



Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results August 02, 2025				
Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Bell Pond	ND	68	low	Microcystis Debris
Coes Reservoir	10	1271	some	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Cooks Pond	ND	393	none	
Crystal Pond	ND	134	none	
East Lake Waushacum	ND	846	low	Dolichospermum
Farm Pond	9	109	low	Dolichospermum
Flint Pond	9	1288	high	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Green Hill Park Pond	23	2683	some	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon
Indian Lake Clason Beach	39	6564	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Woronichinia
Lake Ellie	9	5918	none	
Lake Lashaway	12	467	none	
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	14	2155	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Snowella
Lake Quinsigamond Sunset Beach	10	2701	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Snowella
Leeseville Pond	10	3952	low	Woronichinia
Little Indian Lake	16	9158	some	Planktolyngbya
Manchaug Pond	ND	186	low	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Newton Pond	8	1619	low	Woronichinia
Patch Pond	41	970	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Oscillatoria, Woronichinia
Patch Reservoir	54	1561	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Oscillatoria, Woronichinia
Salisbury Pond	21	9715	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Oscillatoria
Singletery Lake	ND	287	low	Dolichospermum
Stevens Pond	ND	527	none	
Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period				
Burncoat Pond	946	6710	high	7/21/2025
Ecotarium Pond	16	1685	none	7/21/2025
Elm Park Pond	No Data	143931	low	7/21/2025
Jordan Pond	13	1340	low	7/21/2025
Lake Quinsigamond King's Point	14	1344	Some	7/21/2025
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	9	1383	some	7/21/2025
Southwick Pond	ND	218	low	7/12/2025

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.