

## DOWNTOWNS HAVE HIGH E. COLI

Testing for E. coli bacteria on the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers showed significant differences between the two rivers. The Merrimack was the clear winner. Bacteria levels between Manchester and Tyngsborough were in the teens, well below the 88 level required for public swimming areas in NH.

The Souhegan tested clean in the upstream reaches and the downstream reaches, but the middle of the river showed dangerously high counts. The river tested clean until it reached the downtown at Wilton. Here the river tested at close to 1000, very high, very dangerous. Dilution of the pollution took place through West Milford, though counts remained still too high for human use; but counts spiked up again once the river reached the Oval area. The count near the Swing Bridge was near 550.

Below Milford, through Amherst, dilution again reduced the counts and generally reached acceptable levels by the time it reached Merrimack. The count at Watson Park in Merrimack, near the mouth of the river, was 36, quite clean.

Most of the swimming holes along the Souhegan were OK for swimming and other human use. The Amherst Canoeport on Boston Post Road was a bit high at 121, but still OK for healthy adults. The Horseshoe in Wilton was not tested this week.

Once again the Merrimack River tested very clean for bacteria and dissolved oxygen as it has for the last several years as the river has cleaned up. Dissolved oxygen is a positive test for the actual health of the river itself; both rivers constantly test very good in this test.

There was a drizzle during the Tuesday morning tests but not enough to account for any substantial changes in either of the tests. Heavy rains, especially after a dry spell, cause the bacteria level to rise, sometimes substantially, as water from the riverbanks and storm drains flush into the rivers.

These tests are performed by volunteers with the Souhegan Watershed Association biweekly during the summer. Results are always available on the internet at [www.souheganriver.org](http://www.souheganriver.org). Results from past years are also there.

The lab tests are done by certified personnel at the wastewater treatment plants in Nashua, Merrimack, Milford, and Manchester.

The next collection date is August 25; the bacteria take 24 hours to grow before the results can be read; the information should be available the following day.

SWA is always looking for volunteers; about 30 are needed. If anyone is interested in helping out for next year, contact [swawateresting@gmail.com](mailto:swawateresting@gmail.com).

Here are this week's results. **The lower the number the better:**

### E-COLI MONITORING RESULTS FOR TESTS TAKEN ON AUGUST 11, 2015

#### SOUHEGAN RIVER SITES:

1. Billy Ward Pond, Ashburnham #1 32.7, #2 4.1
2. SoR 333 Water Loom Pond, New Ipswich 2.0
3. SoR 320 Highbridge, New Ipswich 78.9
4. SoR 309 Above Greenville Mill Pond, Greenville 67.0
5. SoR 296 Downtown Greenville upstream of WWTP 36.9
6. SoR 291 Green Bridge off Rte 31 below Greenville WWTP 37.4
7. SoR 218 Below the Horseshoe, Wilton NA
8. SoR 210 Downtown Wilton 980.4
9. SoR 201 Pine Valley Mill, West Milford 461.1
10. SoR 170 Behind Hayward Field, West Milford NA
11. SoR 155 Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club, Milford 488.4
12. SoR 146 Swing Bridge, Milford 547.5
13. SoR 133 Riverside Cemetery, Milford 196.8
14. SoR 130 Behind Lorden Plaza, Milford 114.5
15. SoR 122 Amherst Country Club 79.4
16. SoR 116 Amherst Conservation land Fairway Road, Amherst NA
17. SoR 095 Boston Post Road Canoeport, Amherst 121.1
18. SoR 070 Seaverns Bridge, Merrimack 67.7

19. SoR 057 Indian Ledges, Merrimack 33.1
20. SoR 034 Turkey Hill Bridge, Merrimack 43.5
21. SoR 001 Watson Park, DW Hwy, Merrimack 36.4

MERRIMACK RIVER SITES:

1. Mer 600 Above Amoskeag Dam, Manchester 6.3
2. Mer 590 Arms Park, Manchester 24.6
3. Mer 570 Goffs Falls, Litchfield 22.6
4. Mer 560 Depot Street, Merrimack NA
5. Mer 550 Upstream of Souhegan River, Merrimack 16.9
6. Mer 540 Thorntons Ferry, Merrimack 15.6
7. Mer 530 Greeley Park, Nashua 9.8
8. Mer 520 Taylors Falls Bridge, Nashua 13.2
9. Mer 510 Sagamore Bridge, Hudson 13.4
10. Mer 500 Pheasant Lane Mall, Hudson NA
11. Mer 490 Upstream of Tyngsboro Bridge 8.6

Flow on Upper Souhegan was 21 CFS and expected flow for that date is 46

Flow on Lower Souhegan was 38 CFS and historic flow for that date is 43

Flow on Merrimack was 1180 CFS and historic flow for that date is 1750

RAINFALL - Clear

Temperatures: Souhegan 21C; Merrimack 23C