

# Cossayuna Lake 2022

Cossayuna Lake  
Improvement Association

Town(s) of Argyle

Washington County

## Lake Characteristics

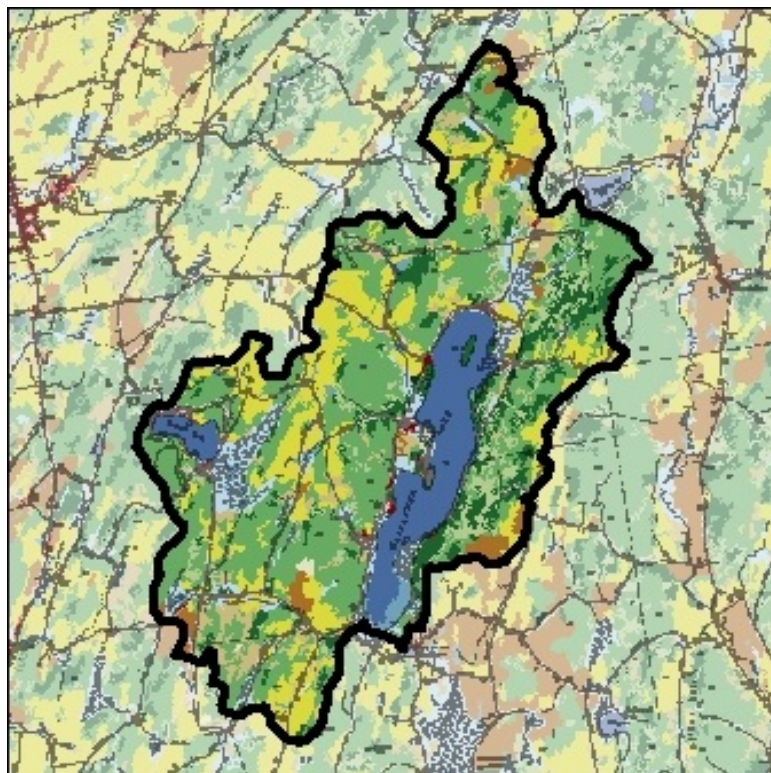
Surface Area (ac/ha)	659/267
Max Depth (ft/m)	24.6/7.5
Mean Depth (ft/m)	12.1/3.7
Retention Time (years)	0.69
Lake Classification	A
Dam Classification	A

## Watershed Characteristics

Watershed area (ac/ha)	7562/3060
Watershed/Lake Ratio	11
Lake and Wetlands %	17.04%
Agricultural %	20.72%
Forest, Shrub, Grasses %	56.61%
Residential %	5.62%
Urban %	0.01%

## CSLAP Participation

Years in CSLAP	1992-1996/1998-2010/2012-2022
Volunteers	William Zeppetelli, Wendy Hord, Nancy Hieber, Lynn B. Clauer, Lynn Wilbur



### Trophic State

Eutrophic

### HABs Susceptibility

Periodic Blooms, Moderate susceptibility

### Invasive Vulnerability

Invasives present, High vulnerability

### PWL Assessment

Download Assessment Here  
(<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/0000>)

# Cossayuna Lake – 2022 Sampling Season Results

Red shaded results indicate eutrophic water quality conditions. In these columns, 'No' indicates there was no significant trend, '↑' indicates there was a significant positive trend ( $p < 0.05$ ), '↑↑' indicates there was a strong significant positive trend ( $p < 0.01$ ), '↓' indicates there was a significant negative trend ( $p < 0.05$ ), '↓↓' indicates there was a strong significant negative trend ( $p < 0.01$ ), and blank indicates there was insufficient data to identify a trend. In this report, seasonal trend analyses for individual sampling years and long term trend analyses show changes in key water quality indicators over a consistent index period (mid-June thru mid-September).

