

Lake Partner Program Annual Data Cycle

Pre-Sampling: Kit Creation (Nov-Mar)

1. Sampling supplies are ordered and reusable sampling equipment is washed and cleaned. Here is a photo of the Inland Lakes student cleaning reusable filters and funnels.



2. Approximately 1000 water sampling kits are assembled for LPP volunteers at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC).



3. Sampling kits are shipped to 650+ volunteers throughout Ontario and other parts of the country.



Sampling: Volunteer Responsibilities (May-Oct)

4. Volunteers receive sampling kits and assemble necessary items (Secchi disk, water collection bottle).



5. Volunteers collect water samples and water clarity measurements from lakes all over the province.



6. Volunteers mail water samples back to DESC using the postage provided in their sampling kits.

7. Volunteers continue to collect bi-weekly or monthly Secchi disk readings.

8. Volunteers submit their Secchi data sheets by mail or email after their final Secchi reading has been completed, normally by the end of October.

Post Sampling: Water Chemistry & Data (May-Jan)

9. Water sampling kits arrive at DESC by mail starting in April and ending in November of each year.



10. Upon arrival, kits are unpacked and water sampling containers are organized into racks and crates to be submitted to the DESC Water Chemistry Laboratory.

11. Electronic submission sheets are created to accompany samples to laboratory.

12. The DESC Water Chemistry Laboratory analyses thousands of water samples from across the province for various parameters. In 2015, approximately 4,500 LPP total phosphorus samples were analyzed, which represents only about ~25% of the 17,900 total phosphorus analyses performed by the lab.

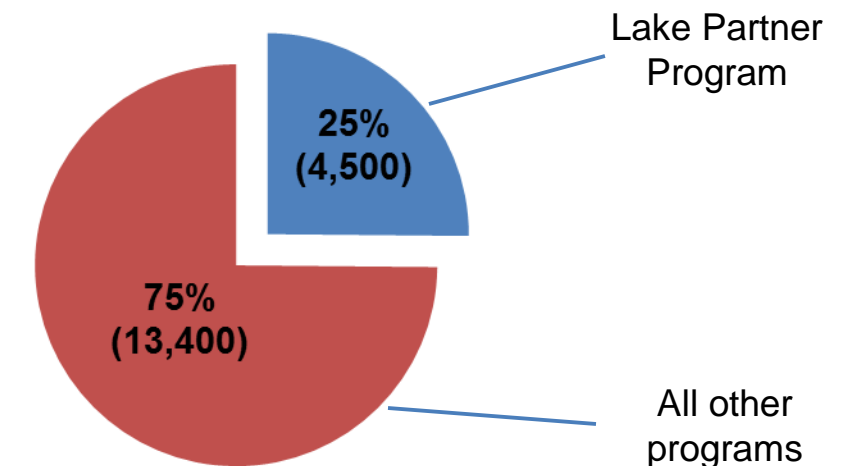


Figure above shows the number of total phosphorus samples analyzed by the DESC Water Chemistry Laboratory in 2015. Numbers shown are for the LPP in comparison to all other programs.

13. Total phosphorus data undergo a series of quality control and quality assurance checks to ensure that accurate results are reported.

14. Data are organized and stored in a database at DESC.

15. Data are sent for approval by senior management to post online.

16. Data are posted online at: FOCA.on.ca, DESC.ca, [Ontario Open Data \(Ontario.ca\)](http://Ontario Open Data (Ontario.ca))