



9 MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

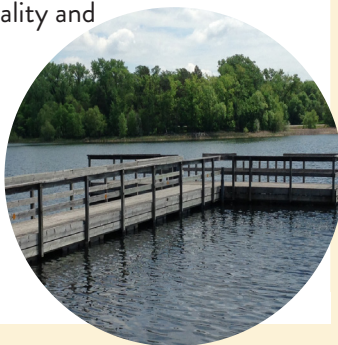
BUSH LAKE FACT SHEET

Overall Health of Bush Lake

Water quality in Bush Lake is excellent, with average nutrient concentrations well below the state standards. The current nutrient levels of the lake are low enough to prevent large, unwanted algae blooms. However, there are occasional algae blooms that are visible during summer months. These algae blooms are caused by urban stormwater runoff containing excess phosphorus, which fuels algae growth. The lake has a healthy plant community that meets state standards. Overall, the low levels of nutrients, small area that contributes runoff to the lake, and the healthy plant community contribute to the excellent health of Bush Lake. Recreational activity opportunities at Bush Lake include boating, fishing, and swimming.

Bush Lake Projects

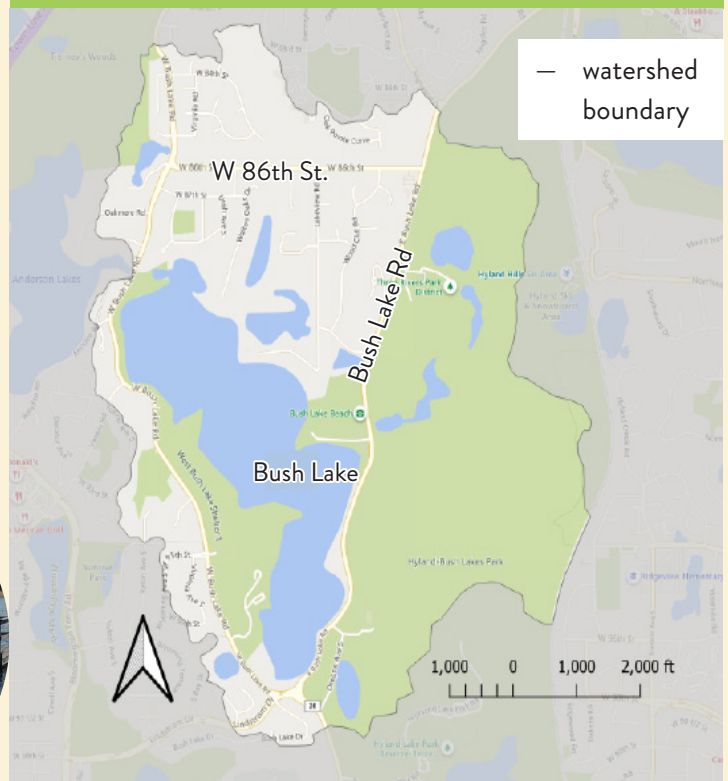
Prior to 2000, Bush Lake was landlocked, meaning the water entering the lake would remain in the lake, seep into the ground or evaporate. However, rising lake levels raised concerns among residents regarding flooding impacts on nearby properties. An outlet that allows water to be pumped from Bush Lake to Southeast Anderson Lake was built in 2000. The outlet is used when lake levels are higher than the normal elevation. Currently, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District does not have any projects planned for Bush Lake. The low nutrient levels and high water clarity indicate good water quality and do not require the watershed district to do a water quality improvement project at this time.

