

## 7 ICE ON/OUT DATES

An interesting climatological statistic to track over time is the date that a lake freezes in the fall and the date it thaws in the spring. Ice phenology affects migration and breeding patterns of birds, food supply of fish and animals, and water chemistry. Ice out and on dates for Minneapolis lakes are given in Table 7A. Statistical information is given in Table 7B and 7C for ice out dates and ice on dates respectively. Also included in Tables 7B and 7C is the earliest and latest date of ice out and the year it occurred, the average date of ice out and the number of years that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has records for that lake.

This was not a noteworthy lake ice year as no records were broken. Ice out dates were within a week of the average date. Ice on dates were also within a week of the average date, except for Lakes Calhoun, Cedar and Harriet which were a week and a half to two weeks earlier than average.

The historical record of ice on and out dates that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board maintains is unfortunately not a complete record. However, 54 years of data have been collected for ice out for Lake Calhoun (Table 7B). Ice on records are less numerous with Lake Calhoun having 34 records. Lake Calhoun has the most records; Ryan Lake was just added this year and has the least records.

**Table 7A. Ice out and on dates for Minneapolis lakes in 2003.**

Lake	Ice Out	Ice On
Birch	April 10	November 24
Brownie	April 3	November 26
Calhoun	April 3	December 12
Cedar	April 3	December 5
Diamond	March 31	November 24
Harriet	April 3	December 12
Hiawatha	April 3	November 26
Isles	April 1	November 26
Loring	March 31	November 26
Nokomis	April 2	November 26
Powderhorn	April 1	November 26
Ryan	April 2	November 26
Spring	April 1	November 24
Webber	April 1	November 24
Wirth	March 31	December 2

**Table 7B. Earliest, latest and average day of ice out, and number of years on record.**

Lake	Earliest Out	Year Occurred	Latest Out	Year Occurred	Average Ice Out	Years of Record
Birch	3/8	2000	4/15	1996	4/2	18
Brownie	3/9	2000	4/18	1996	4/3	22
Calhoun	3/9	2000	4/28	1965	4/9	54
Cedar	3/9	2000	4/26	1975	4/7	30
Diamond	3/6	2000	4/13	1963	3/31	11
Harriet	3/9	2000	4/28	1965	4/7	36
Hiawatha	3/8	2000	4/25	1965	4/4	29
Isles	3/8	2000	4/26	1965	4/5	34
Loring	3/6	2000	4/19	1996	4/2	23
Nokomis	3/8	2000	4/25	1965	4/4	32
Powderhorn	3/8	2000	4/27	1965	4/4	24
Spring	3/6	2000	4/15	1996	4/1	13
Webber	3/6	2000	4/18	1996	3/31	14
Wirth	3/7	2000	4/18	1996	4/1	27

**Table 7C. Earliest, latest and average day of ice on, and number of years of record.**

Lake	Earliest On	Year Occurred	Latest On	Year Occurred	Average Ice On	Years of Record
Birch	11/1	1991	12/16	1998	11/25	18
Brownie	11/5	1991	12/20	2001	11/27	22
Calhoun	11/25	1996	12/31	2001	12/21	34
Cedar	11/18	1989	12/21	1998, 1999, 2001	12/20	22
Diamond	11/20	2000	12/20	2001	12/3	9
Harriet	11/25	1996	12/31	2001	12/22	31
Hiawatha	11/1	1991	12/21	2001	11/28	23
Isles	11/5	1991	12/21	1999	11/28	29
Loring	11/1	1991	12/21	1999, 2001	12/19	19
Nokomis	11/1	1991	12/20	2001	11/28	24
Powderhorn	11/1	1991	12/20	2001	11/26	19
Spring	11/10	1995	12/20	2001	11/28	13
Webber	11/10	1995	12/20	2001	11/28	14
Wirth	11/5	1991	12/21	2001	11/27	23