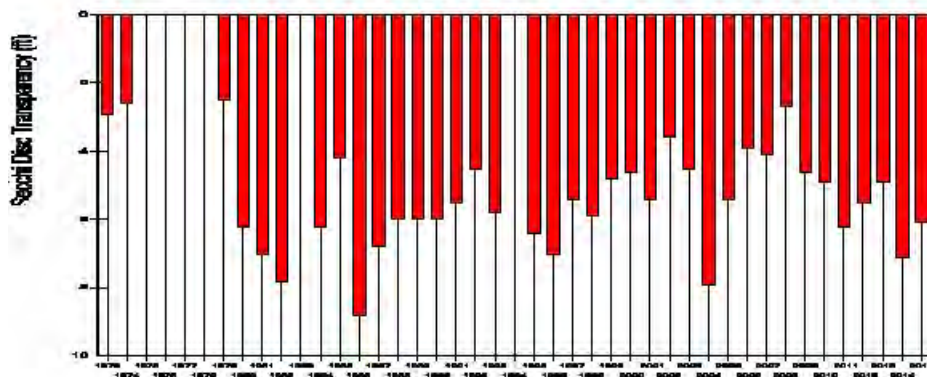
Secchi Disc Results
 Cedar Island Lake has the lowest Secchi disc transparency in Maple Grove. Transparency fluctuates in the remaining Maple Grove lakes. Aquatic plants could grow to twice the average seasonal secchi disc transparency. Aquatic plants are beneficial for lakes and help to maintain or improve water clarity.