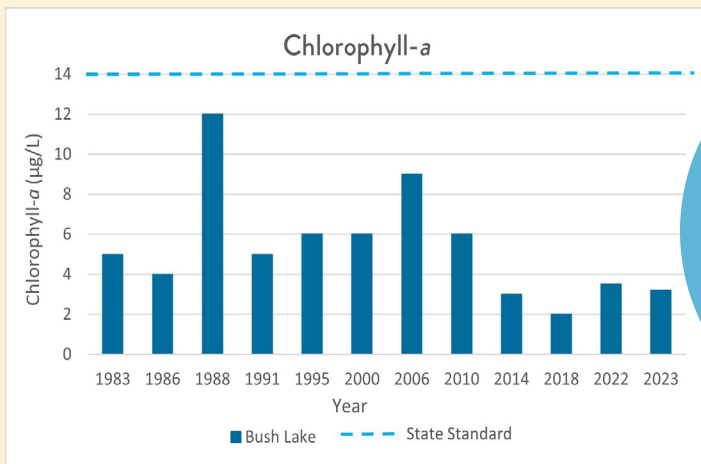


Lake Characteristics

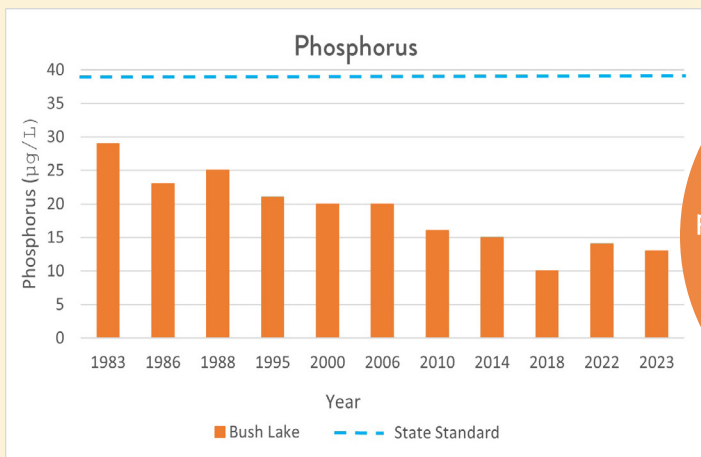
Surface Area	188 acres
Average Depth	9.8 feet
Max Depth	35 feet
Watershed Size	1285 acres
Location	Bloomington
Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curly-leaf pondweed• Eurasian watermilfoil• Common carp

Bush Lake Watershed

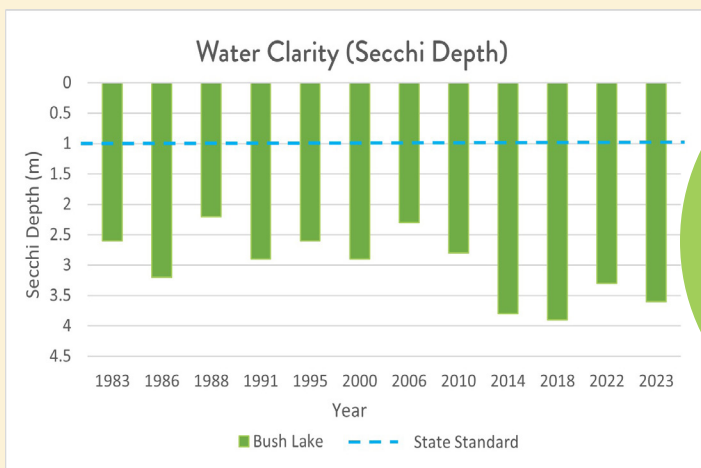




What is Chlorophyll-a ?
 Chl-a is the chemical that makes algae green. High levels of chl-a can mean that there is too much algae in the water. The low levels of Chl-a in Bush Lake tell us that water quality is good.



What is Phosphorus?
 Phosphorus is a nutrient that algae need to grow. Too much phosphorus can “over-feed” algae, leading to algae blooms. Bush Lake falls below the phosphorus state standard indicating good 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. A larger Secchi depth indicates better water clarity.

Recreation

Fishing



Bush Lake is full of a variety of fish. Fishing piers are located on the east and west side of the lake.

Walking & Biking



Bush Lake Loop is a 4.4 mile paved hiking and biking trail that circles Bush Lake.

Parks



Bush Lake Beach features a swimming beach, volleyball nets, picnic areas, and a playground.

Swimming



A public swimming beach is at Bush Lake Beach.

Boating



A boat launch is accessible at West Bush Lake Park. Boat motors are limited to a maximum of 6 horsepower.

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.