

# NATICOOK LAKE

## 2015 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

### Station – 1 Deep

Merrimack, NH



Blue = Oligotrophic

Yellow = Mesotrophic

Red = Eutrophic

Gray = Not Assessed

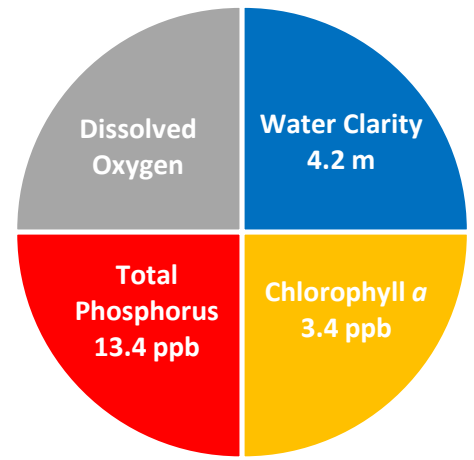


Figure 1. Naticook Lake Water Quality (2015)

Station 1 Deep (Figure 8) was used as a reference point to represent the overall Naticook Lake water quality. Water quality data displayed in Tables 1 and 2 are surface water measurements with the exception of the Dissolved Oxygen data.

Table 1. 2015 Naticook Lake Seasonal Averages and NH DES Aquatic Life Nutrient Criteria

Parameter	Oligotrophic	Mesotrophic	Eutrophic	Naticook Lake Average (range)	Naticook Lake Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	4.0 – 7.0	2.5 - 4.0	< 2.5	4.2 meters (3.4 – 5.4)	Oligotrophic
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb)	< 3.3	> 3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	3.4 ppb (1.8 – 4.1)	Mesotrophic
Total Phosphorus (ppb)	< 8.0	> 8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	13.4 (single sample)	Eutrophic
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	5.0 – 7.0	2.0 – 5.0	<2.0	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

\* Naticook Lake did not develop a deep water layer that is the basis for the dissolved oxygen classification criteria.

Table 2. 2015 Naticook Lake Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Naticook Lake Average (range)	Naticook Lake Classification
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	26.8 color units (20.2 – 31.8)	Lightly 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	19.1 mg/L (18.6 – 19.7)	Low Vulnerability
pH (std units)	< 5.5 suboptimal for successful growth and reproduction		6.5 – 9.0 optimal range for fish growth and reproduction			7.0 standard units (range: 6.5 – 7.1)	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		238.4 uS/cm (range: 237.1 – 245.0)	Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances

Figure 2. Naticook Lake - Site 1 Deep (2015 Seasonal Data) Secchi Disk Transparency and Chlorophyll *a* Data

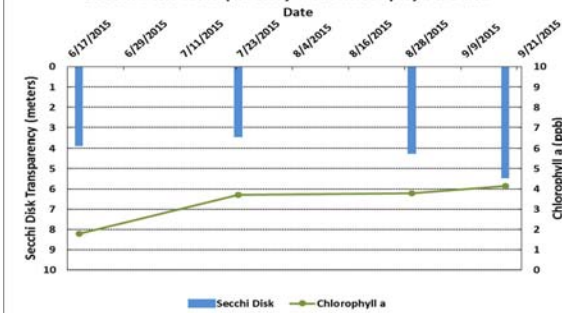


Figure 3. Naticook Lake - Site 1 Deep (2015 Seasonal Data) Secchi Disk Transparency and Dissolved Color Data

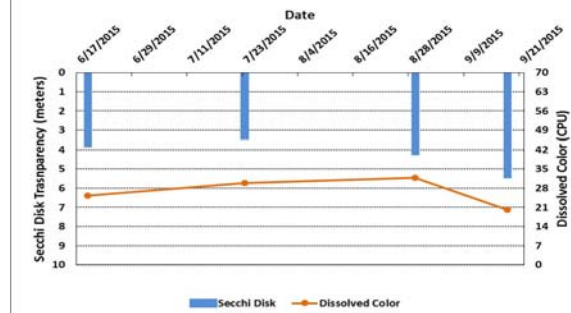


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* changes, and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in chlorophyll *a* and/or color concentrations.