Open Water Indicators	2022 Sampling Results									Seasonal Change	Season Median	Decadal Median	Decadal Trend	Longterm Median	Longterm Trend
	05-31	06-13	06-27	07-11	07-25	08-08	08-22	09-05							
Clarity (m)	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.3	3		3.1	2.8	no	2	↑↑	
Deep Temp (degC)	19	20	20	21	25	25	25	20		20.5	22	no	22	no	
Upper Temp (degC)	25	22	25	25	26	27	25	23		25	25	no	23.5	↑↑	
Surface TP (mg/L)	0.013	0.017	0.017	0.025	0.012	0.019	0.017	0.023		0.017	0.02	↓	0.025	↓↓	
Deep TP (mg/L)	0.016	0.017	0.02	0.041	0.035	0.036	0.028	0.022		0.025	0.027	no	0.028	↓↓	
TN (mg/L)	0.248	0.242	0.352			0.381	0.407	0.355		0.354	0.444	↓↓	0.459	no	
TN:TP	18.6	13.9	20.6			20.6	24.5	15.8		19.6	21.2	no	20.3	↑↑	
Surface NH3 (mg/L)	0.134	0.083	0.019	0	0.016	0	0	0.031		0.017	0.026	no	0.025	no	
Deep NH3 (mg/L)	0.159	0.056	0.032	0.018	0.029	0.017	0.121	0.148		0.044	0.046	↑	0.042	no	
Chl.a (ug/L)	3	6.6	6	6.9	4.9	2.1	11.8	16.6		6.3	8.2	no	12.8	↓↓	
pH	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.2		8.3	8	↑↑	8.1	↓↓	
Surface Chloride (mg/L)	16.8									16.8	18.8	no	18.8	no	
True Color (ptu)	5	5	1	5	5	3	3	4		4.5	7	↓↓	9	no	
Cond (uS/cm)	135.5	153.1	203.7	209	193.4	207.8	148.1			193.4	196.4	↑↑	193.7	no	
FP BG Chl.a (ug/L)	0	0.3	0	0.2	0.6	1.5	24	12		0.4	1.5	no	1.5	no	

Cossayuna Lake – Lake Scorecard

Water Quality Indicators	Average Year	2022
Phosphorus	Eutrophic	Mesotrophic
Chlorophyll A	Eutrophic	Mesotrophic
Secchi	Eutrophic	Mesotrophic
Lake Perception	Poor	Fair
Harmful Algal Blooms	Poor	Fair
Aquatic Invasive Species	Present	

# Cossayuna Lake – 2022 Lake Summary

## **Q. What is the condition of the lake?**

- A. Cossayuna Lake continues to be eutrophic, or highly productive, based on low water clarity, high algae levels (chlorophyll a), and high nutrient (phosphorous) levels. Soluble nutrients were analyzed in 2022. The waterbody is highly alkaline or basic, with intermediate hardness water, low water color, and moderately low nitrogen levels.

## **Q. How did this year compare to previous years?**

- A. Compared to previous years, water clarity (secchi) and pH were higher in 2022. Compared to previous years, color was lower in 2022 and recreational evaluation was more favorable in 2022. Chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, conductivity, surface water temperature, deep water temperature, water quality evaluation and aquatic plant coverage in 2022 were similar to previous years. There is insufficient data to identify trends in the remaining water quality parameters.

## **Q. How does this lake compare to other New York lakes?**

- A. Compared to other New York lakes, this lake usually has higher calcium and deep water temperature. Compared to other New York lakes, this lake usually has lower chloride and more favorable aquatic plant coverage.

## **Q. Are there any (statistically significant) trends?**

- A. Over the past 31 years, clarity, surface water temperature and TN:TP have increased significantly. Over the past 31 years, chlorophyll a, cyanobacteria fluoroprobe concentration, deep total phosphorus, pH, surface NH<sub>3</sub>, surface total phosphorus, total dissolved nitrogen and total nitrogen have decreased significantly and aquatic plant coverage has significantly trended towards more favorable conditions. Over the past ten years, conductivity and pH have increased significantly. Over the past ten years, cyanobacteria fluoroprobe concentration, surface total phosphorus, total dissolved nitrogen, total nitrogen and true color have decreased significantly.

## **Q. Has the lake experienced open water or shoreline harmful algal blooms (HABs)?**

- A. Water quality conditions generally indicate a moderate susceptibility to blooms, with frequent blooms along the shoreline or in the open water.

The open water algal community in the lake is usually comprised of intermediate cyanobacteria levels. This community is dominated by *Dolichospermum*. Typically, overall open water algae levels are intermediate. Overall open water toxin levels are consistently below recreational levels of concern.

This year, overall algae levels were high, with diatoms the most common taxa in open water samples, and with low cyanobacteria levels. Open water toxin levels were undetectable this year.

Shoreline blooms were documented in the lake this year, and comprised primarily of cyanobacteria with undetectable toxin levels. The most common taxa were *Dolichospermum*, *Limnospira* and *Microcystis*.

## **Q. Have any aquatic invasive species (AIS) been reported?**

- A. Invasive species have been reported in this waterbody. Aquatic invasive plant and/or animal species reported include: zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly leafed pondweed, water chestnut, brittle naiad. This waterbody has high vulnerability for introduction of new invasive species due to invasive species already being present. This waterbody has moderate vulnerability for establishment of invasive bivalves based on calcium levels. For more information about invasive species in the area, or to report an invasive species observation, visit NY iMapInvasives at <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/> (<https://www.nyimainvasives.org/>).

## Cossayuna Lake 2022 NYHABs notifications

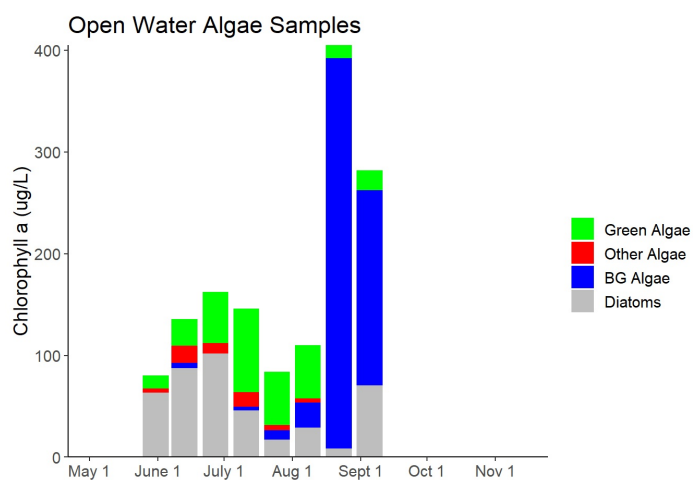
Were there any reported HABs this season? **Yes.**

Date of First Listing	Date of Last Listing	Number of Reports
2022-08-22	2022-08-22	1

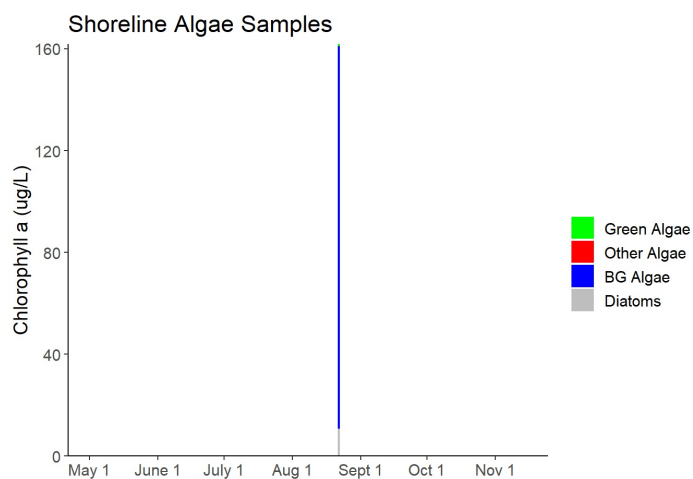
## Shoreline HAB Samples 2022

HAB Indicators	Criteria	08-22
FP BGA Chl. a	25 ug/L	37.53
Microcystin	20 ug/L	
Microscopy	Dominant	Dolichospermum, Limnoraphis, Microcystis

## Open Water Algae

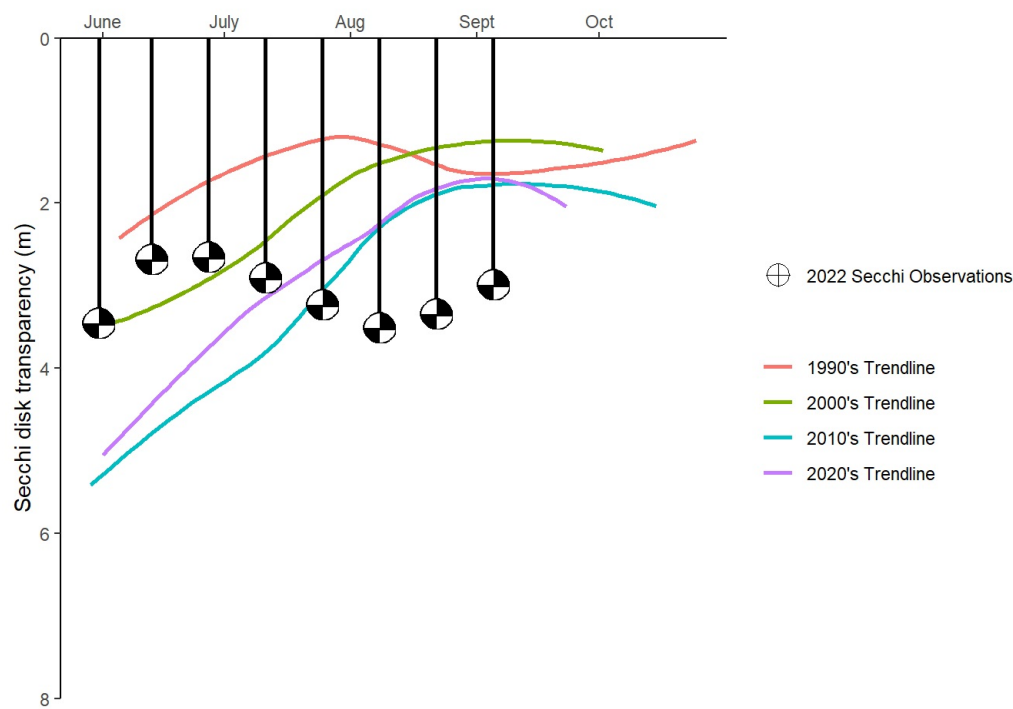


## Shoreline Algae

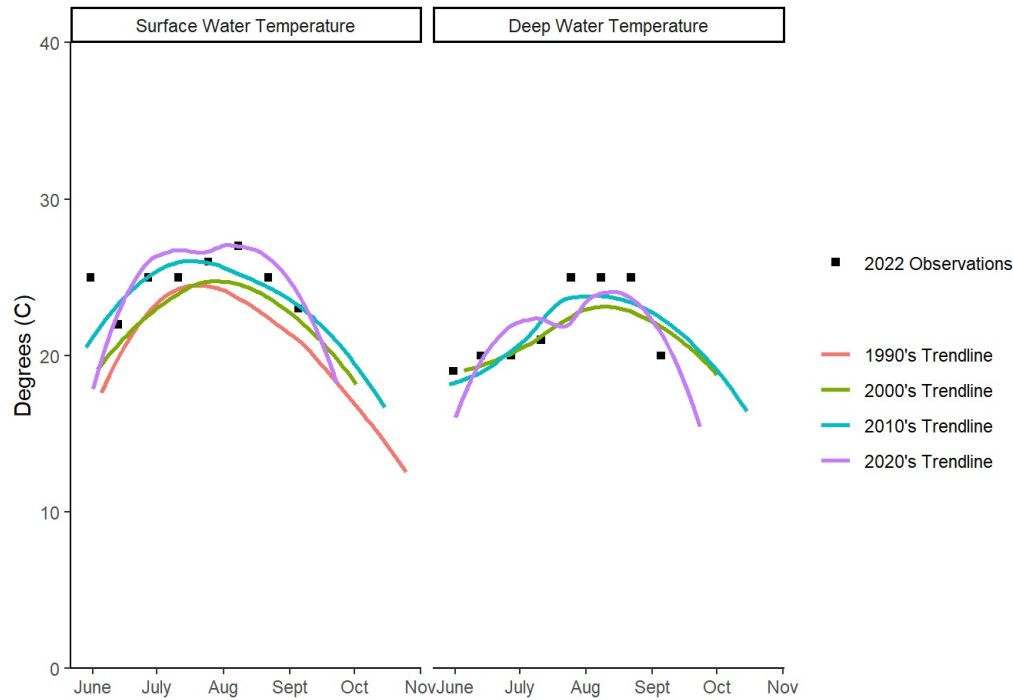


# Cossayuna Lake - In-Season Trend Analysis

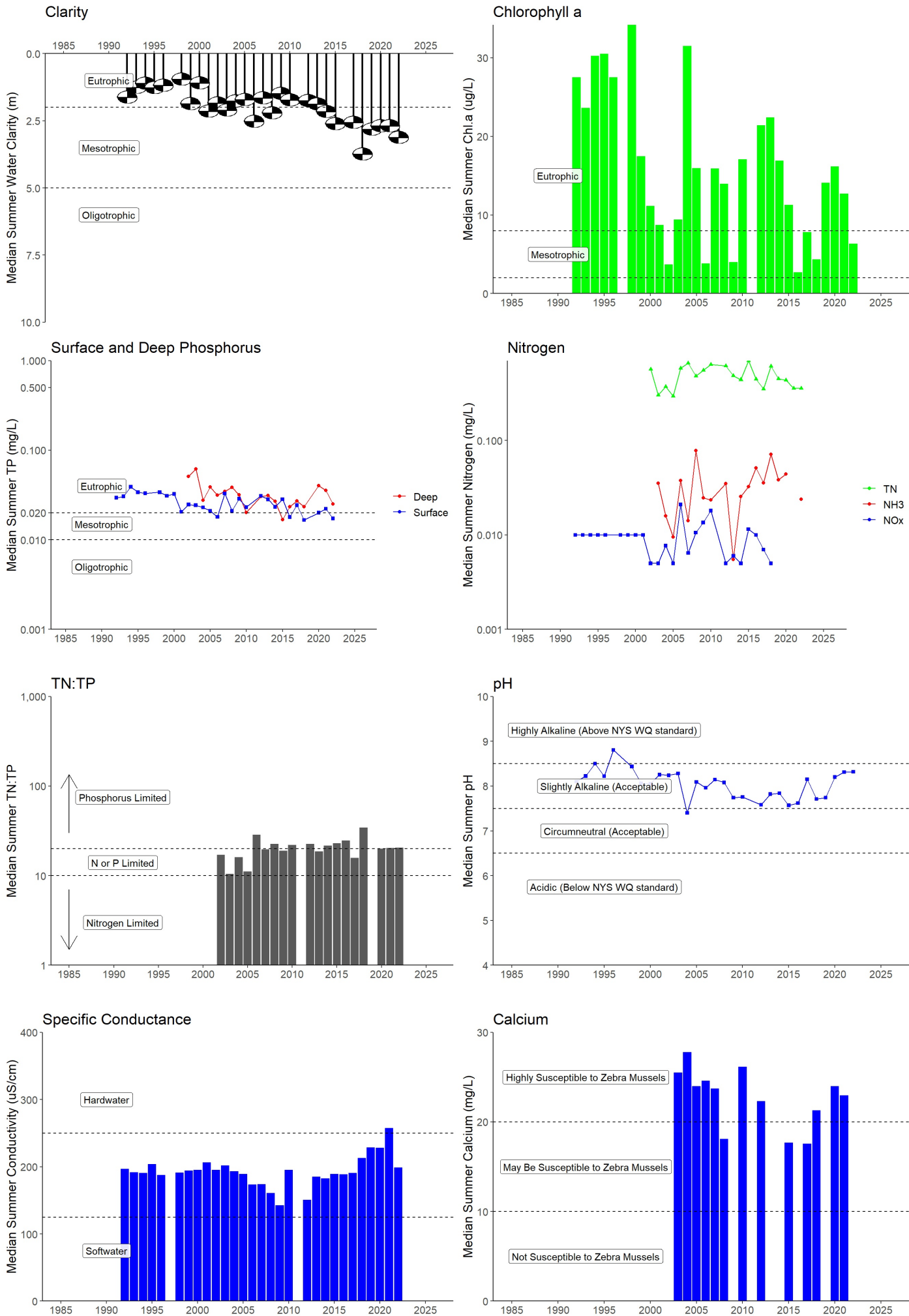
## In Season Water Clarity



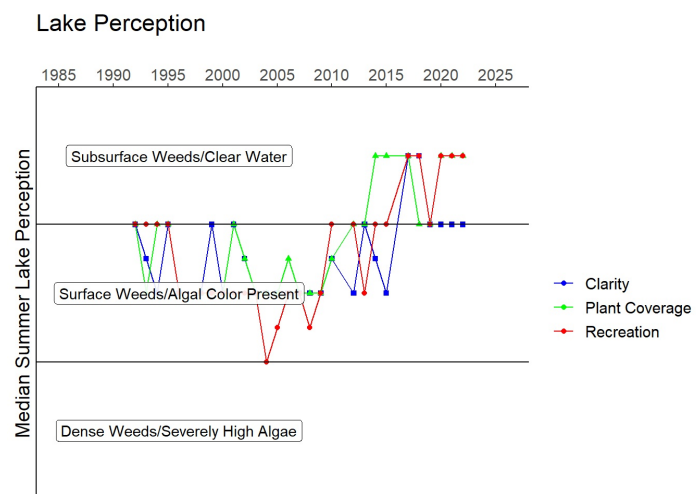
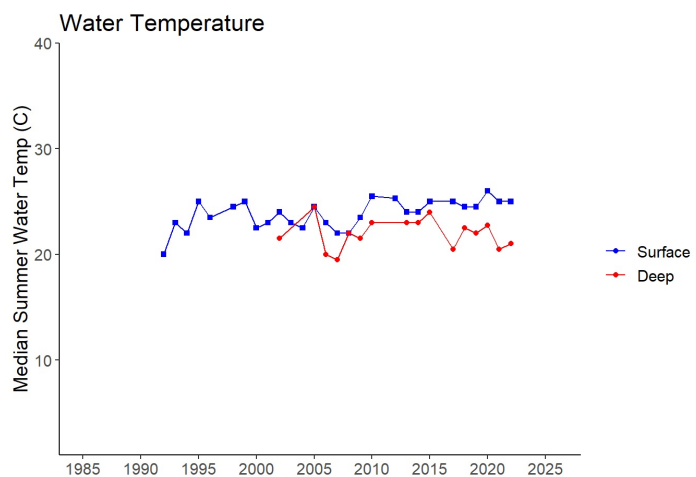
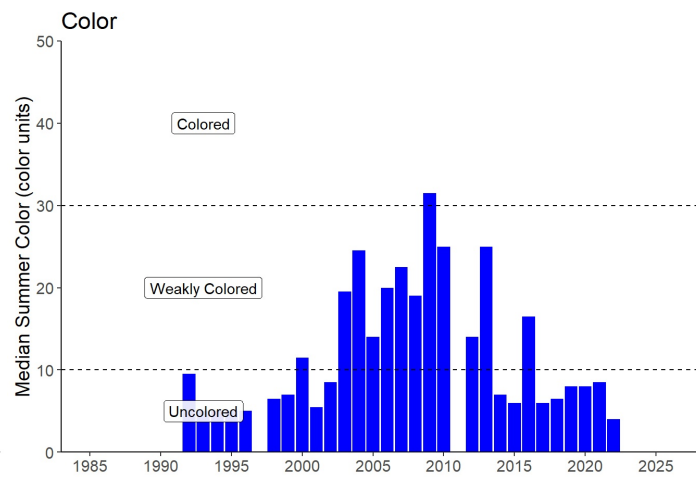
