



## 2023 Island Lake Water Quality Review

### Introduction

The goals of this testing protocol were to monitor various water quality parameters of the lake, compare results to historical data, and identify any potential risks to the health of Island Lake. Water samples were taken at two different locations and tested for 14 parameters. Tests were conducted in May and August. This report describes conditions at the times the samples were taken. The quality of the water was tested only to the parameters listed below.

Test results were compared to historical data from the report “2022 Island Lake Water Quality Review” by LakePro, Inc.

In this report, we included historical data from Water Quality Investigators. Their information provided annual averages for many parameters from 2002 to 2009. Including this data allowed us to see more accurate trends in the water quality data. To make the analysis more accessible, we added annual averages for our data and trendlines on the graphs. The trend lines provide a quick indication of how each water quality parameter changed over the testing history.

### Results

Parameter	2023 Season		Status
	Average	Target Range	
Temperature	64.5 °F	Less than 75 °F	● Healthy
Dissolved Oxygen	7.8 mg/L	4.0 – 12.0 mg/L	● Healthy
Total Phosphorus	78 ppb	0 – 100 ppb	● Healthy
Phosphate	45 ppb	0 – 100 ppb	● Healthy
Nitrate-Nitrogen	75 ppb	0 – 200 ppb	● Healthy
Chlorophyll-a	1.3 ppb	0 – 7.3 ppb	● Healthy
Transparency	6.0 feet	More than 6.5 feet	● Healthy
pH	8.2 S.U.	7.0 – 9.0 S.U.	● Healthy
Total Dissolved Solids	486 ppm	0 – 1,000 ppm	● Healthy
Conductivity	744 ppm	0 – 1,500 ppm	● Healthy
Alkalinity	166 ppm	100 – 250 ppm	● Healthy
Sulfate	11.2 ppm	3 – 30 ppm	● Healthy
Fluoride	0.10 ppm	0.01 – 0.30 ppm	● Healthy
Chloride	118 ppm	0 – 230 ppm	● Healthy



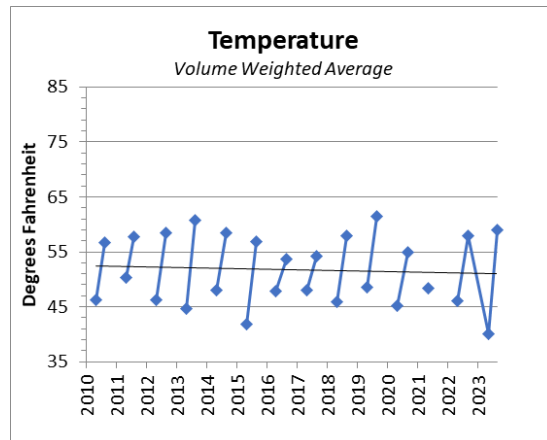
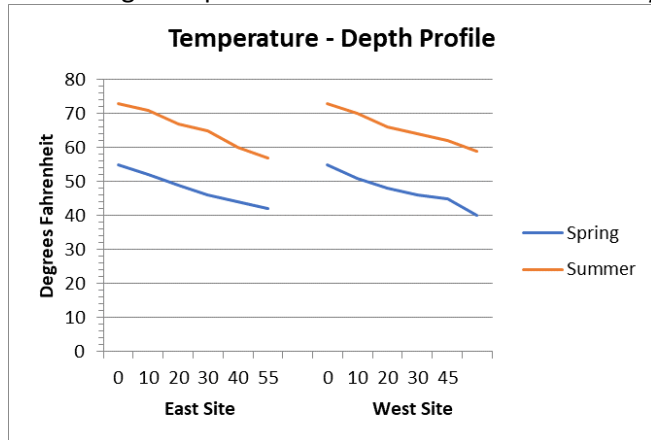
### Year-End Discussion

Island Lake’s water quality was excellent again this summer. All season averages were within the target ranges, despite transparency.

#### Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

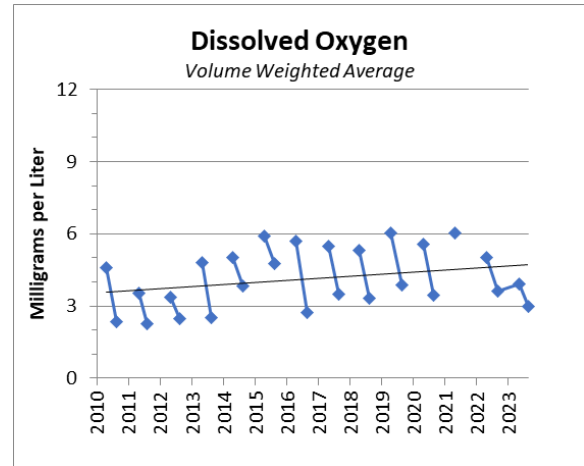
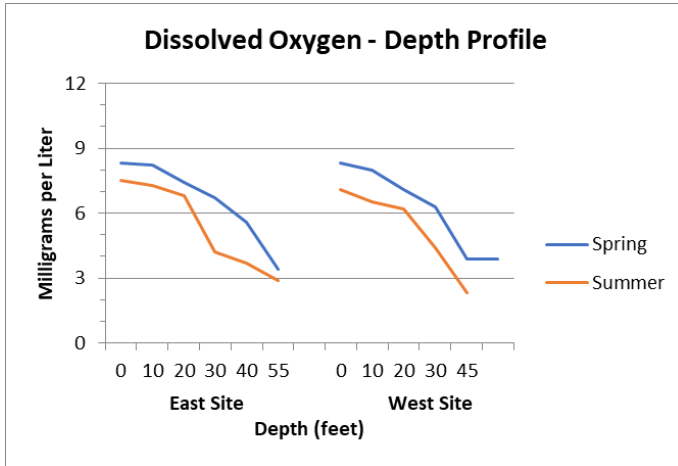
The average **Temperature** of the surface water was within the target range and remained through August. Colder water can hold more oxygen, so cooler water is preferred to promote healthy lake ecology. Given that water temps were within the target range, the **Dissolved Oxygen** concentrations stayed within the target range for the entire summer. We also measured temperature at different depths to create a temperature profile. This data shows how the temperature changed with depth and whether or not a thermocline was present in the lake. The first graph below shows the data we collected this year. In the spring, the water temperatures decreased somewhat evenly from the surface to the lake bottom. During the summer testing events, water temps also gradually fell and did not show any evidence of a thermocline at the time of testing.

We used the water temperature and volume at each depth to calculate a volume-weighted average. The results of those calculations are presented in the second graph below. The trend line shows that over our testing history, the average temperatures of the lake remained steady.





The depth profile methodology was repeated to measure dissolved oxygen. This allowed us to see how the oxygen concentrations changed throughout the water column. We also used the dissolved oxygen and volume at each depth to calculate a volume-weighted average. The trend line shows that over our testing history, the lake's dissolved oxygen increased.

