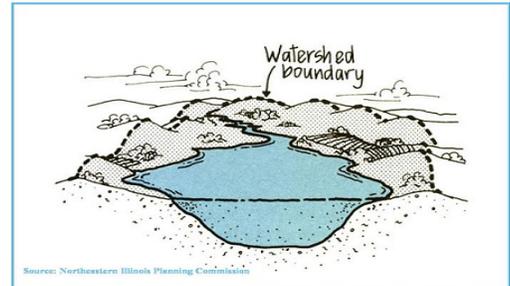


What new factors are influencing Newman Lake clarity this year?

There are many non-typical variables at play this year at Newman Lake that each have the **potential**, individually or in some combination with one another, to contribute to the clarity and quality of the lake this summer! →



- ❖ Lowest precipitation since 1881 during the window of February 1 and May 24th this year.
- ❖ Below average snowpack (which means reduced snowmelt runoff into the lake) resulted in a summer peak lake level elevation that fell five inches below normal target peak.
- ❖ Potential for lower phosphorus loading from sediment from Thompson Creek and other contributing tributary creeks (due to far below average inflow to lake).
- ❖ The concentrated, one-time, localized alum-treatment application that occurred this May.
- ❖ Delay in milfoil treatment; less plant decomposition
- ❖ Only operating one AirSep and one compressor for oxygen generation (per Jacobs Engineering recommendation).



What will happen as the summer continues?

Hmmm...? No one can see the future, nor predict exactly how seasonal weather conditions and/or lake operations may affect lake water quality! However, here are some noteworthy things to consider!

- Eight more water quality sampling events were added to the five existing permit-driven samples required by Ecology for operation of alum injection system.
- Sampling events now happen about every two weeks, all season long.
- More frequent data collection will lend itself toward requesting expert input on trends and future recommendations for ways to improve lake health.
- Water temperatures this year have shown a significant increase, and yet the clarity still seems to be holding.
- Most years, including last year, reports of algae blooms start coming in by mid-July; that has not happened yet this year, and it is almost August! Again, clarity has been retained, despite record-setting extreme high temperatures.
- Due to all the variables this year, it is difficult to make correlations or scientifically explain “which” of the above variables – or in what combination – are having the most impact.



Bottom-line? Enjoy the beautiful lake and algae-free recreating!

Spokane County District Staff will continue to report any significant changes in lake condition and would ask that if conditions do change, that we are not aware of, please text photos and location of any suspected algae blooms to Dawson Matthews at (509) 867-8017 or email at dmatthews@spokanecounty.org Thank you!