

# Crystal Lake

## 2014 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

### Station – 1 Deep

Enfield, NH



University of New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension

**Blue** = Excellent =  
Oligotrophic

**Yellow** = Fair =  
Mesotrophic

**Red** = Poor = Eutrophic

**Gray** = No Data

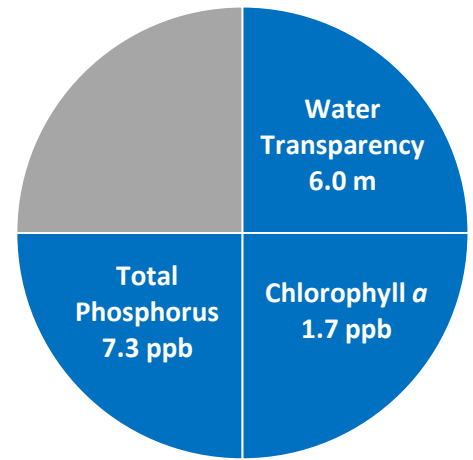


Figure 1. Crystal Lake Water Quality (2014)

Station 1 Deep was used as a reference point to represent the overall Crystal Lake water quality.

Refer to the Crystal Lake Annual Report (2014) for additional information.

Table 1. 2014 Crystal Lake Seasonal Averages and NH DES Trophic Level Classification Criteria

Parameter	Oligotrophic "Excellent"	Mesotrophic "Fair"	Eutrophic "Poor"	Crystal Lake Average (range)	Crystal Lake Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	4.0 – 7.0	2.5 - 4.0	< 2.5	6.0 meters (4.5 – 7.0)	Oligotrophic
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb)	< 3.3	> 3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	1.7 ppb (0.7 – 2.4)	Oligotrophic
Total Phosphorus (ppb)	< 8.0	> 8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	7.3 ppb (5.1 – 9.4)	Oligotrophic

Table 2. 2014 Crystal Lake Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Crystal Lake Average (range)	Crystal Lake Classification
	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored		
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	28.3 color units (22.8 – 30.7)	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	8.7 ppm (8.0 – 9.5)	Moderately vulnerable

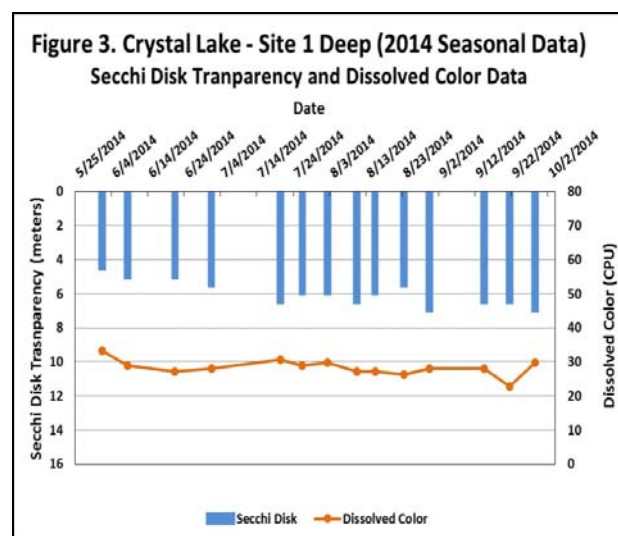
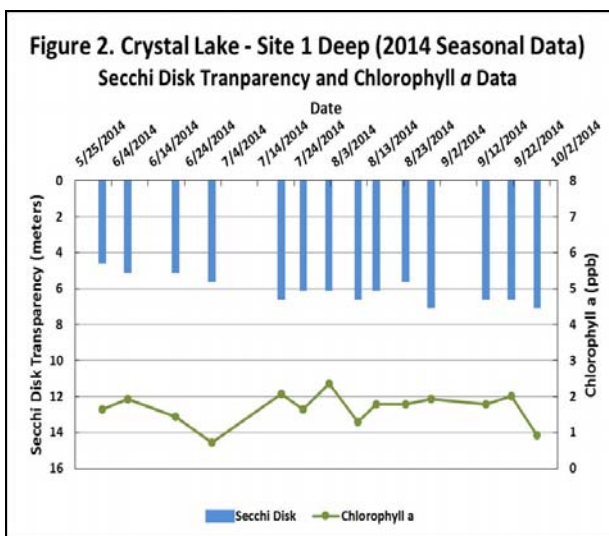


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* changes and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in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