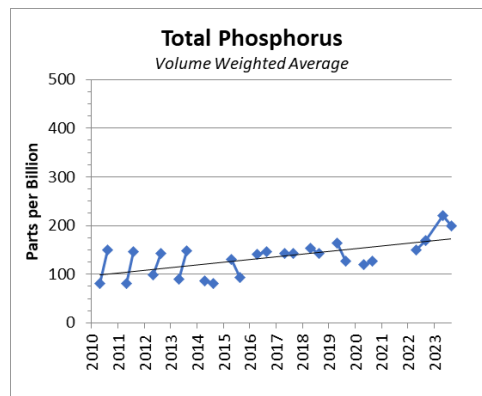
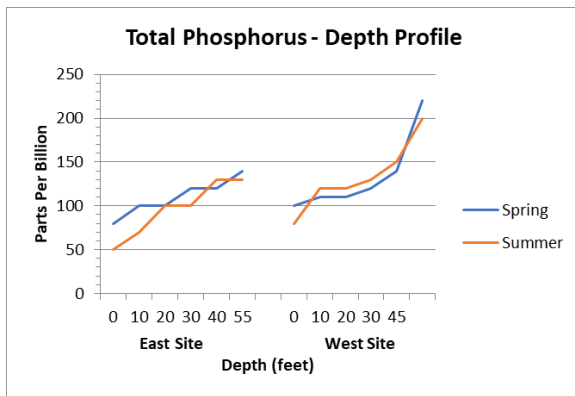




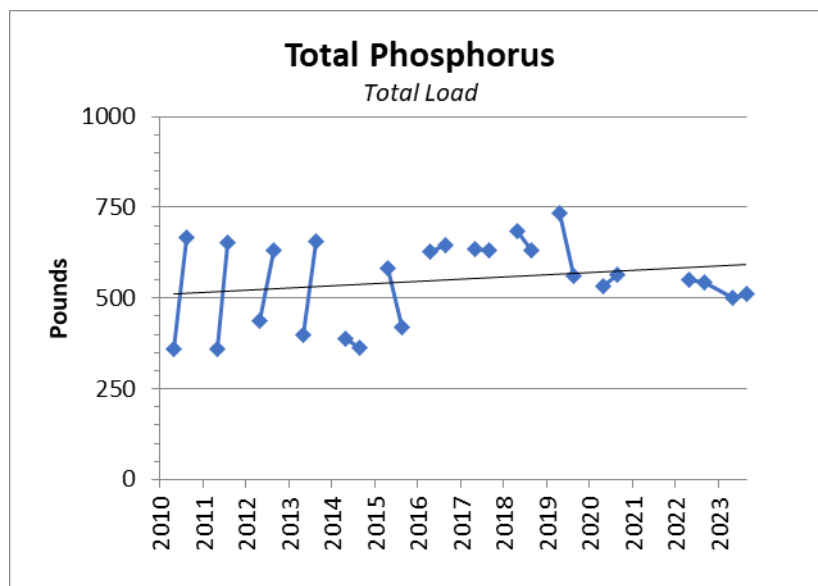
Nutrients, Plant Production, and Transparency

Nutrients in the water are the fuel for plant growth. Measuring the nutrient concentrations reveals the potential for additional plant growth. Phosphorus is a major nutrient necessary for aquatic plant growth, so it is important that this nutrient remains low in the lake. The **Total Phosphorus** was elevated throughout the season, decreasing in August and staying within the target range. **Phosphate**, which is the form of phosphorus usable by plants, was within the target range for all samples and tests.

The depth profile methodology was repeated, and measurements were taken for total phosphorus. This revealed how its concentration changed with increasing depth. We also used the concentration and volume at each depth to calculate a volume-weighted average. The trend line shows that the total phosphorus within the entire lake increased over our testing history, which is normal for all lakes.



Additionally, we used the concentration of phosphorus and the lake volume to calculate the total phosphorus load. This quantified the amount of phosphorus in the lake. The following graph shows the results of this calculation over the years of our testing. The old adage states 1 pound of phosphorus can support 500 pounds of plant growth, so the spring average load of 500 pounds of phosphorus could support almost 125 tons of plants.





**Nitrate** is another major nutrient for aquatic plant growth. The nitrate concentrations remained within the target range this summer. Although concentrations were in the target range, it is important that residents take measures to ensure their properties are not contributing excess fertilizers to the lake.

We also measured **Chlorophyll** concentrations because it is a reliable indicator of plant production. The target for chlorophyll is below 7.3 parts per billion. The chlorophyll concentrations were below the target level to start the summer and even decreased in August.

A major effect of plant growth on the lake is the reduction of water clarity. Before algae forms the green mats of “scum” on the surface, it is suspended in the water column. Algae floating in the water can decrease water clarity even before you see a tint of green. This year, the **Transparency** averaged a depth of 6 feet. The measurements were low in May, then showed tremendous improvement in August. The clear water persisted through August, showing only some clouding toward the end of the summer. Clearer water is generally a positive attribute, but it does allow more sunlight to reach the lake bottom to fuel plant growth.

#### Trophic State Indices

In order to better understand the relationship between nutrients, plant production, and clarity, limnologists use Trophic State Indices (TSI) to score each category and examine the relationship between them. In general, lower scores indicate a less productive lake. The TSIs for Island Lake this year were:

Category	Water Quality Parameter	Trophic State Index (season average)	Classification
Nutrients	Total Phosphorus	66	Eutrophic
Plant Production	Chlorophyll	32	Oligotrophic
Clarity	Transparency	56	Eutrophic

The TSI for total phosphorus classified the lake as eutrophic, or productive, based on the availability of nutrients to fuel plant growth. The TSI for chlorophyll was lower than the nutrient index. This shows that despite the availability of nutrients, the plants were not at the levels predicted by the nutrient concentrations. This was due, in part, to the plant management on the lake. Finally, the TSI for transparency was higher than the production index and classified the lake as eutrophic. This shows that the water clarity was worse than typical for the plant production. The additional decrease of clarity may have been due to dissolved solids or suspended particles. Clarity values were affected by the time in which the data was recorded.

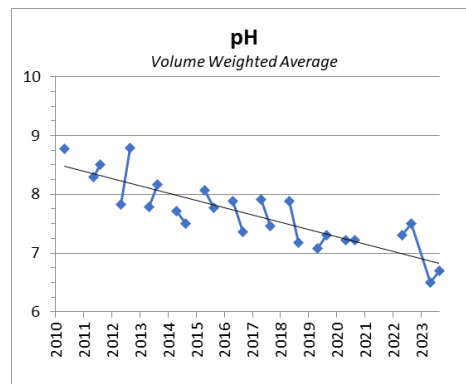
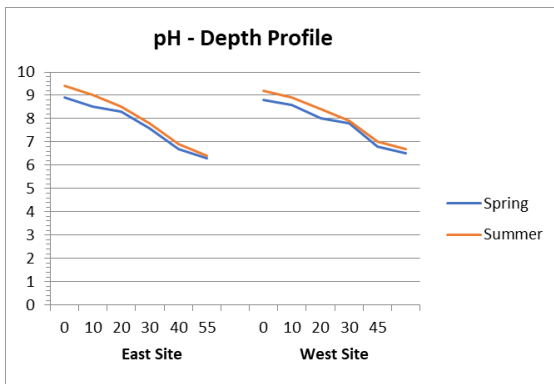


### Water Chemistry Parameters

It is important to monitor the basic water chemistry of the lake water. Shifts in these parameters can indicate major changes to the lake that may need to be further investigated.

The **pH** of the lake remained within the target range across all tests this year. This showed that the pH did not fluctuate to a point of concern despite changes in dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, and rainfall/runoff.

The depth profile methodology was repeated and measurements were taken for pH. This revealed how this parameter changed throughout the water column. We also used the readings and volume at each depth to calculate a volume weighted average. The trend line shows that over our testing history, the pH of the entire lake decreased.



The **Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)** were near half of the target range throughout summer, showing there were moderate amounts of dissolved molecules in the water. This parameter includes nutrients, salts, and other substances, so it is a positive that this parameter remained within target range.

