Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative

WCMC Results October 20, 2025

Lake and Overall Risk	Phycocyanin Concentration (ug/l)	Particle Concentration (#/ml)	Cyanobacteria Density	Cyanobacteria Observed
Burncoat Pond	129	7638	high	Dolichospermum, Aphanizomenon, Microcystis, Microcystis Debris
Cooks Pond	ND	808	none	
Crystal Pond	ND	5455	none	
East Lake Waushacum	ND	1607	low	Microcystis Debris
Ecotarium Pond	ND	1318	none	
Farm Pond	ND	206	none	
Green Hill Park Pond	40	737	low	Dolichospermum, Microcystis Debris, Aphanizomenon
Indian Lake Clason Beach	30	2080	some	Woronichinia, Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis
Jordan Pond	ND	2039	none	
Lake Lashaway	ND	558	low	Dolichospermum
Lake Quinsigamond Kings Point	ND	1331	low	Aphanizomenon, Dolichospermum, Microcystis
Lake Quinsigamond Lake Park	ND	333	low	Aphanizomenon
Little Indian Lake	ND	7249	low	Aphanizomenon
Manchaug Pond	Not Taken	387	low	Aphanizomenon, Microcystis Debris
Newton Pond	ND	440	low	Woronichinia
Salisbury Pond	ND	280	low	Dolichospermum, Woronichinia

Previous Results for Lakes Not Tested this Period

Bell Pond	ND	100	none	9/6/2025
Coes Reservoir	11	811	low	10/4/2025
Elm Park Pond	No Data	143931	low	7/21/2025
Flint Pond	12	632	some	8/18/2025
Lake Ellie	19	9007	none	10/4/2025
Lake Quinsigamond Regatta Point	8	367	some	10/4/2025
Lake Quinsigamond Sunset Beach	8	238	low	10/4/2025
Leeseville Pond	10	3952	low	8/2/2025
Patch Pond	ND	2468	none	10/4/2025
Patch Reservoir	10	2291	some	10/4/2025
Singletary Lake	ND	898	some	10/4/2025
Southwick Pond	20	157	none	10/4/2025
Stevens Pond	ND	130	none	10/4/2025

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.

Guidance for reading results on next page