

# Mad River Watch (MRW) Results - August 24, 2015

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Water Temp. °F	<i>E.coli</i> per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	72.0	3.1
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	60.0	11.0
Bobbin Mill (Lincoln Brook)	2	61.0	55.6
Warren Covered Bridge (Mad River)	3	63.0	15.6
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	60.0	26.9
Brook Road above Village (Freeman Brook)	4.5	62.0	3.1
North End Warren Village (Mad River)	5	63.0	14.6
Bridge on West Hill Road (Bradley Brook)	6	61.0	49.6
Seasons (Mad River)	6.5	65.0	17.3
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	67.0	18.7
Bottom of Sugarbush Access Rd (Clay Brk)	8	62.0	17.3
Route 100 crossing (Folsom Brook)	10	63.0	19.9
"Dip" on East Warren Rd. (S. Folsom Brook)	10.6	62.0	21.3
Sugarbush Health Club (Rice Brook)	11	62.0	6.3
Inferno Road Crossing (Clay Brook)	12	60.0	9.8
Fayston Elementary School (Slide Brk)	13.1	63.0	10.9
German Flats, Rt 17 (Chase Brk)	16	63.0	17.6
German Flats, Rt 17 (Mill Brk)	17	63.0	16.0
Mill Brook east of MRG	17.1	62.0	23.3
Mill Brook	18.1	64.0	20.1
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	68.0	10.9
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	69.0	33.1
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	69.0	18.5
Joslin Hill Road Culvert (High Bridge Brook)	20.1	62.0	25.6
Tremblay Road (Mad River)	21.5	70.0	29.1
North Road Covered Bridge (Pine Brook)	22	64.0	12.2
Meadow Road Bridge (Mad River)	23	70.0	35.9
Route 100 Bridge (Shepard Brook)	24	66.0	16.1
Route 100 Bridge (Dowsville Brook)	25	64.0	16.9
North Road near Moretown (Mad River)	26	71.0	178.5
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	68.0	61.3
Route 100B crossing (Doctors Brook)	27.1	62.0	46.4
Ward Clapboard Mill (Mad River)	28	69.0	56.5
Near Stevens Brook Road (Welder Brook)	28.05	64.0	24.6
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	71.0	108.1
Lover's Lane Bridge (Mad River)	31	75.0	27.9

\* > 235 *E.coli*/100ml = Not suitable for recreation, according VT Department of Health and EPA

## Flow and Weather Analysis

The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was low and steady (LS) measuring approximately 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the USGS flow gage in Moretown, down from just 51 cfs on June 20th. The median flow for this date is 102 cfs. No sites tested above DOH/EPA safe *E. coli* level of 235 colonies per 100 mL of water, which is as expected due to the long period of hot and dry weather.

## River Flow

**LS - low and steady:** It has not rained in several days and the water is low.

## Thanks to this week's volunteers!

Samplers - Paula & Charlie Baldwin, Susy Deane, Annie Macmillan, Fran & Gary Plewak, and Michael Ware

*E. coli* Lab Coordinator - Maryellen Kinhan

Posting Results - Sally Boudreau

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer

# *Friends of the Mad River*



-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --  
8/25/2015

Contact: Corrie Miller, Director, (802) 496-9127

## **35 cfs at the Mad River Gage on Monday and 24,200 cfs Four Years Ago Tomorrow**

Sampling results from the sixth and final round of *Friends of the Mad River's* 2015 Mad River Watch (MRW) volunteer water quality program show no sites with unfavorable swimming conditions Monday morning after nearly two weeks without substantial rain.

The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was low and steady (LS), measuring approximately 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the USGS flow gage in Moretown, down from only 51 cfs in the evening of August 20<sup>th</sup> after light rain. The median flow for August 24<sup>th</sup> is 102 cfs. None of the 36 sampling sites tested Monday above DOH/EPA safe *E. coli* level of 235 colonies per 100 mL of water.

Two other dates this summer also had a "low and steady" flow condition – July 13<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>. On all three of these sampling dates, none of the 36 sites tested above suitable *E. coli* levels. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, however, when the water was "low and rising" after a storm, 10 sites violated these suitable levels. Remember that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. You are your best protector - use common sense and let the high waters pass (along with the pollutants they carry) before jumping in!

*E. coli* is a type of coliform bacteria and is used as an indicator of pollution from human or animal waste and the potential presence of disease causing organisms. It is estimated that at the level of 235 colonies *E.coli* per 100 mL water, approximately 8 out of every 1,000 swimmers are likely to contract a water borne illness related to fecal contamination.

Many thanks to this week's Mad River Watch volunteers: Paula and Charlie Baldwin, Susy Deane, Annie Macmillan, Fran & Gary Plewak, and Michael Ware. Thanks to Susanne and George Schaefer who drove water samples to the DEC's lab in Burlington for phosphorus and turbidity analysis, to Sally Boudreau for posting data at ten swimholes across the watershed, and to Maryellen Kinhan for completing the Wait House *E. coli* lab analysis. The Mad River Watch Program would not be possible without these dedicated volunteers!

Four years ago tomorrow, on August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene dumped so much rain across our watershed that, at 10:15 that memorable Sunday evening, the USGS flow gage in Moretown peaked at 24,200 cubic feet per second (cfs), compared to the 35 cfs on Monday morning. Irene has since become a household name, leaving damage in its wake of a magnitude previously unimaginable. Now, four years later, our Mad River Valley community is still recovering from Irene – re-establishing our homes, businesses, and municipal facilities – and at the same time, we're building our capacity to deal with whatever the future throws us. We've gone through a lot, come so far, and still have exciting and innovative work to be done.

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program and to view our most recent complete data report please visit the *Friends of the Mad River* website at [www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](http://www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org). Results are also available on Facebook (“Friends of the Mad River”) and on sign posts at swimholes across the Valley.

*Friends of the Mad River* is a community-supported organization committed to active and thoughtful stewardship of the Mad River and its 144 square mile watershed. We depend on the generous contributions of our members to continue the Mad River Watch and important resilience programs. It’s membership season, so please consider donating securely online at our website.

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