**Conductivity** measures ionic molecules in the water and usually follows the TDS. This parameter measures the molecules in the water ability to conduct electricity. So, it is particularly sensitive to salts, which are excellent conductors. The conductivity was in the middle of the target range this year, indicating a normal amount of ionic molecules in the lake and no immediate concern of salts.

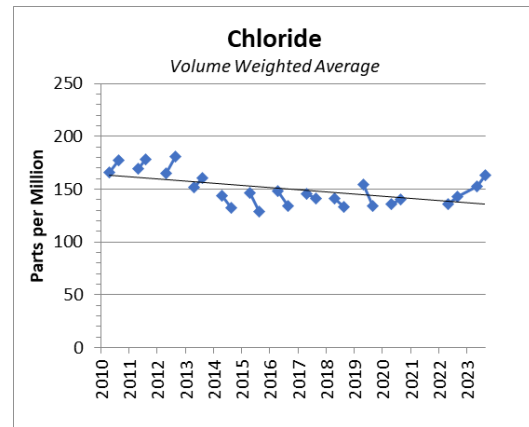
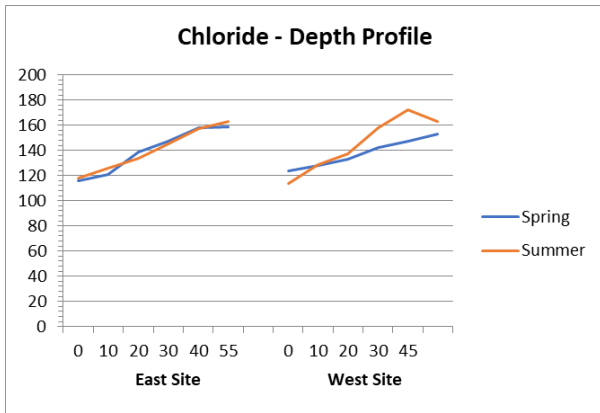
**Alkalinity** measures the concentration of one salt, Calcium Carbonate, which is beneficial to the aquatic ecosystem. The carbonate ions are able to accept protons from acids, making it a natural buffer. This means that as acidic substances enter the lake, the carbonate is able to buffer against severe changes in pH that would pose a threat to the ecosystem. The alkalinity was at a healthy concentration for all tests this year.



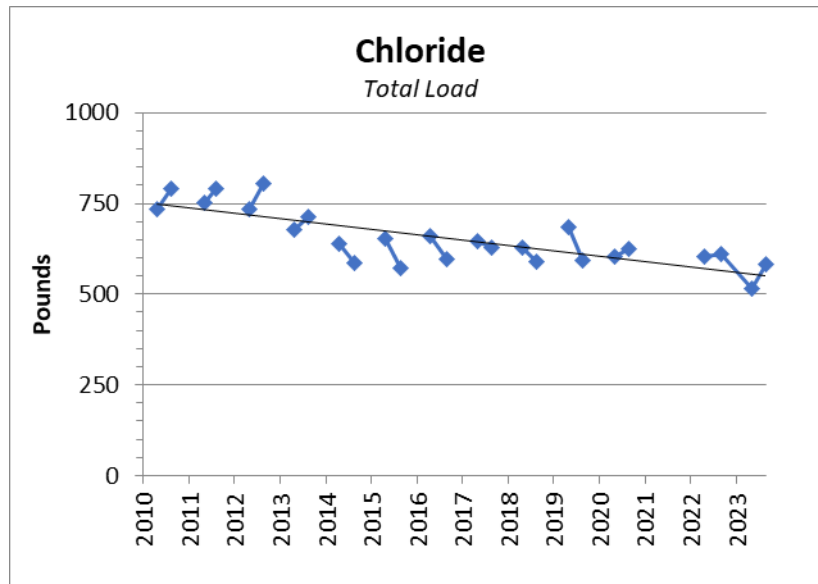
Pollutants

The lake was tested for **Sulfate**, **Fluoride**, and **Chloride** as indicators of pollution. These molecules should be present in the water naturally, but elevated levels can indicate pollution from within the watershed and may pose a risk to the ecosystem. All three parameters were within their target ranges for all tests.

The depth profile methodology was repeated and measurements were taken for chloride. This allowed us to see how this parameter changed throughout the water column. We also used the results and volume at each depth to calculate a volume weighted average. The trend line shows that over our testing history, the chloride in the lake decreased slightly. This year showed a slight increase likely due to increase in rainfall.



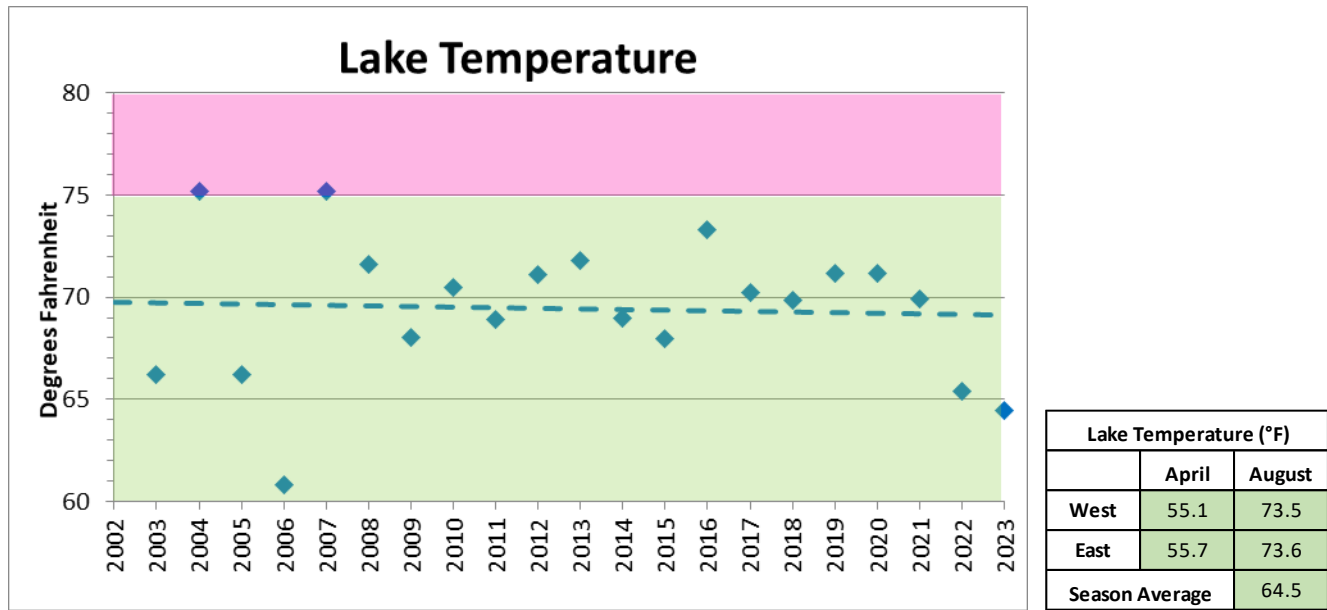
Finally, we used the concentration of chloride and the water volume of the lake to calculate the lake’s chloride load. The following graph shows the results of this calculation over the years of our testing. This quantified the amount of chloride in the lake.





