



Overall Health of Birch Island Lake

Water quality of Birch Island Lake is poor, with average nutrient levels higher than state standards for shallow lakes. Birch Island Lake does have a diverse range of aquatic plants present in the lake. There are a total of 12 different plant species. Typically the plant community in the western two thirds of the lake is primarily comprised of cattails and other wetland vegetation. However, heavy rainfall during June of 2014 raised the water level in the lake by 6 feet, causing cattails to die off. In 2015 the invasive species purple loosestrife was recorded in aquatic plant cataloging.



2014 Cattail die off from rapid rise in water levels

Birch Island Lake Projects

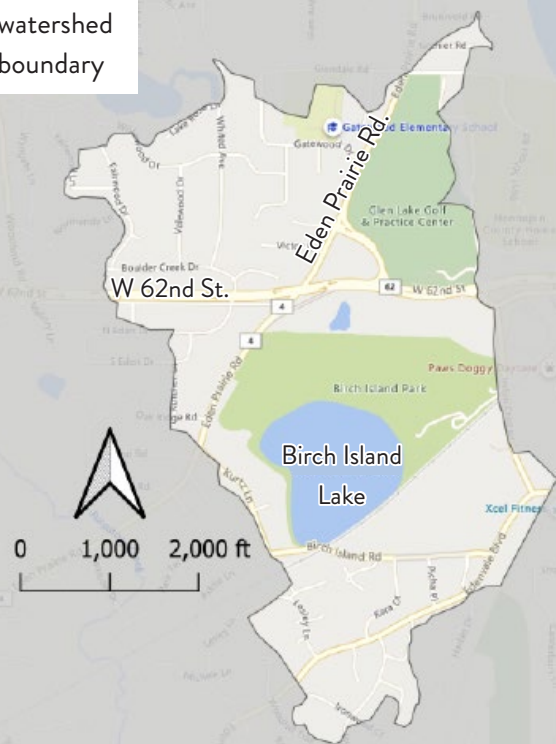
In 2008, the District installed a pipe to direct water from the area north of 62 into the lake. To address declining water levels in Birch Island Lake, The District also cleaned out and improved two existing stormwater basins and constructed a new stormwater pond to treat stormwater runoff prior to reaching Birch Island Lake to improve water quality. This project was part of the larger Eden Prairie Lakes Water Quality Improvement Project. The District is currently undertaking a water quality study at Birch Island Lake. Learn more at: ninemilecreek.org/birch-island-lake-study

