

## **Addison County River Watch Collaborative *E. coli* Monitoring in 2020 on Lewis Creek, Middlebury River, and New Haven River**

The Addison County River Watch Collaborative sampled for *E. coli* at seven Addison County recreational areas in 2020. *E. coli* is a bacteria found in the intestines of humans and other warm-blooded animals. It is used as an indicator of potential fecal contamination of waters. While most strains of *E. coli* are themselves not pathogenic, detection of *E. coli* suggests that other disease-causing pathogens may be present. The **Vermont Department of Health sets a health-based safety standard for swimming of 235 organisms/100 mL.**

Sites were monitored on three summer dates: July 7, August 4, and September 1, except where specified. Provisional results (meaning these data did not go through our usual quality assurance/quality control process due to COVID-related challenges) were as follows:

### **Recreational Sites Monitored for *E. coli*, Summer 2020**

| <b>Site</b>                    | <b>July 7</b> | <b>August 4</b> | <b>September 1</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b><i>New Haven River</i></b>  |               |                 |                    |
| Garland's Bridge               | 30            | 96              | 3.1                |
| Bartlett's Falls               | 61            | 16              | 40                 |
| Sycamore Park                  | 58            | 130             | 43                 |
| DeMers Park*                   | N/A           | N/A             | 130                |
| <b><i>Lewis Creek</i></b>      |               |                 |                    |
| Tyler Bridge                   | 250           | 390             | 150                |
| <b><i>Middlebury River</i></b> |               |                 |                    |
| Middlebury Gorge               | 1             | 6.3             | 2                  |
| Shard Villa Road Bridge        | 410           | 390             | 390                |

*All results are recorded in organisms per 100mL of water. Those exceeding the Vermont Department of Health's health-based safety standard of 235 org/100mL are highlighted.*

\*DeMers Park was added to ACRWC's sampling plan in mid-August. On August 18 a sample (that does not appear on the above table because it was a one-off sampling at only that location) was collected at this site, with a concentration of 140 organisms per 100 mL of water.

*E. coli* concentrations exceeded health safety standards at the Shard Villa Road Bridge on the Middlebury River during each sampling event, and twice at Tyler Bridge on Lewis Creek. Concentrations at all other sampling stations were below (and therefore met) safety standards.

All rivers were at low flow levels during the four sampling dates. Based on past monitoring of these rivers, *E. coli* levels can become elevated when water is high after heavy rains. In general, swimmers should avoid the river during high flows.

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