

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Oregon Public Health issues advisory for the main pond in Golden Gardens Park**

### ***High algae levels found in Lane County pond***

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in the main pond in Golden Gardens Park located in northwest Eugene, north of Barger Drive, was issued today by Oregon Public Health and Lane County Health Department officials.

Water monitoring has confirmed the presence of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. These algae levels are likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

Swallowing or inhaling water droplets should be avoided, as well as skin contact with water by humans or animals.

Oregon Public Health recommends that people who choose to eat fish from waters where algae blooms are present should remove all fat, skin and organs before cooking since toxins are more likely to collect in these tissues.

Exposure to toxins can produce symptoms of numbness, tingling and dizziness that can lead to difficulty breathing or heart problems and require immediate medical attention. Symptoms of skin irritation, weakness, diarrhea, nausea, cramps and fainting should also receive medical attention if they persist or worsen. Children and pets are particularly susceptible.

The public will be advised when the concern no longer exists.

(more)

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With proper precautions to avoid water contact, people are encouraged to visit the main pond in Golden Gardens Park and enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, catch-and-release fishing and bird watching.

For local information contact Natural Resources Coordinator with City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division at 541-682-4925.

For health information, contact the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or [www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab); also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

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