

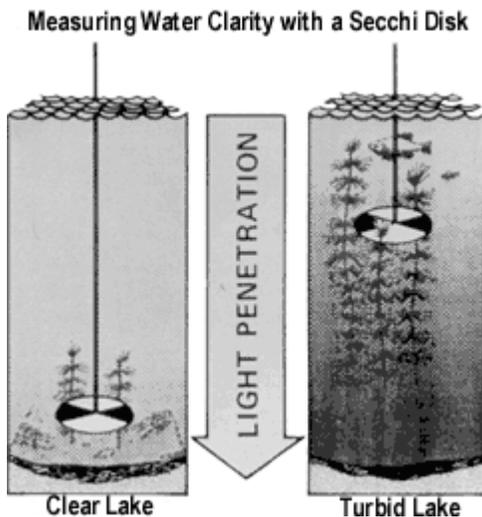
# Citizen Lake Monitoring Program



CLMP volunteers collect water transparency data using an 8-inch, circular, all-white metal plate attached to a calibrated rope. This tool is called a Secchi disk. About once a week during the summer, volunteers boat to a designated spot on their lakes to collect transparency readings. The volunteer lowers the disk into the water until it is no longer visible and notes that depth from the markings on the rope. The disk is then lowered a little further and then raised back up until it is just visible. This second depth reading is averaged with the first, and the final number is recorded on a data sheet. At the

end of summer, volunteers send their data sheets to the MPCA to be compiled with other water-quality data.

## What Kind of Information Do Transparency Readings Provide?

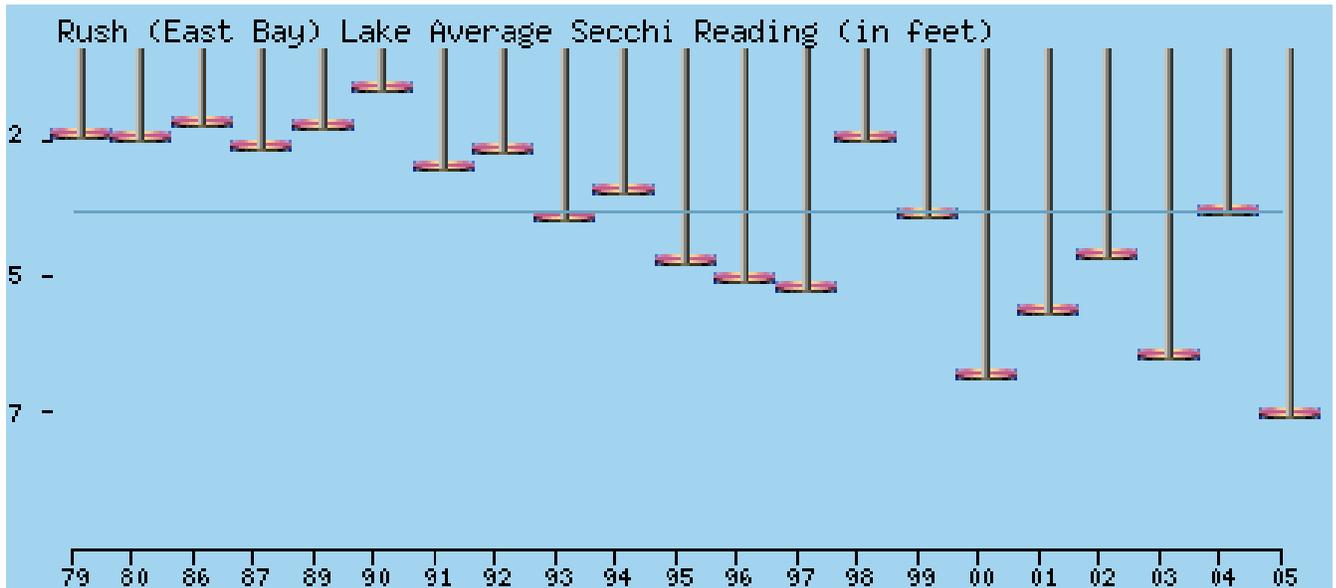


Water transparency is a quick and easy measurement that tells scientists a lot about a lake's water quality. First it indicates the amount of light penetration into a lake. Second, Secchi transparency provides an indirect measure of the amount of suspended material in the water, which in many cases is an indication of the amount of algae in the water.

Long-term transparency monitoring by CLMP volunteers helps scientists detect signs of degradation to a lake. Generally, the sooner water-quality problems are detected, the easier and less expensive it is to restore the lake to its previous state.

**Below is the Secchi data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program for lake RUSH (EAST BAY) (13-0069-01).**

This following graph represents Secchi transparency data collected by volunteers in the Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program. All values are expressed in units of feet. Data which has not been QA/QC (quality control) checked will appear as a red vertical line representing a Secchi rope. The long-term mean for this lake is represented by a horizontal line on the graph.



**Below is the Secchi data from the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program for lake RUSH (WEST BAY) (13-0069-02).**

This following graph represents Secchi transparency data collected by volunteers in the Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program. All values are expressed in units of feet. Data which has not been QA/QC (quality control) checked will appear as a red vertical line representing a Secchi rope. The long-term mean for this lake is represented by a horizontal line on the graph.