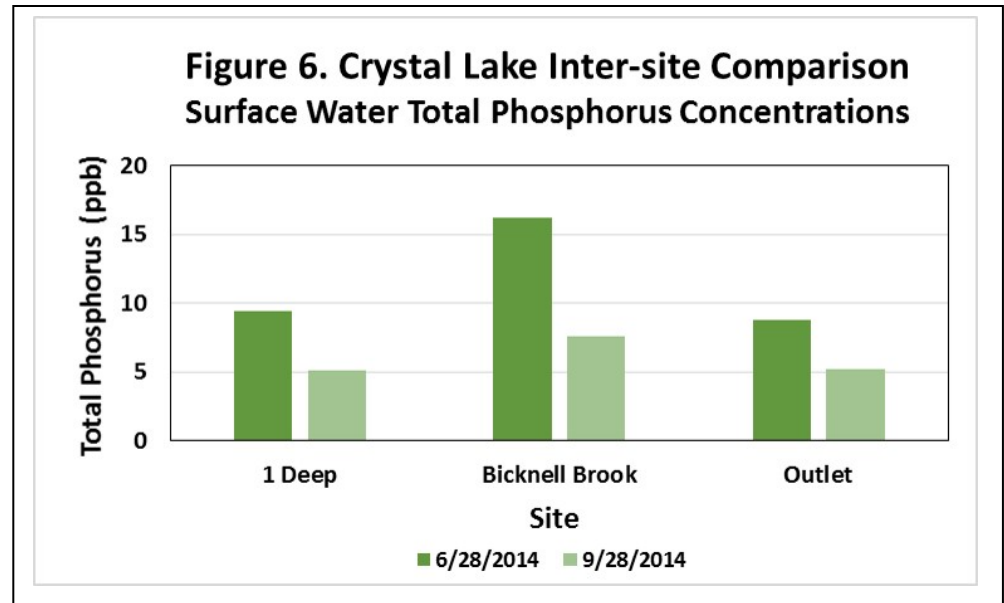
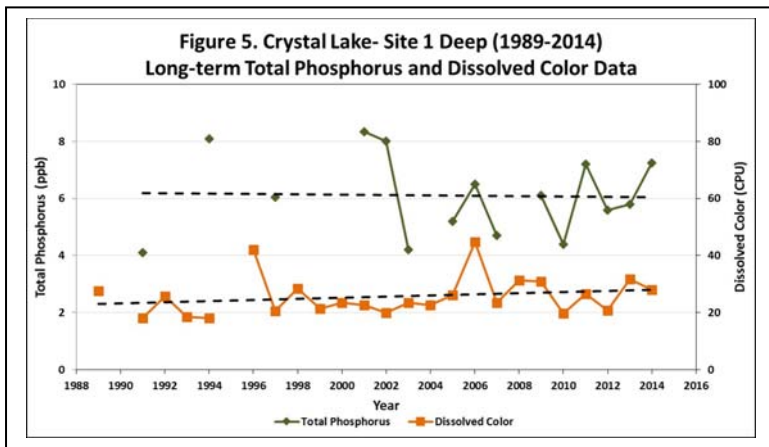
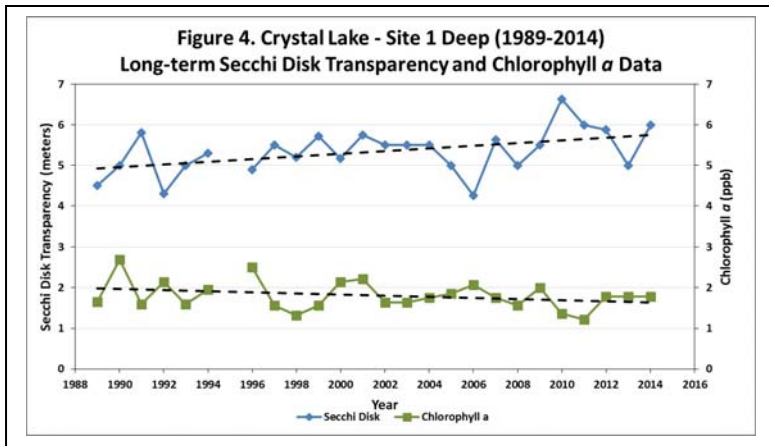
## LONG-TERM TRENDS

**WATER CLARITY:** The Crystal Lake water clarity measurements, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, display a trend of increasing water clarity (Figure 4).

