

Total Phosphorus Data

-Unity Pond- Lake Winnecook

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Volunteer monitors can also be trained to measure the concentration of phosphorus in their lakes. The method used by most volunteers involves collecting a sample from a few inches below the water surface at the designated monitoring station. Samples are analyzed for total phosphorus (TP), which includes all of the organic and inorganic forms of the element that may be present in the water in solution or in particulate form.

Phosphorus is the nutrient that most influences the growth of algae in lakes. An increase in the concentration of total phosphorus in the water generally indicates a potential increase in biological productivity of the system. Tracking changes over time in lake phosphorus levels is another way of monitoring water quality. Combined with Secchi transparency readings, TP data can provide additional insight into the complex dynamics of a lake's trophic state and water quality.

Collection Date	Total Phosphorous (Micrograms/liter)
5/20/07	18
6/16/07	16
7/14/07	17
8/11/07	14
9/11/07	24

0-10 ug/L -Oligotrophic- Low algae growth and high water clarity

11-20 ug/L- Mesotrophic- Moderate algae growth and water clarity

21+ ug/L- Eutrophic- Excessive algae growth and low water clarity

Secchi Disk Readings 2007

