

JULY 1, 2014

WHAT DID WE FIND THIS WEEK?

On the Merrimack River, pretty much the same as we've seen recently. The E. coli levels were excellent and the dissolved oxygen levels were also excellent. We did find a level of 119 E. coli at the Thorntons Ferry access in Merrimack. We've seen levels here higher than other sites all season. We've also seen large amounts of trash at this site. Four-wheeling activity, drinking, and shooting are evident here and may account for the trash. The 119 E. coli level is higher than the 88 that we look for, but it is still not excessive. No other site on the Merrimack between Manchester and Tyngsborough exceeded 88. Greeley Park was the next highest and that was only 61. These are all excellent readings.

On the Souhegan River, the E. coli counts came in higher – some much higher. As the river passed through the centers of the towns along the river – Wilton, Milford, and Amherst – E.coli counts approached or passed dangerous levels. An exception was Greenville. The counts there were OK.

Dissolved oxygen readings also worsened from earlier tests. All dissolved oxygen levels were still OK, but the warmer weather and lower flows are dropping the readings. This should continue as the summer progresses.

There are no problems to be corrected along the river; what is happening is a natural result of the river and the weather. If there were no people living along the river, it would still show unacceptable bacteria levels on occasion – like after heavy rainstorms. They wouldn't be as frequent however. People that do live along the river should be as protective of the river as possible and avoid it when the bacteria counts exceed acceptable levels.

E. coli levels higher than 88 could cause gastrointestinal problems and ear and eye infections at higher levels. Some of the levels this week were in the 400 range. This is a dangerous level for anyone; swimming should be avoided till levels come down. One count of 517 was recorded at the Swing Bridge in Milford. Most of the swimming holes were much better than this. The Horseshoe in Wilton came in at exactly 88. The Boston Post Road Canoeport in Amherst was high at 172.

Except for the Boston Post Road Canoeport, all of the usual swimming holes tested at an acceptable level. The program looks for bacteria levels below 88 to indicate completely safe swimming areas. Levels below 126 are probably OK for most swimmers, but gastrointestinal problems and ear and eye infections may occur for sensitive individuals. Levels above 126 should be avoided.

Watson Park in Merrimack is being tested on a weekly basis and the results are posted at the park. The level here was 53 this week.

The next test will be done on July 15. There are still sites that could use a volunteer or a substitute.

Anyone interested can contact Karen Mattor at swawatertesting@gmail.com for more information. Also anyone interested in doing a special project testing for macroinvertebrates can call for information. This could be a good learning project for the summer.

The lab tests are all done by certified personnel at the wastewater treatment plants in Manchester, Milford, Nashua, and Merrimack. The program is coordinated by the Souhegan Watershed Association.

Here are the E. coli results for this week. Numbers lower than 88 are excellent; under 126 are acceptable for most people.

E-COLI MONITORING RESULTS FOR TESTS TAKEN ON JULY 1, 2014

SOUHEGAN RIVER SITES:

1. Billy Ward Pond, Ashburnham #1 23.1, #2 4.1
2. SoR 333 Water Loom Pond, New Ipswich 16.0
3. SoR 320 Highbridge, New Ipswich 48.8
4. SoR 309 Above Greenville Mill Pond, Greenville 90.6
5. SoR 296 Downtown Greenville upstream of WWTP 55.6
6. SoR 291 Green Bridge off Rte 31 below Greenville WWTP 76.7
7. SoR 218 Below the Horseshoe, Wilton 88.2
8. SoR 210 Downtown Wilton 307.6
9. SoR 201 Pine Valley Mill, West Milford 435.2
10. SoR 170 Behind Hayward Field, West Milford 167.0
11. SoR 155 Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Milford 461.1
12. SoR 146 Swing Bridge, Milford 517.2
13. SoR 133 Riverside Cemetery, Milford 328.2
14. SoR 130 Behind Lorden Plaza, Milford 461.1
15. SoR 122 Amherst Country Club 461.1
16. SoR 116 Amherst Conservation land Fairway Road, Amherst NA
17. SoR 095 Boston Post Road Canoeport, Amherst 172.2
18. SoR 070 Seaverns Bridge, Merrimack 70.3
19. SoR 057 Indian Ledges, Merrimack 38.4
20. SoR 034 Turkey Hill Bridge, Merrimack 68.3
21. SoR 001 Watson Park, DW Hwy, Merrimack 52.9