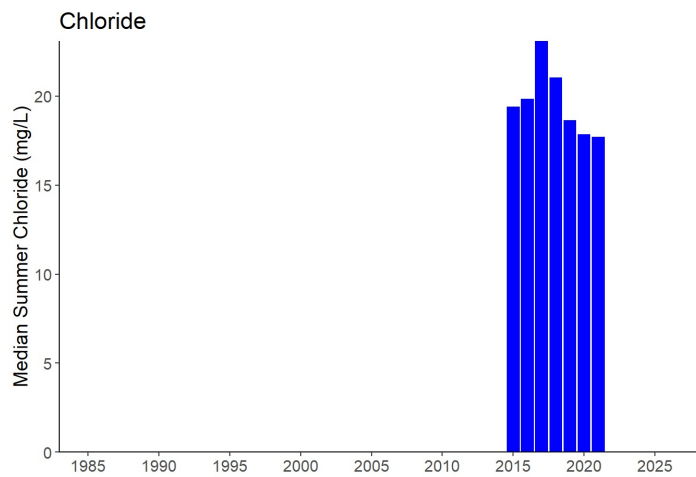
In Season Water Temperature



# Cossayuna Lake Long-Term Trend Analysis







# Cossayuna Lake Depth Profiles

There is no depth profile data for this site.

## Water Quality Assessments

The Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) is a statewide inventory of New York's water resources that is used to track a waterbody's ability to support its' best use(s), identify pollutant(s) causing impairment of best use(s), and follow the status of restoration, protection and other water quality activities and efforts. Data collected through CSLAP contributes to the WI/PWL. In order to be included as an assessment unit in the WI/PWL, a lake, pond, or reservoir must be at least 6.4 acres in size.