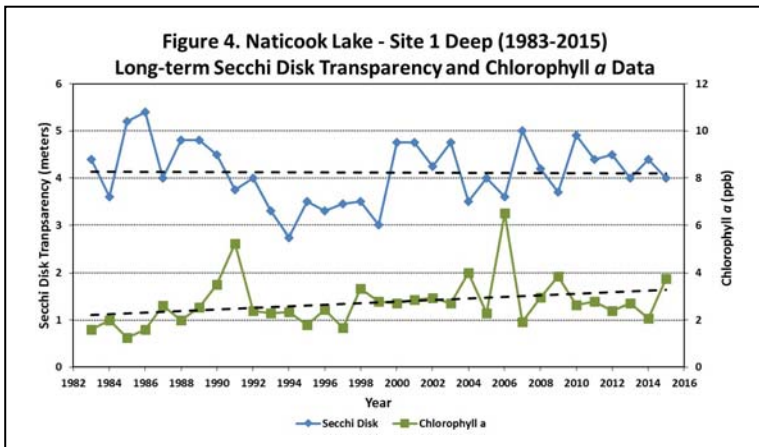
## LONG-TERM TRENDS

**WATER CLARITY:** The Naticook Lake water clarity measurements, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, display a trend of relatively stable long-term Secchi Disk transparency (Figure 4). However, annual variations are evident.

**CHLOROPHYLL:** The Naticook Lake chlorophyll *a* concentrations, a measure of microscopic plant life within the lake, display a trend of increasing concentrations (Figure 4).

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Phosphorus is the nutrient most responsible for microscopic plant growth. The Naticook Lake total phosphorus concentrations display a trend of increasing concentrations (Figure 5).

**COLOR:** The Naticook Lake color data, the result of naturally occurring “tea” color substances from the breakdown of soils and plant materials, display a trend of increasing concentrations (Figure 5).



Figures 4 and 5. Changes in the Naticook Lake water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a*, dissolved color, and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1983 and 2015. **These data illustrate the relationship among plant growth, water color, and water clarity. Total phosphorus data are also displayed and are oftentimes correlated with the amount of plant growth.**

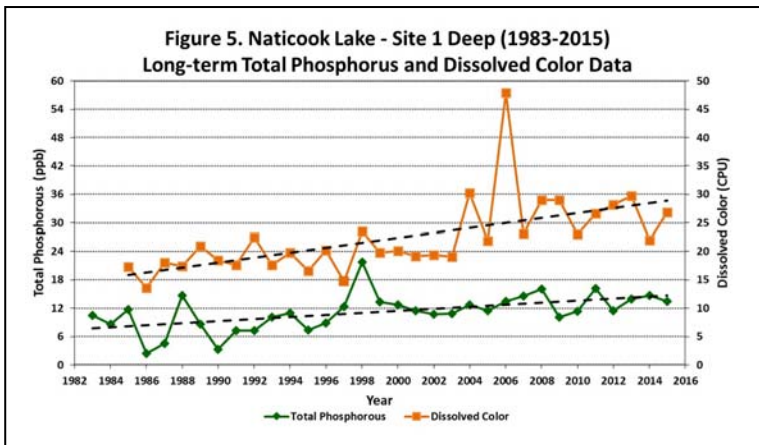
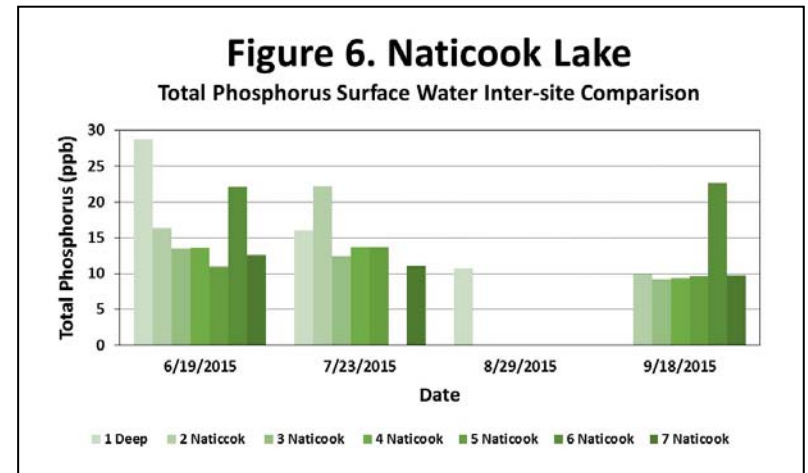
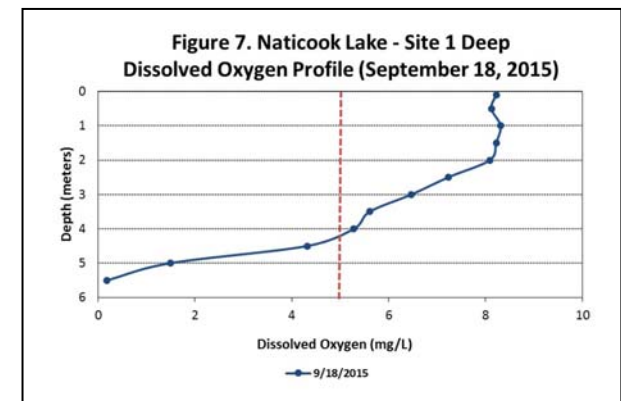


