



9 MILE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

PENN LAKE FACT SHEET

Overall Health of Penn Lake

Water quality of Penn Lake is poor, with average nutrient levels higher than state standards for shallow lakes. Phosphorus is the nutrient that fuels algae and plant growth. Too much phosphorus can lead to unwanted algae blooms in a lake. The high levels of phosphorus in Penn Lake have allowed for algae to grow. Algae has decreased water clarity and water quality of Penn Lake and reduced recreational opportunities. Overall, the high nutrient levels and presence of algae in Penn Lake indicate poor water quality. Because of the poor water quality, recreational activities are limited to scenic viewing, including bird watching, and canoeing.

Lake Characteristics

Surface Area	46 acres
Average Depth	5 feet
Max Depth	7 feet
Watershed Size	1,245 acres
Location	Bloomington
Invasive Species	Common carp Goldfish

Penn Lake Projects

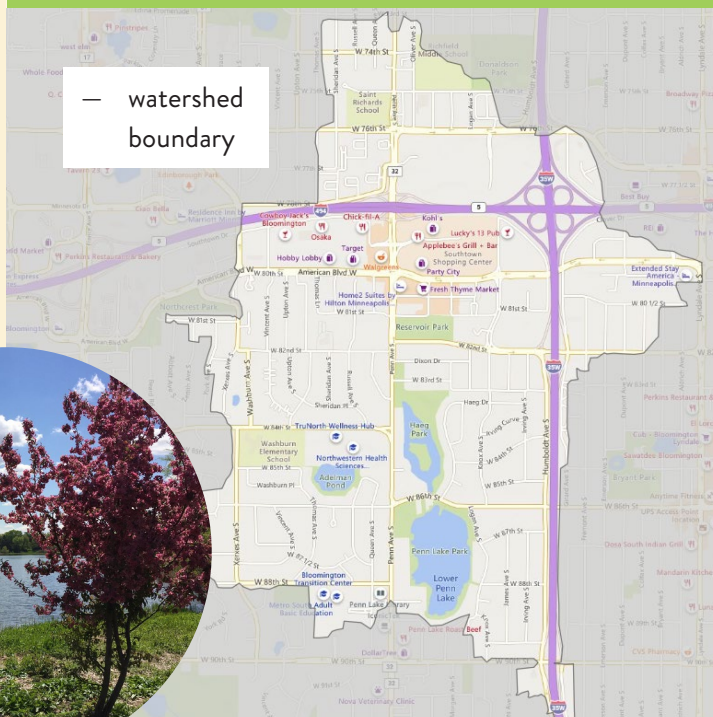
The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has not conducted any major water quality improvement projects on Penn Lake. Currently, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the City of Bloomington are working together to develop a plan to improve water quality conditions in the lake.

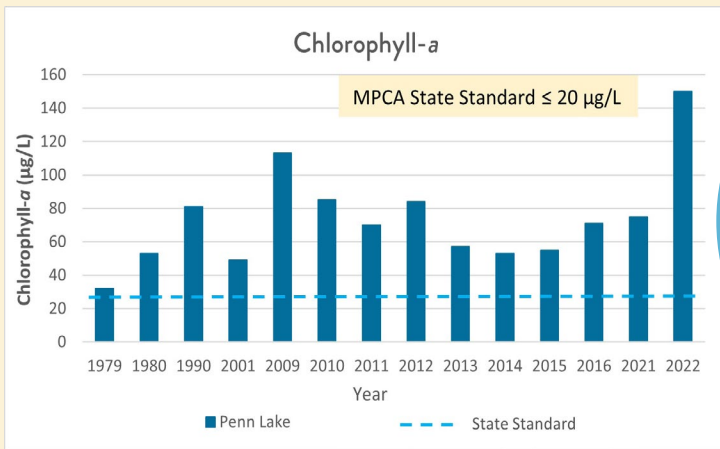
The District has helped fund several best management projects near Penn Lake. Best management projects include raingardens, shoreline buffers, habitat restorations, and more. These projects help reduce runoff that enters Penn Lake. The District also provides education on pollution and runoff prevention.

Penn Lake Park, Bloomington

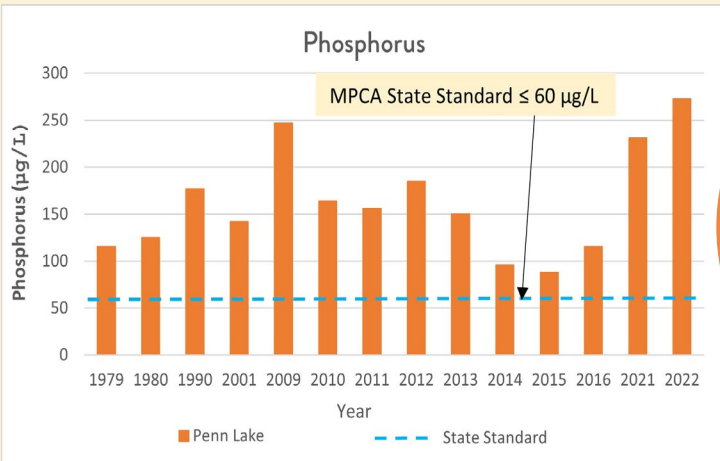


Penn Lake Watershed

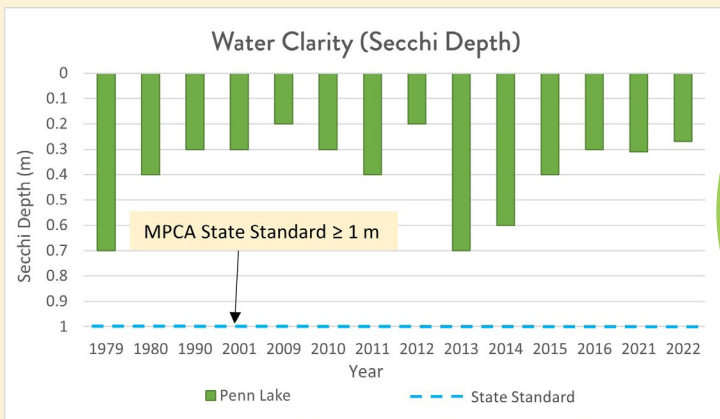




What is Chlorophyll-a ?
 Chl-a is the chemical that makes algae green. High levels of chl-a can mean that there is too much algae in the water. The higher levels of chl-a in Penn Lake indicate that water quality is poor.



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. Penn Lake has higher phosphorus levels, indicating 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. The smaller Secchi depth numbers indicate poor clarity.

Recreation

Fishing

Penn Lake has shoreline fishing.



Walking & Biking

Penn Lake does not have walking or biking trails.



Parks

Penn Lake Park has picnic areas with views of the lake and excellent bird watching areas.



Swimming

No public swimming beach.



Boating

A boat ramp is accessible at Penn Lake Park, only canoes allowed.



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.