



## Overall Health of Normandale Lake

Normandale Lake is a man-made lake; it was converted to a lake from a wetland by the District in the late 1970s for flood control. It is a shallow lake that receives water from six cities and over 21,000 acres of land. Normandale Lake currently meets state standards for two of the three water quality standards used to judge a lake, and it is not on the state's impaired waters list. However, due to its shallow nature and urban watershed, it does have frequent algal blooms. These algal blooms can impede recreation due to odor and appearance. The District's Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project seeks to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the lake that fuels algae growth and reduce the amount of curly-leaf pondweed, an aquatic invasive species, in the lake.

## Normandale Lake Projects

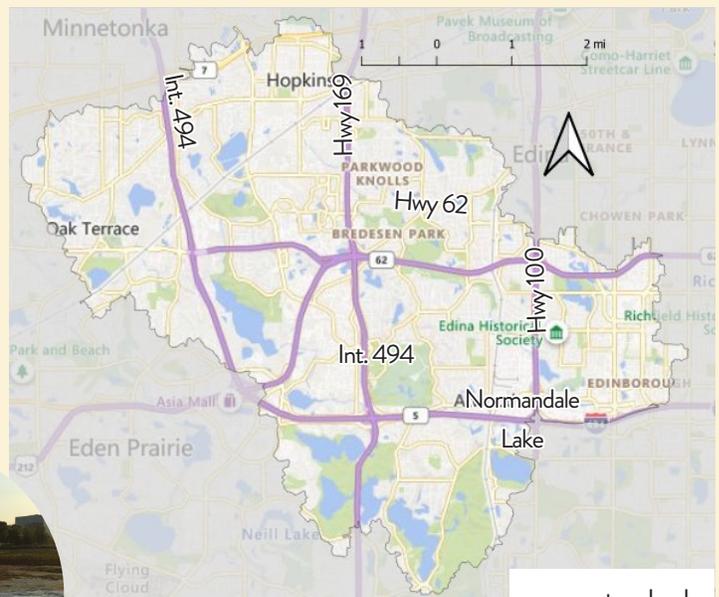
To improve the health of Normandale Lake, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and City of Bloomington conducted a lake drawdown, alum treatment, and herbicide treatment. The project goals were to reduce the amount of curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant, and reduce phosphorus release from the lake bottom. Normandale Lake was drawn down in August 2018-March 2019. Aquatic plant monitoring in 2019 and 2020 showed reduced curly-leaf pondweed in the lake from the drawdown. An alum treatment was conducted in Normandale Lake in May 2019 to help control phosphorous levels in the lake bottom. Herbicide treatments were completed yearly from 2020-2022 to target remaining curly-leaf pondweed in the lake. Water quality monitoring and plant monitoring will continue to track project outcomes. Herbicide treatments may be repeated in the future as we continue to track lake conditions.



## Lake Characteristics

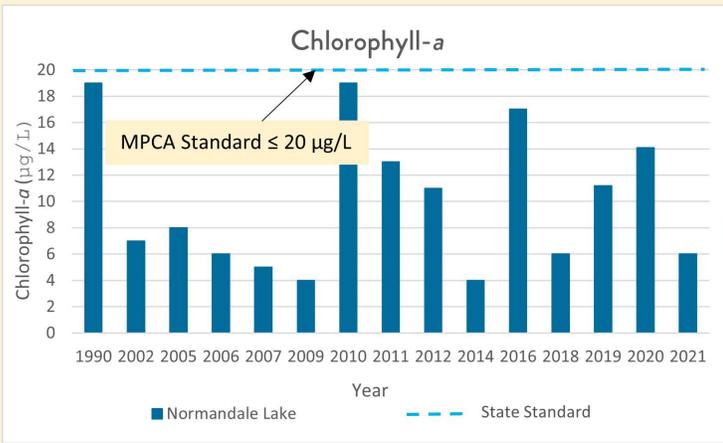
Surface Area	112 acres
Average Depth	4.2 feet
Max Depth	10 feet
Watershed Size	21,556 acres
Location	Bloomington
Invasive Species	Curly-leaf pondweed Eurasian watermilfoil Common carp

## Normandale Lake Watershed

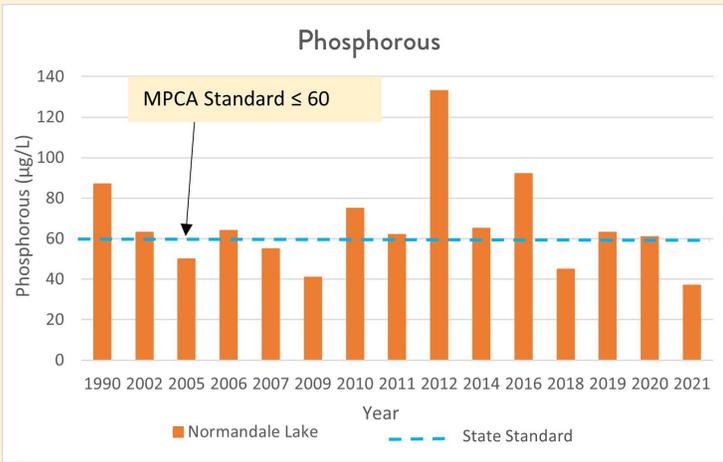


*Normandale lake during draw-down (September 2018)*

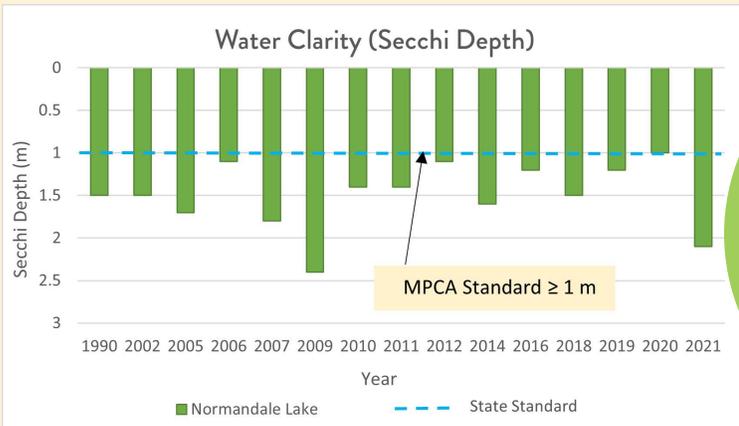
— watershed boundary



**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. Normandale's lower chl-a tells us that water quality is fairly good.



**What is Phosphorous?**  
 Phosphorous is a nutrient that algae need to grow. Too much phosphorous can "over-feed" algae in a lake, which can lead to algae blooms. Borderline phosphorous levels indicate fair 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**   
 Normandale Lake is a popular fishing lake in Bloomington.

**Walking & Biking**   
 A 1.9-mile paved walking and biking trail surrounds Normandale Lake.

**Parks**   
 Normandale Lake Park has picnic areas, an amphitheater, as well as access to trails and a boat launch.

**Swimming**   
 There is no public swimming beach.

**Boating**   
 There is a public boat launch on the west side of Normandale Lake. Boat motors are limited to a maximum of 6 horsepower.

**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.