Lake George Inlet Streams Water Quality Testing-2023 Results

Supported by LGC

The Steuben County Lakes Council (SCLC) has been conducting water testing of inlet streams to most of the recreational lakes in Steuben County including Lake George for many years. They conduct the water testing three times each year over the spring and summer timeframe (May, July, and August). The long-term testing site that SCLC has been using for Lake George is the inlet stream that passes through a pipe under Kope Kon Road (site #38). From 2017 through 2020 the Lake George Conservancy (LGC) funded the SCLC to additionally take samples at the outlet stream from Silver Lake at Old Hwy 27 (known as site 67). This site has not been sampled the last three years but may be picked up again in the future. In 2017, the LGC also began paying the SCLC the full cost of sampling a pipe outlet under Flint Road near the boat ramp (site #72) and continue to do so. Water flow through the outlet pipe at Site #72 is intermittent depending on the size of rainfall events prior to sampling. Due to dry weather in 2023 no water was flowing from the pipe at site #72 on the sampling dates of 7/13 and 8/22 and therefore no water quality data is provided for this site on the table below on these dates. There was also no water flowing under the road at the Kope Kon Road sampling site #38 on the sampling date of 7/12 and no water quality data is shown below for that site in July.

The table below shows the 2023 results for samples taken at two key Lake George tributary sites mentioned above (sites #38 & 72)

The table also lists the IDEM recommended maximum levels for head water streams for each of the parameters shown below.

	E. coli	Total Phosphorus	Suspended Sediments
Recommended Max Level	**235 (colonies/100ml**	**.076 mg/l =.076 PPM**	**30 mg/l =30 PPM**
Sample Site & Dates Sampled:			
#38 (Kope Kon Road Site)			
05/30/23	**122.2**	**0.017**	**2.4**
07/12/23	**no data***	**no data***	**no data***
08/22/23	**119.8**	**0.058**	**3.3**
#72 (Flint Road Site near the Boat Ramp)			
05/30/23	**45.0**	**0.086**	**9.8**
07/13/23	**no data***	**no data***	**no data***
08/22/23	**no data***	**no data***	**no data***

*** no data = no water sample collected because there was no water flowing**

Notes on the Results:

As you can see from the table above there were 9 occurrences when data was not collected due to no water flow at the sampling sites. Therefore, the amount of water quality data from our two key sampling sites is limited for 2023. However, the positive thing to report is the water quality numbers collected were well below the IDEM recommended maximum levels for all the sites where data was collected with the exception of one sample. That being the sample collected at site 72 on May 30 that showed the total phosphorus reading to be just slightly above the recommended maximum level.

To view the water testing results for all Steuben County lakes sampled by the Steuben County Lakes Council in 2023 go to their website at www.lakescouncil.org and click on 2023 Water Testing Results for May, July, and August.

For more information on water quality trends for public lakes in Indiana in including Lake George click on the link below to review IDEM's Report "Trends and Trophic Status of Indiana's Lakes-Appendix I"

https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/files/ir_2022_apndx_i_cwa_314_lakes.pdf