

2026 Bacteria Data - Rivers and Streams Enterococci Data

Fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria are monitored to indicate the presense of human sewage and associated pathogens, or disease causing organisms. The RI Department of Health (RIHealth) uses a single-value enterococci standard for licensed swimming beaches. The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) uses a geometric mean approach for contact recreation standards on all other waters (fresh and salt). In addition, as required by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program for shellfish waters and their tributaries and as an indicator of overall water quality, RIDEM assesses fecal coliform levels. (Fecal coliform data is available for marine waters and shellfish area tributaries in the "Tidal Fecal" file.)

While URIWW's Analytical Laboratories are State certified, URIWW data are intended for screening purposes only. Samples from various sites may have been collected over a period of days for each collection period, so may reflect dry versus wet weather or rain event values. Please contact URIWW for specific sample dates. Our data are very valuable for targeting areas of concerns and for tracking potential sources of bacterial contamination. Results above the state standard could be unsafe, and you should refrain from swimming until results return to acceptable levels, or at least for several days after heavy rain.

RI Department of Health standards for recreational contact (i.e. swimming):

Single sample not to exceed 60 enterococci per 100 mL.

RI Department of Environmental Management Enterococci Standards:

Non-designated Bathing Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 54 enterococci per 100 mL.

Designated Bathing Beach (Fresh) Waters Geometric Mean Density - Not to exceed 33 enterococci per 100 mL.

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
		----	Most Probable Number of Enterococci per 100 mL				----	
A	Annaquatket - Belleville @ RR Xing	51						
WD	Ashaway River @ Rte 216	55						
WD	Chipuxet @ Rte 138	1						
CW	(CLT) Cross Mills Pond Outlet							
CW	(CLT) Yawgunsk Brook at Rte 1							
WD	Fisherville Trib - Hopkins	11						
WD	Fisherville Brook - Henry Brown Rd	1						
H	HW #1b - Scrabbletown Brk @ Rte 4	6						
H	HW #4 - Davis Memorial	35						
H	HW #5 - Sandhill Brook (Saw Mill Inlet)	37						
H	HW6b - Potowomut Pond	55						
LN	Mastuxet Brook	19						
PA	Meshanticut Brook	27						
WD	P'tuck @ Biscuit City Rd	16						
WD	Pawcatuck River @ Rte 91	27						
PA	Pawtuxet River - Below Gainer Dam	3						
PA	Settling Ponds)	8						
PA	Pawtuxet @ Colvin Brook	12						
PA	Pawtuxet Near Locust Grove Ave	40						
PA	Pawtuxet @ Burlingame Brook	15						
PA	Pawtuxet River @ Hope Pond	6						
PA	Pawtuxet River upstream of Rhodes	24						
S	Saugatucket River @ Saugatucket Rd. Saug #3							

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Click [HERE](#) for Narrow River enterococci and [HERE](#) for Narrow River fecal coliform data.

Watershed code	MONITORING LOCATION	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	GEOMEAN
WD	Shunock River @ Hewitt	24						
WD	Shunock River @ Rte 49 (Rte 95)	15						
WD	Tomaquag Brook @ Chase Hill	20						
WD	TU - Falls River C - Austin Farms Rd	4						
WD	TU - Flat River @ Midway RR	9						
WD	TU - Wood River @ Rte 165	4						
WO	Woonas. R @ Whipple Field							
WO	Woonas. R @ Greystone Pond	13						
WO	Woonas. R @ Manton Fish Ladder	NA						
WO	Woonas. R @ Riverside Pk Dam	74						
WO	Woonas. R @ Donigian	108						
WO	Woonas. R @ Waterplace Park	31						

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The Wood River - A Great Place for Kayaking (Image from <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/columns/2022/06/24/amys-rhode-paddling-on-ri-federally-protected-wild-and-scenic-wood-and-pawcatuck-rivers/>)