

Water Clarity (Secchi Disk Reading)

How did the 2016 reading compare to the reading from years gone by.

Lake	Years Tested/Number of Tests	Past Average	2016 Average	Results
Butterfield	1996-2014 50 tests	12.7 ft.	14.7 ft.	Better
Eagle (main)	1982-2014 97 tests	8.9 ft.	9.1 ft.	Better
Eagle (east)	2009-2014 62 tests	8.8 ft.	9.0 ft.	Better
Eagle (west)	2009-2014 64 tests	9.7 ft.	9.3 ft.	Worse
East Fox	1992-2015 137 tests	16.4 ft.	14.5 ft.	Worse
Kego	1997-2014 74 tests	8.4 ft.	7.7 ft.	Worse
Mitchell	1981-2014 151 tests	8.1 ft.	7.8 ft.	Worse
West Fox	1977-2015 265 tests	15.3	12.9	Worse

Three of the tested water bodies did better than the historical average and five did worse. To try and explain all the factors that contributed to these results, one would have to consider many different factors. Things like water runoff, phosphate levels, amount of algae, are some examples of factors that affect the water clarity of a lake.

In a future monthly email we will take a look at the results of another testing program that tests three things - water clarity, phosphate levels and the amount of algae in the water. This test is called the "Carlson Trophic Status Index". This is a program that WAPOA started in 2003 and is a good indicator of water quality. We have yearly results for our lakes of this test that date back to 2003.