Download Lake Assessment Here (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/WQP/PWL/0000-0000>)

## Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

A TMDL is a type of regulatory clean water plan that calculates the maximum amount of a single pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act also requires states to identify impaired waters, where designated uses are not fully supported. These waterbodies are then listed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) "impaired waters" list. Waterbodies may have been identified as impaired due to fish consumption advisories, shellfishing closures, public bathing beach closures, or sampling results (high nutrient levels, turbidity, toxic sediments). The Clean Water Act also requires states to develop TMDLs for impaired waterbodies on the 303(d) list to reduce the amount of pollutants entering impaired waterbodies to meet water quality standards. TMDL plans may also be developed to protect waterbodies from becoming impaired - for example, protecting public drinking water supplies to protect human health. DEC develops TMDLs and EPA approves them.

Download TMDL Here ([https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/tmdlcoosayuna08.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/tmdlcoosayuna08.pdf))

## Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plans

New York State's Water Quality Rapid Response Team, national experts and local stakeholders collaboratively developed Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Action Plans for twelve priority lakes that are vulnerable to HABs, are critical sources of drinking water, and are vital tourism drivers. These twelve lakes were chosen as part of New York State's HAB initiative because they represent a wide range of conditions and vulnerabilities, and the lessons learned will be applied to other impacted waterbodies moving forward. Each action plan identifies contributing factors fueling HABs and immediate actions that can be taken to reduce the sources of pollution that spark algal blooms.

Download HAB Action Plan Here ()

## Lake Stewardship Actions

Individual stewardship activities can help improve water quality: maintain your septic system, reduce fertilizer use, grow a buffer of native plants next to the lake shore, and reduce shoreline erosion and runoff into the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to prevent the spread of invasive species, and continued community education about and monitoring for invasive species is recommended. Routine education about algae and harmful algal blooms (HABs) within your lake community is recommended; to learn more about HABs and see examples of HABs visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html> (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html>). Occurrences of HABs can be reported to NYSDEC. For more information on keeping New York waters clean, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43661.html> (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/43661.html>).

# How to Read the Report

This guide provides a description of the CSLAP report by section and a glossary. The sampling site is indicated in the header for lakes with more than one routine sampling site.

## Physical Characteristics influence lake quality:

- Surface area is the lake's surface in acres and hectares.
- Max depth is the water depth measured at the deepest part of the lake in feet and meters.
- Mean depth is either known from lake bathymetry or is 0.46 of the maximum depth.
- Retention time is the time it takes for water to pass through a lake in years. This indicates the influence of the watershed on lake conditions.
- Lake classification describes the "best uses" for this lake. Class AA, AAspec, and A lakes may be used as sources of potable water. Class B lakes are suitable for contact recreational activities, like swimming. Class C lakes are suitable for non-contact recreational activities, including fishing, although they may still support swimming. The addition of a T or TS to any of these classes indicates the ability of a lake to support trout populations and/or trout spawning.
- Dam classification defines the hazard class of a dam. Class A, B, C, and D dams are defined as low, intermediate, high, or negligible/no hazard dams in that order. "0" indicates that no class has been assigned to a particular dam, or that no dam exists.

## Watershed characteristics influence lake water quality:

- Watershed area in acres and hectares
- Land use data come from the most recent (2011) US Geological Survey National Land Use Cover dataset

## CSLAP Participation lists the sampling years and the current year volunteers.

## Key lake status indicators summarize lake conditions:

- Trophic state of a lake refers to its nutrient loading and productivity, measured by phosphorus, algae, and clarity. An oligotrophic lake has low nutrient and algae levels (low productivity) and high clarity while a eutrophic lake has high nutrient and algae levels (high productivity) and low clarity. Mesotrophic lakes fall in the middle.
- Harmful algal bloom susceptibility summarizes the available historical HAB data and indicates the potential for future HAB events.
- Invasive vulnerability indicates whether aquatic invasive species are found in this lake or in nearby lakes, indicating the potential for further introductions.
- Priority waterbody list (PWL) assessment is based on the assessment of use categories and summarized as fully supported, threatened, stressed, impaired, or precluded. Aesthetics and habitat are evaluated as good, fair, or poor. The cited PWL assessment reflects the "worst" assessment for the lake.

**Current year sampling results** shows results for each of the sampling sessions in the year are in tabular form. The seasonal change graphically shows the current year results. Red shading indicates eutrophic readings.

- If there are more than ten shoreline bloom samples collected in a year, bloom sample information is instead summarized by month (May-Oct.) as minimum, average, and maximum values for blue-green algae and microcystin.

