

WATER QUALITY AND LAND USE



Lauren VanBibber
Lakes Environmental Association
Watershed and Planning Specialist

LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION (LEA)

- Established in 1970
- Primarily member funded non-profit focused on protecting and monitoring water quality
- Service area: Bridgton, Harrison, Naples, Denmark, Sweden, Waterford



WHY?

- Land use impacts water quality
 - >25%, sometimes less, of watershed development negatively impacts water quality
- Home values and taxes
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Ecosystems and wildlife



WATER TESTING

- Bi-weekly testing: total phosphorus, chlorophyll, clarity
- Automated monitoring buoy on Long Lake
- Winter water testing
- Long-term monitoring
- Algae monitoring
- Temperature profiles



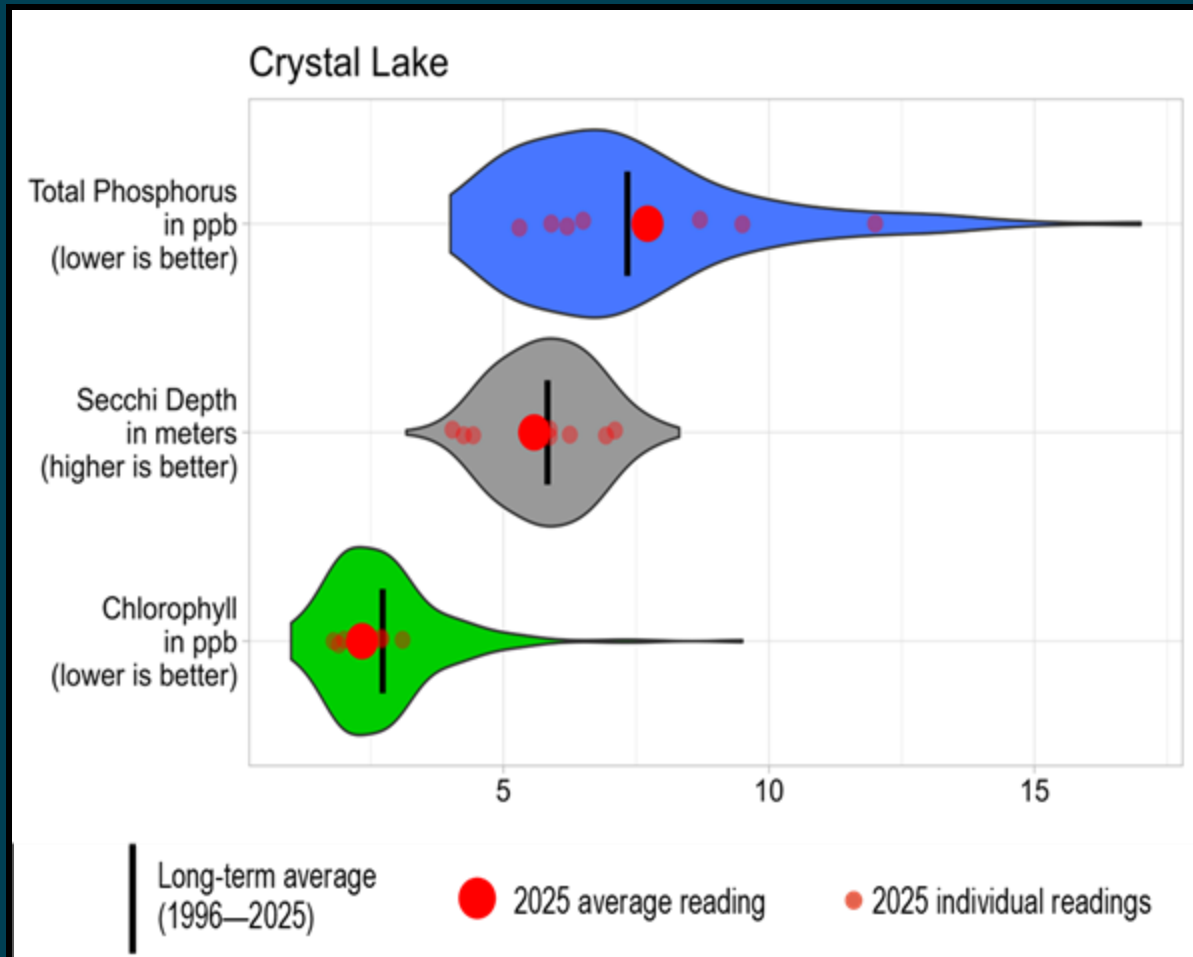
CRYSTAL LAKE

Trends:

Total Phosphorus:
stable

Clarity: decreasing

Chlorophyll:
decreasing



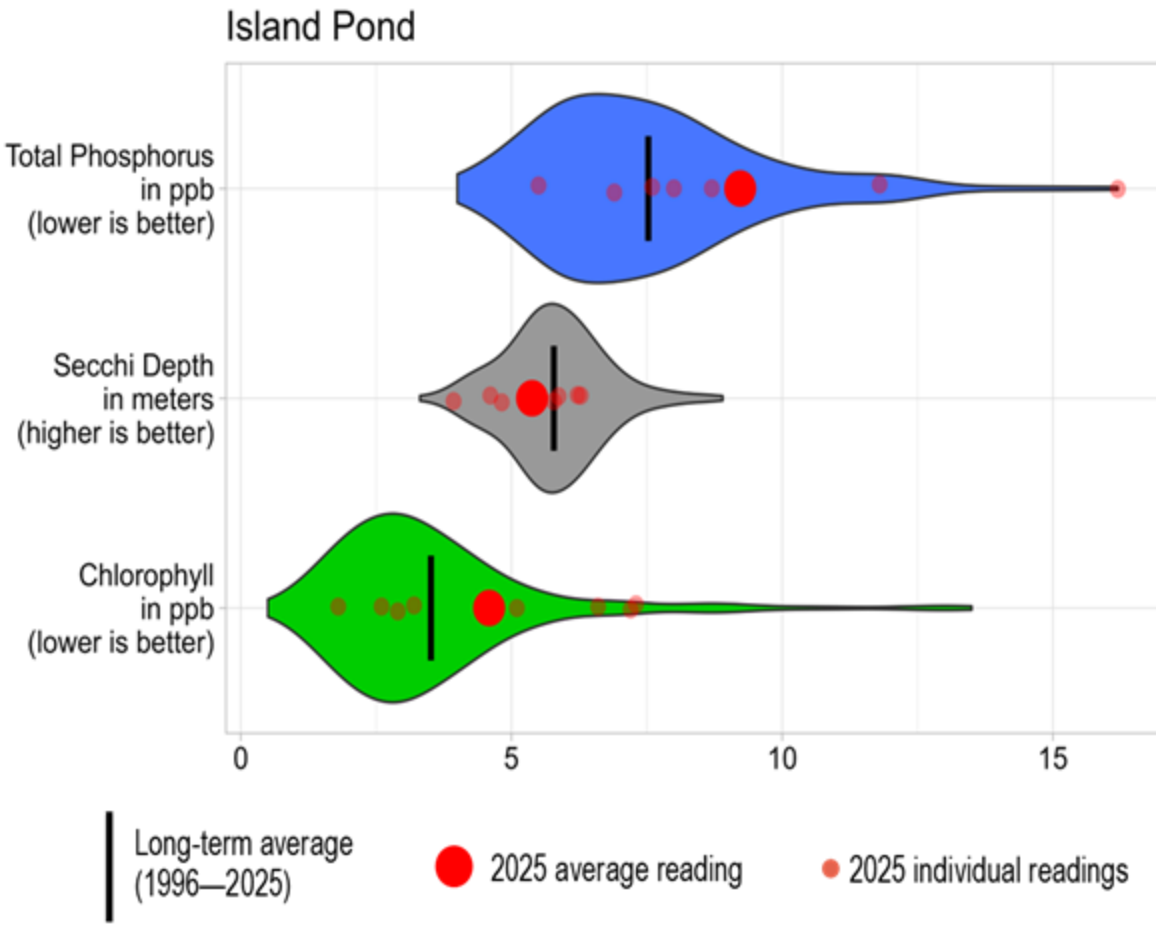
ISLAND POND

Trends:

