

## How Can You Help?

We hope by educating the Worcester community it will help grow the awareness of the HABs issue and enlighten residents to lend a hand. The ways you can help and join our ranks is as follows:

### Things You Can Do to Help

- Do not throw or dump anything into the water and stop people before they do
- Pick up floating garbage on the shoreline
- Report any visual signs of algae growth
- Spread your knowledge of HABs

### Attend Educational Sessions & Videos

We have created educational sessions that go more in depth on HABs and how we are dealing with them.

(Description of Educational Sessions here and maybe info on how they can attend and watch the Blue Space Minute)

## Contact Information

(Insert Contact Info Here)

(Volunteering information there is any)



# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)



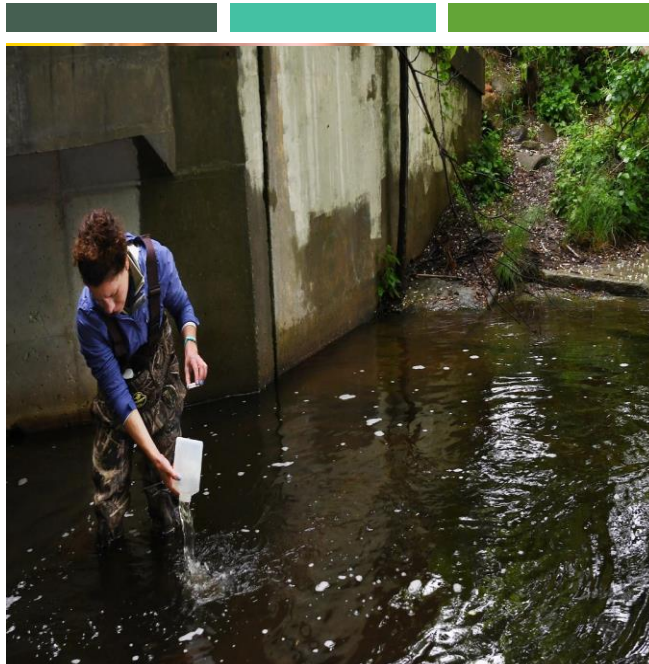
## Effects of HABs

Some effects that HABs have are as follows:

- Produce cyanotoxins that can harm public health and your pets
- Depletes water of oxygen
- Causes closures of the water body
- Can affect the water's ecosystems

## What Worcester Is Doing About HABs

We are working tirelessly to combat and prevent these HABs from occurring. We conduct series of cell density test, toxin test, preventing nutrient runoff into the water source to stunt HABs growth to hopefully stop it before happening. Everyday we are researching more and more ways to stop these HABs.



## What is HABs?

Harmful Algal Blooms are colonies of rapid growth algae, also known as cyanobacteria. This cyanobacterium comes in many types of species and happens to thrive in water bodies and have been infiltrating our very own lakes and ponds.

HABs tend to thrive in nutrient rich water which contains plenty of chemicals like phosphorus and Nitrogen. Along with an abundance of sunlight and nutrient runoff carried by stormwater runoff. Which is why HABs normally only occur in the late Summer and early Fall months.

(Add info if needed)

**WARNING**

**Blue-green Algae bloom(s) have been spotted in this waterbody!**

**Avoid Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms while swimming, fishing and boating**

**Keep kids and pets away from areas with blooms or scum. Swim, fish and boat in areas with no blooms or scum.**

**Contact can make people and animals sick.**

**If contact occurs, rinse with clean water. If symptoms occur, contact a medical provider.**

Blooms can look like streaks, spilled paint, pea soup, floating clumps or dots.

## Working with WPI Students

We have partnered with WPI to create Interdisciplinary Qualifying Projects (IQP) to fulfill student's degree requirements. This allows us to work with some of the brightest students at the institution to aid us in researching ways to combat these HABs.

## Lakes and Ponds Program

Worcester DPW&P has created the Lakes and Ponds program to really dedicate personnel to keeping the water quality in our city to a higher standard.

