



HEALTHY LAND. CLEAN WATER. VIBRANT COMMUNITY.

For Immediate Release

August 21, 2018

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### Fall is Coming...

What a great summer swimming season! But cooler temperatures, shorter days, school schedules, and the last Mad River Watch sampling day hint that fall is in the air. Sampling results from the sixth and final round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show **no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels** as of Monday morning. After several days of sun and just a few showers, the heavy rain shower on Saturday likely washed some pollutants off the landscape, into the water, and downstream prior to Monday's sampling.

The river's discharge (volume per second) came down from 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) Saturday afternoon to reach 50 cfs on Monday morning at the US Geological Service flow gage in Moretown. The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was Low and Declining (LD). The mean flow for this date in the last 89 years is 75 cfs, so the water is slightly lower than usual at this time of year, which is consistent with much of the summer's lower flows.

Remember that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. FMR's *E. coli* sampling results are only a snapshot in time intended to give you a sense of the conditions that lead to high pathogen levels in the water so you can be informed. You are your best protector - use common sense and don't swim for several days after a rain. 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 volunteers: Charlie Baldwin, Susy Deane, Annie & Jula Fender, Jen Higgins & Emmett & Fiona Stowell, Joel Rhodes, Hazel MacMillan, Susanne & George Schaefer, Michael Ware, and Julie & Ingrid Westervelt. "It's been great having the help of new and seasoned Mad River Watch volunteers this summer," noted Corrie Miller, Executive Director. "They are a dedicated crew, willing to get up early, go outside, and get wet in all weather conditions! Thank you!"

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program visit [www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org](http://www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org). Throughout the summer, Mad River Watch results will be available in the Valley Reporter, 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 healthy land, clean water, and a vibrant community. Mad River Watch and other important programs depend on the generosity of community members; learn how to become a member and donate securely [online](#) at Friends' website.

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August 20, 2018

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Time Sampled (24 hour time)	Water Temp. °F	E.coli per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	7:10	70	45.9
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	7:20	60	4.1
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	7:45	59	13.2
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	7:55	60	4.1
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	9:00	61	95.9
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	9:10	62	54.6
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	7:25	64	53.8
Meadow Road Bridge (Mad River)	23	9:40	64	67.7
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	8:10	68	22.3
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	8:35	68	70.6

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

#### Data, Weather, and Flow Analysis

Sampling results from the sixth and final round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show no sites with unfavorable E. coli levels as of Monday morning. After several days of sun and just a few showers, the heavy rain shower on Saturday likely washed some pollutants off the landscape, into the water, and downstream prior to Monday's sampling.

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#### River Flow

**LD - low and declining:** Rain brought a low river up earlier in the week, but the flow is dropping.

#### Thanks to this week's volunteers!

Samplers - Susy Deane, Annie & Julia Fender, Jen Higgins & Emmett & Fiona Stowell, Joel Rhodes, Hazel MacMillan, Michael Ware, and Julie & Ingrid Westervelt.

Posting Results - Sally Boudreau

Training and Support - Charlie Baldwin

E. coli Lab Coordinator - Paula Baldwin

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer