



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

**Date:** September 2, 2026  
**To:** CLFLWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
**Subject:** 2026 Mid-Season Monitoring Update



**District Wide**

### Background/Discussion:

Staff will present available preliminary data from:

1. Citizen Assisted Lake Monitoring Program (CAMP) lake monitoring program (April to June)
2. Water clarity (Secchi disc) data (April to June, some limited data through August)
3. Lake profile and bottom water monitoring (April through August)

Staff will discuss early monitoring trends and offer comparisons to past years of monitoring data. The complete data set for 2026 will not be available from Metropolitan Council Labs until early 2027. When available, a 2026 monitoring report will be drafted and presented to the Board.



# 2026 Mid-Season Monitoring Update



Keewahtin Lake



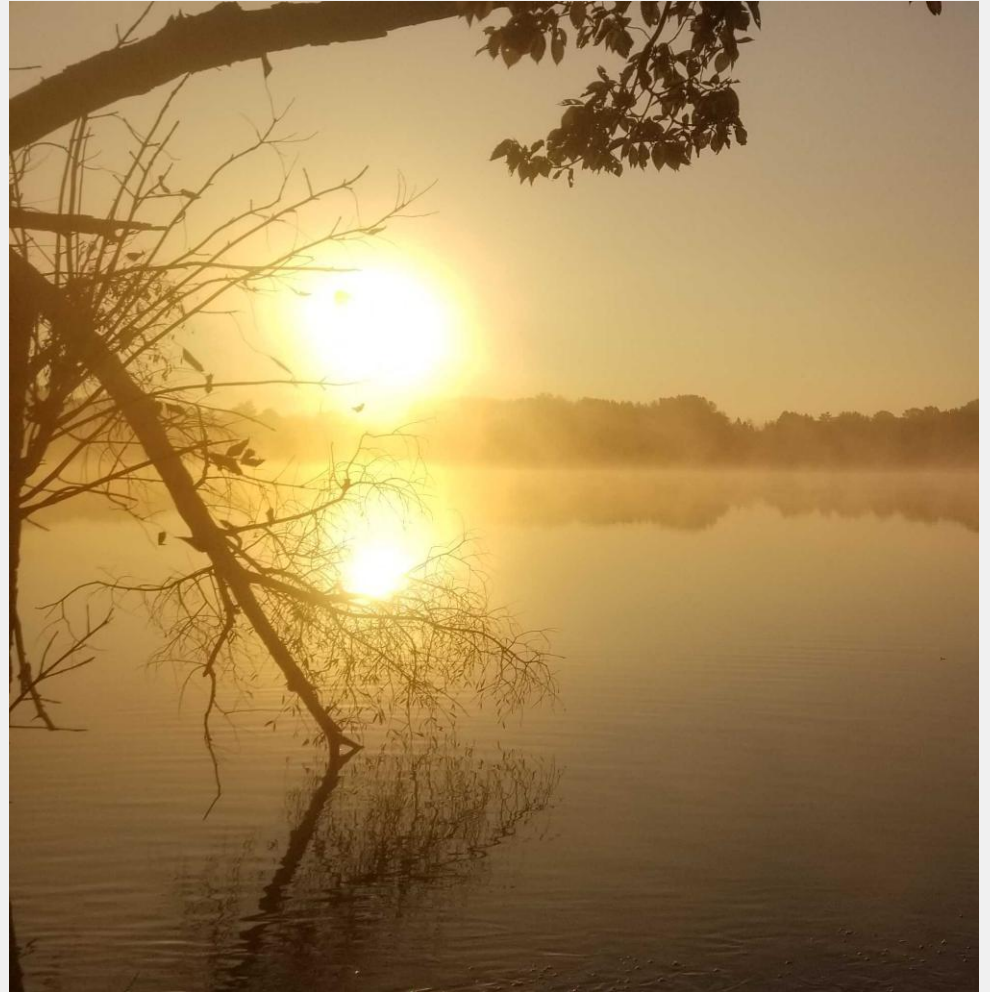
# Monitoring Update

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Climate Context

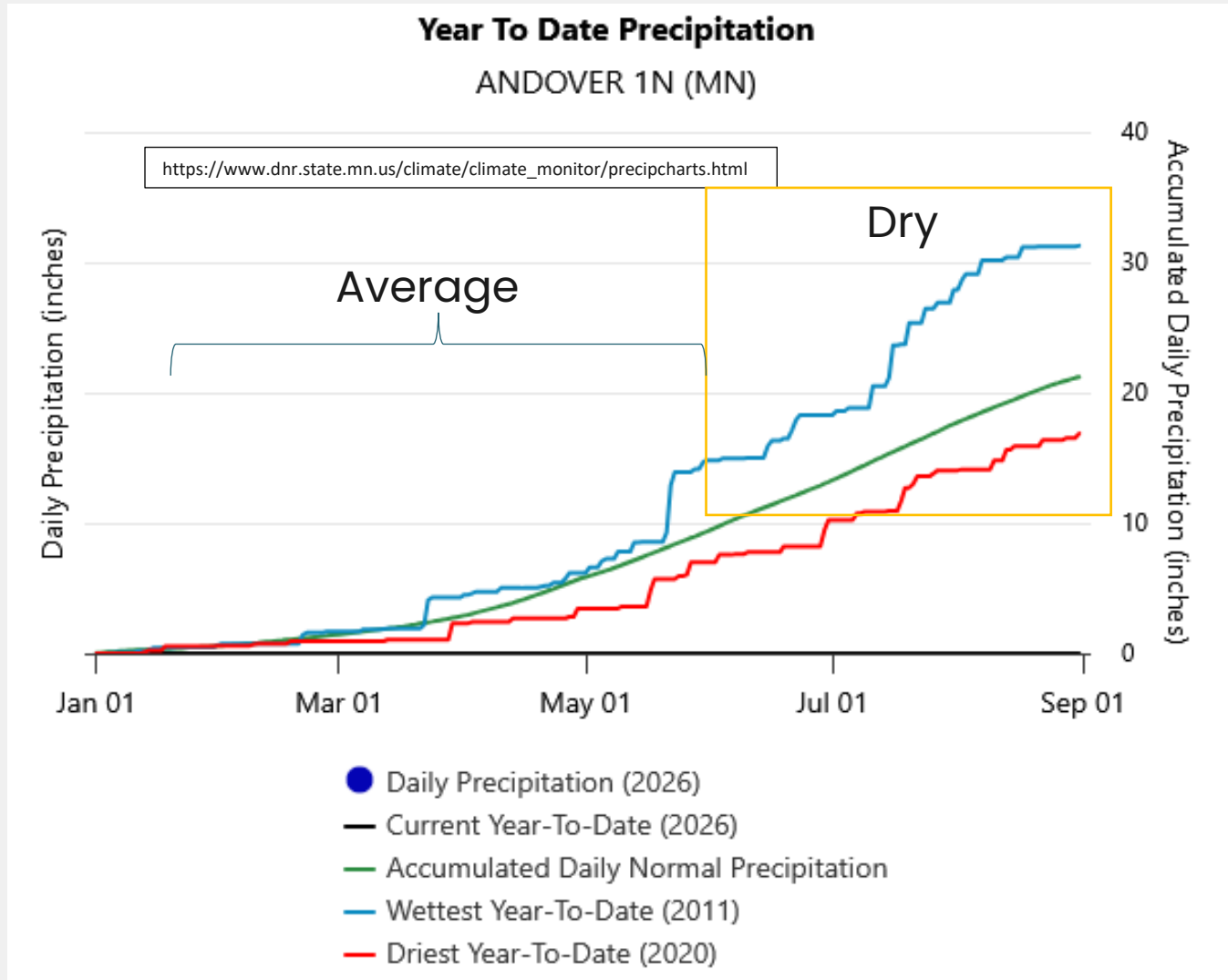
Available Data

Early Lake Monitoring Trends





