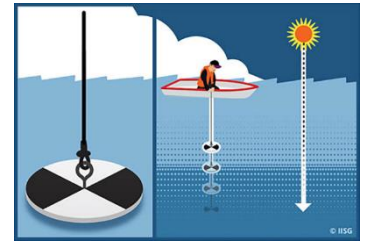




Belgrade Lakes Water Quality Summary

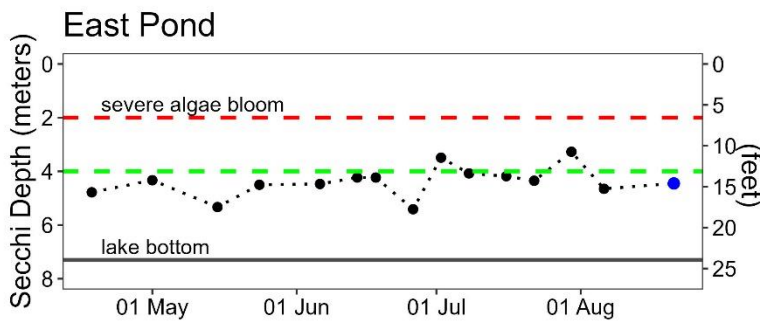
Updated August 30st 2024



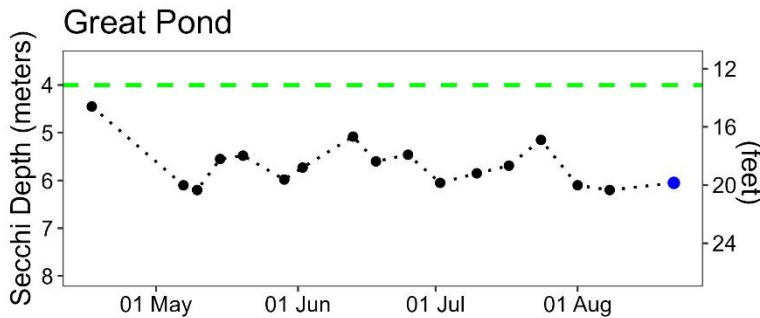
Secchi disk

Secchi Depth = the depth where a Secchi disk is no longer visible when lowered into the water

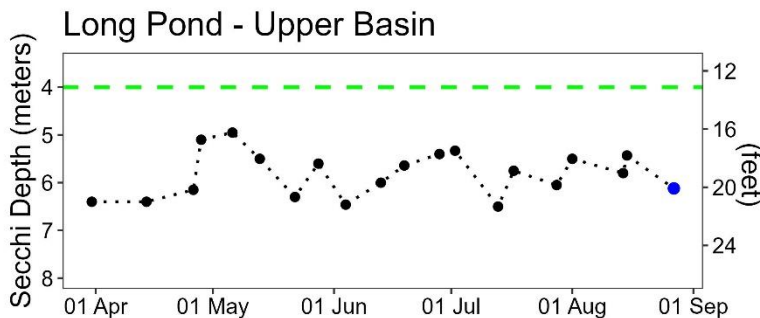
- Deeper Secchi depth means clearer water!
- 4 meters (13 feet) indicates an increase in algae growth
- 2 meters (6 feet) indicates a severe algae bloom



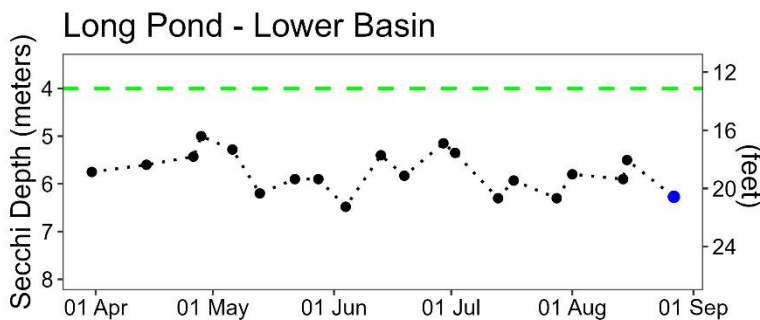
East Pond water clarity was fair until early- July, when we saw an increase in algae growth. While not considered a severe algae bloom (Secchi depth less than 2 meters) we are monitoring East Pond on a weekly basis. Current water clarity is below 2023 average (5.4 meters).

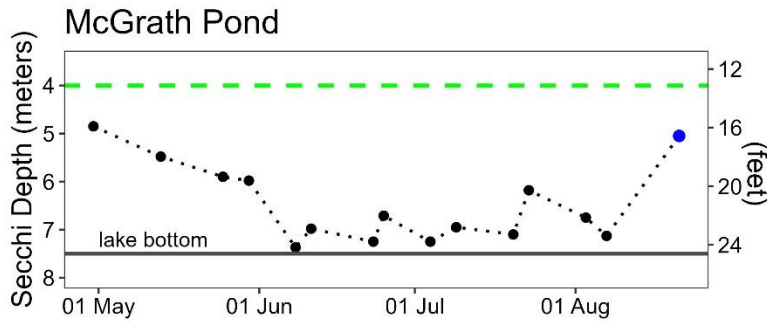


Great Pond has had good water clarity all season, although some algal scums were observed during the late-June heat wave. Current water clarity is in line with 2023 average (5.7 meters).

