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# NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

Saturday, February 8, 20



PARADISE VALLEY -- A state-funded water sampling program this summer conducted by the Brodhead Watershed Association revealed fecal coliform contamination in several streams in the Brodhead watershed.

The worst site in the watershed was Forest Hills Run, with one sample showing 17,000 coliform-forming units per 100 milliliters of water and four other samplings exceeding the standard for swimming or other water contact activities. Another poor site was the Brodhead itself, at Glen Park, Stroudsburg, where seven of 10 samples exceed safe limits.

The maximum fecal coliform count allowed by state regulation from May 1 to Sept. 30 is 200 units per 100 milliliters of water. The rest of the year the maximum level permitted is 2,000 units per 100 ml.

Fecal coliform bacteria are non-disease causing organisms which are found in the intestinal tract of all warm-blooded animals. While fecal coliform bacteria itself does not cause disease, its presence means human or animal fecal waste is in the water and the waste may potential contain disease-causing pathogens.

The results have already been forwarded to the state and are also being sent to the affected municipalities, with suggestions for additional testing.

Volunteers collected stream samples from assigned sites 10 times over the summer and delivered the samples to Microbac Labs in Tannersville for testing. Funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection paid for the analysis of the samples. DEP also trained the volunteers in proper sample collection procedures and chain of custody requirements.

Nine volunteers took part in the program, with Don Miller and Pat Kennedy testing six sites on the lower Brodhead, Sheelagh Murphy collecting samples from Lake Creek and the McMichael headwaters, Anne Fetherman testing the Cherry Creek and Darryl Speicher, Chris Perry and Geri Daley sampling Buck Hill Creek at two sites. Bob Stevens sampled the headwaters of Pocono Creek and Scot Run below the Great Wolf discharge and Ellen Davis tested Swiftwater Creek at two sites and Forest Hills Run below Mt. Airy.

The best results came from Bob Stevens' testing in the Pocono Creek watershed, with no samples exceeding the standard for swimming or other water contact activities. Swiftwater Creek above and below Lake Swiftwater also met the swimming standard all summer.

Full results are posted on the BWA website at [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a non-profit environmental organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. In addition, the BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring.

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