

PROVINCE LAKE

2021 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

Station – 1 Deep

Wakefield, NH and Parsonsfield, ME



Blue = Oligotrophic

Yellow = Mesotrophic

Red = Eutrophic

Gray = No Data

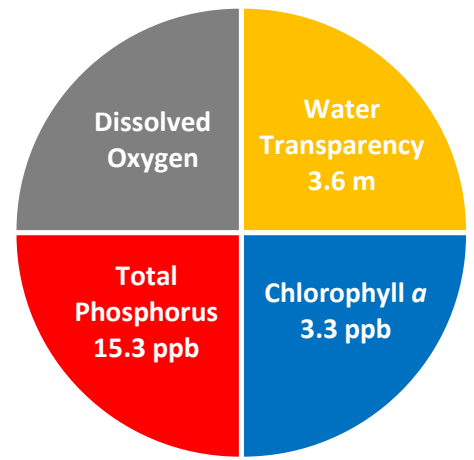


Figure 1. Province Lake Water Quality (2021)

Station 1 Deep (Figure 7) was used as a reference point to represent the overall Province Lake water quality. Water quality data displayed in Tables 1 and 2 are surface water measurements with the exception of the dissolved oxygen data that were collected near the lake bottom.

Table 1. 2021 Province Lake Seasonal Averages and NH DES Aquatic Life Nutrient Criteria¹

Parameter	Oligotrophic	Mesotrophic	Eutrophic	Province Lake Average (range)	Province Lake Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	4.0 – 7.0	2.5 - 4.0	< 2.5	3.6 meters (3.0 – 4.9)	Mesotrophic
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> ¹ (ppb)	< 3.3	> 3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	3.3 ppb (2.6 – 4.1)	Oligotrophic
Total Phosphorus ¹ (ppb)	< 8.0	> 8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	15.3 ppb (10.6 – 17.9)	Eutrophic
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	5.0 – 7.0	2.0 – 5.0	<2.0	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

* Dissolved oxygen criteria not assessed due to the lack of a deep cold water layer in Province Lake.

Table 2. 2021 Province Lake Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Province Lake Average (range)	Province Lake Classification
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 slightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	25.9 color units (range: 21.4 – 31.4)	Slightly tea colored
Alkalinity (mg/L)	< 0.0 acidified	0.1 – 2.0 extremely vulnerable	2.1 – 10 moderately vulnerable	10.1 – 25.0 low vulnerability	> 25.0 not vulnerable	7.3 mg/L (range: 6.8 – 7.8)	Moderately vulnerable
pH (std units)	< 5.5 suboptimal for successful growth and reproduction		6.5 – 9.0 optimal range for fish growth and reproduction			6.5 standard units (range: 6.3 – 6.7)	Optimal range for fish growth and reproduction
Specific Conductivity (uS/cm)	< 50 uS/cm Characteristic of minimally impacted NH lakes		50-100 uS/cm Lakes with some human influence	> 100 uS/cm Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances		63.6 uS/cm (range: 61.6 – 64.9)	Characteristic of lakes with some human influence

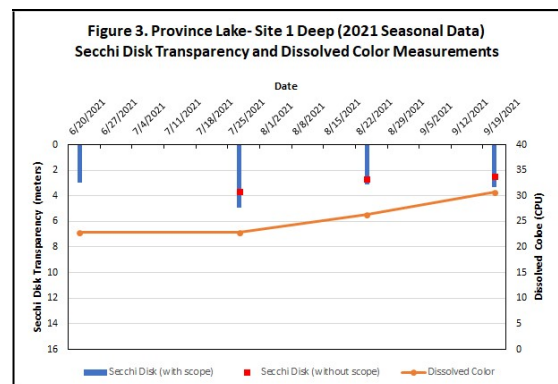
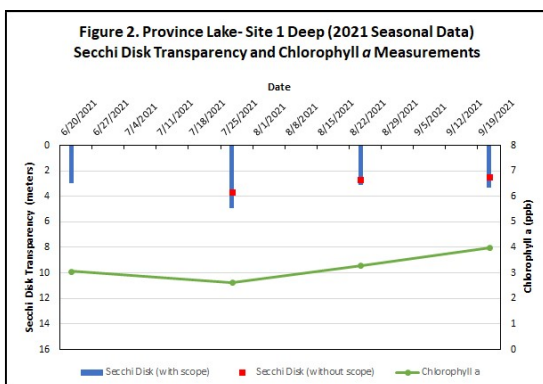


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* concentrations and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in chlorophyll *a* and/or color concentrations. Secchi Disk transparency data are reported for measurements collected with and without a viewing scope.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

WATER CLARITY: The Province Lake water clarity data, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, have oscillated among years and display a stable trend over a forty-two year span of water quality monitoring (Figure 4). The long-term water clarity trend is based on the Secchi Disk transparency measurements that have been collected without a view scope.

CHLOROPHYLL: The Province Lake chlorophyll *a* concentrations, a measure of microscopic plant life within the lake, display a trend of decreasing concentrations over a forty-two year span of water quality monitoring (Figure 4).

