



Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results June 16, 2025				
Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
**Phycocyanin results for June 16, 2025 are not available due to file corruption issues. No results of concern were detected, and we apologize for the inconvenience. Please contact greenworchester@worcesterma.gov with any questions, and look out for results from our next sampling session on July 12. **				
Bell Pond	No Data	52	none	
Burncoat Pond	No Data	1533	low	Planktolyngbya, Snowella
Coes Reservoir	No Data	340	low	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia
Cooks Pond	No Data	1187	none	
East Lake Waushacum	No Data	122	none	
Ecotarium Pond	No Data	1416	none	
Elm Park Pond	No Data	7728	low	Microcystis Debris
Farm Pond	No Data	501	some	Microcystis Debris
Flint Pond	No Data	2208	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Green Hill Park Pond	No Data	509	some	Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia, Dolichospermum, Microcystis
Indian Lake Clason Beach	No Data	1321	low	Dolichospermum (100%)
Lake Ellie	No Data	675	none	
Lake Lashaway	No Data	573	low	Microcystis Debris (100%)
Lake Quinsigamond King's Point	No Data	1161	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	No Data	461	some	Aphanizomenon, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Little Indian Lake	No Data	1568	low	Planktolyngbya
Manchaug Pond	No Data	281	low	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Newton Pond	No Data	1330	low	Oscillatoria
Patch Pond	No Data	230	none	
Patch Reservoir	No Data	318	low	Oscillatoria
Salisbury Pond	No Data	576	none	
Stevens Pond	No Data	749	low	Aphanizomenon
Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period				
Crystal Pond	10	79	none	
Jordan Pond	ND	757	low	Microcystis
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	9	1017	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Lake Quinsigamond Sunset Beach	ND	781	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Leeseville Pond	ND	495	none	
Singletary Lake	ND	217	low	Dolichospermum
Southwick Pond	32	7907	none	

Interpreting WCMC Results

If you or your pet has been exposed to water that may contain cyanotoxins, rinse with tap water immediately. Do not let animals lick their fur. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible and see these CDC guidelines:

[Cyanobacterial Blooms: Information for Veterinarians](#) | [Harmful Algal Blooms](#) | [CDC](#).

The WCMC is a group of volunteer community scientists that is developing ways to assess risk to cyanotoxin exposure using fast and low cost methods. These results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as recommendations so that lake uses can make informed choices about their contact.

We encourage people to use their best judgement, and “If in doubt, stay out!”

The WCMC does not measure cyanotoxins, instead the group uses four parameters to determine the **risk of cyanotoxin exposure**. These include **phycocyanin concentration**, **particle concentration**, **cyanobacteria density**, and the **cyanobacteria observed**. Each of the results are ranked and given a color to identify severity. The overall risk of exposure at each lake is determined by reviewing all four parameters together.

Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some
Blooming	>50	>10000	high

ND = Below detection limits

Risk of Exposure: Overall risk of exposure to cyanotoxins in the waterbody based on a holistic interpretation of the data collected.

Phycocyanin: Cyanobacteria-specific pigment concentration in the water. The more phycocyanin there is in the water, the more cyanobacteria are present. However, because different kinds of cyanobacteria produce different quantities of phycocyanin, the risk of toxin production is different for the same concentration of phycocyanin when there are different cyanobacteria present.

Particle Concentration: Particles include living and non-living materials and can be a proxy for overall turbidity of the water. High concentrations of particles in the water can be indicative of cyanobacteria blooms, but can also be the result of other factors such as non-living debris and sediment. The phycocyanin concentrations and cyanobacteria density help to interpret if particles are due to cyanobacteria or other sources.

Cyanobacteria Density: The ratio of cyanobacteria to other organisms in the sample. Higher densities can indicate elevated risk of exposure to cyanotoxins. Density results do not consider concentration, but in general, systems dominated by cyanobacteria are at higher risk for producing toxins.

Cyanobacteria Observed: Genera of cyanobacteria identified in the sample. Because different cyanobacteria have different levels of phycocyanin, observed cyanobacteria help determine the threshold of phycocyanin that is considered risky.