

2015 SUMMARY FOR CHISAGO LAKES LAKE LEVEL MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The goals for the LID lake level monitoring program for the 2015 monitoring season included:

- Monitor lake levels weekly during the open water season,
- Improve the safety and efficiency of the monitoring process whenever possible,
- Evaluate and upgrade worn out gauges and equipment, and
- Evaluate monitoring site locations and revise where appropriate.

The 2015 monitoring season began on April 8, 2015, as ice-out had occurred on area lakes.

1. **Little Lake:** The gauge at the public boat access was blocked by floating bogs for a couple weeks early in the season when water was high. The gauge is old and getting worn, but still readable with binoculars.
2. **Pioneer Lake:** In 2015, the DNR established an OHW level of 906.2 for Pioneer Lake. The gauge is located in the southwest corner of the lake. The gauge is in a good location, although it can be difficult to see when tree vegetation is thick.
3. **North and South Center Lakes:** The gauge is located at the South Center Lake public access where it can easily be viewed from the docks.
4. **North Lindstrom Lake:** The gauge is located near the Lakeview Motel along Highway 8.
5. **South Lindstrom and Chisago Lakes:** This gauge is located at the Chisago Lake public access in the channel between South Lindstrom and Chisago Lakes.
6. **Wallmark Lake:** This gauge is located on private property and is read from the back yard. Readings were taken consistently without major issues.
7. **School Lake:** This gauge is viewed from Rotary Park in Chisago City.
8. **Swamp Lake:** There are 7 culverts located at Swamp Lake; the 2nd culvert from the east is used for lake level measurements. Water flowed through the culverts all season.
9. **Weir at Ivywood Trail:** A permanent gauge on the weir is used for measurements.

10. **Lofton Avenue Weir:** Located between Chisago and Green Lakes; the permanent gauge is attached to the side of the weir. The gauge can be difficult to read when algae from receding water levels sticks to the gauge.
11. **Little Green, Green, and Ellen Lakes:** This gauge is located on Little Green Lake near a private residence on West Street.
12. **Kroon Lake:** This gauge is located at the Kroon Lake public access. At times the gauge had been difficult to read due to excessive vegetation growth and staff trimmed some of the cattails/reeds at this location.
13. **Spider Lake:** This gauge is located at the Spider Lake public access. At times this gauge had been difficult to read due to excessive vegetation growth, for that reason some cattails/reeds were trimmed at this location. At the end of the season, water levels rose high enough to reach the top of the gauge.
14. **Linn Lake:** This gauge is accessed by a dock on private property on Newberry Trail. No major issues at this site. Staff needed to wear rubber boots to access this gauge most of the season due to high water levels.

The 2015 monitoring season concluded on November 25, as a snow storm and cold temperatures arrived the following week after an unusually wet and warm November.