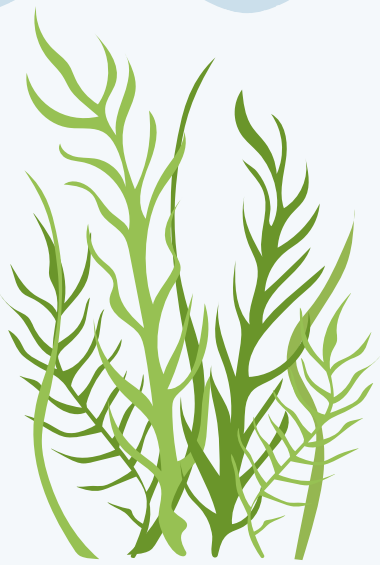


ALGAE OUTBREAK

Lake Geneva, WI



BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Over this past summer, blue-green algae invaded the waters of Lake Geneva. Blue-green algae are microscopic organisms that live in freshwater. When conditions are right—like warm water and excess nutrients from fertilizers—they can grow out of control. These algae sometimes release toxins that can harm humans, pets, and wildlife, making the water unsafe.

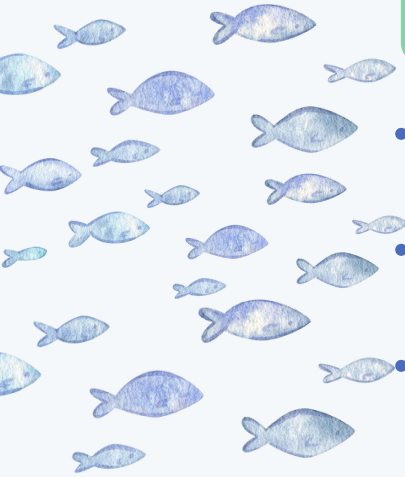
AFFECTS ON LAKE GENEVA

- Reduced Boating Activities: Health warnings about the algae scared tourists and us locals from going on the lake and boating.
- Damage to Wildlife: It disrupted our lake's delicate ecosystem, harming fish and other aquatic species vital to the area's biodiversity.
- Loss of our Community Space: Lake Geneva's reputation as a safe, scenic destination for relaxation and fun was taken away to us locals.

Resulted in
the closure
of **6** beaches



HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS



- Health Risks: Skin rashes, eye irritation, and digestive issues from contaminated water. Toxins can harm humans and pets.
- Impact on Aquatic Life: Algae depletes oxygen, killing fish and disrupting the ecosystem. Blocks sunlight for underwater plants.
- Environmental Damage: Long-term blooms harm the lake's ecosystem and biodiversity.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

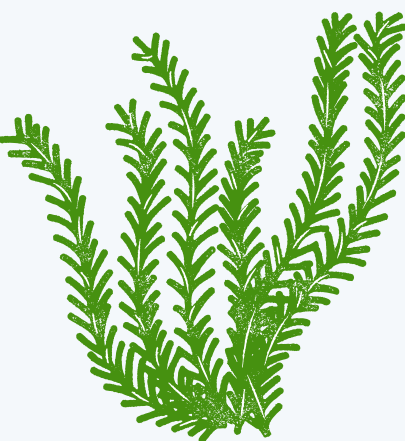
A clean lake is vital to supporting Lake Geneva's economy. The algae bloom caused financial harm to the Lake Geneva community:

- Our local Businesses like boat rentals and restaurants saw fewer customers.
- Tourists avoided the lake, reducing revenue for local businesses.
- Us Workers, lost income due to reduced demand.



Closed

SOLUTION



Government action: The DNR should enforce stricter rules at boat ramps, like having staff check boats to make sure they are clean and free of algae before entering the lake. This would prevent algae from spreading through boats and reduce the risk of blooms.

Long-Term Solutions: Make a significant long-term investment to reduce nutrient pollution, like upgrading wastewater treatment systems and improving stormwater management. While these solutions require upfront costs, they will ultimately save money by improving water quality and ensure the lake remains a healthy resource for the community and economy for years to come.

SOURCES:

WWW.WISN.COM/ARTICLE/TOXIC-ALGAE-CLOSES-SIX-PUBLIC-BEACHES-ALONG-GENEVA-LAKE

[HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.3390/TOXINS15080505](https://DOI.ORG/10.3390/TOXINS15080505)

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