

## **Sympson Lake Gets Good Marks for Blue-Green Algae**

Many residents have inquired about the safety of Sympson Lake in light of the current HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom) Recreational Advisory in effect for the Ohio River. Algae is a vital part of our ecosystem, however, not all algae is the same. Common green algae typical to water systems do not produce toxins while some blue-green algae types do creating harmful algal blooms.

The Kentucky EPA Recreational Water Guidance for HAB is listed below:

Advisory: > 20,000 cells/mL of cyanobacteria cell counts

Caution: > 100,000 cells/mL of cyanobacteria cell counts

There are currently no active HAB Advisories in effect for any Kentucky lake, including Sympson Lake. After last summer's advisories on nearby lakes, such as Green River Lake, Nolin Reservoir, Willisburg Lake, etc., Bardstown Water Department ran a blue-green algae analysis on Sympson Lake. Results in 2014 showed cyanobacteria cell counts (harmful bacteria) in the single digits and the analysis performed this year on September 22, 2015 showed no result above 6 cells/mL. We are pleased with these extremely good numbers since they are nowhere near the advisory stage. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection has been in contact with Bardstown Water over the past two years and are pleased to hear about the good test results. To learn more about harmful algal blooms go to the Kentucky Division of Water's website at:

[water.ky.gov/water quality/pages/HABS.aspx](http://water.ky.gov/water%20quality/pages/HABS.aspx)

The City of Bardstown Water department will continue to monitor our water source and treat the lake as necessary. The most effective measures can be implemented by the upstream community and neighbors whose runoff flows into the lake watershed. Simply follow the advice listed on the KYEP website above to help prevent harmful algal blooms by reducing the nutrient load (phosphorus and nitrogen) that discharges into the lake. Remember if it is on the ground, it is in our water.

Bardstown Water Department

October 9, 2015