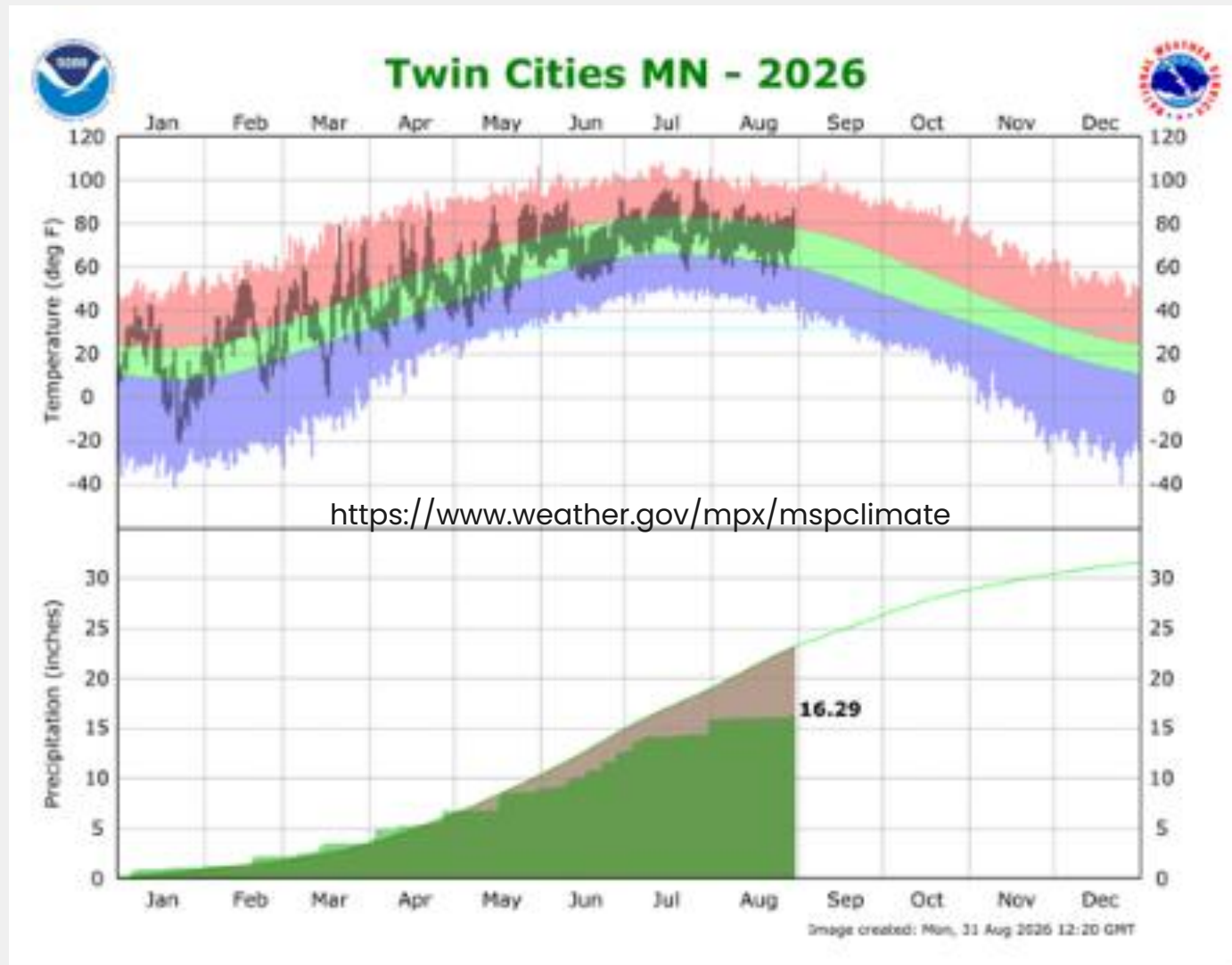
## 2026 Climate Conditions – Average to Dry Year



*2026 MNDNR precipitation summary for the closest DNR station*



## 2026 Climate Conditions – average to slightly above average temps



### 2026 NOAA Climate Summary for the Metro



## Budget Context

### 2026 Monitoring Budget greatly reduced from previous years

- No Stream Monitoring
- No Effectiveness Monitoring
- No Diagnostic Monitoring
- No DIY Monitoring
- Reduced Lake Monitoring
  - # of lakes and parameters
- Limited CAT Monitoring





