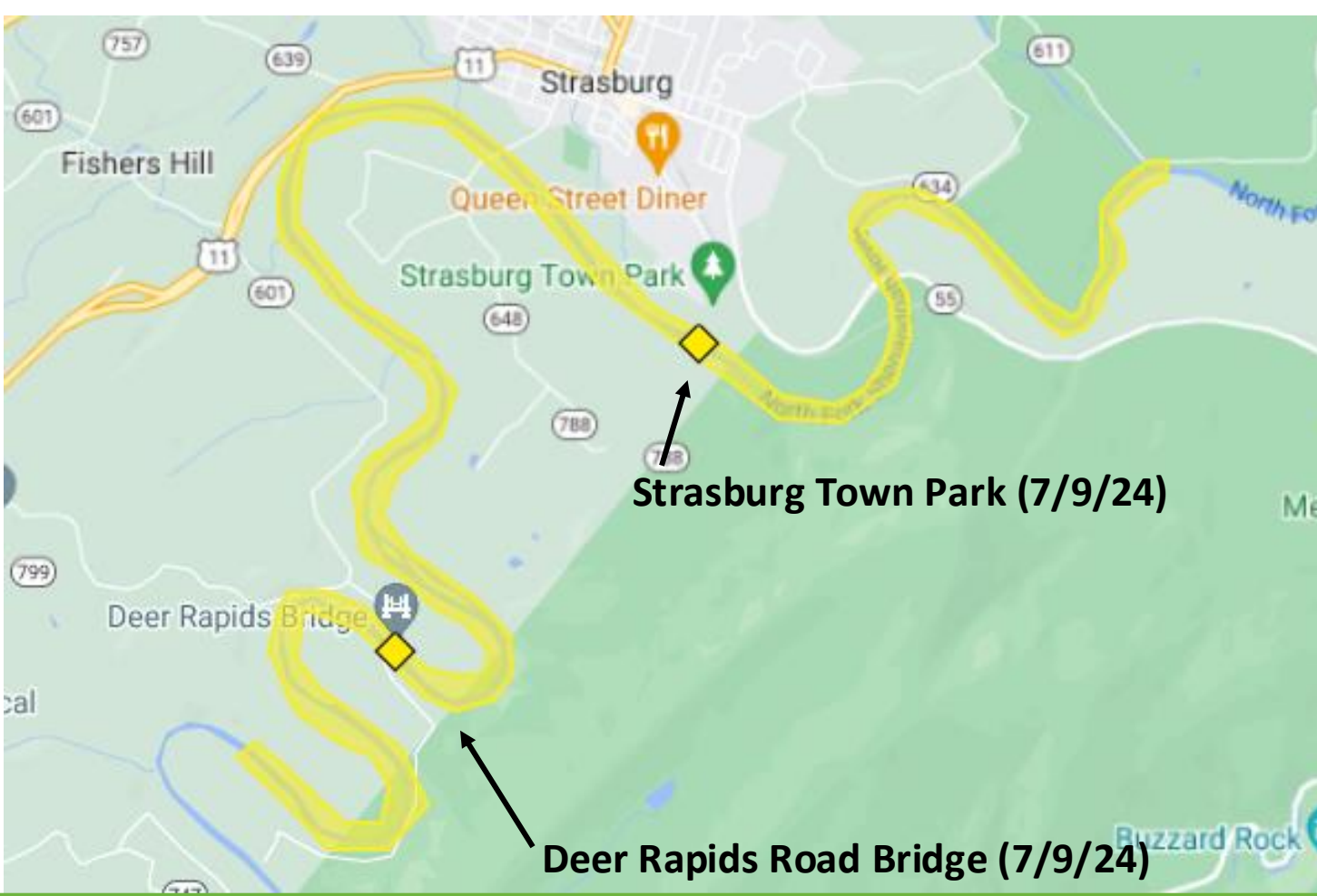





Algal Mat Alert - North Fork Shenandoah River – Deer Rapids & Town of Strasburg Issued: 7/12/2024

Next Update: Dependent on HAB complaints and mat presence



-  Potentially toxic algal mats observed and may be unavoidable
-  Waterbody area under algal mat alert, avoid contact with mats
-  Sporadic mats observed but were avoidable during investigation

Helpful Tip:
 Visit www.SwimHealthyVA.com and click on the Harmful Algae Bloom Map to review sample results near you.

Expand the map using the symbol in the upper right hand map title bar, then click on the magnifying glass. You can search by location name or address.

BE AWARE OF ALGAL MATS

Toxic Algal mat may be present in this water
 Mats can be attached to the bottom, detached and floating, or washed up on shore

IF YOU SEE ALGAL MATS



Do NOT let children or adults touch, eat, or swallow any algal mats



Do NOT let dogs eat algal mats or drink from the water

Report Algae Blooms Online: www.SwimHealthyVA.com



It is safe to eat properly cooked fish caught from waters with an algae bloom. Thoroughly clean the fish, discarding the carcass and guts and washing hands and surfaces with soapy water is advised.

For more information visit www.SwimHealthyVa.com

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

An Algal Mat Alert is issued for the North Fork Shenandoah River from Deer Rapids to the Town of Strasburg. Sites above and below Deer Rapids Bridge and the Town of Strasburg Park investigated on 7/9/2024, contained mats which may be producing toxins, which were widespread and unavoidable to those who may be recreating. The alert covers areas upstream and downstream of these sites of the North Fork Shenandoah River for a combined alert length of ~11.5 miles. Toxins which may be present in the mats in the area highlighted, can be fatal to dogs and other animals when ingested. Water sample results for toxins at these sites are pending. Cyanobacteria mats tend to retain toxins within the mat itself, but disturbing mats could release toxins and pose a human and animal health risk. **People, pets, and livestock should avoid contact with mat material which may be in the water or which may accumulate along the shoreline.** Drinking water supplies are not affected at this time. The Office of Drinking Water is monitoring and coordinating with appropriate waterworks to protect drinking water sources.

Submit a HAB Report online:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/waterborne-hazards-control/harmful-algal-bloom-online-report-form/>

To View the HAB Map visit:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/waterborne-hazards-control/algal-bloom-surveillance-map/>



When in Doubt, Stay Out!

People, pets and livestock should avoid contact with:

- Dense unavoidable mats
- Algae mats which may be on the bottom of the river, floating in the water or washed up along the shoreline in this vicinity
- Foul smelling water, or water with dead or dying fish