



Friday, January 6, 2017

City of Port St. Lucie
121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blue Green Algae found at the City of Port St. Lucie's Peacock Park

PORT ST. LUCIE (Jan. 6, 2017) – In an abundance of caution, the City of Port St. Lucie has temporarily closed O.L. Peacock Sr. Park after initial tests determined blue green algae is present in the park's 100-acre lake.

This algae bloom is a naturally occurring phenomena, and these blooms typically correct themselves. The City closed the park at 9 a.m. this morning to help prevent visitors and their pets from having any contact with the water. Blue green algae may cause skin irritation and upset stomach. It potentially can be fatal to domesticated animals.

"The City of Port St. Lucie took action as soon as we learned of this potential health threat at one of our parks," said Port St. Lucie City Manager Russ Blackburn. "We are asking residents to please be patient and comply with warning signs to avoid contact with the water until this algae bloom is cleared up."

The 110-acre park is located at 1950 SW Dreyfuss Blvd., west of SW Rosser Blvd. and south of Gatlin Boulevard. The park and lake will remain closed until further notice. The lake is fully self-contained at the park and is not connected to any drainage ditches or any other waterways, including the St. Lucie River.

On Thursday, a citizen contacted City officials alerting them to what looked like blue green algae in the lake. City officials immediately responded and drew water samples from the lake on Thursday. Preliminary findings indicated the presence of blue green algae. Further tests are being conducted.

The City is contacting surrounding residents to alert them to the reason for the park's closing. Officials will notify residents of any important developments and when the park will reopen. Please check the City of Port St. Lucie's website at www.cityofpsl.com or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofpsl/>

for the latest information regarding the park closure.

PLEASE NOTE: City officials will be available for on camera interviews at 3:45 p.m. today (Friday, Jan. 6, 2017) at O.L. Peacock St. Park. City provided video footage will be available later today. Please contact Sarah Prohaska at 772-919-2061 if you plan to attend.

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The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life's opportunities. With over 179,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida's eighth largest city by population (South Florida's 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida's east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works. For more information, please visit: www.cityofpsl.com

