



Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results July 12, 2025				
Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Bell Pond	ND	497	none	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Woronichinia
Coes Reservoir	25	45850	high	
Cooks Pond	ND	481	none	
East Lake Waushacum	ND	556	none	
Ecotarium Pond	20	4952	none	
Farm Pond	ND	342	low	Microcystis Debris
Green Hill Park Pond	9	1355	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Leeseville Pond	12	745	none	Microcystis Debris, Aphanizomenon
Manchaug Pond	ND	935	low	
Newton Pond	ND	5068	low	Microcystis Debris, Dolichospermum
Patch Pond	30	8637	some	Dolichospermum
Patch Reservoir	41	4051	high	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia
Salisbury Pond	20	1398	low	Dolichospermum
Singletary Lake	ND	659	low	Dolichospermum
Stevens Pond	9	938	none	Dolichospermum
Crystal Pond	16	5288	low	
Indian Lake Clason Beach	ND	1128	some	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris, Aphanizomenon, Microcystis, Woronichinia
Lake Ellie	49	3527	none	Dolichospermum
Lake Lashaway	ND	573	low	
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	13	1332	some	Microcystis Debris, Aphanizomenon, Woronichinia, Dolichospermum
Southwick Pond	ND	218	low	Woronichinia
Previous Results for Lake's Not Tested this Period				
Burncoat Pond	No Data	1533	low	6/16/2025
Elm Park Pond	No Data	7728	low	6/16/2025
Flint Pond	No Data	2208	some	6/16/2025
Jordan Pond	ND	757	low	6/7/2025
Little Indian Lake	No Data	1568	low	6/16/2025
Risk of Exposure	Phycocyanin ug/l	Particles/ml	Comparative density of cyanobacteria	See reverse side for details
Almost none	0-15	0-1000	none	
Low	15-20	1000-5000	low	
Elevated	20-50	5000-10000	some	
Blooming	>50	>10000	high	
Results are based on methods that are not certified by the Commonwealth of MA but are presented as recommendations so that lake users can make informed choices about their contact. We encourage people to use their best judgement, and "If in doubt, stay out!"				
If you or your pet has been exposed to water that may contain cyanotoxins, rinse the areas with tap water immediately. If your pet has ingested scums or water containing cyanobacteria, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.				
Learn more at WorcesterMA.gov/WCMC				

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.