

TAMARACK LAKE



QUICK FACTS

Lake Catchment Area 1,961 acres

Surface Area 115 acres

Maximum Depth 6 ft

Average Depth 4-6 ft

Common Fish

Minnow, Bullhead

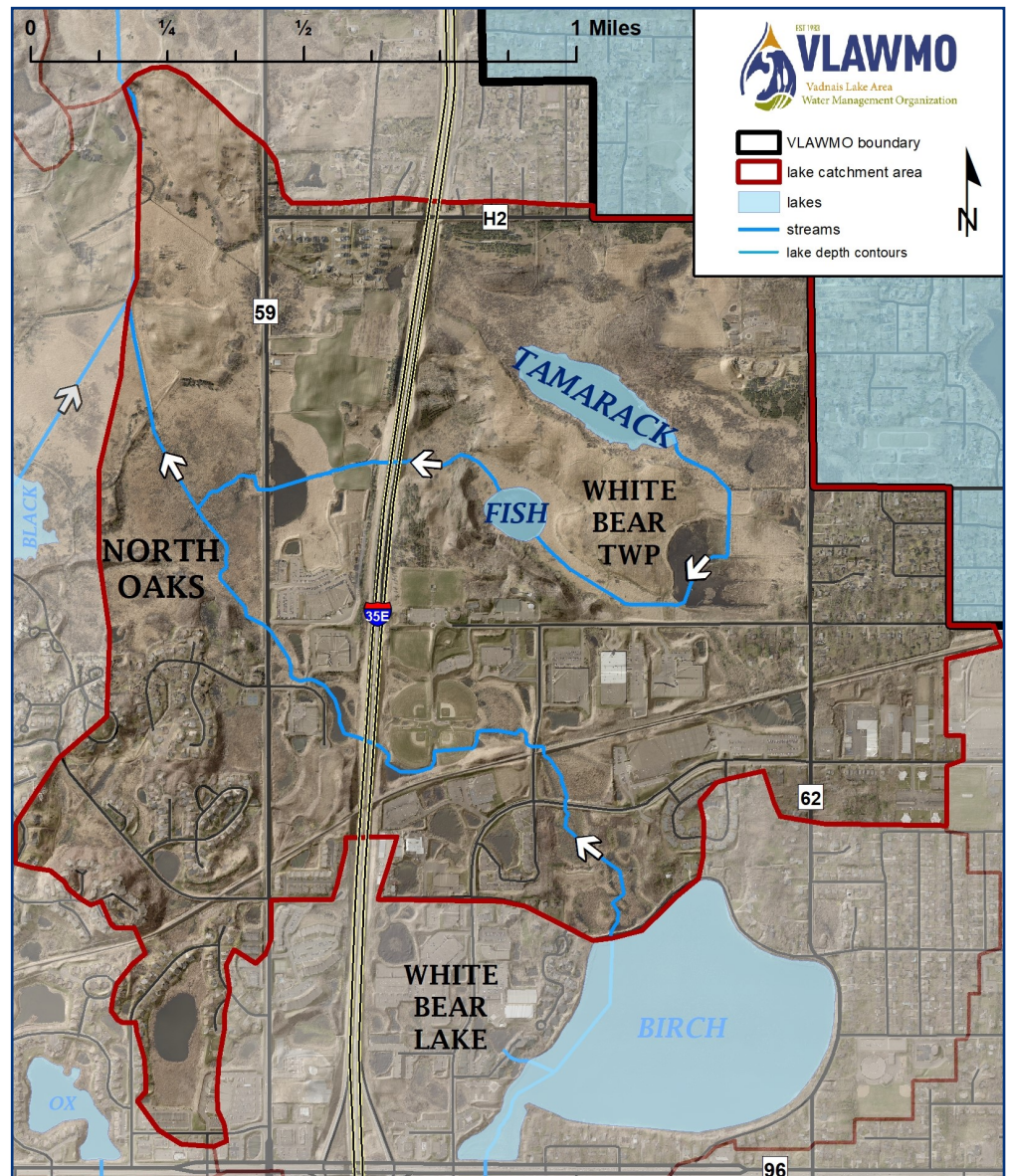
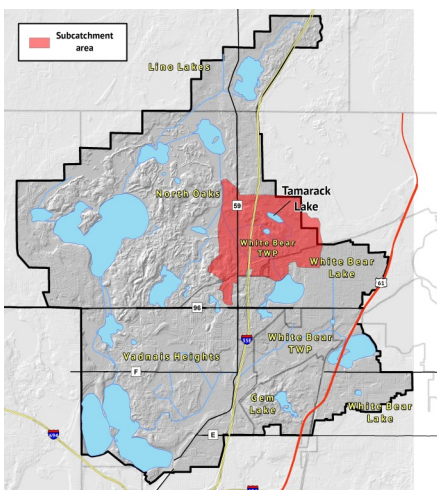
Predominant Vegetation

