

What is the District Doing?

We increased blue-green algae monitoring in 2014 when the first known toxic bloom occurred at Lake Temescal in Oakland. Since then, we have taken the following steps to reduce the severity of blooms throughout Park District lakes:

Monitoring

The Park District's Water Management Unit, in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, has created a District-wide sampling program. Monitoring, toxin testing, and species identification helps inform how we post signs at specific lakes. We also post notifications about blooms through online updates, press releases, and interpretive panels. We test fish for Microcystin cyanotoxins annually and the results show the fillets are consistently at safe levels per State and Federal standards.

CAUTION

Harmful algae may be present in this water.

-  **STAY AWAY** from algae and scum while swimming.
-  **DO NOT** let pets go into or drink the water.
-  **DO NOT** drink this water or use it for cooking.
-  For fish caught here, **throw away guts and clean fillets** with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.

For more information call East Bay Regional Park District (510) 544-2338
Or visit the California Department of Public Health online
For more information on harmful algae go to



▲ Caution sign to look out for.

DANGER

Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and animals.

-  **STAY OUT OF THE WATER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
DO NOT touch scum in the water or on shore.
-  **DO NOT** let pets go into or drink the water or go near the scum.
-  **DO NOT** drink this water or use it for cooking.
Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.
-  Small Watercraft and Float Tubes are **NOT RECOMMENDED**
-  For fish caught here, **throw away guts and clean fillets** with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

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Treatment

The Park District has used these treatment techniques to reduce blue-green algae blooms:

- Application of coagulants to reduce available nutrients.
- Using hydrogen peroxide based algaecides to kill blue-green algae.
- Physically removing filamentous algae to reduce cyanobacteria habitat and increase the effectiveness of cyanobacteria treatments.
- Adding oxygen to enhance water quality.
- Assessing long term solutions such as dredging.

East Bay Regional Park District

Healthy Parks Healthy People

East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605
ebparks.org

Tel: 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757
Callers with hearing or speech needs, call 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service.

More Blue-Green Algae Resources

- **Blue-green algae updates within East Bay Regional Parks:** ebparks.org/BGA
- **California Department of Public Health:** cdpd.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHIB/EAS/Pages/HABs.aspx
- **CyanoHab Network:** mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** cdc.gov/habs/pdf/cyanobacteria_faq.pdf

Blue-Green Algae Cyanobacteria

IN THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



East Bay Regional Park District
Healthy Parks Healthy People

What is Blue-green Algae?

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are bacteria naturally found in most water bodies. Low water levels, limited water circulation, warmer temperatures, and excess nutrients can cause the cyanobacteria to bloom, and in some cases, release toxins.



How Do I Know if a Bloom is Toxic?

Many types of blue-green algae are capable of producing toxins. When and why they begin to make toxins however, is still unknown. The presence of blue-green algae does not always mean toxins are present. Detection of toxins involves testing water samples in the lab. Blooms may begin to produce toxins at any time, so it is important to pay attention to signs posted in the parks.

What are the Symptoms of Exposure to Blue-green Algae Toxins?

Exposure to toxins through skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion can cause:

- Rash or allergic reaction
- Eye, nose, mouth, or throat irritation
- Stomach cramps
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever

The long-term effects of exposure to toxins are not well known, but children and pets are at greatest risk. **Seek medical attention immediately** if you think you or your pets have been exposed to blue-green algae toxins.

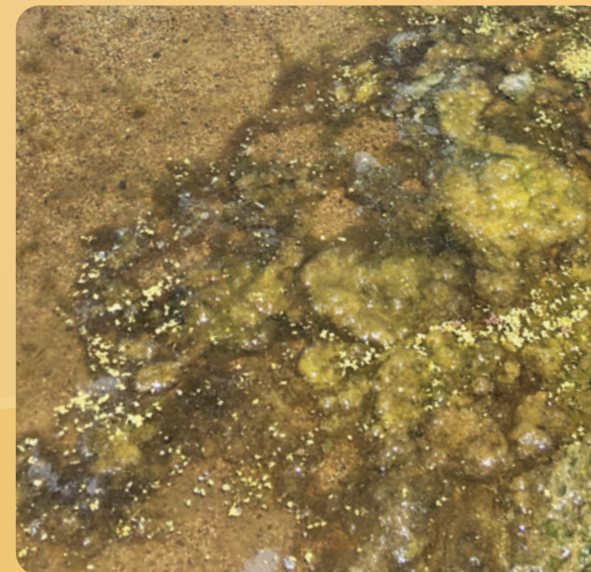
What Should I Do if I See a Bloom?

- Stay out of areas where the water has scum, or mats of blue-green algae.
- Keep pets away from the water. Dogs should not drink from waters with blue-green algae.
- If you or your pet swim or waded in water with blue-green algae, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible.
- Do not drink or cook with water containing blue-green algae. Even if you boil or filter it, the toxins can persist.
- When fishing, always remove the guts and liver, and rinse fillets in tap water before cooking.
- Other activities near the water such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are safe.
- When in doubt, keep out!

Always check information panels at park entrances and look for signs of an algae bloom **BEFORE** you, your children, or pets enter the water.



▲ Here are two examples of the many variations of blue-green algae.



▲ Filamentous algae is a blue-green algae look-alike.