Figure 6. Naticook Lake surface water total phosphorus inter-site comparison. *Notice the difference in total phosphorus concentrations among sampling locations.*

Figure 7. Naticook Lake dissolved oxygen profile collected on September 18, 2015. The vertical red line indicates the dissolved oxygen concentration commonly considered the threshold for successful growth and reproduction of warm water fish such as bass and perch. *Notice the decreasing dissolved oxygen concentrations near the lakebottom.*

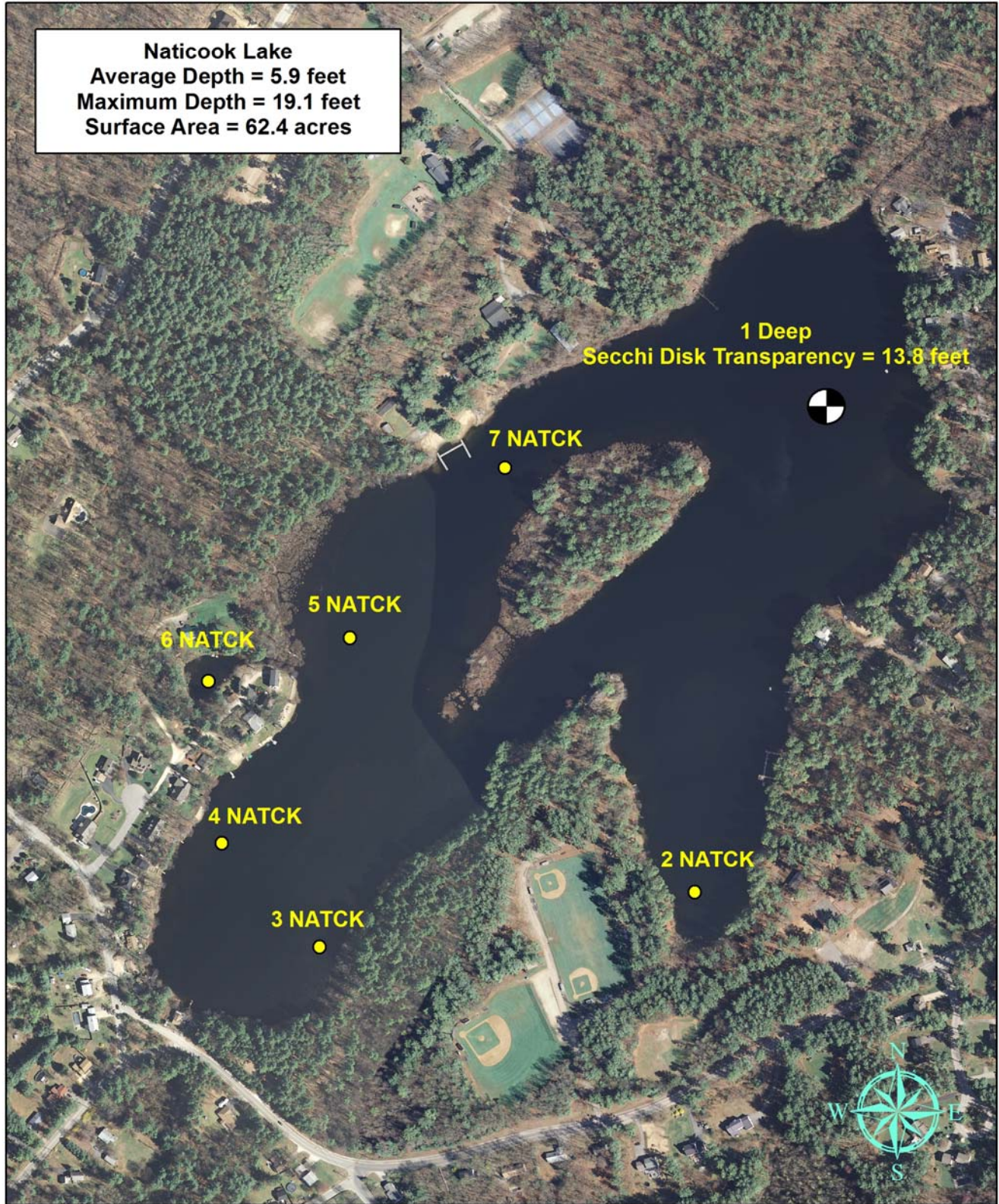


## Reccomendations

Implement Best Management Practices within the Naticook Lake watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into Naticook Lake. 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” for more information on how to reduce nutrient loading caused by overland run-off.

- [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159\\_Rep5940.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159_Rep5940.pdf)
- <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-11.pdf>

**Figure 8. Naticook Lake**  
Merrimack, NH  
2015 Deep and near-shore sampling sites.



0 0.06 0.12 0.18 0.24 Miles



University of New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension



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