Curlyleaf pondweed, Canada waterweed, Leafy pondweed

Invasive Species

Curlyleaf pondweed, Reed canary grass, Hybrid cattail

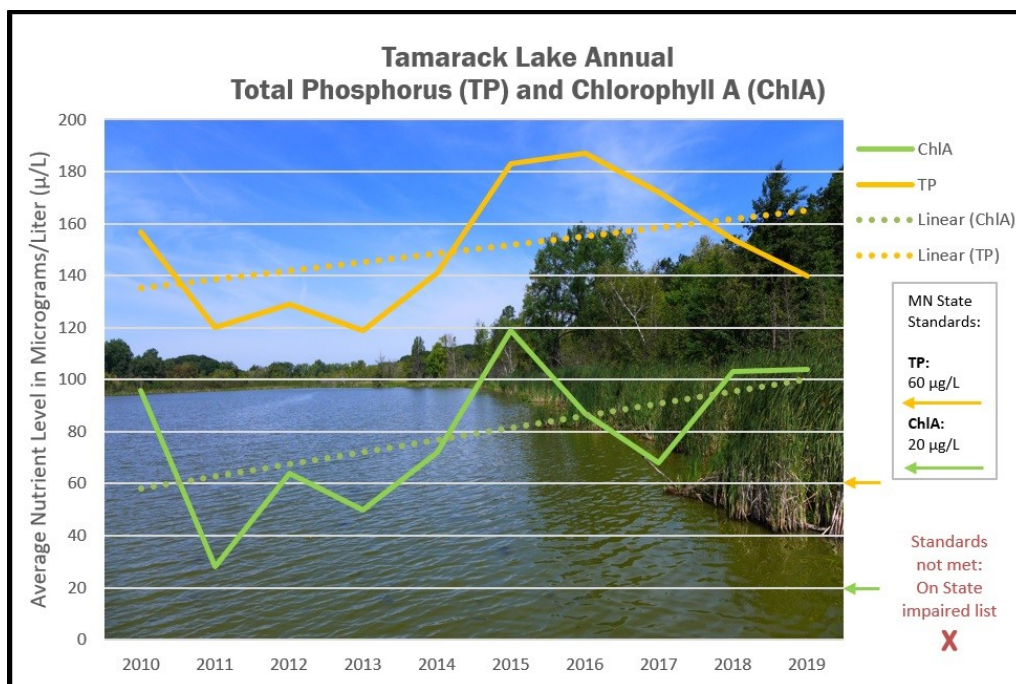
LOCATION: Tamarack Lake is located in Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Township. It has one of the largest subwatersheds in VLAWMO, including Interstate 35E as well as residential and commercial developments. Fish Lake is also located in the nature center but is not monitored due to inaccessibility.



