



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor
Lazarus Sims, Commissioner**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Alexander Marion

Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

**CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT ISSUES ADVISORY ABOUT BLUE-
GREEN ALGAE IN HIAWATHA LAKE IN UPPER ONONDAGA
PARK**

Parks Department Will Install Signs Alerting Residents to the Presence of Blue-Green Algae

City Asks Residents Not to Swim, Wade, Fish, or Let Animals Jump Into Lake Water

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The city of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs is alerting residents to the presence of blue-green algae in Hiawatha Lake, located in Onondaga Park.

Blue-green algae is a naturally occurring bacteria also known as “pond scum.” When blue-green algae forms blooms, it can change the taste of water and reduce the flow of light to lower depths of the water, potentially harming the lake’s ecosystem. Hiawatha Lake is currently partially drained to facilitate repairs along the wall and has a lower water level than usual, which will continue throughout the summer.

Residents are advised not to swim or wade in the lake, or allow their pets to do the same. Residents should not fish or consume fish from the lake at this time.

The Parks Department will install signage around Hiawatha Lake reminding residents that algae is present and to exercise caution. A copy of the sign can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2umGSDZ>.

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City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs

412 Spencer Street | Syracuse, New York 13204

www.syr.gov.net/parks

Phone: (315) 473-4330 | Fax: (315) 428-8513