



Lake Alto



The Lake can be viewed and enjoyed at Alachua County Lake Alto Park, NE 134th Place in Waldo. Enjoy the boat ramp and sandy bottom access to the lake perfect for swimming, boating, wildlife viewing and fishing! Hiking trails are also at the Lake Alto Park. LEAFS has a walking trail by the lake. Alachua County Forever will be opening its Lake Alto Preserve in late 2012.

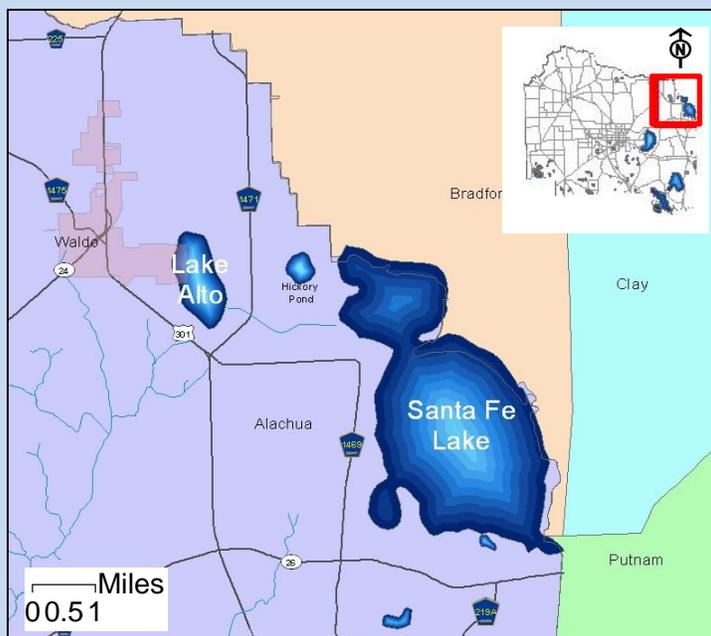


Figure 2. Map of Lake Alto, Waldo city limits (dark pink), Alachua County (purple), Putnam County (light green), Clay County (teal), and Bradford County (peach).

Fun Facts

- Lake Alto and Santa Fe Lake are the head waters for the Santa Fe River and boast the highest elevations in Alachua County.
- Surface area of Lake Alto typically covers 573 acres.
- A section of the area around the lake has been restored to the native longleaf pine ecosystem by the Longleaf Ecology and Forestry Society (LEAFS).
- Lake Alto is also called Lake Altho.
- Lake Alto is known for its good fishing for bass, brim and catfish.
- Shore line resoration was conducted along the boat ramp by Current Problems.

Ways you can help!

- Dispose of oils and chemicals properly at the Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, or not at all.
- Keep grass clippings out of storm drains, swales, and ditches put it back on the lawn or bag it.
- Report illicit discharges or dumping to 246-6800.

Water Quality

Human Impacts

- A Canal connecting Lake Alto and Santa Fe Lake was constructed in 1879 for travel to the Railroad for produce shipping.
- There is a limited fish consumption advisory for mercury.

Nutrients: The proposed FDEP water quality nutrient standards will be effective in 2012. When these standards are effective, Lake Alto will be considered a dark colored lake according to long-term data from Lake Watch. The water quality in Lake Alto is very good and nutrient concentrations are low.

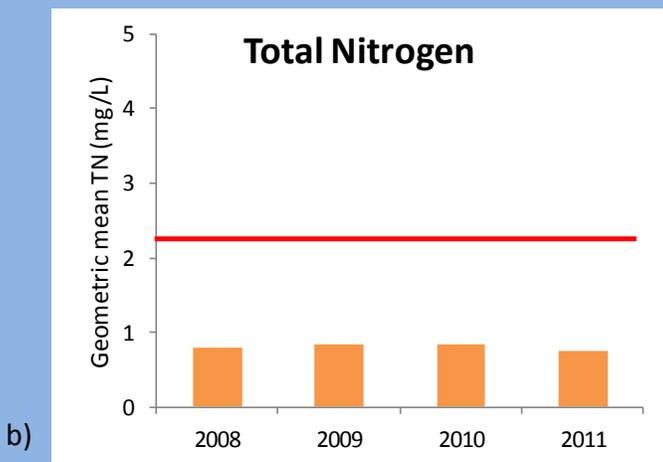
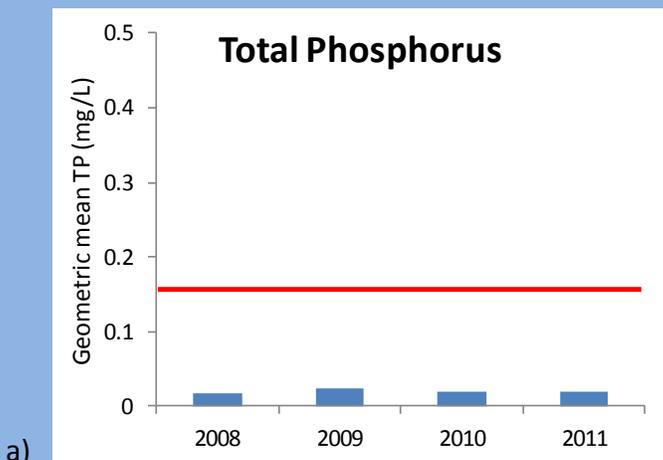