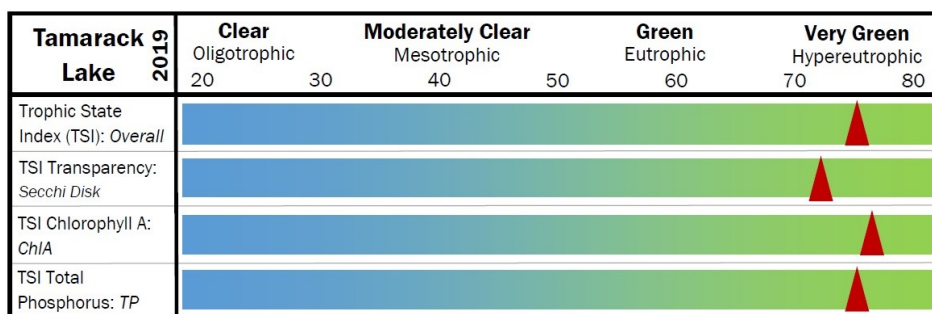
LAKE SUMMARY: Despite being surrounded by parkland and wetlands, Tamarack Lake is impaired for nutrients. This is likely due to internal loading — high nutrients existing in the lake sediment. Tamarack has a history of agricultural runoff and dumping before the creation of the Tamarack Nature Center. At present, a large bullhead population keeps sediment and nutrients suspended in the water column. This boosts algae levels, prevents aquatic vegetation from growing, and reduces habitat quality for game fish. Water flows from Tamarack into Fish Lake, then into a stream and north into Wilkinson Lake.

NUTRIENT SUMMARY:

Tamarack Lake shows consistently high TP and Chl A levels. 35E is likely a major source of stormwater runoff in Tamarack's subwatershed. The lake has a poor Secchi disk readings, meaning light is unable to penetrate into the murky water. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study has not yet been completed for this lake. When completed, needs and potential improvement projects will be better identified.

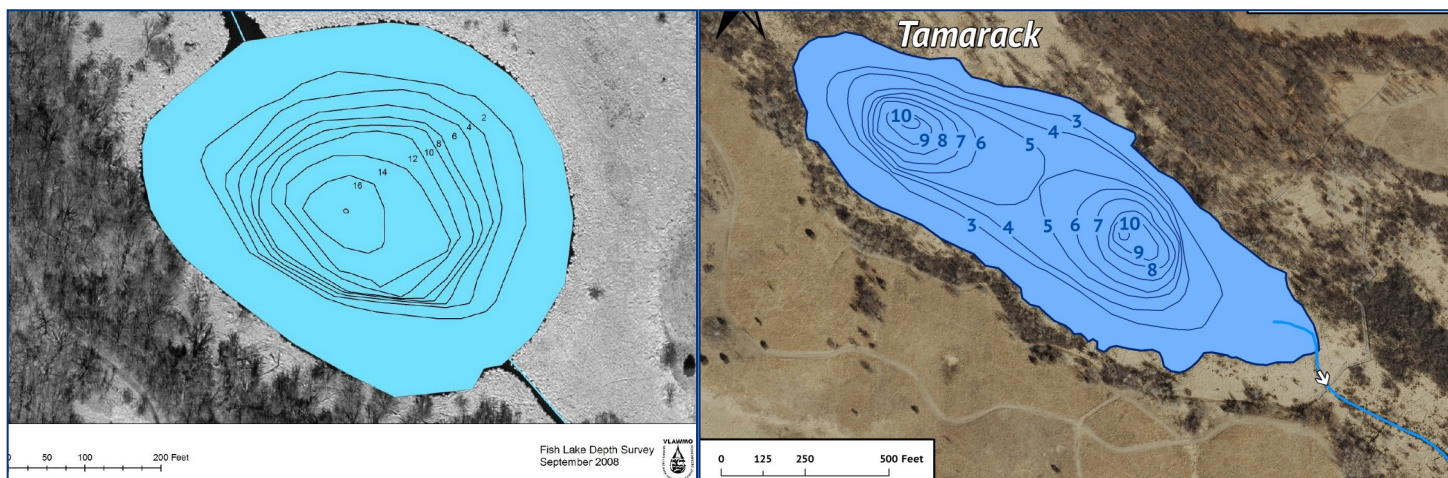


Ermine are a predator that hunts along the shoreline of Tamarack, as documented in remote-camera surveys in 2019.



Trophic State Index (TSI):

A TSI rating is a calculation based on lake data averages. These values are used to compare lakes on a consistent scale.



DEPTH SURVEYS: Prior to depth surveys in 2008, it was thought that Tamarack and Fish Lakes had contours shaped like shallow bowls. The surveys showed surprises for both lakes. Tamarack revealed two deeper pockets, which could allow for fish to survive the winter. Fish Lake has a shallow edge that quickly drops to about 16 ft, with a tiny pocket of 18 ft in the center.

Visit VLAWMO.org/waterbodies for more information on Tamarack Lake.