**The Lake Scorecard** represents key water quality indicator results for this lake in an easy-to-read format, comparing information from the current year and historical average of the CSLAP data. Indicators include (1) trophic status of phosphorus, chlorophyll (or algae) and secchi (or clarity); (2) presence or absence of aquatic invasive plants or animals; (3) lake user perception based on perceived physical condition and recreational suitability of the lake; (4) harmful algal bloom samples or reports; and (5) algae levels in the open water of routinely sampled sites.

**The Lake Summary** reviews and encapsulates the data in the lake report, including comparisons to historical data from this lake, and results from nearby lakes.

## Harmful Algal Blooms:

- HAB notification periods on the DEC website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html> (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>)
- Shoreline HAB sample dates and results. Samples are collected from the area that appears to have the worst bloom. Red shading indicates a confirmed HAB.
- HAB sample algae analysis. Algae types typically change during the season. These charts show the amount of the different types of algae found in each mid-lake or shoreline sample. Samples with high levels of BGA are HABs. The second set of charts show the level of toxins found in open water and shoreline samples compared to NYSDOH and NYSDEC guidelines.

**In-Season Trend Analysis** shows water temperature and water clarity during the sampling season. These indicate seasonal changes and show the sample year results compared to the typical historical readings for those dates.

**Long-Term Trend Analysis** puts the current year findings in context. Summer averages (mid-June thru mid-September) for each of the CSLAP years show trends in key water quality indicators. The graphs include relevant criteria (trophic categories, water quality standards, etc.) and boundaries separating these criteria.

# Glossary of Water Quality and HAB Indicators

**Clarity (m):** The depth to which a Secchi disk lowered into the water is visible, measured in meters. Water clarity is one of the trophic indicators for each lake.

**TP (mg/L):** Total phosphorus, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface). TP includes all dissolved and particulate forms of phosphorus.

**Deep TP:** Total phosphorus measured in milligrams per liter at depth (1-2 meters above the lake bottom at the deepest part of the lake or a fixed depth in the hypolimnion of very deep lakes).

**TN:** Total nitrogen, measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface. TN includes all forms of nitrogen, including NO<sub>x</sub> (nitrite and nitrate) and NH<sub>4</sub> (ammonia).

**N:P Ratio:** The ratio of total nitrogen to total phosphorus, unitless (mass ratio). This ratio helps determine if a lake is phosphorous or nitrogen limited.

**Chl.a (µg/L):** Chlorophyll a, measured in micrograms per liter. Indicates the amount of algae in the water column. This is an extracted chlorophyll measurement.

**pH:** A range from 0 to 14, with 0 being the most acidic and 14 being the most basic or alkaline. A healthy lake generally ranges between 6.5 and 8.5.

**Cond (µmho/cm):** Specific conductance is a measure of the conductivity of water. A higher value indicates the presence of more dissolved ions. High ion concentrations (> 250) usually indicate hardwater, and low readings (< 125) usually show softwater.

**Calcium (mg/L):** Calcium, a component of lake buffering capacity (the ability to neutralize acid inputs), as measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface).

**Chloride (mg/L):** Chloride, or chloride ions, as measured in milligrams per liter at the lake surface (1.5 meters below the surface).

**Upper Temp (°C):** Surface temperature, measured in degrees Celsius.

**Deep Temp (°C):** Deep water temperature, measured in degrees Celsius.

**BG Chl.a (µg/L):** Chlorophyll a from blue-green algae, measured in micrograms per liter. This is an "unextracted" estimate using a fluoroprobe. This result is different from the extracted chlorophyll measurement described above.

**HABs:** Harmful Algal Blooms. Algal blooms that have the appearance of cyanobacteria (BGA).

**BGA:** Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria.

**Microcystin (µg/L):** The most common HAB liver toxin; total microcystin above 20 micrograms per liter indicates a "high toxin" bloom. However, ALL BGA blooms pose a potential health risk and should be avoided.

## Sampling Season Results Information:

**Seasonal Change:** Shows the current year variability

**Season Median:** The middle value(or average of the middle two values) of the current year's data

**Decadal Median:** The median of the most recent ten years of water quality data

**Longterm Median:** The median of all years of water quality data

**Decadal & Longterm Trends:** Indicate whether there was a statistically significant change in water quality data over the most recent or all years

[Download Water Column Data](#)

[Download HAB Sample Data](#)