

Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool turns green after surface painted

June 14, 2026Updated June 17, 2026, 1:09 p.m. ET, USA TODAY



The Lincoln Memorial [Reflecting Pool](#) became overrun with algae days after the landmark underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation that painted the pool's basin "American Flag Blue," a dark navy, ahead of Independence Day.

The iconic landmark was built between 1920 and 1923. The National Park Service typically takes several measures to prevent algae growth and maintain water quality in the Reflecting Pool. Still, algae growth has continued to be a consistent problem through its history.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Water in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool (thin strip, center left from WWII Memorial) is hard to distinguish from surrounding grass as seen from a departing flight from Ronald Reagan National Airport as algae continues to bloom following the completion of recent renovations on June 16, 2026 in Washington, DC. The reflecting pool construction project was completed last week as part of President Donald Trump's plan ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Win McNamee, Getty
Images



National Park Service crews vacuum the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool a day after workers were seen pouring gallons of hydrogen peroxide into the water to kill algae that rapidly grew after the landmark underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation that painted the pool's basin "American Flag Blue," Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Workers treat green algae in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C., days after a multimillion-dollar renovation, as the Department of the Interior deploys nanobubbler technology and hydrogen peroxide to address the bloom.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Crews use nanobubbler treatment and vacuuming to clear algae from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which turned green shortly after a June renovation.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



National Park Service crews vacuum the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool a day after workers were seen pouring gallons of hydrogen peroxide into the water to kill algae that rapidly grew after the landmark underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation that painted the pool's basin "American Flag Blue," Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Crews work to clear algae from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool days after a multimillion-dollar restoration, as warmer summer temperatures raise concerns about lingering growth.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Algae blooms spread across the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool days after renovations wrapped, with cleanup underway ahead of Independence Day.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



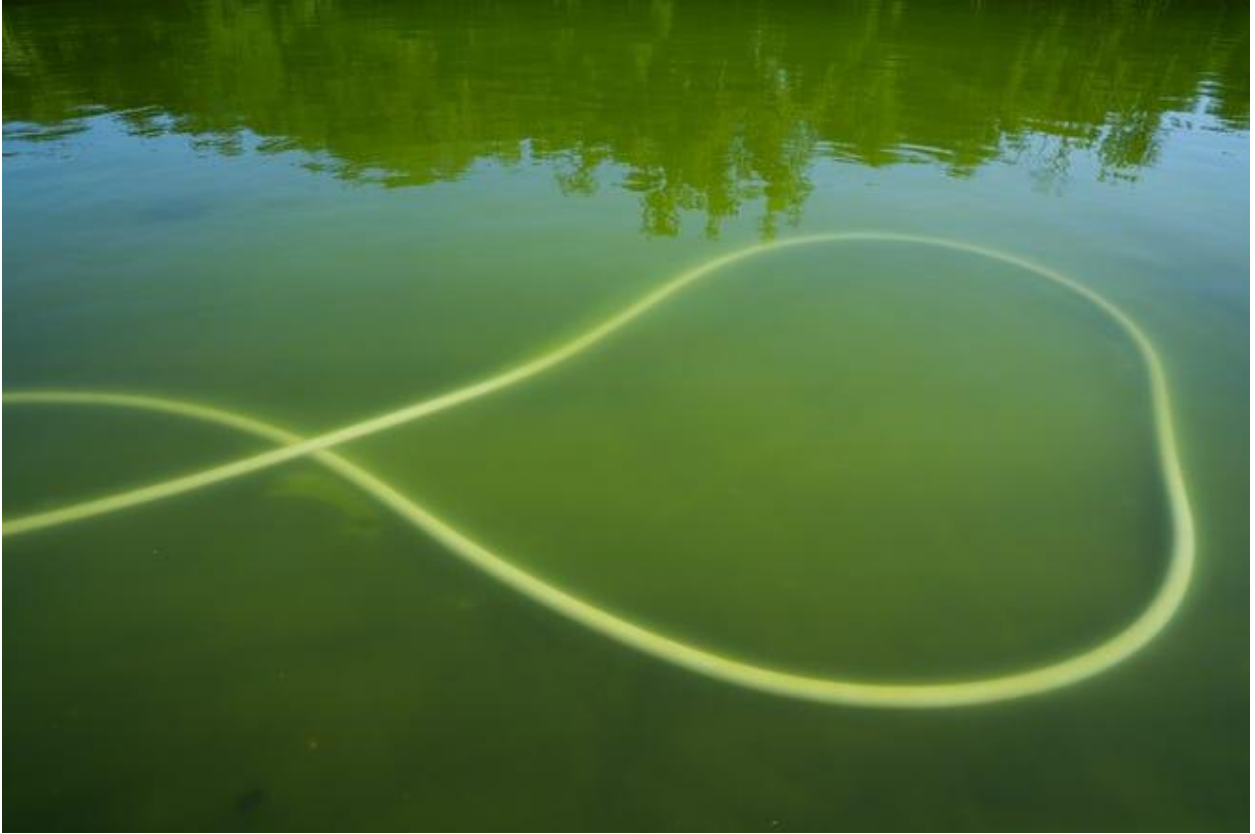
A woman looks into the water of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which is experiencing algae growth just days after the landmark underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation that painted the pool's basin "American Flag Blue," a dark navy, ahead of Independence Day.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