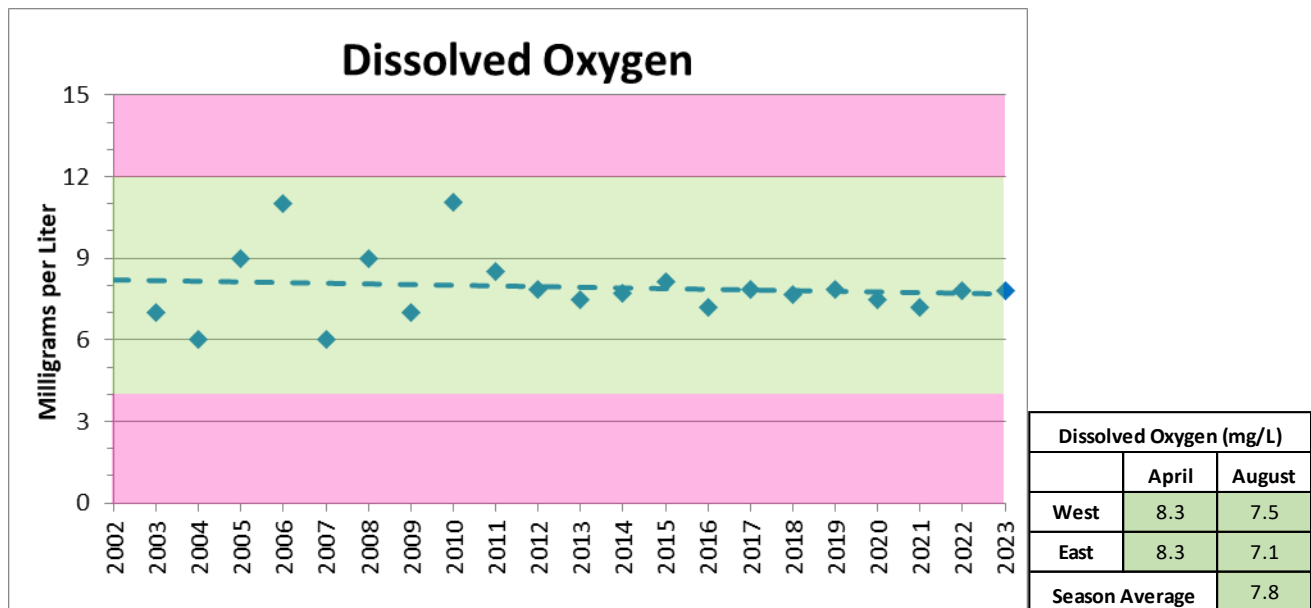


**Historical Trends & Monthly Data**



**Target Range: < 75°F**

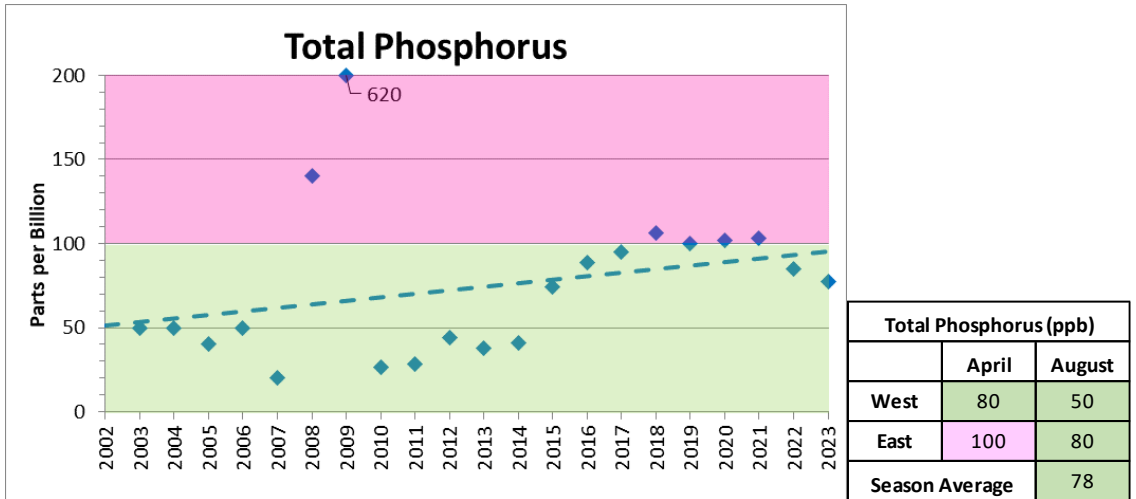
The long-term trend for water temperature was very slightly upward, and the 2022 and 2023 season average showed deviation. This year and last both recorded cooler temperatures. This has skewed the trend line subtly down. Water temperature is dependent upon air temperatures and the dates selected for testing. For that reason, LakePro tried to select similar dates for testing each year. The primary concern with warmer water temperatures is decreasing oxygen solubility.



**Target Range: 4.0 – 12.0 mg/L**

Dissolved oxygen concentrations varied but followed a slight downward trend. However, through the last few years, D.O. Conc. have been leveling off. Although the concentrations varied throughout the testing history, adequate oxygen for a healthy aquatic ecosystem has always been available.