## Available Data

### C A M P

### **2026 MONITORING SCHEDULE** **Community-Assisted Monitoring Program**

Week 1: April 20 - April 26

Week 2: May 4 - May 10

Week 3: May 18 - May 24

Week 4: June 1 - June 7

Pick-up Round #1: June 8 – 12

Week 5: June 15 - June 21

Week 6: June 29 – July 5

Week 7: July 13 - July 19

Week 8: July 27 - August 2

Week 9: August 10 - August 16

Pick-up Round #2: August 17 - 21

Week 10: August 24 - August 30

Week 11: September 7 - September 13

Week 12: September 21 - September 27

Week 13: October 5 - October 11

Week 14: October 19 - October 25

Pick-up Round #3: October 26 - 30

Bottom Water and lake profile data into August

Bottom Orthophosphate on select lakes

**Early glimpse into 2026 lake water quality**

*Problematic to draw conclusions from this limited data set*



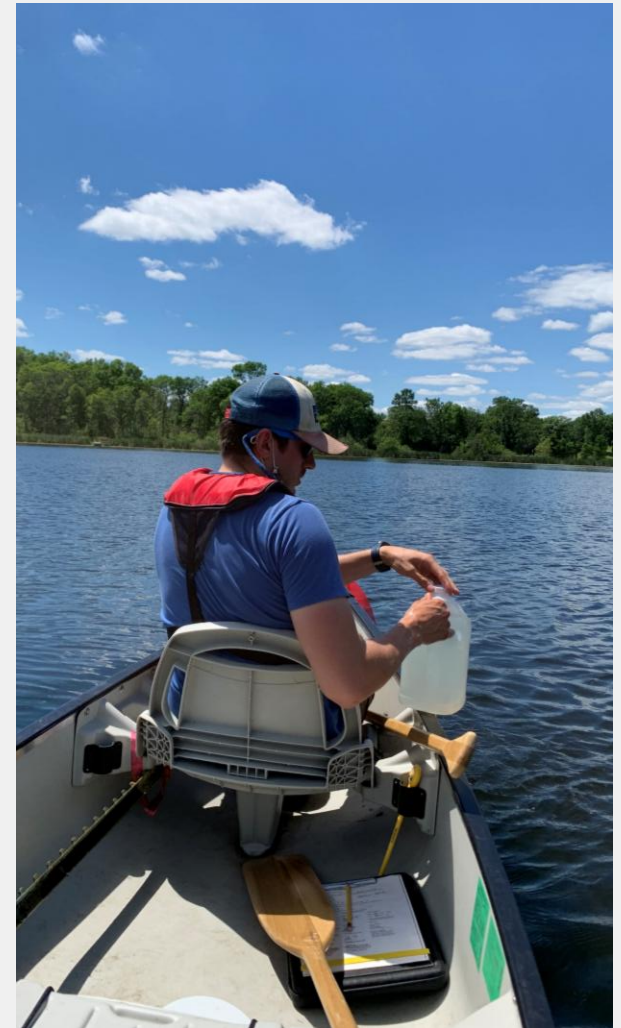
## Lake Monitoring

Total Phosphorus                      April to May

Secchi Depth                              April to August

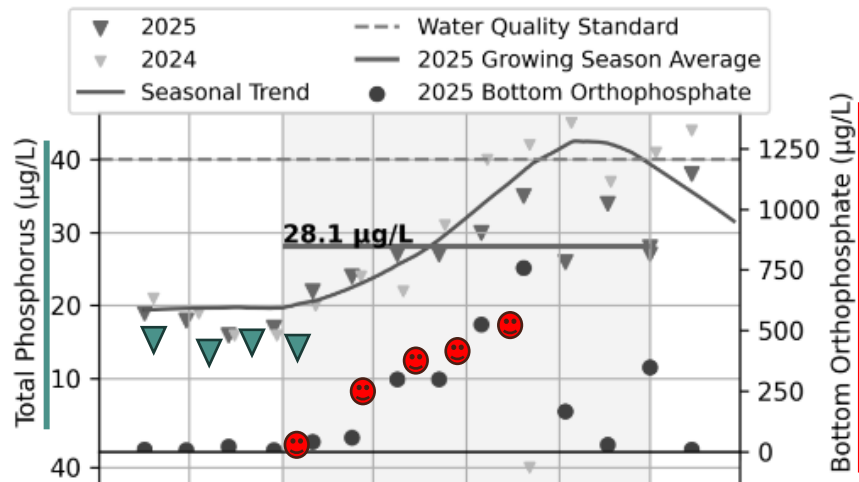
Bottom Water                              June to August

