

FREE LAKE SNAPSHOT · PREPARED FOR THE PINE SHADOW LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD

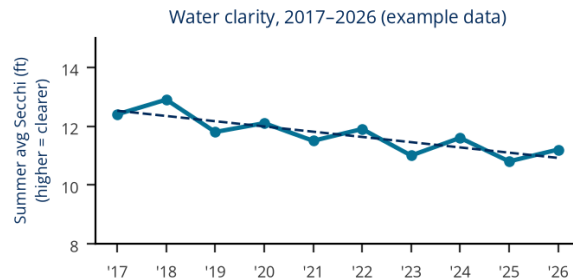
Pine Shadow Lake: Free Lake Snapshot

Fictional lake, Brainerd lakes area · October 2026 · All values are illustrative example data

Lake facts (example data)

Surface area	412 acres
Maximum depth	38 ft
Mean depth	14 ft
Watershed	about 6,800 acres (16:1)
Public access	1 (north shore)
Monitoring	Volunteer Secchi, May–Sept

Water clarity trend



2026 summer average: **11.2 ft**. Ten-year average: **11.7 ft**. Trend line: about 0.18 ft less clarity per year, roughly 1.6 ft over the decade (example data; descriptive trend, not a significance test).

Nutrient readings where available

Measure (summer average)	Value	Range	What it tells you
Total phosphorus (2025 , 3 samples)	18 µg/L	14–23	The main nutrient that feeds algae
Chlorophyll-a (2025 , 3 samples)	5.2 µg/L	2.8–8.9	How much algae is in the water
Secchi depth (2026 , 10 readings)	11.2 ft	9.1–14.2	How far you can see into the water

Most recent public values found, with sample years shown. Nutrient and clarity readings come from different years, so the free snapshot does not combine them into a single trophic score. Standardized interpretation is part of the paid Annual Lake Report.

AIS status (example data)

Zebra mussels	Not listed
Eurasian watermilfoil	Not listed
Starry stonewort	Not listed
Curly-leaf pondweed	Listed
Chinese mystery snail	Listed

Status from the DNR infested waters list (example data). Location: the association's 2025 dock-removal report notes curly-leaf pondweed in the north bay; the DNR list itself does not give locations. "Not listed" means not on the DNR list; it does not mean the species is absent.

Three plain-language takeaways

- Recent readings look moderate.** 2025 nutrient values and 2026 clarity readings are in a middle range for Minnesota lakes; they come from different years.
- Clarity readings show a downward pattern.** About a foot and a half over ten years. The pattern merits review; these data alone do not identify a cause.
- AIS prevention remains a continuing priority.** Zebra mussels are not on the DNR list for this lake. Prevention costs far less than management after an infestation.

What we couldn't find

- No phosphorus or chlorophyll-a data since 2025
- No aquatic plant survey found in the sources reviewed
- No inlet monitoring

Questions for your board

1. Should nutrient sampling move to every summer?
2. Who keeps Secchi readings going if a volunteer steps away?

This free snapshot is a one-time, plain-language starting point. Annual updates, history and comparisons, standardized charts, board-supplied monitoring results and a member summary are included in the paid Annual Lake Report.

Sources: Illustrative data. Real snapshots use MPCA water monitoring data and the DNR infested waters list, with retrieval dates. Pine Shadow Lake is fictional; every number is example data.