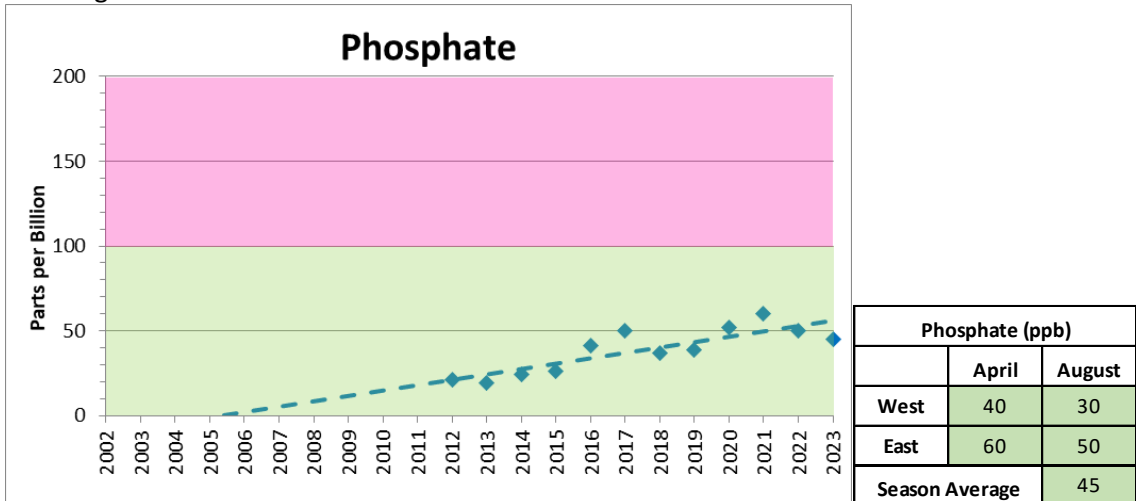




**Target Range: 0 – 100 ppb**

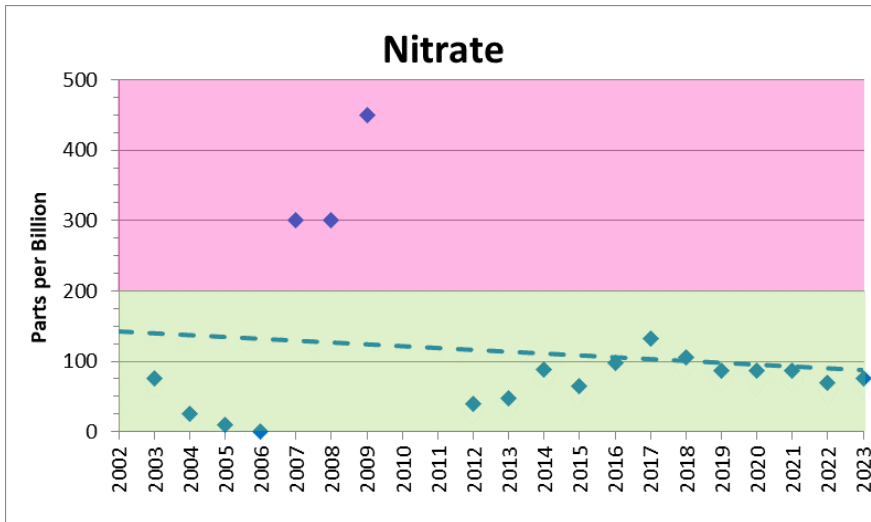
Lakes generally accumulate the substances and materials that flow into it, including nutrients. Since testing began in 2003, the water's phosphorus trend has tracked upward. The 2008 and 2009 concentrations were significantly higher than other years of testing, which pulled the trendline up. Since 2010 total phosphorus has steadily increased, averaging at or above the target range since 2018. The past two years have shown a healthy decline in nutrients. This year could be accredited to increase in rainfall helping flush excess nutrients.

There are ways to remove phosphorus, such as mechanical harvesting and heavy rain events that create strong mixing and outflow. However, it is much easier to prevent excess nutrients from entering the lake. For this reason, it is vital that residents around the lake fertilize and use their land responsibly to prevent phosphorus from reaching the lake.



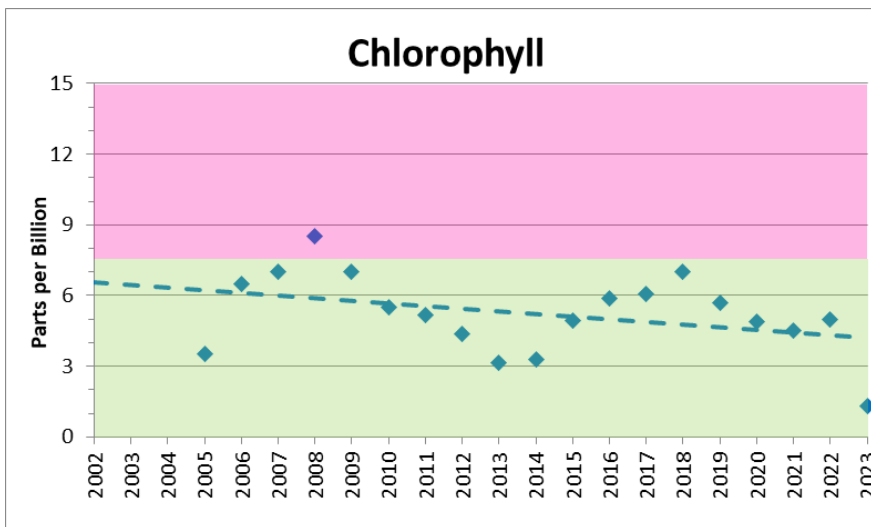
**Target Range: 0 – 100 ppb**

Phosphate is the form of phosphorus that is most usable by plants and algae. As the total phosphorus accumulates, phosphate usually follows. There is no historical data available for phosphates, so the trendline reflected the changes only during the years of LakePro's testing. The trend was upward, but the phosphate concentrations remained within the target range.



**Target Range: 0 – 200 ppb**

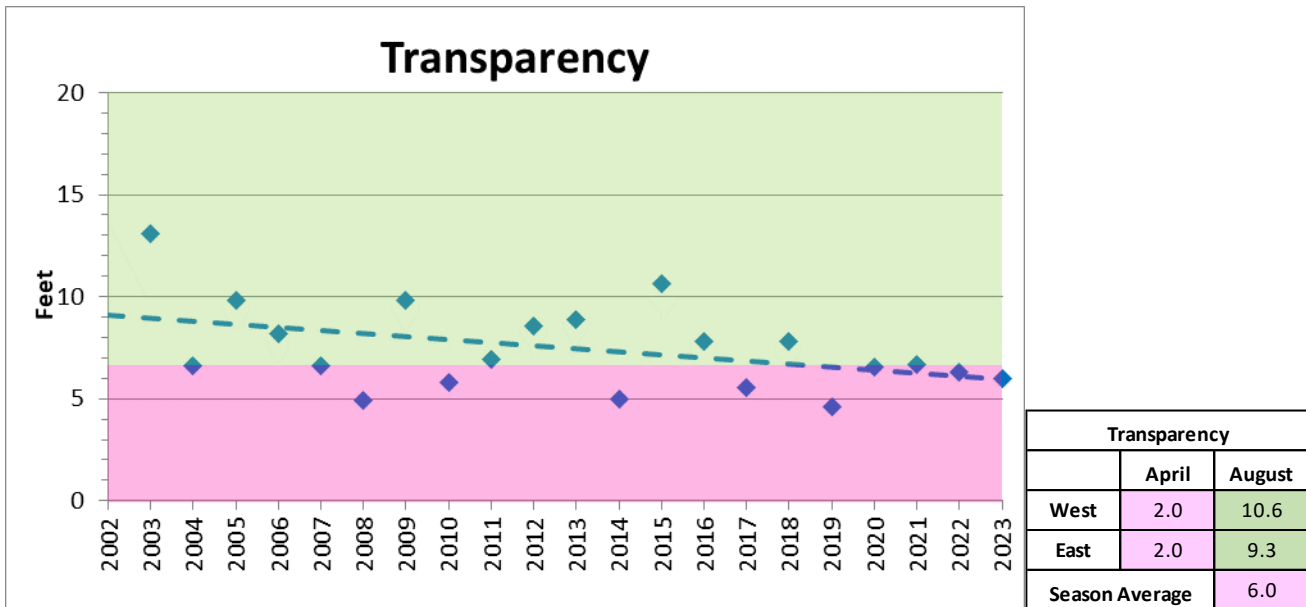
Nitrate is another major nutrient that accumulates in lakes. The historical trend for nitrate is downward, due to consistently lower values since 2012 and despite wild variability in previous years of testing. It is important that residents fertilize and use their land responsibly to prevent additional nitrates from reaching the lake.