Elm Creek Watershed District - Secchi Disc Data

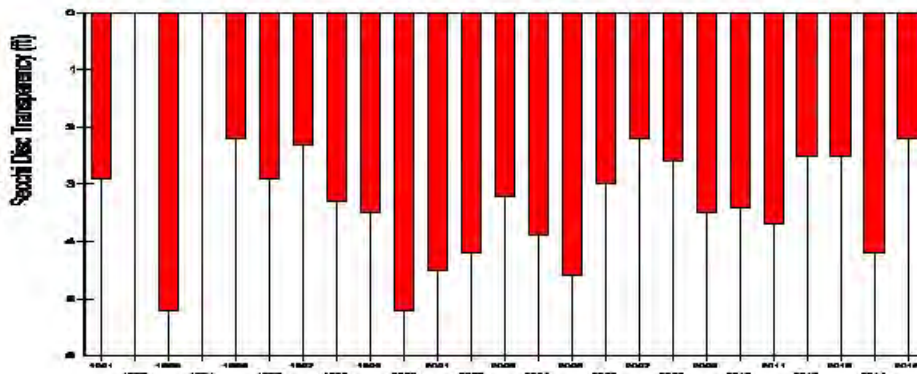
Lake Edward



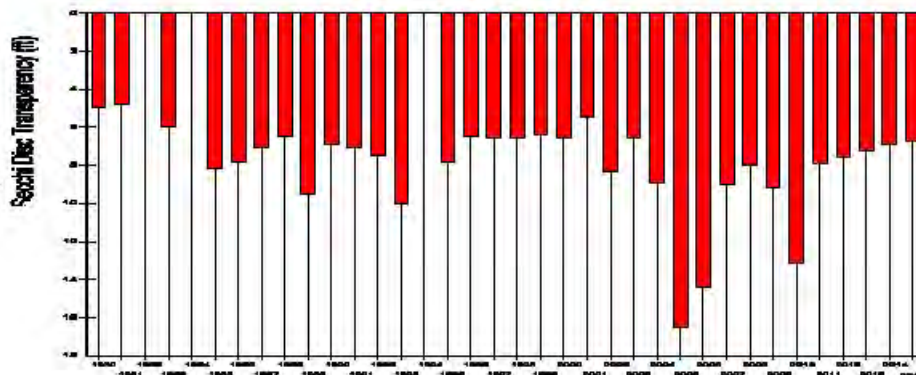
Fish Lake



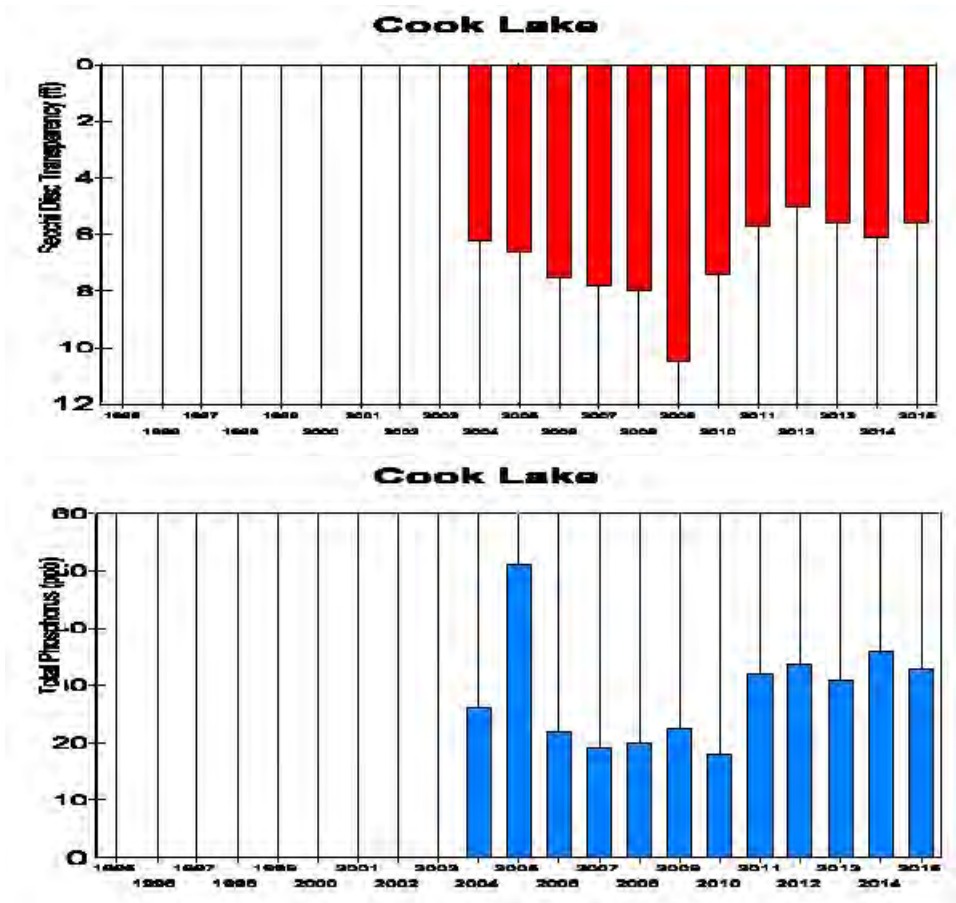
Rice Lake



Weaver Lake

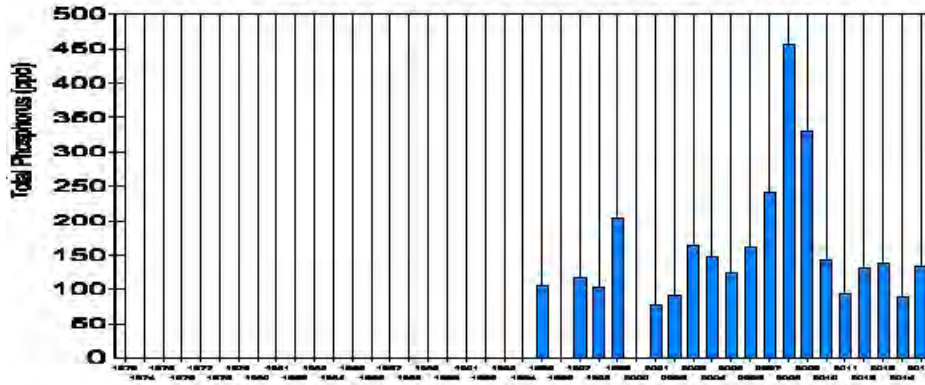


Cook Lake Data

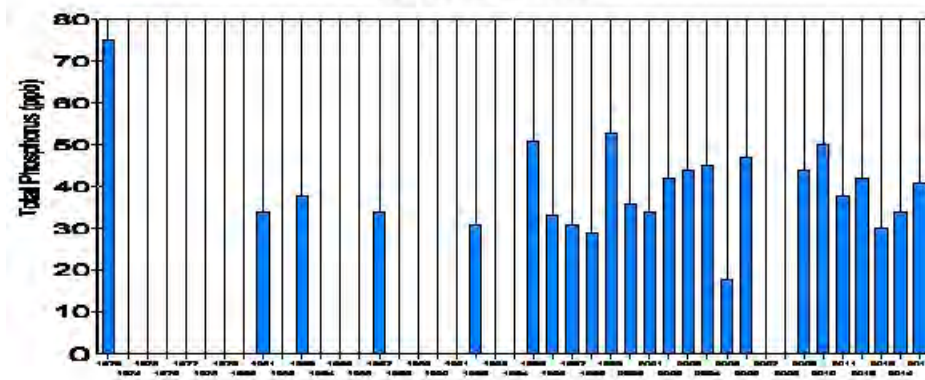


