

## White Pond Water Quality Monitoring Update, June 15, 2023

### **CURRENT WATER USE STATUS: Safe for All Recreational Uses**

#### **SUMMARY:**

White Pond water was observed to be free of bloom accumulation with pollen collecting along the Town Beach shoreline. Town staff raised the rope on the swimming area and this allowed the collected pollen to “move”.

Water testing for E. coli on Tuesday was < 5 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 fourth 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 13, 2023 continued to contain pollen, however the water was generally clear. Samples taken from 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 entire pond.

Water samples will be taken in two weeks as cool temperatures have not created a rapid growth phase. The next sampling date will be June 27, 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. Thursday, June 8th, Higgins environmental emptied/cleaned out the A-Pod Trap material (mostly pollen and related detritus). This may be about 30 to 40 pounds of additional pollen removed so far this year.
2. Monday, June 12th, heavy rains over the weekend may have freed up and moved more pollen into the lake. Estimated removal of another 80 pounds on Monday.
3. Sonde snapshot monitoring at and around A-Pod Traps has not indicated increases in PC (cyanoHABs) or general phytoplankton (Chla).

Higgins Environmental reports an easy status report this week, just still getting and removing plenty of pollen basically. With continued storms this week, pollen occurrence and loading to White Pond should continue to diminish. Given storms over the weekend, maybe Monday the 12th was the last pulse of

pollen? We'll see. The pollen does have nutrients though, remaining lab results for the oak pollen also had nitrogen, sulfur, iron (less than cyanoHAB concentrations)