



For Immediate Release

August 30, 2019

RESULTS FROM SCREENING FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE (CYANOBACTERIA)

Mecklenburg County, NC – A total of 31 ponds in Mecklenburg County, which are publicly owned and/or managed and which are routinely accessed by the public, have been screened by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services for the presence of active blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms. Eight (8) or 26% of these ponds tested positive. A summary of the findings is attached.

Algae are a diverse group of plant-like aquatic organisms that occur naturally in most waterbodies throughout Mecklenburg County. Favorable environmental conditions such as long, hot summer days, stagnant water and sufficient nutrients can cause the rapid reproduction of algae resulting in nuisance growths or blooms that can negatively impact water quality. A group of algae referred to as blue-green algae or cyanobacteria is of particular concern due to the capability of some of its species to produce toxins when blooms occur. These toxins, called cyanotoxins, can cause illness in humans and pets that drink or come into contact with water affected by an active bloom. Warning signs have been posted around the eight (8) ponds in Mecklenburg County where testing confirmed the presence of active blue-green algae blooms. Subsequent assessments by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services will be conducted on a case-by-case basis; however, warnings will remain in effect indefinitely at the discretion of the owner/operator of the pond. These owners/operators as identified in the attached summary are responsible for all activities relating to the control of algae blooms. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services will continue to offer advice upon request.

Be aware that ponds are dynamic, continually changing environments that are subject to algae blooms during summer months. These blooms can occur quickly and without warning. In the absence of confirmation of an active blue-green algae bloom, people and pets should stay out of water where indicators of algal blooms are visible, including surface scum, floating mats and/or discoloration.

Additional information regarding algae blooms is available at <http://stormwater.charmeck.org>. Additional details regarding the blue-green algae screening is available at <https://arccg.is/jWKWq>.

Media Contact: Rusty Rozzelle Office: 980-314-3217
Rusty.Rozzelle@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

(see screening results on following page)

August 2019 Mecklenburg County Pond Cyanobacteria Screening Results



Facility	Date Assessed	Active Bloom?	Contact Agency	Contact	Email	Phone
Antiquity Greenway	8/26/2019	NO	Cornelius PARC	John DeKemper	jdkemper@Cornelius.Org	704-621-7560
Bailey Road Park	8/26/2019	NA (Pond dry)	Cornelius PARC	John DeKemper	jdkemper@Cornelius.Org	704-621-7560
Beatty Park	8/27/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Belle Johnson Community Center	8/27/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Pineville Parks & Recreation	Town of Pineville	sfutter@PinevilleNC.Gov	704-889-2291
Chantilly	8/26/2019	NO	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services	John McCulloch	John.McCulloch@MeckNC.Gov	980-721-3760
Clarks Creek Nature Preserve	8/26/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Corner of McKee Rd & Pleasant Plains Rd	8/28/2019	NO	Matthews Parks	Ralph Ramsaur	rramsaur@MatthewsNC.Gov	704-708-1250
Davie Park	8/28/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Dore Academy Forebay	8/27/2019	NO	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services	John McCulloch	John.McCulloch@MeckNC.Gov	980-721-3760
Eagle Lake	8/26/2019	NO	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services	John McCulloch	John.McCulloch@MeckNC.Gov	980-721-3760
Elon Park	8/27/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Ezell Farm Park	8/28/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Freedom Park	8/27/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Hidden Valley (2 ponds)	8/26/2019	NO	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services	John McCulloch	John.McCulloch@MeckNC.Gov	980-721-3760
Hornet's Nest Park	8/26/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Idlewild Road Park	8/28/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Marshall Park	8/27/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
McAlpine Park	8/27/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Park Road Park	8/27/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Reedy Creek Park (3 ponds)	8/26/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve (2 ponds)	8/28/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Robbins Park (Ballfield Pond)	8/26/2019	NO	Cornelius PARC	John DeKemper	jdkemper@Cornelius.Org	704-621-7560
Robbins Park (Boardwalk Pond)	8/26/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Cornelius PARC	John DeKemper	jdkemper@Cornelius.Org	704-621-7560
Robbins Park (Tennis Court Pond)	8/26/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Cornelius PARC	John DeKemper	jdkemper@Cornelius.Org	704-621-7560
Roosevelt Wilson Park	8/26/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Davidson Parks & Recreation	Doug Wright	dwright@TownOfDavidson.Org	704-940-9625
Sherman Branch Nature Preserve	8/28/2019	NO	Mecklenburg County Park & Rec	Chris Matthews	Christopher.Matthews@MeckNC.Gov	980-722-2404
Squirrel Lake Park	8/27/2019	YES ACTIVE BLOOM	Matthews Parks	Ralph Ramsaur	rramsaur@MatthewsNC.Gov	704-708-1250