

Visual Water Quality Summaries: Understanding the Color Bars & Column Charts

The color bars display the range of data seen in Maine lakes for each parameter. Lakes at the blue end of each range are generally clear. Lakes at the green end support more algae. Parameters having no to little effect on algae are monochrome.

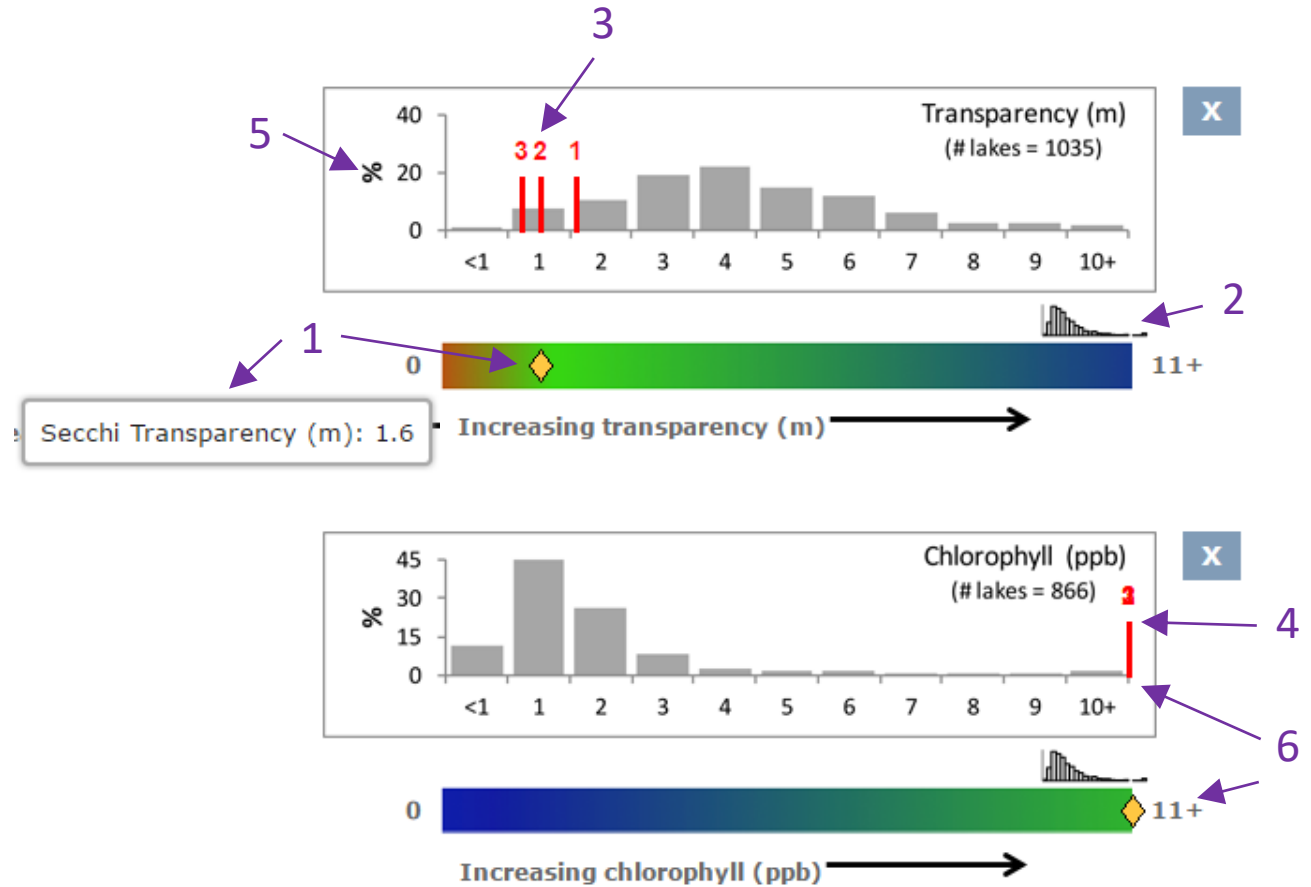
The yellow diamond indicates where 'your' lake falls on this range. Place your cursor over the diamond (1) to see the average value for your lake.

Click on the Column Chart Icon (2) for more information on how your lake compares to other Maine lakes. Below the horizontal line at the bottom of the chart are numbers which align with values indicated by the Color Chart.

Red lines (3) indicate data values for each lake station. Red lines superimposed on each other indicate that values are nearly identical (4).

The vertical scale at the left of the chart (5) provides insight into what percentage of lakes are represented by the height of each column. Note that the column above the number '5' (for example) includes lakes with parameter values from 5.0 to 5.99.

Data exceeding the maximum scale value are plotted to the extreme right of Color Bar and Column Chart (6).



Note: Lakes having differences in water quality or data density among different sampling stations may have skewed mean values. In addition, a mean transparency equal to the maximum depth at a sampling station may indicate that the Secchi disk was visible when resting on the lake bottom. In these cases, other indicators (chlorophyll and phosphorus) should be used to evaluate water quality in these cases.