

White Pond Water Quality Monitoring Update, June 8, 2023

CURRENT WATER USE STATUS: Safe for All Recreational Uses

SUMMARY:

White Pond water was observed to be free of bloom accumulation with significant amounts of pollen suspended and collecting along the Town Beach shoreline.

Water testing for E. coli on Tuesday was 12 CFU/100 ml of E. coli bacteria. This is in accordance with the State Bathing Beach Regulation 105 CMR 445. Sampling and lab analysis of water for cyanobacteria continued with the third week of sampling. There was some presence of both *Microcystis* and *Dolichospermum* cyanobacteria. However, whole lake water samples did not contain high levels of estimated toxin. The Pond has been deemed safe for all recreational uses.

Cyanobacteria Sampling and Bloom Status

Water samples taken June 6, 2023 contained a significant amount of pollen, making sampling at the beach very difficult. The water at Deep hole 2 contained predominantly *Microcystis* cyanobacteria, water at Thoreau's cove contained a mix of *Microcystis* and *Dolichospermum*. The water samples at the Town Beach contained mostly *dolichospermum*.

Microcystin toxin levels at White Pond this week are estimated to be low in the deep-water samples and Thoreau's Cove. The Town beach sample was full of pollen and staff will be closely monitoring the beach area for possible bloom accumulation as the current accumulation is mostly pollen.

Water samples will be taken next week as it is possible that the levels of cyanobacteria will either change species dominance or experience a rapid growth phase. Cool temperatures may help prevent this from happening. The next sampling date will be June 13, 2023. Residents are encouraged to report a bloom on our report a Bloom link if any changes in water quality or a suspect bloom is observed.

→ [Report a Bloom](#)

A-Pod HAB Trap update

1. June 1st – Higgins Environmental Removed a large amount of mostly pine pollen from in and before the A-Pod Traps. This was a mostly yellow colored biogenic material visibly apparent on the water surface and also apparent as suspended solids below the water surface. After several days of drying, the recovered suspended solids (mostly pollen) weighed out at 65 pounds. I added this to our rotary compost bins.
2. June 6th – Higgins Environmental completed the monthly Walden and White Pond vertical sonde surveys (deep hole at Walden and as a transect east-west at White Pond. Walden had a little of the yellow pine pollen at the boat ramp. White Pond had a large amount of pine pollen floating and stuck along the northern shore including docks. Water clarity as measured with a secchi disc in the eastern deep hole (off beach) at White Pond was 21.8 feet. Walden was closer to 15 feet. This was almost the

opposite of readings from May to be honest, so there are some suspended solids (non-phytoplankton or cyanobacteria) influencing water clarity. The May readings did correspond to oak pollen.

3. June 1st and June 6th - sonde monitoring for PC and Chla have been non-responsive to the pine pollen (e.g., its not phytoplankton or cyanobacteria but as a sticky substance, the pollen may have some bacteria stuck to it).

4. Higgins Environmental has not observed cyanoHAB like scums during boating/shoreline surveys so far this year.