

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Dover announces precautions for Willand Pond

Dover, NH - The City of Dover today released an important Health related notice for residence and visitors that use Willand Pond. Last summer this popular outdoor recreation spot experienced a Cyanobacteria bloom, sometimes referred to as blue-green algae, and public access and use of the pond was prohibited. This year in an effort to educate the public before a bloom occurs and prevent any health related issues; the City of Dover has released the following information:

John Carlson, the City's Health Officer, notes that "after reviewing data from last years Cyanobacteria bloom, we can reasonably expect that another bloom will occur this summer as the conditions become more favorable and start to mimic conditions prior to the bloom in July of 2007." Sampling analyses from NHDES revealed the pond does indeed have Cyanobacteria. Jody Connor of the NHDES watershed assistance section noted that the "Cyanobacteria is a naturally occurring bacterium and can be found in many water bodies in New Hampshire, and is not unique to Willand Pond." Cyanobacteria may bloom and form surface scum conditions when excess nutrients and ample sunlight are available for growth. Many Cyanobacteria contain toxins that are produced and released during bloom conditions and these toxins can cause both acute and chronic health effects ranging in severity from skin and mucous membrane irritations, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea to liver and central nervous system damage. Connor also noted that NHDES will be sampling the pond within the month.

Until further notice, people should avoid contact and ingestion of pond water. Pets are especially susceptible to the bacteria and should not be allowed to enter or drink from the pond at this time.

Additionally, people who fish the pond are encouraged to catch and release the fish, and not consume them.

The City of Dover will continue to monitor the pond throughout the summer and fall. Information on the pond is posted at the site for visitors as well as detailed data available on the City of Dover Web page at <http://www.ci.dover.nh.us/willand>. For further information please contact John Carlson, the City of Dover Health Officer at (603) 516-6038.