

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Satellite Schedule for 2026

When you collect lake water clarity readings on dates when the Landsat8 or Landsat9 satellites fly overhead, this information helps us estimate water clarity for thousands of additional lakes in Wisconsin from satellite images. Your on-the-ground measurements help to calibrate the satellite equipment and improve the accuracy of the water clarity estimates that it provides. This activity began in 1999 when the University of Wisconsin-Madison conducted a satellite study and discovered they could estimate water clarity for over 8000 lakes using a satellite image model calibrated for a small subset of lakes in the same field of view. After the university completed its study, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources took over the job of analyzing the satellite images on an ongoing basis.

If you monitor your lake on a sunny day when the satellite acquires an image, you are actually helping to monitor hundreds of lakes around your lake that might not have a volunteer. Without volunteers, we could not successfully use satellite images to retrieve water clarity data.

To participate:

- 1) If you know your satellite path from last year, you are all set. This does not change from year to year. If you do not know which path your lake is in, ask your Regional CLMN Coordinator or visit the Water Clarity page on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network website. Choose your county at the top and then find your lake in the list.
- 2) Use the “Satellite Schedule” on the other side of this sheet to see the dates when one of the satellites will be overhead. We encourage you to monitor on as many of these dates for your path as you can. Clouds may obscure your lake on a satellite image and we will evaluate every single satellite image to see if it is possible to use your data to retrieve additional water clarity information.
- 3) You do not need to do anything extra when reporting your data.
- 4) If you cannot collect water clarity readings on the same dates as the satellite flyover dates, that’s OK!
- 5) The satellite flyover schedule is on the back side of this page.

We greatly appreciate your help. Thank you!

Satellite Flyover Dates for CLMN Volunteers

Path 26	Path 25	Path 24	Path 23
4/30/2026	5/1/2026	5/2/2026	5/3/2026
5/8/2026	5/9/2026	5/10/2026	5/11/2026
5/16/2026	5/17/2026	5/18/2026	5/19/2026
5/24/2026	5/25/2026	5/26/2026	5/27/2026
6/1/2026	6/2/2026	6/3/2026	6/4/2026
6/9/2026	6/10/2026	6/11/2026	6/12/2026
6/17/2026	6/18/2026	6/19/2026	6/20/2026
6/25/2026	6/26/2026	6/27/2026	6/28/2026
7/3/2026	7/4/2026	7/5/2026	7/6/2026
7/11/2026	7/12/2026	7/13/2026	7/14/2026
7/19/2026	7/20/2026	7/21/2026	7/22/2026
7/27/2026	7/28/2026	7/29/2026	7/30/2026
8/4/2026	8/5/2026	8/6/2026	8/7/2026
8/12/2026	8/13/2026	8/14/2026	8/15/2026
8/20/2026	8/21/2026	8/22/2026	8/23/2026
8/28/2026	8/29/2026	8/30/2026	8/31/2026
9/5/2026	9/6/2026	9/7/2026	9/8/2026
9/13/2026	9/14/2026	9/15/2026	9/16/2026
9/21/2026	9/22/2026	9/23/2026	9/24/2026
9/29/2026	9/30/2026	10/1/2026	10/2/2026
10/7/2026	10/8/2026	10/9/2026	10/10/2026
10/15/2026	10/16/2026	10/17/2026	10/18/2026
10/23/2026	10/24/2026	10/25/2026	10/26/2026
10/31/2026	11/1/2026	11/2/2026	11/3/2026