

WATER QUALITY PROJECT FACT SHEET

LAKE O'DOWD IMPROVEMENTS



We can definitively say that Lake O'Dowd is getting cleaner!

Why has the water quality improved?

The lake has improved because of these large-scale changes:

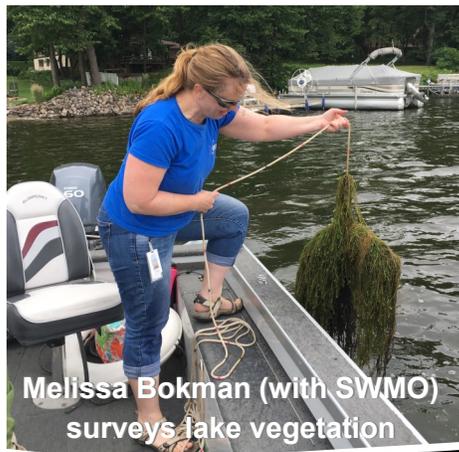
1. Land use around the lake is now mostly large-lot residential instead of farmland. Farmland is bare most of the year, causing soil erosion and pollution in the run-off. Residential land is covered year-round, which limits run-off.
2. Around 10 years ago, fertilizers containing phosphorus were banned from use in the metropolitan area. Excess phosphorus causes smelly algal blooms and cloudy water.
3. The O'Dowd Chain of Lakes Association treats Curly-leaf pondweed in the lake. Curly-leaf pondweed is a non-native aquatic weed, and can adversely affect water quality.

How has SWMO contributed to the improved water quality?

1. SWMO contributes monitoring data and resources to target water quality concerns.
2. SWMO provides grants to pay for cost-share projects to stabilize shorelines, buffer lakes, or treat lakes for invasive species.

How can Scott County citizens help maintain clean water?

1. If you live on a lake: please consider installing native shoreline vegetation. It is easier to maintain than turf grass (no mowing after it is established) and buffers the lake from pollutants.
2. All residents: follow fertilizer directions, use biodegradable products when possible, and keep yard waste (and other waste) off of the street. Anything in the street is carried in storm water through storm drains directly to our lakes and rivers, polluting them. Cleaner streets = cleaner waterbodies.



Melissa Bokman (with SWMO) surveys lake vegetation



Curly-leaf Pondweed Treatments

QUICK FACTS

Major River Basin: Minnesota River

Water Bodies Affected: Lake O'Dowd

Lake Improvement Goals:

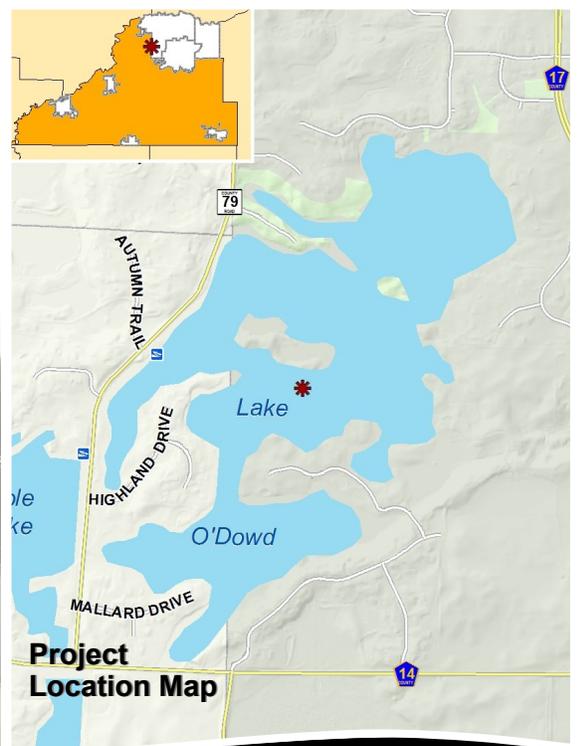
1. Buffer the lake from human activities.
2. Increase public awareness
3. Improve water quality
4. Improve wildlife habitat

Timeline: From 2008 to 2016

SWMO Costs: \$XXX,XXX since YEAR

Planning by: SWMO

Individual Projects Implemented by: SWCD



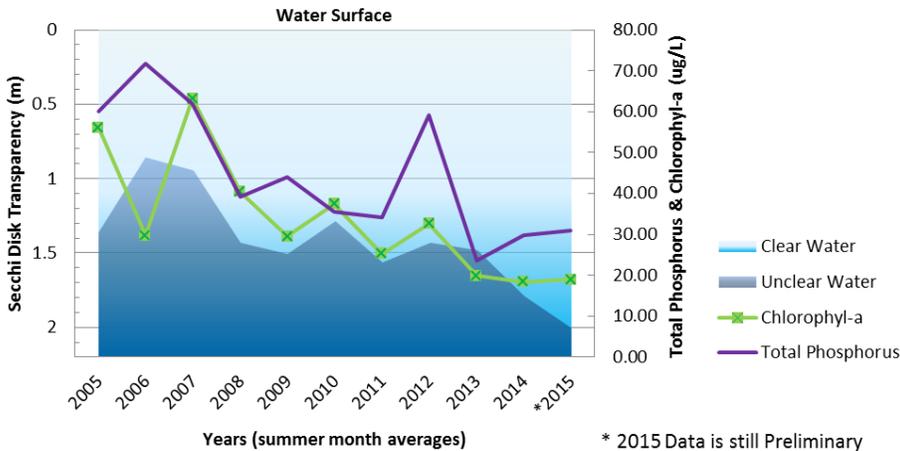
Project Location Map

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Natural Shoreline on Lake O'Dowd

Lake O'Dowd Water Quality Monitoring



MAJOR OUTCOMES

- The graph to the left shows that Lake O'Dowd now passes the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) standards for water clarity, phosphorus, and algae.
- Lakes can be delisted from the MPCA Impaired Waters list, if data exists that proves they pass MPCA standards. SWMO requested Lake O'Dowd be delisted.
- Now that the water is cleaner, visitors can experience fewer recreational disruptions, healthier aquatic life, and a clear look.



Natural Shoreline on Lake O'Dowd

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- ⇒ Visit our [website](#) for more information on projects, volunteer opportunities, and more.
- ⇒ Contact Scott WMO to learn more about how we work with lake associations, other non-profits, and other government agencies to improve the quality of living in Scott County.
- ⇒ Coming Soon: Scott WMO [Story Maps!](#)



COST SHARE AVAILABLE

If you live on a lake and are concerned about water quality, please check out our cost share programs! [Financial](#) and [technical assistance](#) are available to landowners to install natural shoreline projects.

Please contact Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for more information:

7151 190th Street West, Suite 125, Jordan MN 55352

952-492-5425

www.scottswcd.org