- Ortho phosphate
  - Little Comfort, Shields, Moody, FL 2 & 3



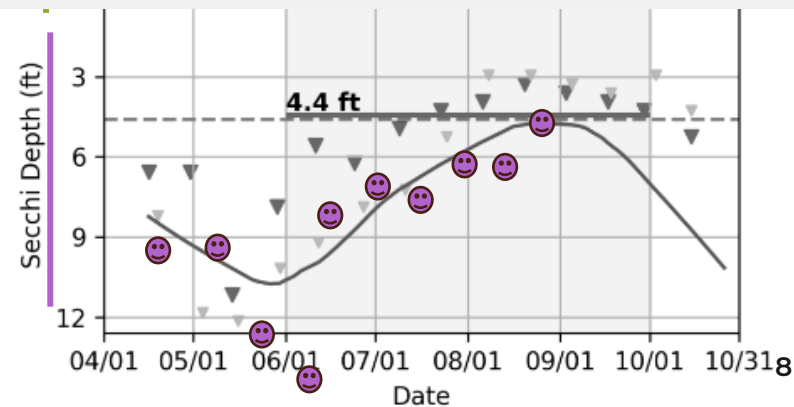
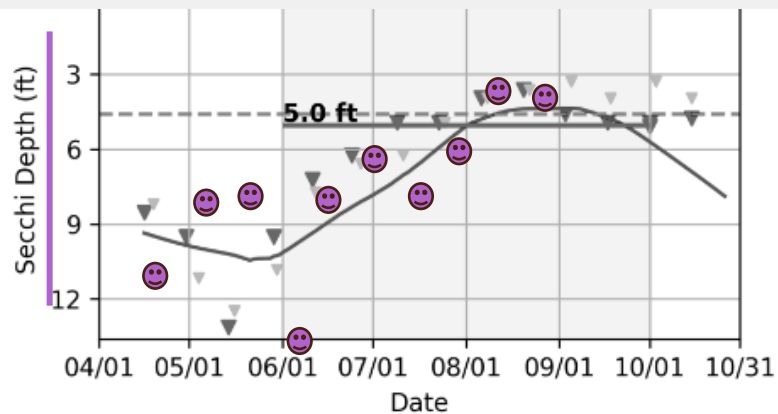
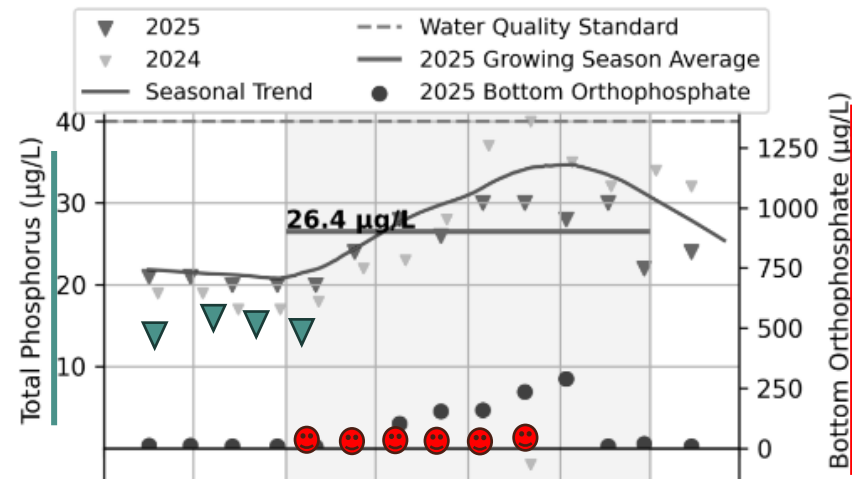
## FOREST LAKE – EAST BASIN

