

# EEE and Algae Bloom Concerns

The Stow Recreation Department has received many questions about mosquito and algae concerns in relation to our sports fields and Pine Bluff Beach. The information below will answer some of your questions.

## Pine Bluff Recreation Area/Beach:

- **Due to algae bloom concerns, the Stow Board of Health has closed Pine Bluff Beach. Do not swim at the beach!**
  - **Do not let your pet swim in the lake!**
  - As the Recreation Department, we speak only for the beach area and the dog beach, if you have questions about the rest of Lake Boon, contact the Stow Board of Health at 978-897-4592 or [health@stow-ma.gov](mailto:health@stow-ma.gov).
  - Helpful Links from the Stow Board of Health website:
- Up to date bloom info: <https://www.mass.gov/alerts/harmful-cyanobacterial-bloom-advisories-in-m...>
  - Algae Bloom 2-pages, freshwater: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/ww/algae-fresh-water-englis...>
  - Pet safety poster: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/07/ry/algae-pet-poster.pdf>
  - What is Cyanobacteria: <https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs/learn-about-cyanobacteria-and-cyanotoxins>
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## Mosquitos/EEE

The Recreation Department has been in contact Mass. Mosquito Control Project (<https://www.cmmcp.org/>) to request spraying of Stow's fields.

### Department of Public Health precautions against EEE:

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** – The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR 3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

### Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** – Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.