



There are NINE beach advisories for the week
of 7/26

5 Beaches with E.Coli-Related Advisory:

Backbone Beach (*Dundee, Delaware County, IA*)

Beed's Lake Beach (*Hampton, Franklin County, IA*)

Lake Ahquabi Beach (*Indianola, Warren County, IA*)

McIntosh Woods Beach (*Ventura, Cerro Gordo County, IA*)

Nine Eagles Beach (*Davis City, Decatur County, IA*)

4 Beaches with a Microcystin-Related Advisory:

Green Valley Lake Beach (*Creston, Union County, IA*)

Lake Darling Beach (*Brighton, Washington County, IA*)

Lake of Three Fires Beach (*Bedford, Taylor County, IA*)

North Twin Lake East Beach (*Rockwell City, Calhoun County, IA*)

July is Lake Appreciation Month

A recent **proclamation** by Governor Reynolds declared July “Lake Appreciation Month” in Iowa. The proclamation recognizes the importance of lakes as one of Iowa’s “most valuable resources” that provide many benefits to the state. From important drinking water sources to economic drivers for Iowa communities, **lakes are a centerpiece of life in the state.**

“[L]akes and reservoirs improve the quality of life for all Iowa’s residents and their importance should not go unnoticed,” notes the proclamation. It ends by saying that Iowa “recognizes the need to protect these lakes and reservoirs for future generations.”

We agree with those statements.



Toxic algae blooms at Green Valley Lake (Left) and Lake Macbride (Right) earlier this summer.

However, **Iowa has done little to actually protect these valuable resources.** Between denying **IEC's petition to establish numeric nutrient criteria** for recreational lakes and **the slow progress of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy**, the state's water quality is not being protected for future generations by any reasonable measure.

So far this summer, **the DNR has issued 39 E. coli warnings and 13 microcystin warnings** for state park beaches. This time last year, we had 64 E. coli warnings and 2 microcystin warnings.

If we truly appreciate our lakes and consider them a valuable resource for Iowans, **the state needs to take steps to better care for them.** Reducing nutrient pollution is vital to improving our water quality for recreation, drinking water, and wildlife habitat, and measurable reductions in nutrient pollution require basic standards of care for our land.

This weekend, **we encourage our members, supporters, and friends to spend some time at their local lake.** Advocating for our water resources begins with appreciating them and understanding what an asset they are to our local communities. We'll continue to bring you weekly updates about the state of our lakes and beaches; we hope you'll take the next step to speak out for them.

- Grace Holbrook
IEC Water Program

Stop and Say Hi to IEC this Summer



Like to Swim?

IEC will host a free breakfast celebration at the finish line of the annual Okoboji Point to Point Swim on August 3rd. Encourage friends and family to attend for free food and fun.

[Registration is not required, but helps IEC get an idea of numbers - plus you'll be signed up to win a prize pack!](#) Or if you have it in you, [sign up to swim!](#)



Microcystin: An Alarming Trend

Over the past ten years, the number of annual swim advisories issued for microcystin, a harmful



Safe to Swim?

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducts weekly monitoring of 39 state park

cyanobacteria created by some blue-green algae, by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has increased dramatically. [Take a look at the historical data of microcystin advisories.](#)

beaches in Iowa for microcystin and E.coli. We're tracking the IDNR weekly monitoring reports - [find out which Iowa state park beaches are currently under swim advisories.](#)



Thanks to @angelisaofficial for tagging us in her wonderful photo of her family at Clear Lake! Send us your photos to be featured on @iowawaterwatch



What's New in Iowa's Water News

[Make quality of our water a higher priority](#) *(Dubuque Telegraph Herald)*

[State water quality report shows Iowa should be doing more](#) *(KCRG)*

[Resources available to help Iowans keep their wells safe](#) *(Newton Daily News)*

[Clean water? It's going to be a while for Iowa](#) *(Cedar Rapids Gazette)*

[Iowa Officials Launch PFAS Working Group To Address Risks To Drinking Water](#) (*Iowa Public Radio*)

[Sparking Creative Solutions To Water Quality Challenges](#) (*Iowa Public Radio*)



Recent Research & Reports

[The Slow Reality of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy](#) Ingrid Gronstal Anderson and Alicia Vasto, *Iowa Environmental Council*

[The Dice are Loaded](#) Antonio Arenas, *IIHR and the Iowa Flood Center*



Upcoming Water Events

[Nuts for Water Quality Tour](#) - Iowa City - July 31

[Point to Point Swim and IEC Breakfast on the Beach](#) - West Lake Okoboji - August 3

[Raccoon River Water Day at Whiterock Conservancy](#) - Coon Rapids - August 3

[Prairie Lakes Conference](#) - Okoboji - August 8

[Okoboji Blue Water Festival](#) - Arnolds Park - August 10

[River Run Garbage Grab](#) - Saylorville to Yellow Banks Park - August 16

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