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



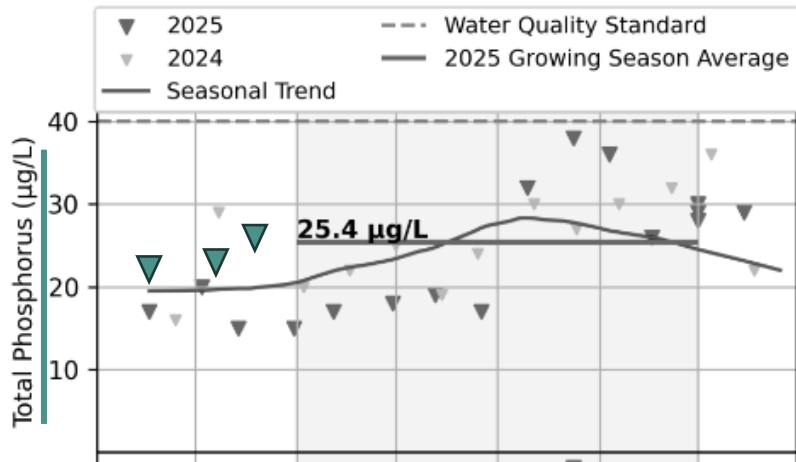
## FOREST LAKE – MIDDLE BASIN

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



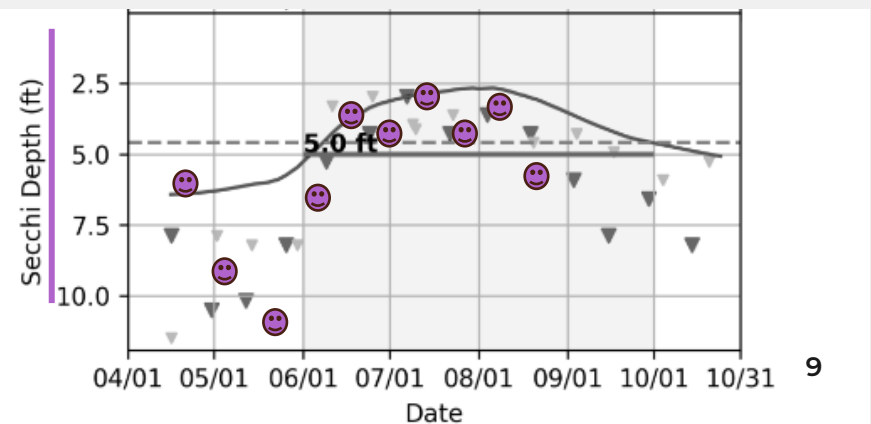
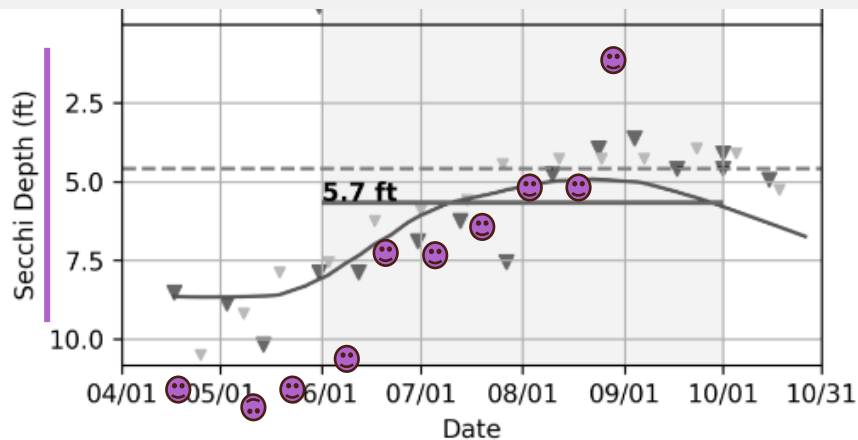
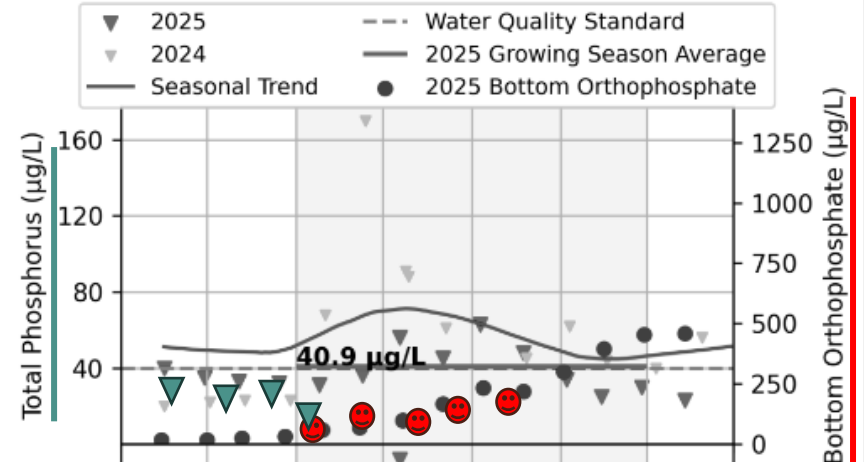
## FOREST LAKE – WEST BASIN