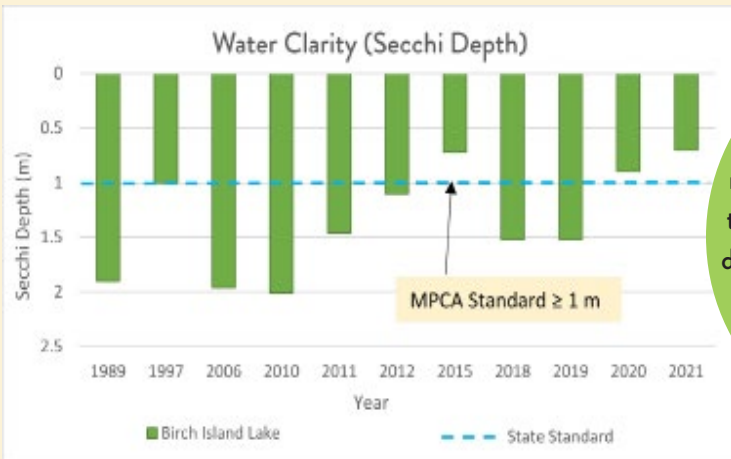
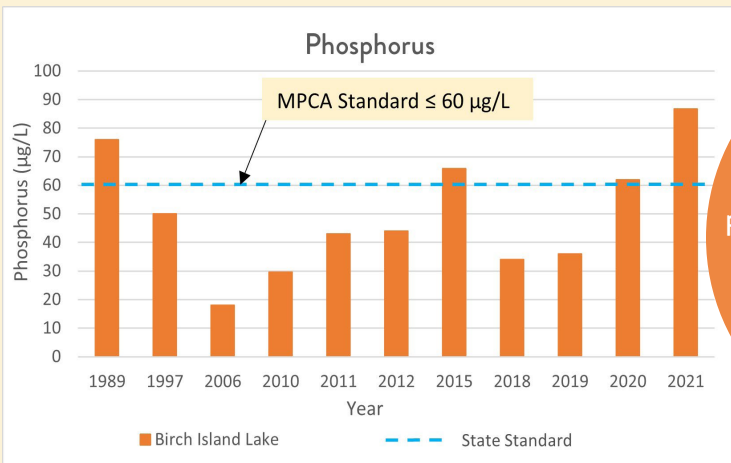
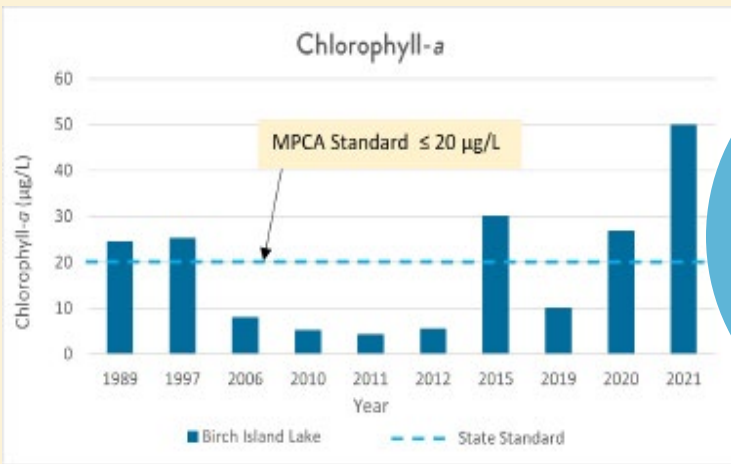
Lake Characteristics

Surface Area	25 acres
Average Depth	3.5 feet
Max Depth	21 feet
Watershed Size	526 acres
Location	Eden Prairie
Invasive Species	Purple loosestrife Goldfish

Birch Island Lake Watershed

— watershed boundary





What is Chlorophyll-a?
 Chl-a is the chemical that makes algae green. High levels of chl-a can mean that there is too much algae in the water. The higher levels of chl-a in Birch Island Lake indicate that water quality is poor.

What is Phosphorus?
 Phosphorus is a nutrient that algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus can “over-feed” algae in a lake, which can lead to algae blooms. Birch Island Lake’s higher phosphorus levels indicate poorer water quality.

What is Secchi Depth?
 Secchi Depth is a measurement of water clarity. To take the measurements, a Secchi disk is lowered into the water until it is no longer visible. These low Secchi depth values indicate poor water clarity.

Recreation

Fishing
 Birch Island Lake does not have public access for fishing.

Walking & Biking
 Nearby Birch Island Park has a hiking trail.

Parks
 Birch Island Park has a picnic area with a playground.

Swimming
 No public swimming beach.

Boating
 Birch Island Lake has canoe access.

Learn more:
ninemilecreek.org

How Can You Help?



1
 Clean watercraft and water equipment of all aquatic plants and mussels before leaving a body of water.
Why?
 It is important to clean water equipment to reduce the spread of invasive species.



2
 Sweep up leaves, grass clippings, and excess fertilizer from driveways and streets.
Why?
 Sweeping up yard waste will limit the amount of pollution that enters lakes through storm drains.



3
 Dispose of trash and pet waste appropriately.
Why?
 Picking up your trash and pet waste will help keep pollutants out of our lakes and creeks.



4
 Plant native plants in your garden, and water with care.
Why?
 Native plants have long roots that are more efficient at soaking up water and prevent runoff.