**Target Range: 0 – 7.3 ppb**

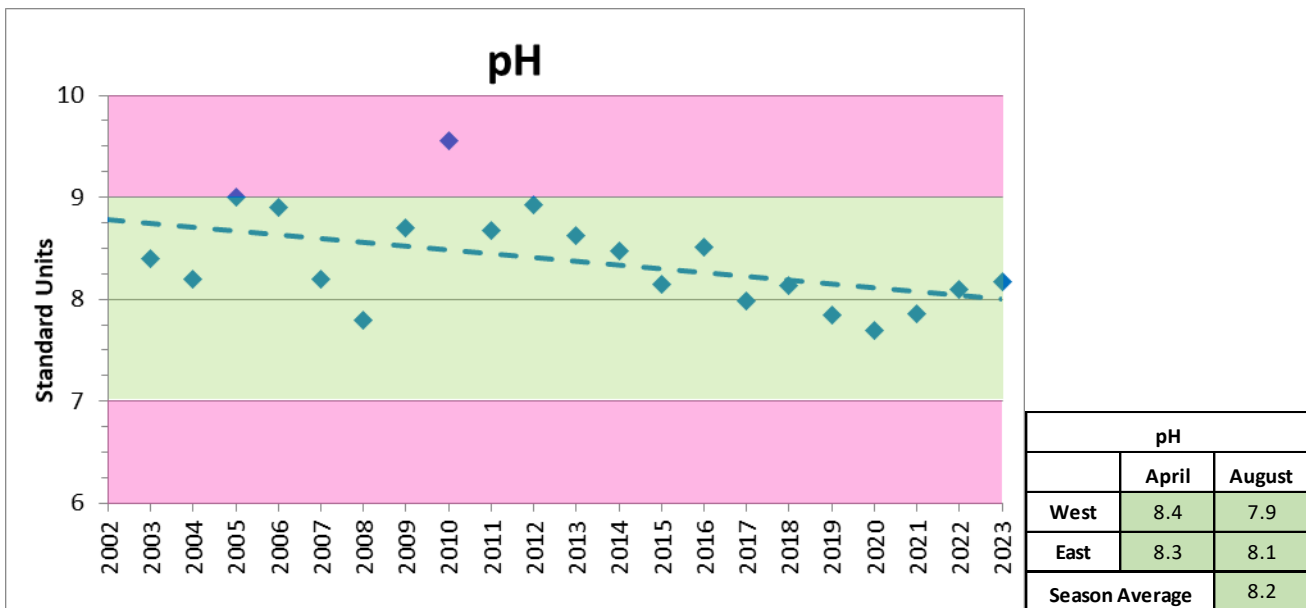
The linear trend for Chlorophyll was slightly downward. However, the average concentrations show a strong cyclical pattern. Except for 2008, the chlorophyll remained within the target range. This year showed a much lower average than usual. The excessive and early plant growth is most likely the reason as to why most of the chlorophyll has been used by the time we tested. Continuing the plant management activities will continue to suppress the algae and plants to acceptable levels. Continuing to mechanically harvest aquatic plants and to conduct herbicide treatments for dense invasive species will help keep the plant community to acceptable levels.

Another key to limiting plant production is to slow the influx of nutrients from both around the lake and throughout the watershed. Responsible land use practices, especially fertilizing, will limit the nutrients entering the lake, starving the plants and algae of the food they need for growth.



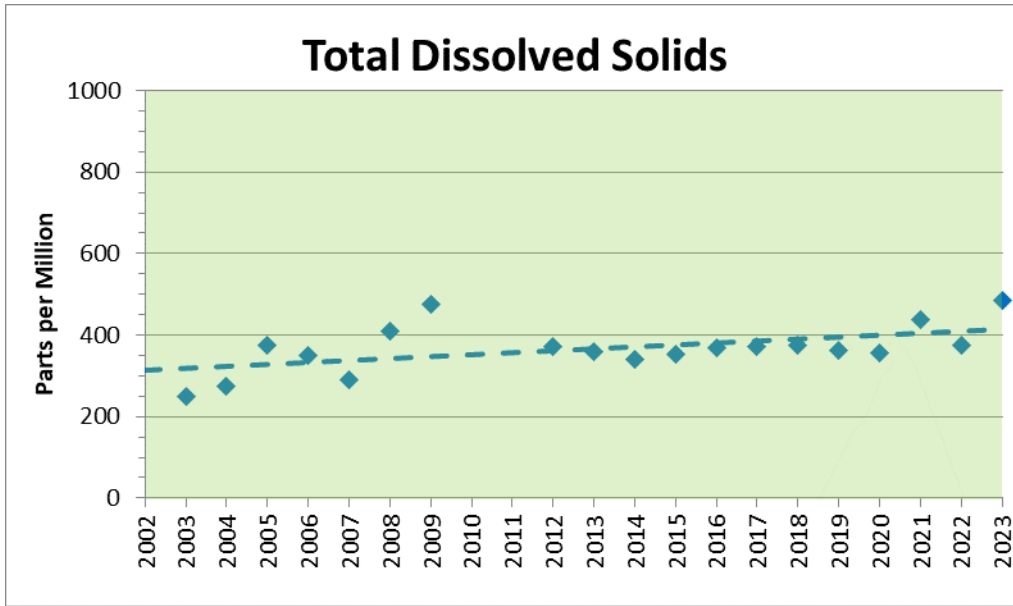
**Target Range: > 6.5 feet**

Less chlorophyll generally leads to higher transparency. With chlorophyll going down, the transparency went up. The early season values being so low had a big impact on the season average. In 2014, additional tests revealed the brown color in the early summer was due to high concentrations of the algae Planktothrix. The decreasing transparency is a concern for the lake. It ruins the appearance of the lake and can pose a threat to the safety of the lake, because swimmers cannot accurately judge depth or see underwater obstructions.



**Target Range: 7.0 – 9.0 S.U.**

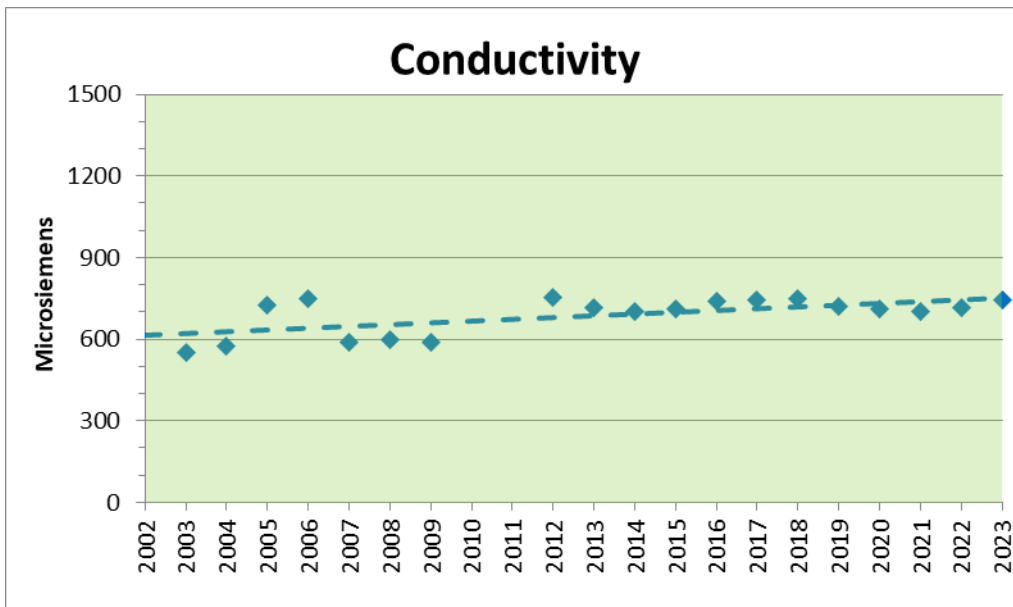
The pH at the lake surface trended downward over the testing history. It is important to look for the trend to flatten with additional years of data. Some fluctuation is expected, but major shifts or changes beyond the target range may indicate a larger problem. This year's test seems to continue the trend and not continue downward like the 2020 suggested. This test was within the target range.



Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)		
	April	August
West	519	453
East	521	451
Season Average	486	

**Target Range: 0 – 1,000 ppm**

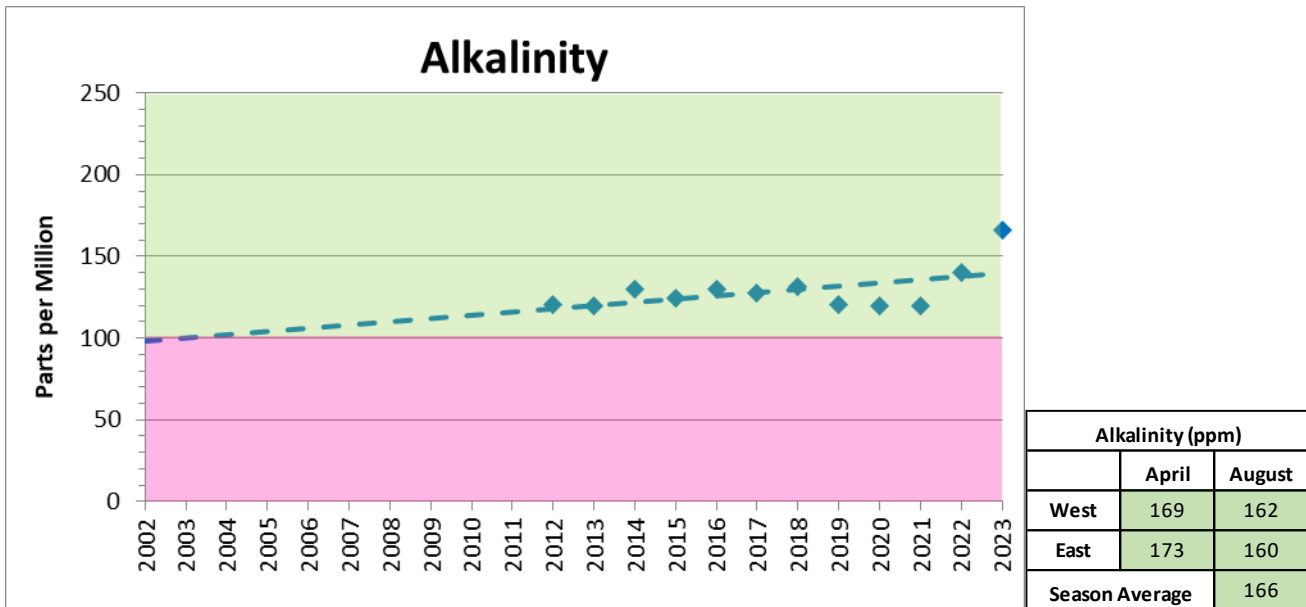
The total dissolved solids increased slowly during the testing history, showing that the lake is accumulating more substances. Continuing to harvest will remove substances from the lake, including nutrients, as they are bound into the plant biomass. Fewer plants also allows easier and faster water movement, which prevents deposition of sediments and increased flushing of excess substances.



Conductivity (µS)		
	April	August
West	799	697
East	786	694
Season Average	744	

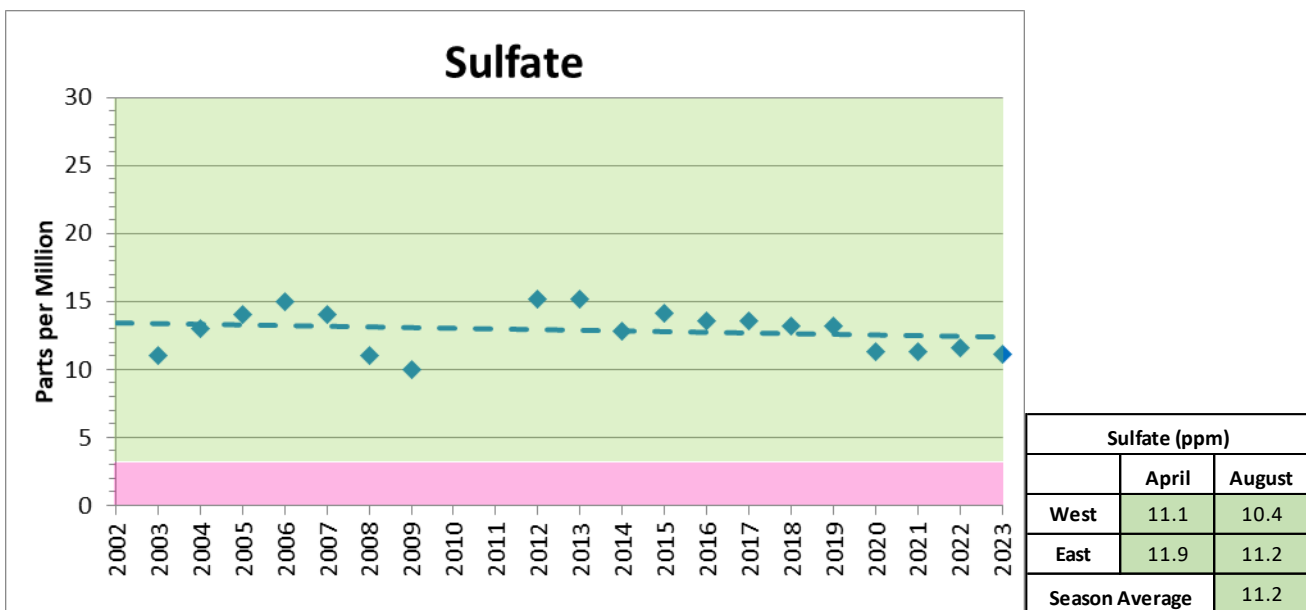
**Target Range: 0 – 1,500 µS**

Like the TDS, Conductivity increased over the testing history. Conductivity is a function of TDS and measures the amount of ionic molecules in the water (which conduct electricity; usually salts). We will look for this trend to slow in future years of testing.



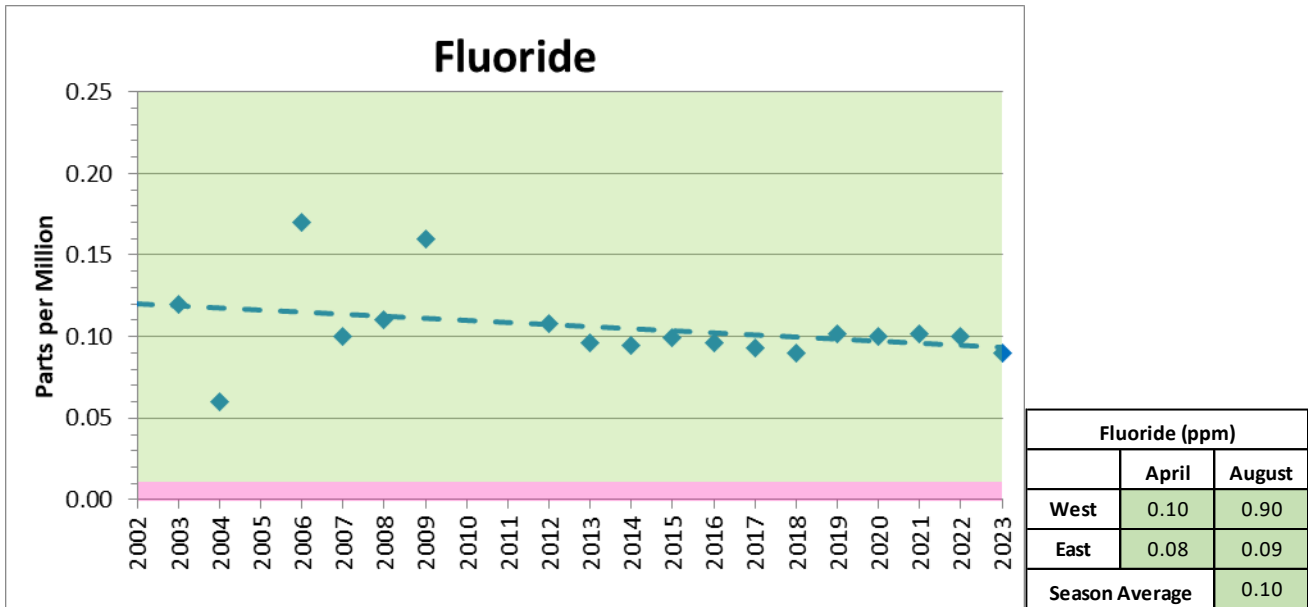
**Target Range: 0 – 250 ppm**

Alkalinity was first tested in 2012, so the historical data is limited. Since testing began, the alkalinity fluctuated mildly but did not show any significant trend. Additional carbonates are beneficial to the lake because they are natural buffers. Also, the changes in alkalinity contributed to the increases in total dissolved solids and conductivity. An increase this year can be due to the increase in rainfall. Supplying a higher amount of alkaline substances to the waterbody.