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



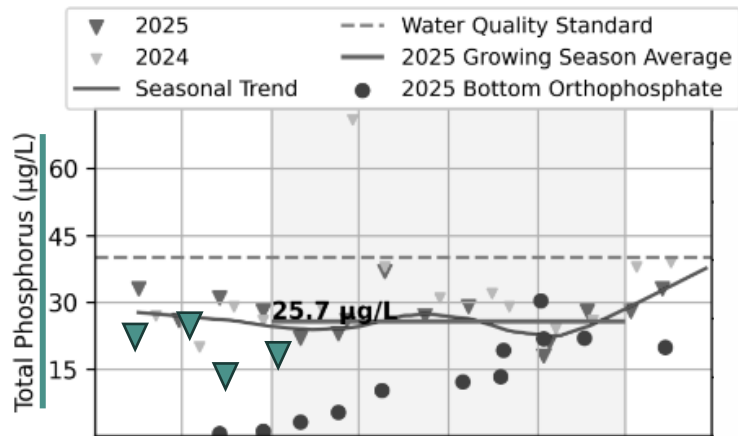
## MOODY LAKE

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



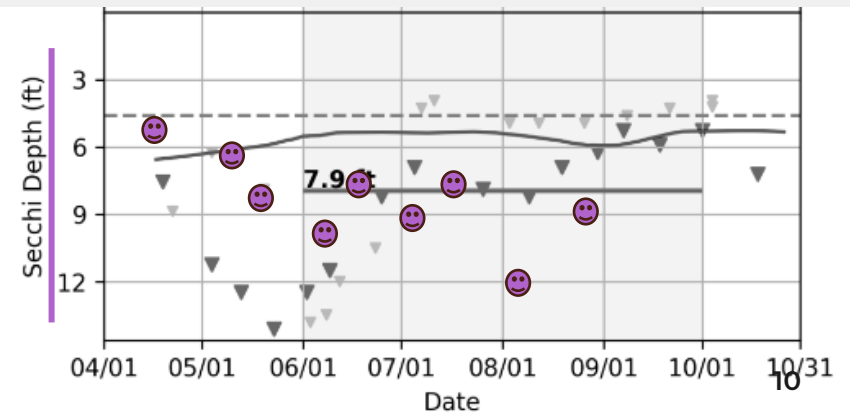
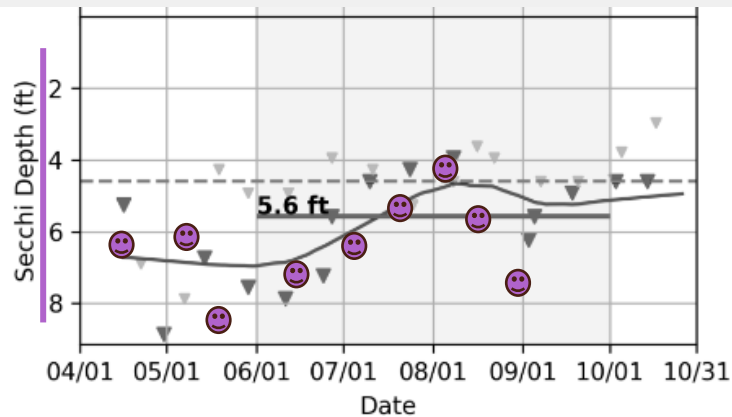
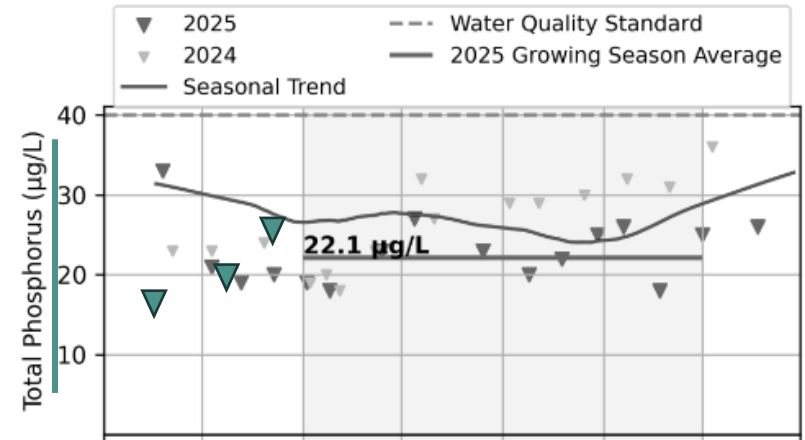
## COMFORT LAKE