Total Phosphorus:
increasing

Clarity: decreasing

Chlorophyll: stable



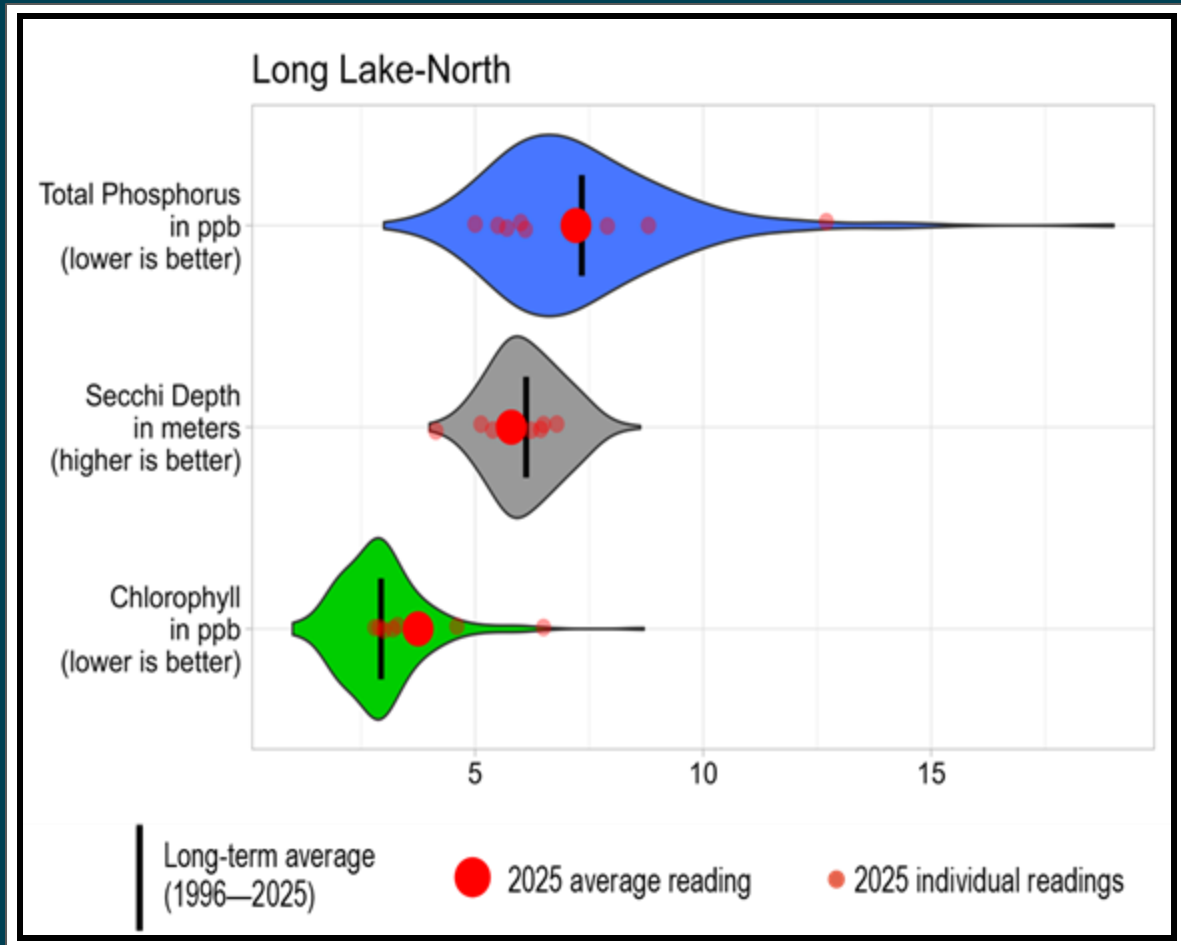
LONG LAKE

Trends:

Total Phosphorus:
stable

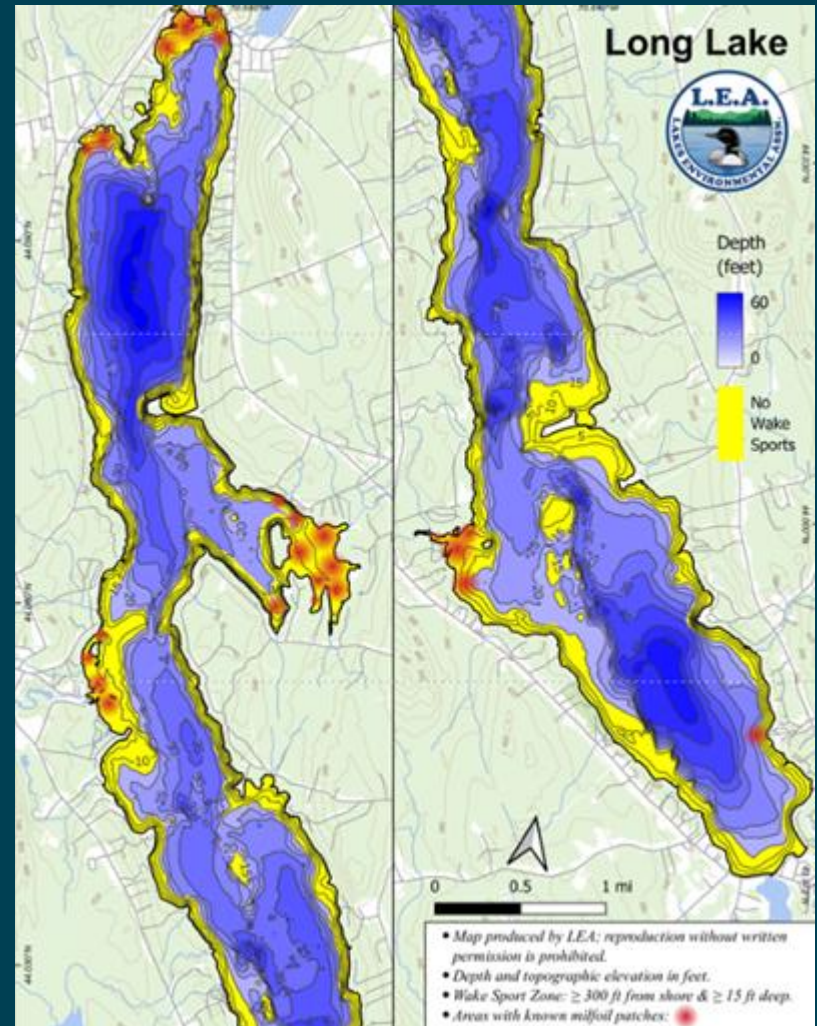
Clarity: decreasing in
North Basin

Chlorophyll: stable



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- Variable Leaf Milfoil control and surveying
 - Hand removal, suction harvesting, benthic barriers
 - Control team in Long Lake all summer
- CBI Program



LAND USE

- LakeSmart
- Clean Lake Check Up
- Municipal Consulting
- Town Committee Involvement



STREAM CROSSINGS

- Road infrastructure
- Water quality
 - Erosion, runoff, etc.
- Aquatic organism passage



STREAM CROSSINGS CONT.

- Two stream crossing replacement projects this year in Harrison
 - Carsley Brook: Edes Falls Road and Carsley Road





THANK YOU

Mainelakes.org

Lauren@mainelakes.org

