



# LEARN ABOUT HABS IN WNY WATERWAYS

## WNY Waterways with annual algae blooms

### Hyde Park Lake, Niagara Falls

**What kind of algae?** Cyanobacteria, which can create dangerous toxins, has been found blooming in this lake. Waterkeeper tested for toxins in 2023, and found they were present, but at low levels. Toxins can remain in the water after a bloom has occurred.

**When does this algae normally bloom?** Waterkeeper records from the past several years show that the algae normally blooms in early July and can remain through the end of October.

#### Cyanobacteria Bloom



### Ellicott Creek, Tonawanda

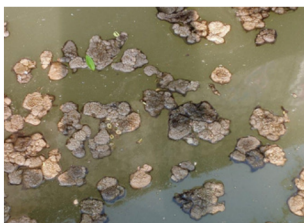
**What kind of algae?** This waterway has consistently experienced a thick vibrant green bloom for almost a decade, which Waterkeeper determined was *Euglena sp.* In 2023 another bloom, a type of cyanobacteria which creates floating mats, was observed. This algae was identified to be *Oscillatoria sp.*

**When does this algae normally bloom?** The *Euglena sp.* bloom is present throughout most of the summer and early fall. The *Oscillatoria sp.* bloomed in some areas as early as June.

#### *Euglena sp.*



#### *Oscillatoria sp.*





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## See it

Algae comes in many forms and colors. It is hard to tell if discolored water is an algal bloom or not.

## Avoid it

Avoid swimming, boating, fishing, drinking and coming into contact with discolored water. Some types of algae can produce toxins.

## Prevent it

You can help prevent HABs by installing and encouraging others to install vegetative buffers that trap and filter fertilizers, pollution and prevent erosion.

Avoid or eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides that fuel blooms and kill algae eaters.

## Report it

To report a potential bloom to DEC, fill out and submit a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form. Visit their webpage: [dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html](http://dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html)

You can also notify Waterkeeper by submitting a report, using the QR code below, or by emailing a photo and location information to Rob Coady at [rcoady@bnwaterkeeper.org](mailto:rcoady@bnwaterkeeper.org) For additional information visit: [bnwaterkeeper.org/harmful-algal-bloom/](http://bnwaterkeeper.org/harmful-algal-bloom/)

## Scan to Report

