



Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results September 15, 2025				
Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Coes Reservoir	8	327	some	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia , Aphanocapsa
Cooks Pond	ND	481	none	
East Lake Waushacum	ND	672	none	
Ecotarium Pond	34	24	none	
Farm Pond	9	136	none	
Green Hill Park Pond	50	1728	high	Dolichospermum, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris
Indian Lake Clason Beach*	70	3700	high	
Jordan Pond	ND	2390	low	Microcystis Debris
Lake Ellie	61	2316	none	
Lake Lashaway	ND	425	low	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris
Lake Quinsigamond Kings Point	ND	413	some	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Microcystis Debris
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	ND	424	some	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Microcystis Debris
Little Indian Lake	56	4633	low	Dolichospermum
Manchaug Pond	ND	135	low	Microcystis Debris
Newton Pond	ND	505	none	
Patch Pond	13	209	low	Dolichospermum
Patch Reservoir	28	1426	high	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia, Microcystis Debris
*Results of verified cell count testing at Indian Lake on 9/15 indicated cell count below recreational threshold. No health advisory is currently in place.				
Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period				
Bell Pond	ND	100	none	9/6/2025
Burncoat Pond	568	5347	high	8/18/2025
Crystal Pond	ND	134	none	8/2/2025
Elm Park Pond	No Data	143931	low	7/21/2025
Flint Pond	12	632	some	8/18/2025
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	8	2478	some	9/6/2025
Lake Quinsigamond Sunset Beach	8	424	none	9/6/2025
Leeseville Pond	10	3952	low	8/2/2025
Salisbury Pond	44	593	low	8/18/2025
Singletery Lake	ND	134	low	9/6/2025
Southwick Pond	ND	218	low	7/12/2025
Stevens Pond	ND	163	low	9/6/2025

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.