



Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results September 06, 2025				
Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Bell Pond	ND	100	none	
Coes Reservoir	13	618	some	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris, Woronichinia
Cooks Pond	8	487	none	
East Lake Waushacum	ND	575	none	
Farm Pond	ND	696	none	
Green Hill Park Pond	20	1985	high	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Microcystis, Woronichinia, Microcystis Debris
Indian Lake Clason Beach	44	4898	some	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Woronichinia, Microcystis
Jordan Pond	ND	387	low	Dolichospermum
Lake Ellie	38	1829	none	
Lake Lashaway	ND	468	low	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Lake Quinsigamond Kings Point	ND	849	high	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	ND	1606	high	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	8	2478	some	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis
Lake Quinsigamond Sunset Beach	8	424	none	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Little Indian Lake	553	5268	high	Dolichospermum
Manchaug Pond	ND	224	low	Microcystis Debris
Newton Pond	8	813	low	Microcystis Debris
Patch Pond	ND	2770	low	Microcystis
Patch Reservoir	22	942	some	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia
Singletary Lake	ND	134	low	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum
Stevens Pond	ND	163	low	Aphanocapsa

Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period				
Burncoat Pond	568	5347	high	8/18/2025
Crystal Pond	ND	134	none	8/2/2025
Ecotarium Pond	10	730	none	8/18/2025
Elm Park Pond	No Data	143931	low	7/21/2025
Flint Pond	12	632	some	8/18/2025
Leesville Pond	10	3952	low	8/2/2025
Salisbury Pond	44	593	low	8/18/2025
Southwick Pond	ND	218	low	7/12/2025

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	See reverse side for details

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.