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



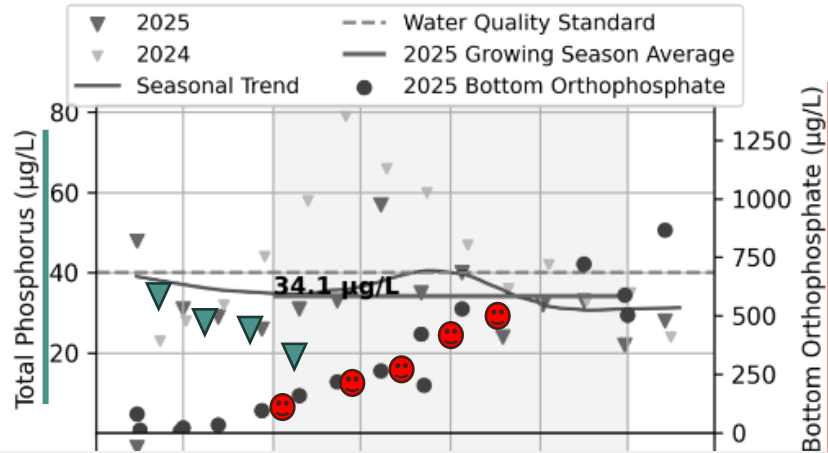
## BONE LAKE

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



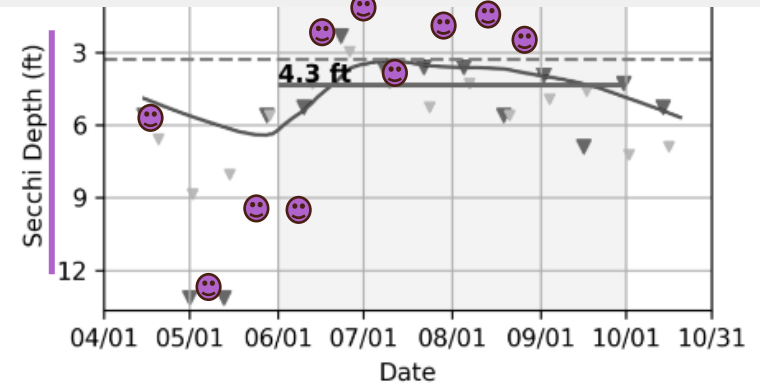
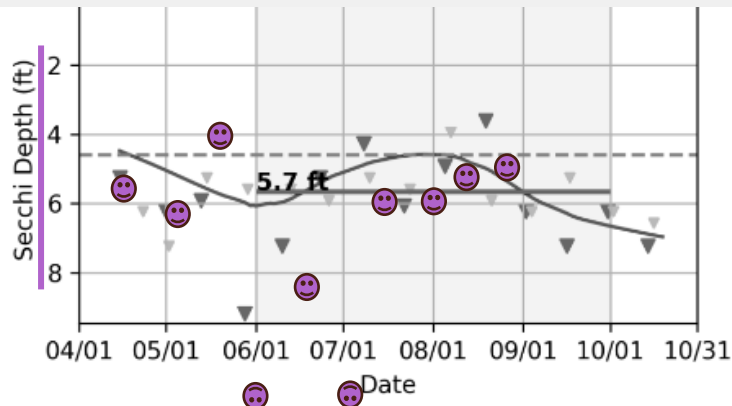
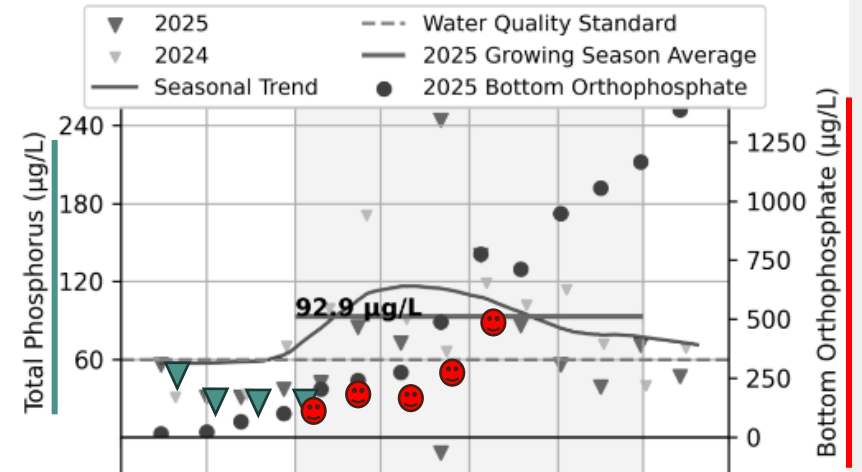
## LITTLE COMFORT LAKE

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary



## SHIELDS LAKE

### 2025 Surface Water Quality Summary





## Lake Monitoring

### Chloride Monitoring

Only SONDE data this year

No exceedances of the MN Chronic Standard  
( $>230$  mg/l for a 4-day period)

**In Summary, early data indicates that....**

**Lake Water Quality has been better than average this year.** Common for a drier year.





## Additional Monitoring Efforts in 2026

### Operations and Maintenance Monitoring

#### Data used to:

- Determine if projects are functioning as designed
- Determine if any maintenance is needed

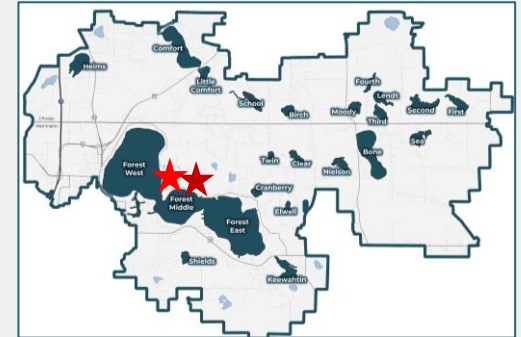
#### Limited Data collection in 2026 Due to Dry conditions

- Only one event sampled

### Citizen Assisted Tributary Monitoring

#### Focused on 2 subwatersheds of Forest Lake

- 3 volunteers involved in program
- Only 3 sampling events in 2026 Due to Dry conditions



CAT Monitoring Locations



**We hope to collect additional data in both programs this fall if the weather cooperates.**



# Adaptive Management

Based on limited early data

## **Shields Lake**

*Evaluate lake sediments and Alum Treatment longevity when funds become available*

*Reevaluate external loading when funds become available*

## **CAT**

*Another year of data collection likely needed in these subsheds due to dry conditions and lack of monitoring events/data this year*

## **O&M**

*Additional monitoring events needed*





# Questions?

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