Harmful Algae on Lady Bird Lake

Harmful algae was identified in Lady Bird Lake in 2019 and may return during warmer months. Harmful algae produce toxins that can sicken and kill dogs who are exposed to them. Winter and spring are better times to take your dog to Lady Bird Lake and enjoy one of the off-leash areas. Summer and fall are times of increased risk.

WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
LOW RISK		INCREASED RISK	
No harmful algae expected winter through spring.		Harmful algae blooms possible summer through fall due to high temperatures and low water flow.	
		HIGH RISK Occurs when toxins are detected in algae.	

LOW RISK Period

- Harmful algae are unlikely
- Avoid clumps of algae as a precaution
- Rinse your dog after contact with the water

INCREASED RISK Period

- Weekly monitoring of algae begins.
- Check the website for the latest information before taking your dog to the lake.
- Avoid stagnant areas of the lake.
- Rinse your dog after contact with the water.
- If your dog becomes sick after swimming, seek immediate veterinary care and report the illness to 3-1-1.

HIGH RISK Period

Additional warning signs will be posted if toxins are detected. Do not allow dogs to swim in Lady Bird Lake or drink from the lake during high risk periods.

RISK to PEOPLE

Human risk from harmful algae is currently considered low. It is always recommended that people avoid stagnant areas of the lake and handling algae

Allow dogs in the water at your own risk.

People are not allowed to swim in Lady Bird Lake (Ordinance 640611-C).

austintexas.gov/algae



