

Waterbody Assessment

Screening Programs

Long-term records of lake water quality are critical for assessing trends or changes in the integrity of a lake system. The Metropolitan Council’s Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) has been utilizing volunteers to help obtain information on the health of Twin Cities lakes since 1993. Volunteers collect water samples for analysis and record observational information.

As of 2010, there are currently 7 lakes in the District that are actively monitored as part of the CAMP. In addition to the CAMP, the District has utilized the Washington Conservation District (WCD) to annually collect more detailed water quality data on Powers Lake and Armstrong Lake. The WCD also currently collects water level information on 8 lakes.

Citizen-Assisted Lake Monitoring Program

The SWWD participates in the Metropolitan Council’s Citizen-Assisted Lake Monitoring Program (CAMP). Lakes within the District are monitored on an annually rotating basis with the goal of maintaining long-term data records for all lakes in the District. Lakes chosen for monitoring are monitored biweekly from April to October. Monitoring is conducted at the deepest point of each lake and consists of water sample collection and in-field measurements of surface temperature, dissolved oxygen, and transparency. Samples are analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorous, and chlorophyll-a. Hypolimnion water quality samples are collected where appropriate. Using water quality results, grades are assigned to lakes based on the guidelines below. If possible, volunteers are recruited to conduct monitoring. Lakes without volunteers are monitored by the WCD. Data from the CAMP program is used to detect long-term trends in lake water quality.

Grade	Total Phosphorus (µg/L)	Chlorophyll-a (µg/L)	Secchi Depth (m)
A	< 23	< 10	> 3.0
B	23-32	10-20	3.0-2.2
C	32-68	20-48	2.2-1.2
D	68-152	48-77	1.2-0.7
F	> 152	> 77	< 0.7

Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) Grading Criteria