



CRYSTAL LAKE WATER QUALITY TREATMENT

APRIL 15-17, 2026



Crystal Lake will be

CLOSED

to the public between April 15th through
April 17th for water quality treatment

WHY IS THE LAKE BEING TREATED?

As a kettle pond, Crystal Lake has no headwaters and is fed primarily through stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces picks up leaf litter and organic debris which contribute to excessive nutrient levels such as Phosphorus in local water bodies. When Phosphorus levels are too high, blooms of harmful algae such as Cyanobacteria can grow unchecked and cause negative health effects to swimmers and wildlife.

HOW IS THE LAKE BEING TREATED?

MassDEP-licensed contractors will be treating Crystal Lake by applying alum and sodium aluminate to the water surface. This treatment strips excess Phosphorus from the water column and causes it to settle to the bottom of the lake, preventing it from being available to by harmful algae.

IS IT SAFE?

Application of alum and sodium aluminate is a well established and common treatment for improving water quality without harm to local wildlife. Newton undertook similar applications in 2020 and 2022 and monitors water quality and potential wildlife stressors in the months after each treatment. While it is highly unlikely to pose a serious health risk, we ask that patrons and their pets abstain from entering the lake during treatment. We encourage residents to reach out to Newton Environmental Engineer, Eric Highers with any questions or concerns. (Telephone: 617-796-1038 | Email: ehighers@newtonma.gov)