



## Overall Health of Indianhead Lake

Indianhead Lake’s water quality is poor, measurements for phosphorus and water clarity failed to meet the state standards for shallow lakes. Data collected in 2020 showed that Indianhead Lake is impaired. Indianhead is a land-locked basin with no surface outlet. For that reason, no flushing occurs and nutrients build up in the lake, especially during large rain events. Although more nutrients generally lead to more algal and plant growth, more nutrients do not guarantee more plant diversity. Monitoring teams only catalogued three different plant species in the 2020 plant survey. Two of those three plants were invasive species. Overall, the water quality of Indianhead lake is poor and the plant diversity is also poor and includes invasive species.



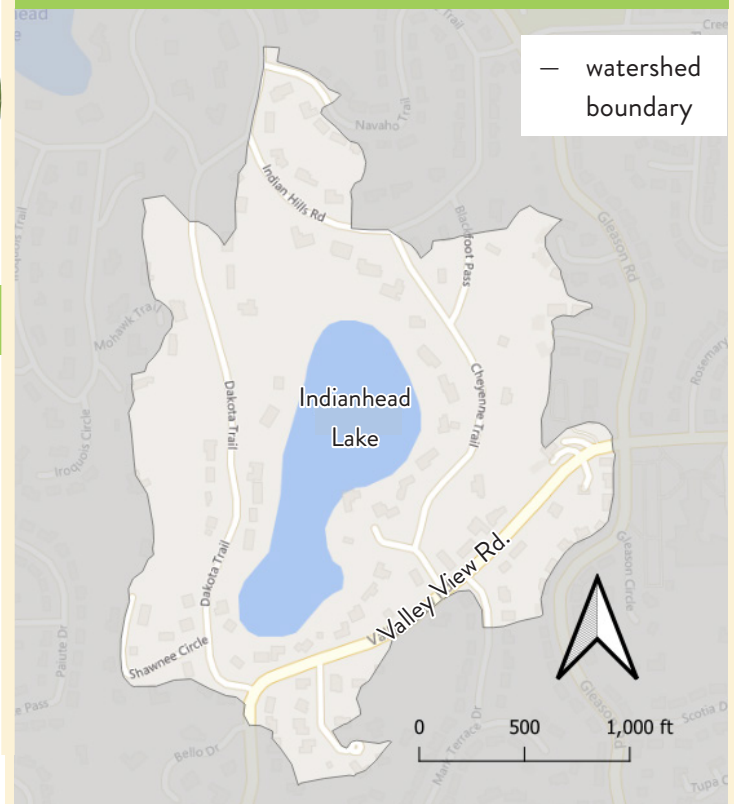
*Yellow Iris*

*Photo from MNDNR*

## Lake Characteristics

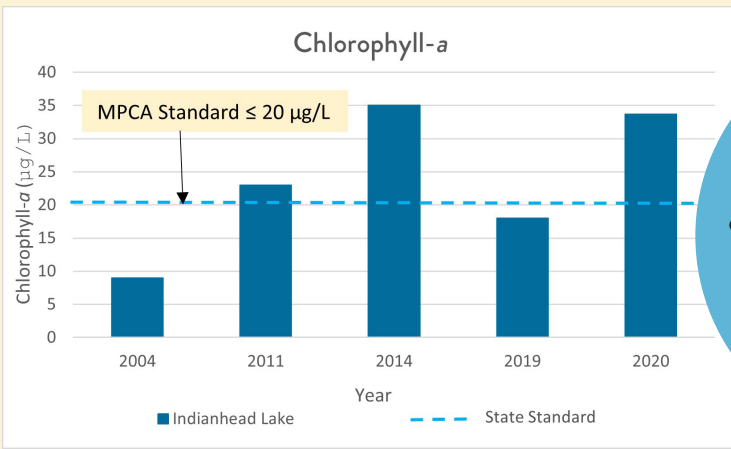
Surface Area	14 acres
Max Depth	6.5 feet
Watershed Size	107 acres
Location	Edina
Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple loosestrife</li> <li>• Yellow iris</li> </ul>

## Indianhead Lake Watershed

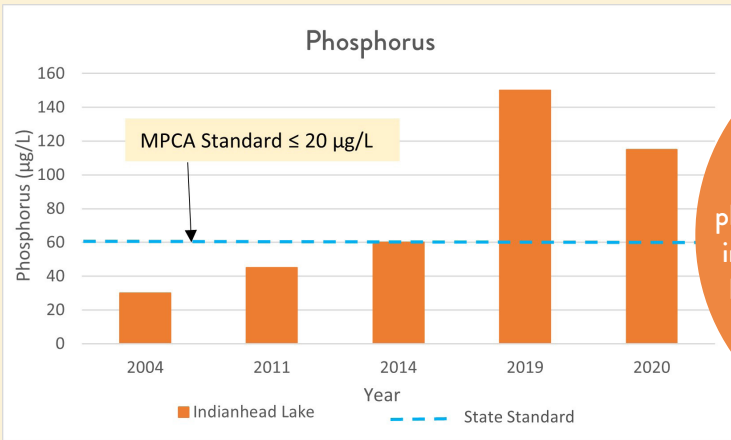


## Indianhead Lake Projects

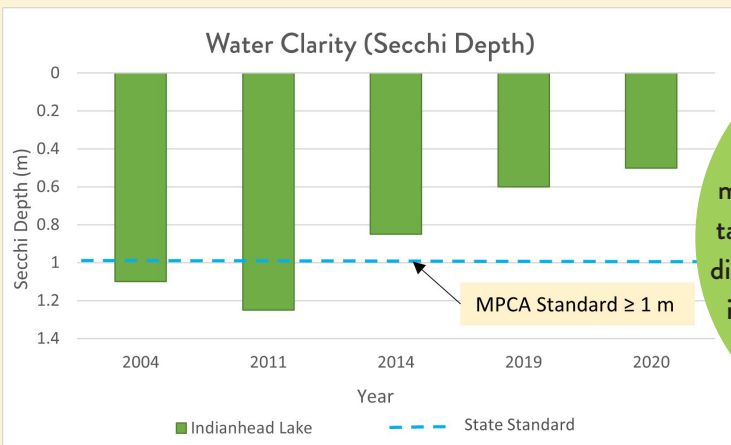
The District has completed a lake water quality study that identifies potential water quality improvement projects to help improve the overall health of the lakes. This study was finished in early 2022. In addition to the water quality study, the City of Edina had fisheries surveys done on Arrowhead and Indianhead Lakes. In early 2024, an alum treatment was conducted to bind phosphorus. For the first time, the District added iron to the treatment, increasing effectiveness. Residents were also offered free soil tests to encourage proper fertilization practices.



**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 Indianhead 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. Indianhead Lake’s high 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**   
 Indianhead Lake does not have public access for fishing.

**Walking & Biking**   
 Indianhead Lake does not have public trails.

**Parks**   
 Indianhead Lake does not have park amenities.

**Swimming**   
 No public swimming beach.

**Boating**   
 Indianhead Lake does not have public boat access.

**Learn more:**  
[ninemilecreek.org](http://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.