Shingle Creek Watershed District - Total Phosphorus Data

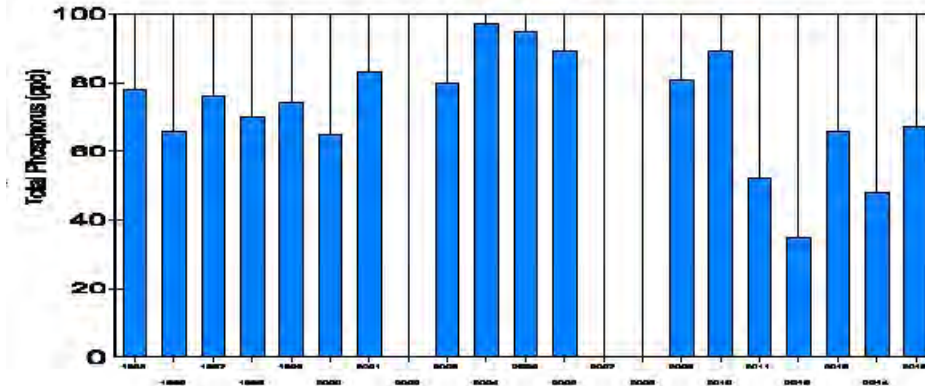
Cedar Island Lake



Eagle Lake

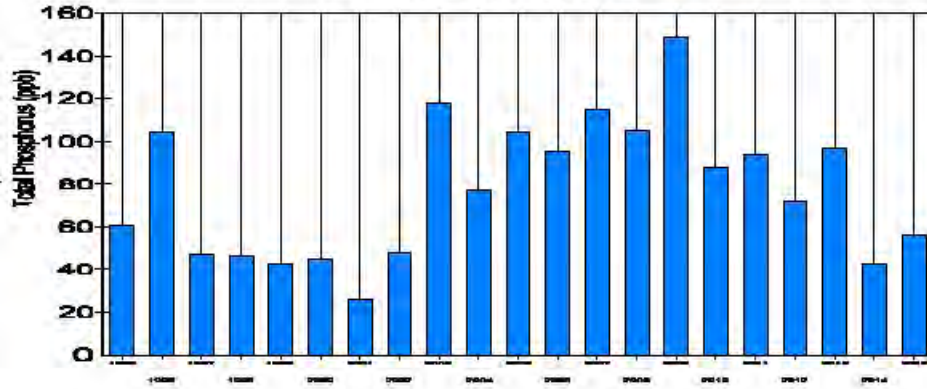


Pike Lake

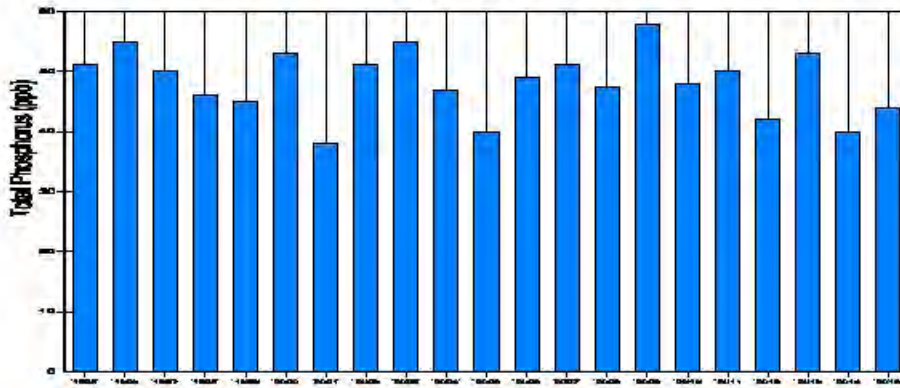


Elm Creek Watershed District - Total Phosphorus Data

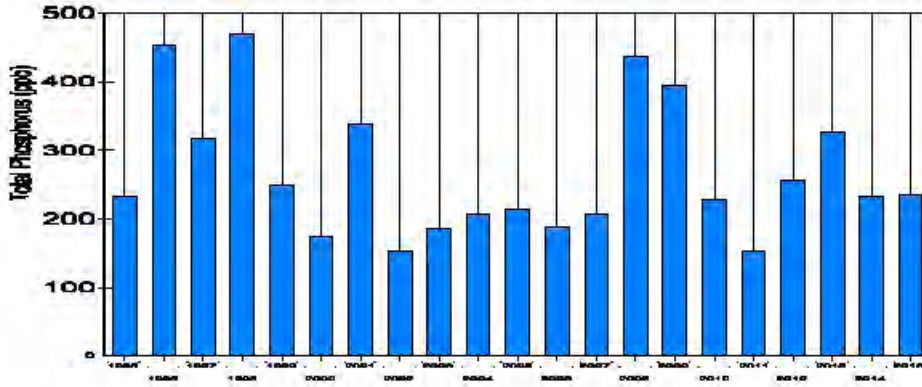
Lake Edward



Fish Lake



Rice Lake



Weaver Lake