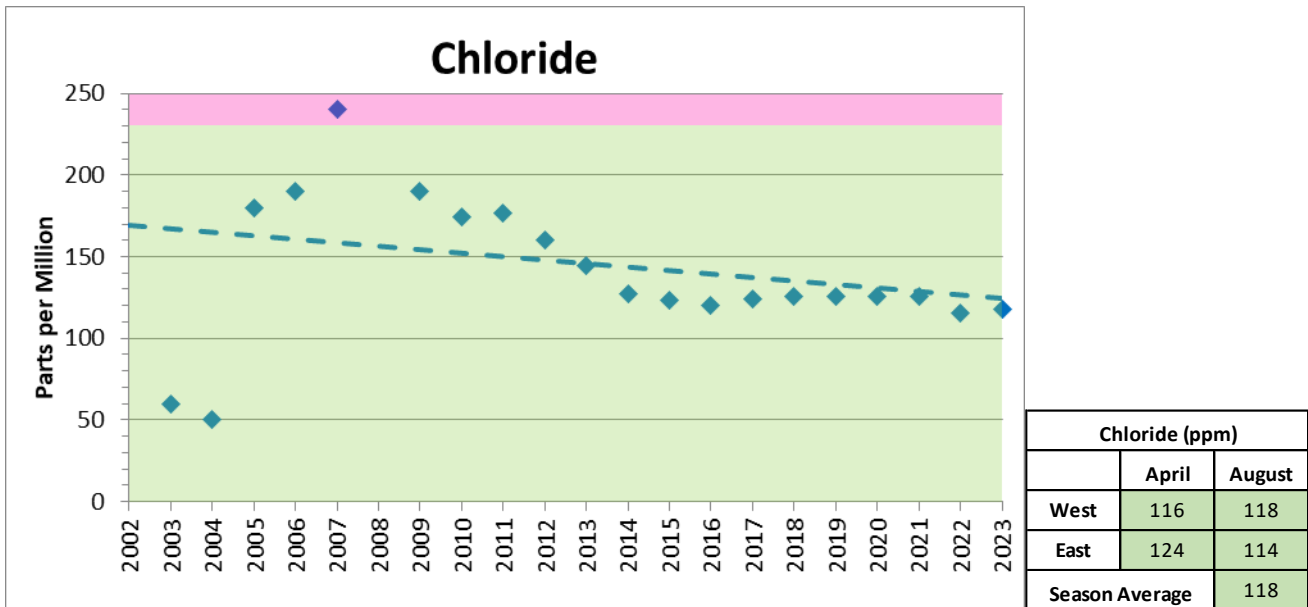
**Target Range: 3 – 30 ppm**

Sulfate has not changed significantly since 2002. It is important that this parameter stay within the target range and any significant increases should be investigated.



**Target Range: 0.01 – 0.30 ppm**

Fluoride decreased in the lake since testing began. It is important that this parameter stay within the target range and any significant increases will be investigated.



**Target Range: 0 – 230 ppm**

The trend line for Chloride was slightly downward, but recent years have been relatively flat. With concerns about road salt entering lakes, it is important that this parameter remain within the target range and any increases will be investigated.



### **Analysis Information**

Temperature:	The water temperature directly affects the amount of oxygen that can dissolve into the water. The temperature of surface waters is not indicative of the entire water column.
Dissolved Oxygen:	D.O. is a measure of the amount of oxygen dissolved in the water. This oxygen is available to fish and other animals for respiration. Vegetation generally increases DO, particularly during the day and early evening. Animals and other respiring organisms consume the oxygen, mostly during the day. Oxygen is also added to the lake through wave action, rain, fountains and aerators.
Total Phosphorus:	Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth. However, concentrations exceeding 100 ppb can impair the water and results in nuisance vegetation growth.
Phosphates:	Phosphate is the form of phosphorous that is most readily available to plants and algae.
Nitrate:	Nitrogen is also essential for plant growth. Nitrate is the predominant form of nitrogen in water. Excessive nitrate concentrations may also result in pollution and increased vegetation.
Chlorophyll-a:	Chlorophyll-a is a direct measurement of the amount of green pigment produced by plants and phytoplankton. This indicates the amount of plant growth and is used to calculate a Trophic State Index.
Transparency:	The ability of light to penetrate the water column is determined by the amount of dissolved and suspended particles in the water. Although aesthetically desirable, transparent water allows increased light to reach the lake bed and may result in vegetation growth.
pH:	pH is a measure of acidity or alkalinity. pH is a general measure of lake health and can roughly indicate the range of other measurements such as alkalinity and hardness.
TDS:	Total Dissolved Solids is the amount of all organic and inorganic substances in the water in a molecular or ionized state. Higher values generally indicate richer and more productive water. Lower values usually indicate cleaner and less productive water.
Conductivity:	Conductivity is a measure of the ability of water to conduct electricity. Dissolved ions in the water increase conductivity, thus TDS and Conductivity are closely related.
Alkalinity:	Alkalinity refers to the ability of the water to neutralize acids, mainly through the hydrogenation of carbonate ions. Therefore, the alkalinity is expressed as "ppm as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ". However, other basic molecules in the water can also contribute to alkalinity.
Sulfate:	Sulfate occurs naturally as minerals, such as calcium sulfate and magnesium sulfate. In fresh water, sulfate is usually the second or third most abundant anion. Other sources of sulfate include water material from pulp mills, steel mills, food processing operations, and municipal wastes. Under low oxygen conditions, sulfate can be reduced to hydrogen sulfide gas, which smells like rotten eggs.
Fluoride:	Fluoride may occur naturally or be added to public drinking water supplies.
Chloride:	Chloride is one of the major anions found in water and sewage. The presence of chlorides may be due to water passing through salt formations in the earth or pollution from industrial processes, domestic wastes, or road salt. The salt content of water affects the distribution of plant and animal life in an aquatic system, based on the amount of salt they can tolerate.



**Trophic States**

- Oligotrophic:** Water is very clear. Nutrient levels are generally low. Plant and algae productivity are also low. Sufficient dissolved oxygen in the bottom, cooler waters allows cold-water fish to survive, such as salmon and trout.
- Mesotrophic:** Water is moderately clear. Nutrient levels are slightly elevated. Plant and algae productivity are present, but generally not a nuisance. Oxygen and temperature in the lower portion of the lake allow walleye and perch to survive.
- Eutrophic:** Water is not clear due to high nutrients levels, increased turbidity, and excessive algal growth. There is no oxygen in the bottom, cooler waters, restricting the lake to warm water species, such as bass and bluegill.
- Hypereutrophic:** Nutrient levels are extremely high, promoting very high algae productivity. Blue-green algae blooms are likely. High turbidity and algae growth make the water opaque. Little plant growth is restricted to invasive plants. The only fish that can survive this environment are rough fish, such as carp, catfish, and mudminnows.

**Sample Sites:**