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS: The Province Lake total phosphorus concentrations, the nutrient most responsible for microscopic plant growth, display a trend of increasing nutrient concentrations over a forty-two year span of water quality monitoring (Figure 5).

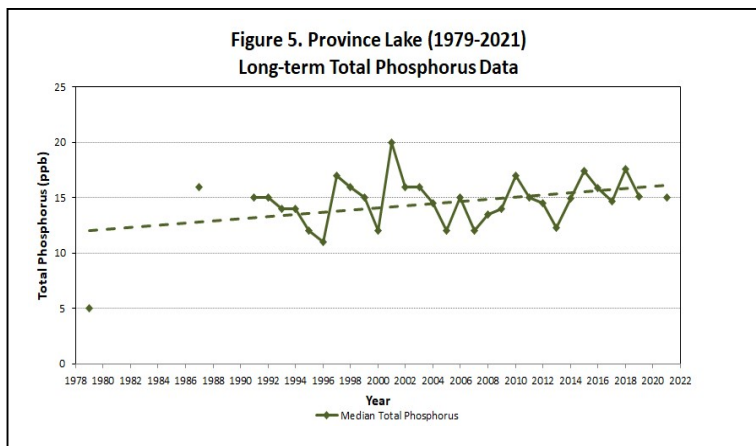
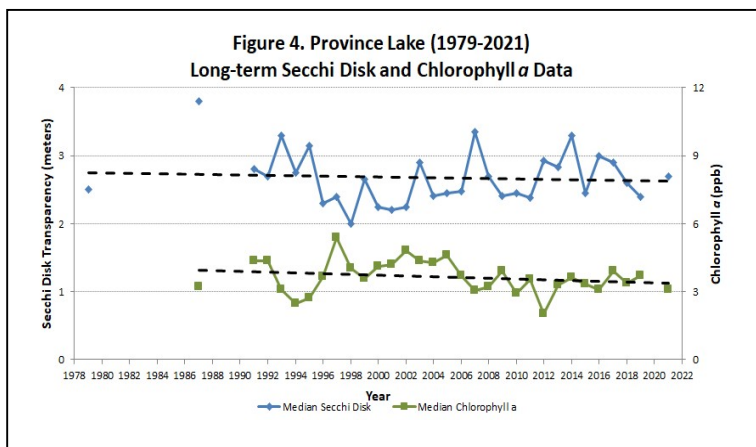


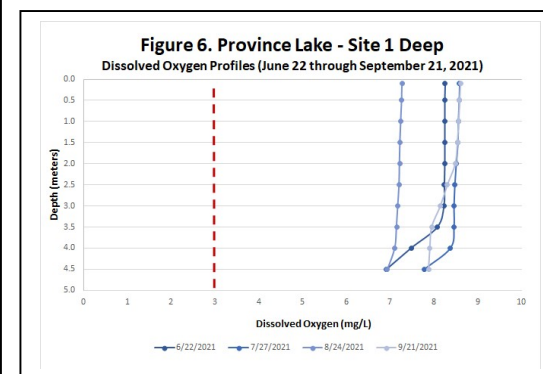
Table 3. Province Lake Steam Inlet and Outlet Seasonal Average Water Quality Inter-Site Comparison (2021)

Site Name	Average (range) Total Phosphorus (ppb)	Average (range) Specific Conductivity (μ S/cm)	Average (range) Alkalinity (mg/L)	Average (range) pH (standard units)
Campground Inlet PROEFFC	20.0 ppb (6.6 – 58.1)	37.4 μ S/cm (28.7 – 43.5)	7.7 mg/L (4.4 – 9.4)	6.2 units (6.0 – 6.4)
Golf Course PROEFFGC	63.9 ppb (29.0 – 98.7)	66.9 μ S/cm (58.9 – 74.9)	15.3 mg/L (12.5 – 18.1)	6.3 units (6.3 – 6.4)
Island Inlet PROEFFI	21.6 ppb (15.9 – 33.2)	47.2 μ S/cm (32.7 – 54.8)	12.2 mg/L (8.7 – 13.9)	5.9 units (5.9 – 6.0)
Outlet PROEFFO	15.8 ppb (12.4 – 20.7)	63.7 μ S/cm (63.2 – 64.3)	7.2 mg/L (7.0 – 7.5)	6.4 units (6.3 – 6.6)
Rt. 153 Inlet PROEFFR	21.8 ppb (17.1 – 25.5)	43.5 μ S/cm (40.6 – 45.7)	7.9 mg/L (6.3 – 9.9)	5.6 units (5.4 – 5.7)

Note: The data displayed in Table 3 represent the regularly sampled streams during dry weather (non-storm) sampling events.

Figures 4 and 5. Changes in the Province Lake water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a* and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1979 and 2021. **These data illustrate the relationship between microscopic plant growth and water clarity. Total phosphorus data are also displayed and are oftentimes correlated with the amount of plant growth.** Long-term trends are based on the analysis of annual median values.

Figure 6. Monthly Province Lake dissolved oxygen profiles collected between June 22 and September 21, 2021. The vertical red line indicates the oxygen concentration commonly considered the threshold for successful growth and reproduction of warm water fish such as bass and perch.