A cleaning system sits along the edge of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to combat algae growth just days after the landmark underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



A tube from a cleaning system sits inside the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool to combat algae growth.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Crews use nanobubbler treatment and vacuuming to clear algae from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which turned green shortly after a June renovation.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



The Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool appears green with algae growth as workers continue cleanup efforts following the landmark's recent renovation.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Crews work to clear algae from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool days after a multimillion-dollar restoration, as warmer summer temperatures raise concerns about lingering growth.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Workers address algae buildup in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool after its June reopening, as officials and experts weigh how long conditions may persist.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Ducks swim around algae blooms in the Reflecting Pool days after the Trump administration's multi-million dollar renovation project that repainted the pool's basin "American Flag Blue."

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Algae blooms spread across the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool days after renovations wrapped, with cleanup underway ahead of Independence Day.

Josh Morgan, USA
TODAY



Mounted U.S. Park Police ride along the recently renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Monday, June 15, 2026.

Jack Gruber, USA
TODAY



Algae is pictured in the [Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool](#) following the completion of recent renovations on June 14, 2026 in Washington, DC. The reflecting pool construction project started in April and work was completed last week as part of President Donald Trump's plan ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Tasos Katopodis, Getty
Images



People walk along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool where algae has begun to bloom following the completion of recent renovations on June 14, 2026 in Washington, DC. The reflecting pool construction project started in April and work was completed last week as part of President Donald Trump's plan ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Tasos Katopodis, Getty
Images



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

KEN CEDENO, AFP Via Getty
Images



A duck is pictured on June 14, 2026, swimming over algae at the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which has been painted blue at the directive of President Donald Trump, ahead of the 250th anniversary of U.S. Independence.

Eric Lee,
REUTERS



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

KEN CEDENO, AFP Via Getty
Images



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

KEN CEDENO, AFP Via Getty
Images



A worker clears algae from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which has been painted blue at the directive of U.S. President Donald Trump, ahead of the 250th anniversary of U.S. Independence, in Washington, DC on June 14, 2026.

Eric Lee,
REUTERS



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

KEN CEDENO, AFP Via Getty
Images



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

PATRICK T. FALLON, AFP Via Getty
Images



National Park Service workers push algae towards an aeration area in the center of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool following the completion of recent renovations in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2026. The reflecting pool project, undertaken as part of President Donald Trump's preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary, began in April and was completed last week.

KEN CEDENO, AFP Via Getty
Images



Workers clear algae from the World War II Memorial side of the newly renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Friday, June, 12, 2026.
Jack Gruber, USA TODAY