

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

WEST POND, Parsonsfield

Midas: 3186, Basin: Primary- 01

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP) and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) have collaborated in the collection of lake data to evaluate present water quality, track algae blooms, and determine water quality trends. This data set does not include bacteria, mercury, or nutrients other than phosphorus.

Water quality monitoring data for West Pond have been collected since from 1983 to 2001 (8 individual years). During this period, basic chemical information was collected only in 1984, in addition to Secchi Disk Transparencies (SDT). In summary, the water quality of West Pond is considered to be about average, based on measures of SDT, total phosphorus (TP), and Chlorophyll-a (Chla). The potential for nuisance algae blooms on West Pond is low.

Water Quality Measures: West Pond is an uncolored lake (average color 10 SPU) with an average SDT of 5.0m (16.4ft). The water column TP for West Pond is 16 parts per billion (ppb, one reading), with Chla of 3.5 ppb. Recent dissolved oxygen (DO) profiles show low DO depletion in deep areas of the lake. The potential for TP to leave the bottom sediments and become available to algae in the water column (internal loading) is low. Oxygen levels below 5 parts per million stress certain cold water fish, and a persistent loss of oxygen may eliminate or reduce habitat for sensitive cold water species.

See ME-DEP Explanation of Lake Water Quality Monitoring Report for measured variable explanations. Additional lake information can be found on the World Wide Web at: pearl.spatial.maine.edu and/or state.me.us/dep/blwq/lake.htm, or telephone ME-DEP at 207-287-3901 or VLMP at 207-225-2070.

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