MERRIMACK RIVER SITES:

1. Mer 600 Above Amoskeag Dam, Manchester 22.6
2. Mer 590 Arms Park, Manchester 30.1
3. Mer 570 Goffs Falls, Litchfield 36.4
4. Mer 560 Depot Street, Merrimack NA
5. Mer 550 Upstream of Souhegan River, Merrimack NA
6. Mer 540 Thorntons Ferry, Merrimack 118.7
7. Mer 530 Greeley Park, Nashua 60.9
8. Mer 520 Taylors Falls Bridge, Nashua 49.6
9. Mer 510 Sagamore Bridge, Hudson 38.8
10. Mer 500 Pheasant Lane Mall, Hudson NA
11. Mer 490 Upstream of Tyngsboro Bridge 46.4

DISSOLVED OXYGEN RESULTS FOR TESTS TAKEN ON JULY 1, 2014

SOUHEGAN RIVER SITES:

22. Billy Ward Pond, Ashburnham #1 7.42, #2 7.63
23. SoR 333 River Road above Water Loom Pond, New Ipswich 7.74
24. SoR 320 Highbridge, New Ipswich 7.81
25. SoR 309 Above Greenville Mill Pond, Greenville 7.29
26. SoR 296 Downtown Greenville upstream of WWTP 8.23
27. SoR 291 Green Bridge off Rte 31 below Greenville WWTP 8.19
28. SoR 218 Below the Horseshoe, Wilton 8.77
29. SoR 210 Downtown Wilton 8.80
30. SoR 201 Pine Valley Mill, West Milford 8.36
31. SoR 170 Behind Hayward Field, West Milford 7.92
32. SoR 155 Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Milford 7.59
33. SoR 146 Swing Bridge, Milford 7.64
34. SoR 133 Riverside Cemetery, Milford 7.95

- 35.SoR 130 Behind Lorden Plaza, Milford 7.74
- 36.SoR 122 Amherst Country Club 7.84
- 37.SoR 116 Amherst Conservation land Fairway Road, Amherst NA
- 38.SoR 095 Boston Post Road Canoeport, Amherst 7.25
- 39.Sor 070 Seaverns Bridge, Merrimack 6.86
- 40.SoR 057 Indian Ledges, Merrimack 7.80
- 41.SoR 034 Turkey Hill Bridge, Merrimack 7.26
- 42.SoR 001 Watson Park, DW Hwy, Merrimack 8.57

MERRIMACK RIVER SITES:

- 12. Mer 600 Above Amoskeag Dam, Manchester 8.44
- 13. Mer 590 Arms Park, Manchester 8.74
- 14. Mer 570 Goffs Falls, Litchfield 8.59
- 15. Mer 560 Depot Street, Merrimack NA
- 16. Mer 550 Upstream of Souhegan River, Merrimack NA
- 17. Mer 540 Thorntons Ferry, Merrimack 7.98
- 18. Mer 530 Greeley Park, Nashua 8.20
- 19. Mer 520 Taylors Falls Bridge, Nashua 7.98
- 20. Mer 510 Sagamore Bridge, Hudson 8.13
- 21. Mer 500 Pheasant Lane Mall, Hudson NA
- 22. Mer 490 Upstream of Tyngsboro Bridge 8.12

Flow on Upper Souhegan was 34 CFS and expected flow for that date is 48

Flow on Lower Souhegan was 70 CFS and historic flow for that date is 82

Flow on Merrimack was 4470 CFS and historic flow for that date is 2320

RAINFALL - Clear- no rain.

Temperatures: Souhegan 22C; Merrimack 22C

