

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

MONITORING (2004-Present)

- ⊗ Has included beach seep sampling, watershed investigations, and canine source tracking of bacteria

WATERSHED BASED PLAN (2011)

- ⊗ Identified stormwater and faulty septic systems as cause of bacterial contamination
- ⊗ Developed actionable recommendations that address contamination sources

319 PHASE I (2012-14)

- ⊗ Installed 4 water quality improvement projects that reduced bacteria, sediment, and nutrients from entering the river
- ⊗ Developed a septic system database that was prioritized by maintenance history, age, and environmental sensitivity
- ⊗ Conducted septic survey in key areas to update septic database
- ⊗ Promoted awareness of bacteria through outreach program

WHAT WILL BE DONE

319 PHASE II (2015-17)

- ⊗ Will install 2-4 water quality improvement projects on town property
- ⊗ Will develop town regulation of septic system maintenance
- ⊗ Will help to fund evaluation and replacement of failing septic systems through cost-share agreement
- ⊗ Will continue outreach program

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- ⊗ Town is considering a loan to support a comprehensive study of the watershed that will help guide future actions to reduce human-sourced bacteria



GET INVOLVED!

For more information, please contact:

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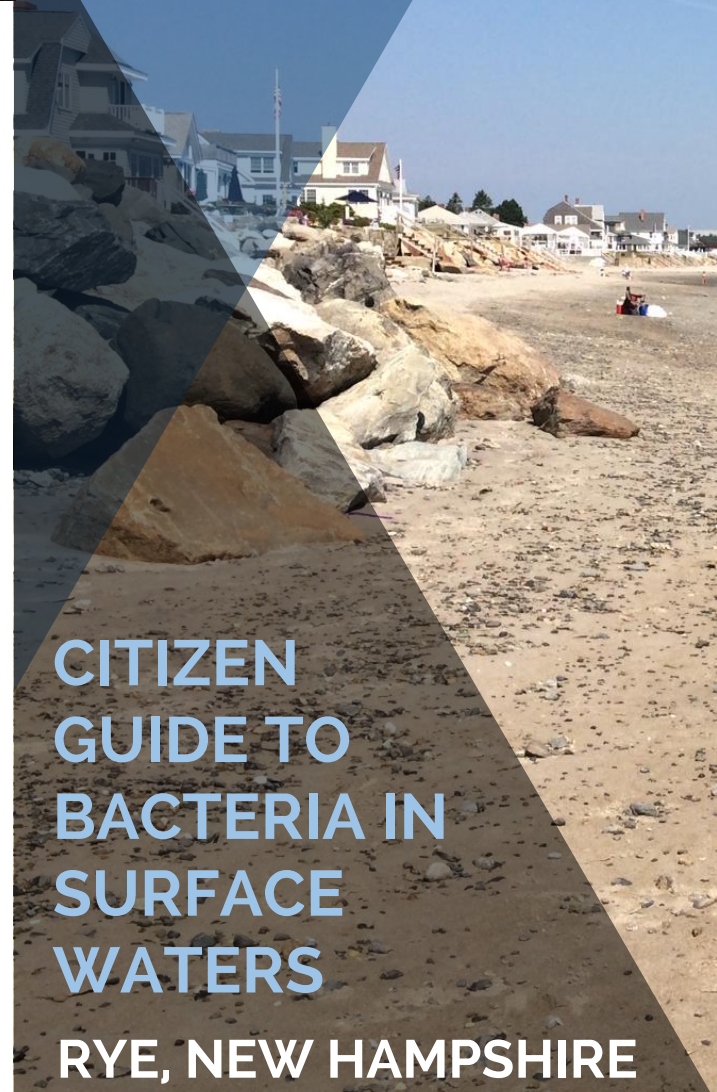
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PARSONS CREEK

AND NEARBY PUBLIC BEACHES & ESTUARIES



CITIZEN GUIDE TO BACTERIA IN SURFACE WATERS

RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SOURCES OF BACTERIA ENTERING WATERWAYS

ANIMAL WASTE

- ⊗ Pets
- ⊗ Livestock
- ⊗ Wildlife

UNTREATED HUMAN SEWAGE

- ⊗ Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)
- ⊗ Malfunctioning septic systems
- ⊗ Leaky sewer lines



STORMWATER RUNOFF

Once in waterways, bacteria concentrations are controlled by temperature, sunlight, turbidity, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, toxins, and predation.

BACTERIA THREATEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND AQUATIC LIFE

Bacteria are an indicator of pathogens that cause gastrointestinal illness in humans. These pathogens can be ingested directly in water and shellfish or indirectly via skin contact.

Fecal contamination can come from multiple, diffuse sources and can change dramatically depending on environmental conditions. For these reasons and more, fecal contamination is very difficult to track and manage. Fecal contamination remediation is a long process that requires coordination and cooperation among municipalities, businesses, and residents.

CITIZEN QUICK TIPS

MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- ⊗ Regularly pump system every 2-3 yrs
- ⊗ Evaluate system if it is older than 20 yrs
- ⊗ Use only non-toxic cleaners (e.g., bleach kills microbes necessary for waste decomposition)

REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

- ⊗ Vegetate bare soil
- ⊗ Enhance buffers near waterways
- ⊗ Set lawn mower to 3 inches; leave grass clippings to recycle nutrients
- ⊗ Divert roof runoff to vegetation for water infiltration

MINIMIZE HOUSEHOLD POLLUTION

- ⊗ Reduce or eliminate use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides
- ⊗ Recycle all materials, most especially hazardous waste products
- ⊗ Compost yard waste; pick up pet waste
- ⊗ Be aware of oil/gas drips, detergents, and winter sand/salt that may be washing off your property