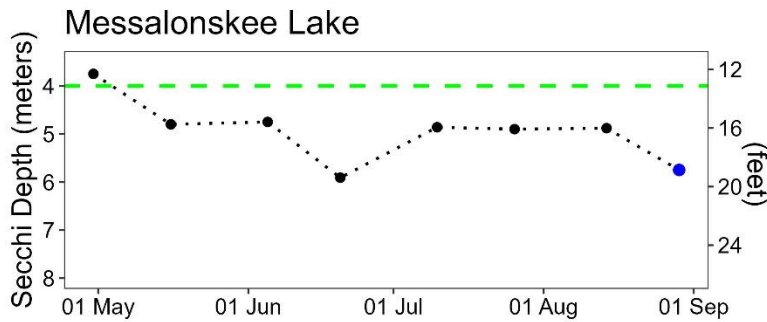


Both basins of **Long Pond** have had good water clarity throughout the season, but like Great Pond, some algal scums were observed at the end of June following the heat wave. These scums too have dissipated. Current water clarity is even with 2023 averages (5.6 and 5.3 meters).

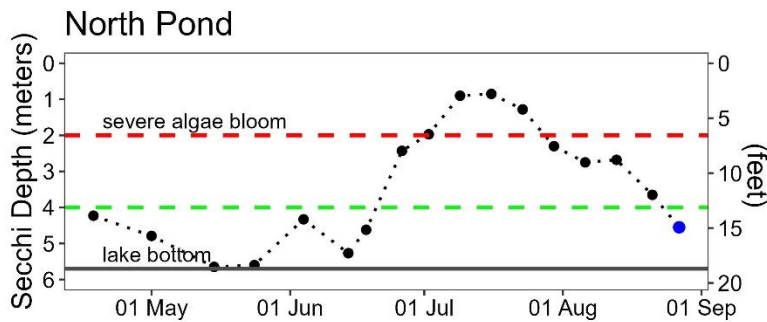




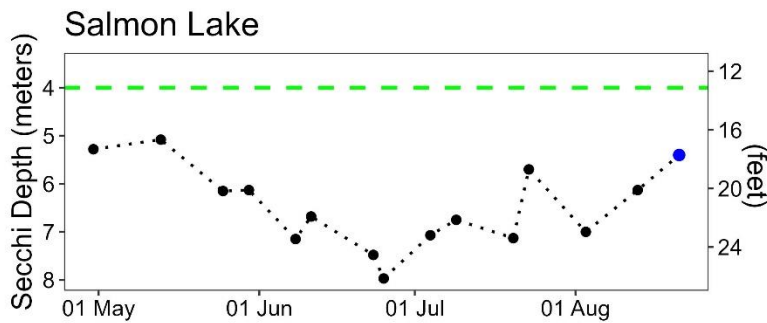
McGrath Pond water clarity was great all season with water clear to the bottom of the lake. Although shallow, McGrath is deep enough to become thermally stratified (warm surface water 0 to 5 meters, cooler beneath 5 meters). The recent cool air temperatures allowed the entire lake to become a uniform temperature which induced mixing, leading to the sudden decrease in water clarity.



Messalonskee Lake water clarity has been good all season, and is currently better than 2023 average (4.5 meters).



North Pond had an algal bloom in late-June following a heat wave which has now dissipated. While current water clarity is good, a fall bloom is still possible due to the seasonal cycle of nutrients and algae.



Salmon Lake water clarity increased throughout the summer and remains high. In previous years, Salmon Lake has had algae blooms in late-Summer. Currently, water clarity is better than 2023 average (4.7 meters).

*** Thank you to the volunteer monitors whose data are included in this report.** To learn more about becoming a volunteer monitor or for questions regarding lake water quality, please visit our website at 7lakesalliance.org or contact the Lake Science staff:

- Dr. Danielle Wain, Lake Science Director (danielle.wain@7lakesalliance.org)
- Matt Farragher, Lake Scientist (matt.farragher@7lakesalliance.org)

-Do not swim in algal scums!

-Always check your boats and gear for plants, before and after being on the water. Remove any plants before entering any body of water.

STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

CLEAN <small>gear, boat, trailer, and vehicle of plants, fish, animals, debris, and mud.</small>	DRAIN <small>bilge, ballast, wells and buckets away from the water before you leave.</small>	DRY <small>equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water.</small>
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