



April 2024 Oxbow Lake HOA Water Quality Report

FROM THE WATER QUALITY BOARD CHAIRS

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The overall lake water quality metrics have remained consistently stable since testing began in 1999.

Water clarity readings (Secchi depth) overall came down a bit from 2022. The 2023 deeper clarity reading was 15.5 feet and the shallower clarity level at 9.5 feet, compared to 2022 readings at 17.0 feet and 13.5 feet.

The May secchi disc reading of 15.5' allows fishermen to estimate the lower limit for fish/aquatic life in the lake, making any fishing at depths deeper than 31' unproductive.

The phosphorus numbers have improved from 2022 readings, which is extremely encouraging.

Our Spring reading was at 12 parts per billion (PPB), down 3 PPB from 2022 while the Summer 2023 level was at 10 PPB, down 5 PPB from 2022.

- this downturn in phosphorus can be continued by homeowners NOT fertilizing lawns within 30 feet of the shore, (which decreases fertilizer run off into the lake) and by using fertilizer where the middle number (phosphorus) is 0 (for example 7-0-20)

- lowering phosphorus levels decreases the growth of algae blooms and floating green slimy plant matter which then can directly improve the water clarity

- Oxbow ranks in the bottom third (that's good) of the eighteen lakes in Oakland County reporting spring 2023 phosphorous data

The lake's 2023 median chlorophyll-a fell to 2.3 ppb. from 2.6 ppb in 2022. Increases in chlorophyll levels impact water quality by altering colour & odor, dissolved oxygen availability to the aquatic plant & fish life and overall lake quality.

Do you know about the 2019 law to protect our waterways from hitchhiking invasive aquatic life here in Michigan? Below are simple ways to protect our lake.

REMOVE aquatic plants from boats, boating equipment, and boat trailers before launching or placing in the water.

DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water from boats before leaving the access site.

DISPOSE of unused bait in the trash. Do not release bait into the water.

DON'T TRANSFER fish to water bodies other than where they were caught.

Additional recommended actions to protect our lakes:

Inspect and remove plants and mud from boats, trailers, and equipment before leaving the access area. Dispose of the material in a trash receptacle or otherwise away from the water body, if possible.

- Power wash boats and trailers before leaving the access site. Alternatively, use a nearby car wash or wash at home.
- Allow the boat to dry for at least 5 days before launching into a different body of water.
- Disinfect livewells and bilges with bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons water).