

Hello Lake Members :

I have been asked by the PL Association to take water quality readings of the lake and I have partial results from my August 8th, 2025 readings. I take "Secchi" readings, which are the depth at which you lose the visibility of the black & white disk from 5 spots in the lake - the 4 corners where the depth is at least 14' and then in the middle between the two points. I also took two water samples from the NE quadrant of the lake (boat launch) for analysis by independent labs - for total phosphorus and fecal coliform bacteria.

The total phosphorus reading was 0.155 mg/L with a detection limit 0.008 mg/L. The state proposed criteria is 0.010 mg/L. These numbers are more than 10 times the values recorded in the 90's and in 2023 so I question the results. Next time I will probably take samples from the 4 corners of the lake.

The same firm analyzed my sample as the samples from 2023.

I have not received the fecal coliform results.

The secchi readings ranged from 11' on the west half of the lake and 13-15' at the center and east half of the lake. These readings are similar to what I recorded between 2003-2006 and what was recorded in the 1989-1994 period about the same time of the year.

The pH of the lake was in the normal range using a wide range pH paper.

The water temperature was 23°C (73°F) from top to bottom. The wind had been blowing so it likely turned the lake over and mixed it.

The goal is to document the lake data monthly from May through October.

Sincerely, Michael

Posted by Michael Fitz, August 24, 2024

Phillips Lake Visibility and Sampe results:

I was going to post yesterday that everyone should get out and pick up dog and animal feces prior to the rain to keep it out of the lake!!!

That said, I finally received the Fecal Coliform lab report from the 8/8/2025 sample taken on the NE quadrant of the lake - basically negative!

The 9/2/2025 secchi disk visibility readings were consistently 11' at all locations in the lake, down somewhat from the 8/8/2025 readings but it has been very sunny, warm water and lots of boating.

Posted by Michael Fitz 9/22/25

Yesterday was the lowest lake level of the year - -39.5" on my scale, 0=top of my bulkhead.

I received the latest test results of the 9/2/2025 phosphorus and Secchi disk readings as follows:

A = NE corner of lake 0.012 mg P/L - 11'

B = SE corner of lake 0.008 " - 11'

C = SW corner of lake ND " - 11'

D = NW corner of lake 0.010 " - 11'

E = Center of lake between points - 11'

Water temperature at the surface was 75 F, sunny and a light wind from the south.

Reposting the results from the 8/8/2025 taken further N of A (100Y S of boat ramp)

Fecal Coliform - <2 (Good)

Phosphorus 0.153 mg P/L (over 10 times current readings). The WA Department of Ecology uses 0.010 mg P/L as a proposed criteria/ level.

The same lab analyzed the phosphorus samples, and the sampling procedure was the same....
Based on these results, I do not recommend taking any further water samples this year. I will try and get one or two more Secchi disk readings before I take the boat out.

Thanks,

Posted by Michael Fitz 10/19/25

With the 5" of rain coming, today is the time to remove all dog and other animal poop so it doesn't get washed into the lake!

The water level is -27.7" (measurement down from top of my bulkhead, which is about 20.5" above the concrete weir at the lake outlet). In perspective, this same date level is about the same as 2000 but 20.2" lower than 2003.

Posted by Michael Fitz 12/6/2025