Figure 3. Graph of annual geometric mean of a) total phosphorus (TP) data and b) total nitrogen data (TN) collected by Lake Watch. Nutrient standards for dark colored lakes are represented by the red line a) TP of 0.16 mg/L and b) TN of 2.23 mg/L.

Chlorophyll a: When the proposed FDEP standard comes into effect Lake Alto will not be considered impaired for Chlorophyll a. Chlorophyll a is a measure of algae in the water column. High chlorophyll a can indicate a nutrient imbalance which is not indicated in this lake.

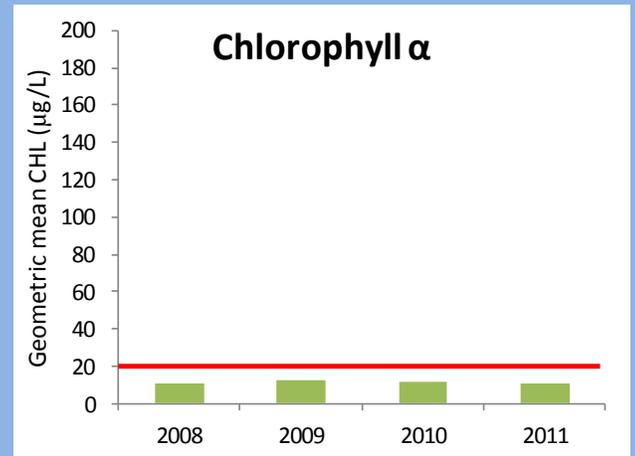


Figure 5. Graph of annual geometric mean of Chlorophyll a collected by LakeWatch. Nutrient standards for lakes with color >40 Platinum Cobalt Units are represented by the red line 20 µg/L.

Lake Level: Water level elevation of Lake Alto is monitored by the Suwannee River Water Management District. The graph to the right is the recorded stage (water level) from April 1976 to April 2012.

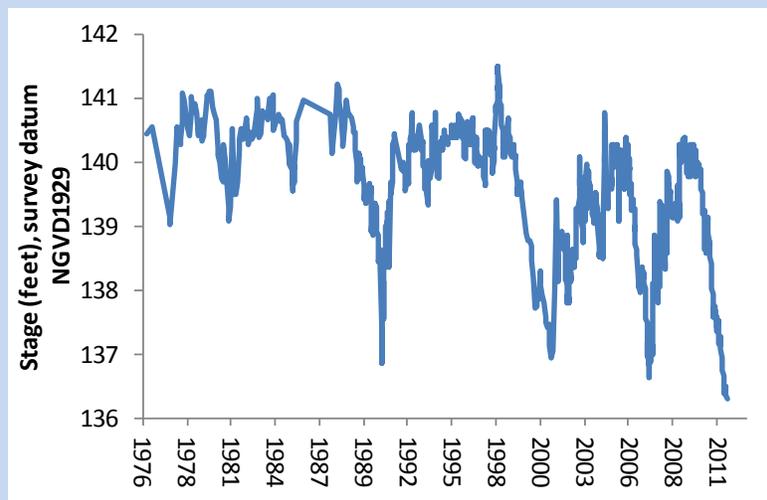


Figure 4. Graph of stage in Lake Alto(1976-2012) data collected by SRWMD.

To learn more:

- Visit the Suwannee River Water Management District website at www.SRWMD.com
- For fish consumption advisories visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/fishconsumptionadvisories/2012Brochure.pdf>
- Visit Lake Watch for data on the lake <http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>