

Volunteer River Assessment Program sampling on the Blackwater river

In June of this year the Blackwater river was tested for *E. coli* in three locations. At that time all locations were meeting safe standards. The thing to remember is things can change within a matter of minutes from safe to unsafe. *E. coli* is an indicator used to detect bacteria and other pathogens that can signal human or other animal waste in water. This can happen after rain washed waste into the river, which can make swimming and other water contact unsafe. A good rule of thumb is, "When it rains, it's poor." Wait a day or two before you go into the water after rain.

Here are the June results by site.

Blackwater River (04X-BKW)	10 colonies/100ml	Below dam at the Elementary School
Blackwater River (04-BKW)	20 colonies/100ml (replicate) 74 colonies/100ml (first sample)	Below Clothespin Bridge
Blackwater River (03T-BKW)	10 colonies/100ml	USGS Gage Station

These results are excellent. They are all well below the Class B standard of 406 colonies of *E. coli* per 100 millilitres of water. That means that on that day, the Blackwater met the standards for fishing, eating the fish, and swimming. The Class A or designated swim beach standard is 88. This standard is for places such as state parks and campgrounds. All of the samples met that standard as well. I am keeping this explanation short. You can read more at <https://tinyurl.com/ecoliNH>

Thanks to Ginny and Russ Wright and Michele Tremblay for their work sampling for our town through the state's Volunteer River Assessment Program. There are two more sampling events this summer. Results will continue to be reported in the *Grapevine*. Should you have questions about the monitoring program, please call Michele at 603.796.2615 or email at MLT@naturesource.net.