

Procedures for Collecting Other Parameters

While at the Secchi disk sampling location, please collect the following:

Water Temperature

Use a thermometer to measure water temperature. First, set the thermometer mode to °C. Next, place the thermometer in the water in the same location where the Secchi depth is measured. Now allow a few seconds for the thermometer to display the temperature reading. Lastly, record reading on field data sheet.

Air Temperature

Use a thermometer to measure air temperature. First, set the thermometer mode to °C. Next, hold the thermometer in the air above the same location where the Secchi depth is measured. Now allow a few seconds for the thermometer to display the temperature reading. Lastly, record reading on field data sheet.

Wind and Weather Observations

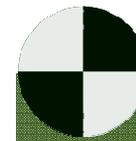
Use your best judgment to approximate wind speed and wind direction. You may also refer to sources such as the Internet, television, newspaper, etc. Record approximate wind speed in mph or as none, slight, moderate, or strong and approximate wind direction using W, SW, S, SE, etc. on field data sheet. For weather observations, record on the field data sheet the current weather conditions using one of the following terms: sunny, cloudy, drizzle, or rain. Rain data should also be collected. On the field data sheet, record the number of days it has been since the last rainfall occurred at the sampling location.



Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Field log forms available for downloading at:
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/monitoring/secchidataform.html

For more information, contact DEPS
Phone: 410 - 887 - 5683
Email: watersheds@baltimorecountymd.gov

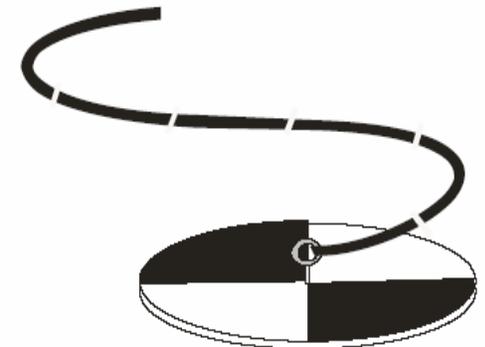


BALTIMORE COUNTY CITIZEN SECCHI DISK MONITORING PROGRAM

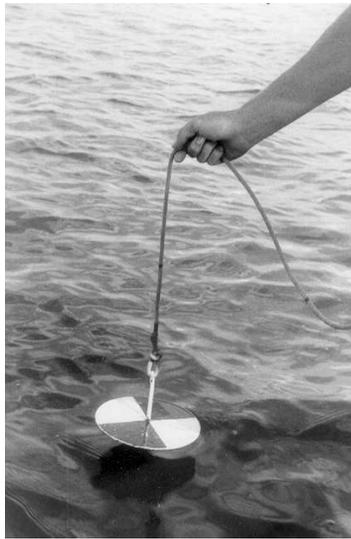


CITIZEN GUIDE

SECCHI DISK
MONITORING
PROGRAM



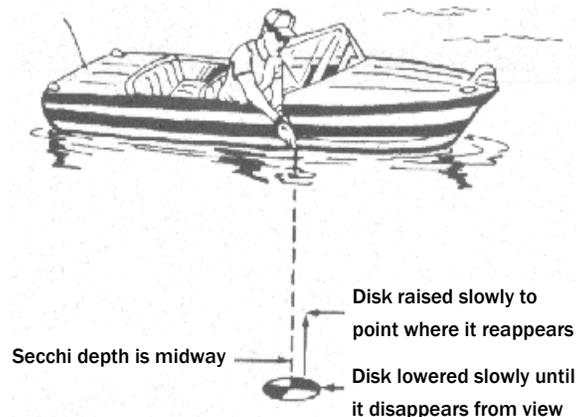
What is a Secchi Disk?



Why Monitor Water Clarity with a Secchi Disk?

The Secchi disk provides a convenient method for measuring light penetration below the surface of a body of water. This is a measurement of water clarity. Water clarity is important to the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and aquatic habitats. If water clarity is measured through the season and from year to year, trends may be observed. Improving water quality trends indicate that restoration efforts are working.

The *Secchi disk* is widely used as a basic measurement of water clarity. A Secchi disk is an 8-inch (20 cm) disk with alternating black and white quadrants. It works by lowering the disk into a body of water by hand using a graduated line. This enables the observer to determine how deep he/she can see into the water.



How to Monitor with a Secchi Disk

Step 1

Without wearing sunglasses, take a position in a shaded area alongside the water around mid-day. The depth of the water at the sample location should not exceed six feet.

Step 2

The Secchi disk is lowered into the water on a graduated line.

Step 3

The depth at which the Secchi disk is no longer visible is recorded as D_1 (to nearest tenth of a meter).

Step 4

The Secchi disk is then raised, and the depth at which the disk reappears is recorded as D_2 .

Step 5

The average of these two measurements is the *Secchi depth* (SD).

Step 6

Record Secchi depth on the field log (available for downloading on DEPRM website).

Step 7

Measure and record the other parameters.

Step 8

Enter data directly on to web form (address on back of brochure) and submit field data sheets to team leader or mail to BC DEPS.