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

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

**COLOR:** The Crystal 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. Long-term changes in the Crystal Lake water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a*, water color and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1989 and 2014. **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. Inter-site comparison of the Crystal Lake site 1 Deep, Bicknell Brook, and Outlet surface water total phosphorus concentrations. The inter-site comparison data provide insight into the variability among the three Crystal Lake sampling locations.

## Recommendations

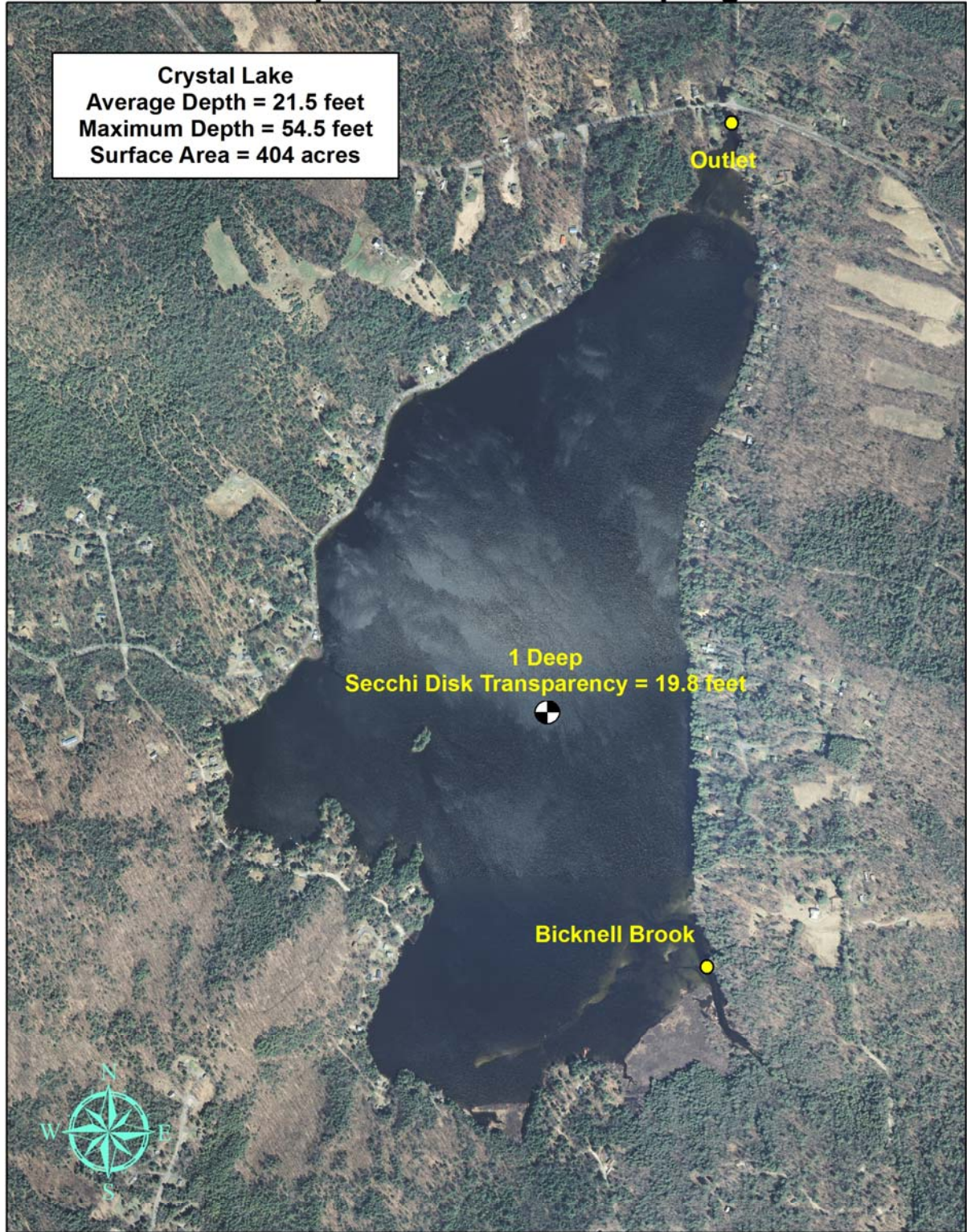
Implement Best Management Practices within the Crystal Lake watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into Crystal Lake. Refer to “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” and “New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater 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 7. Crystal Lake Enfield, NH

## 2014 Deep and nearshore sampling sites



Aerial Orthophoto Source: NH GRANIT  
Site locations GPSed by the UNH Center of Freshwater Biology



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