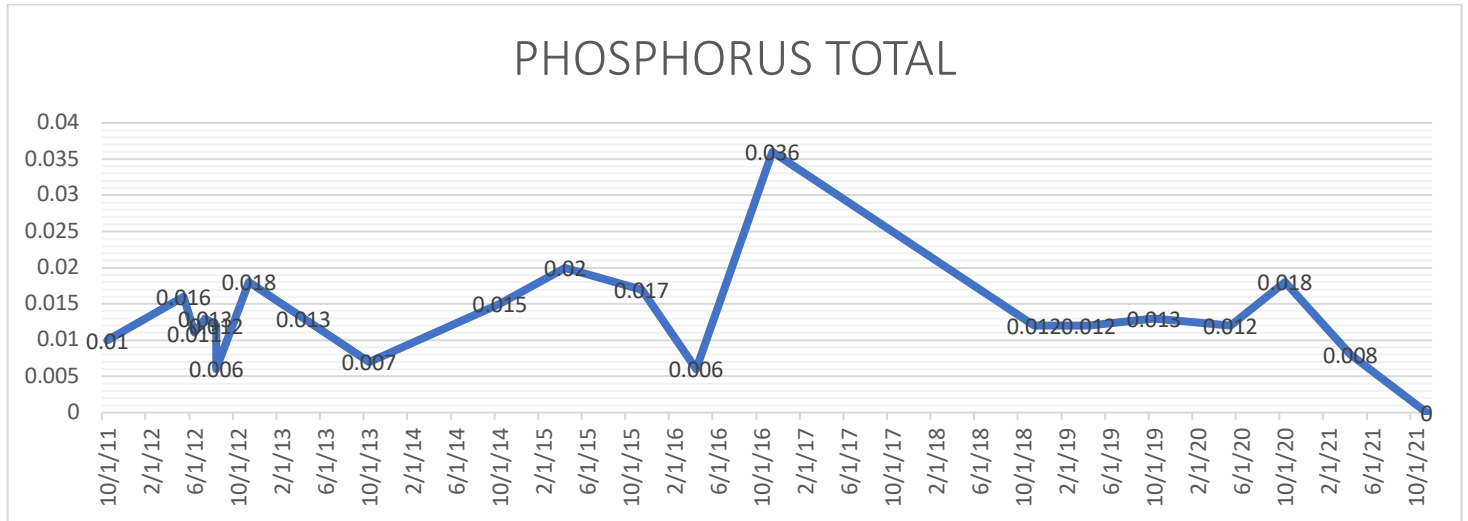


White River Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District  
Lake Water Chemical Analysis

Phosphorus – Phosphorus promotes excessive aquatic plant growth. In more than 80% of Wisconsin’s lakes, phosphorus is the key nutrient affecting the amount of algae and weed growth. Total phosphorus is considered a better indicator of a lake’s nutrient status because its levels remain more stable than soluble reactive phosphorus. Ideally, soluble reactive phosphorus concentrations should be 10 µg/l (micrograms per liter) or less at spring turnover to prevent summer algae blooms.



Nitrogen - Nitrogen is second only to phosphorus as an important nutrient for plant and algae growth. A lake’s nitrogen sources vary widely. Nitrogen compounds often exceed 0.5 mg/l in rainfall, so that precipitation may be the main nitrogen source for seepage and some drainage lakes. In most cases, however, the amount of nitrogen in lake water corresponds to local land use. Nitrogen may come from fertilizer and animal wastes on agricultural lands, human waste from sewage treatment plants or septic systems, and lawn fertilizers used on lakeshore property. Nitrogen may enter a lake from surface runoff or groundwater sources.