Recommendations

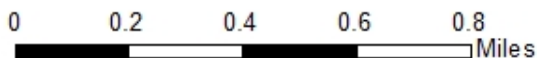
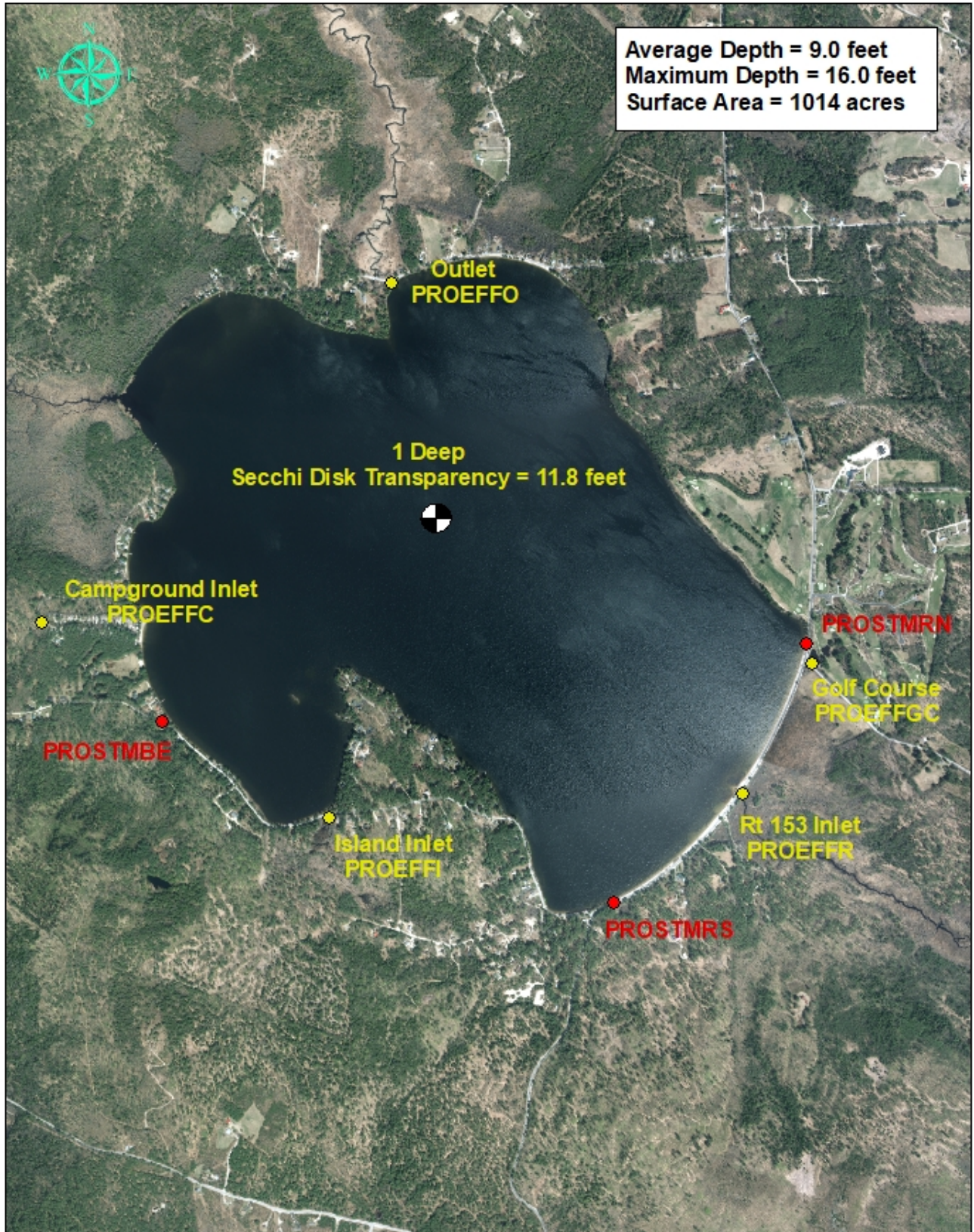
Review the “Province Lake Watershed Management Plan” that provides background information and offers potential solutions to existing water quality problems. Homeowners within the Province Lake watershed should consider implementing Best Management Practices to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion on Province Lake. Homeowners can also refer to “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” and “New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home”. Both self-help documents offer relatively simple solutions to reduce nutrient loading caused by overland run-off while the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance also offers technical assistance to help design and implement erosion control projects that protect your property and improve water quality.

- https://provincelake.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/E-version_ProvinceLakeWatershedPlan_14Oct14_FINALSmall.pdf
- https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159_Rep5940.pdf
- <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/homeowner-guide-stormwater.pdf>
- <https://awwatersheds.org/healthy-lakes/conservation-practices-for-homeowners/>

Figure 7. Province Lake

Wakefield, NH and Parsonsfield, ME

2021 Lake and Stream sampling locations with seasonal average water clarity



Aerial Orthophoto Source: NH GRANIT
Site location GPS coordinates collected by the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology



Extension

