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Water Quality Results

Wet Weather Days.....Step Away from the Water

Results from the MRWC's 2008 Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting Program (MAPP), reveals that rainy-wet weather days can be hazardous to one's health when combined with swimming and boating on the Merrimack River.

For the last two years, the MRWC has been monitoring the 50-mile length of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Last year, 50 monitoring trips took place on the river by an army of volunteers. They monitor and take samples, riding on the river with volunteer boat owners, and generously give of their time, resources, and efforts to learn of the quality of the river water. The data and samples include water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, total dissolved solids, salinity and Secchi depth. Samples are also run through analysis at EPA laboratories for bacteria count levels.

Approximately 50% of the days from May through October 2008 were wet weather days. The data analysis results, of bacteria counts and other indicators, show the Merrimack River is unsafe for swimming on wet weather days almost half the time (47%). On dry weather days, unsafe swimming was 10%. Moreover, the river was found to be unsafe for boating 20% of the time on wet weather days. One might suspect that a day or two after a summer rain storm would be less-than ideal for swimming and/or boating as well.

Want to get involved? See the next article below...

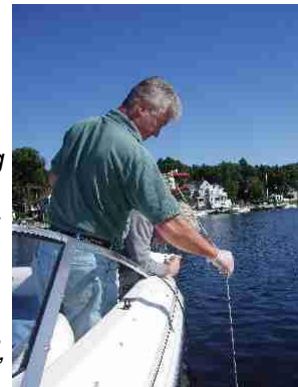
You can access the details of this important information in the complete *MAPP Program Report*, along with an *Executive Summary* at: <http://www.merrimack.org/publications/MAPPReport.htm>



Volunteers Needed!

River Monitoring Season Is Calling You

It's that time of year again, time to get out on the Merrimack River and find out how the quality of our river water is doing. The 2009 monitoring season for the Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting (MAPP) Program is about to begin, and **we need volunteers** to take water quality samples from boats, and volunteers who own and operate boats to assist in this important program. Water quality monitoring consists of traveling to 7 or 8 predetermined sites in one section of the Merrimack River and recording the information displayed on a water quality meter. A few teams will also collect water samples for bacteria analysis in the lab. Monitoring takes three to four hours each trip, and each team typically goes out once per month (May through October). Training is required and provided, consisting of a one-time three and a half hour session on how to use the equipment. More information can be found on the MRWC website at - www.merrimack.org/programs/mapp.html, or contact Tracie Sales, MRWC Water Resources Manager (978-275-0120 x13), for more information.



Training Sessions:

Water Quality Training1: Wed. May 13th, 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Water Quality Training2: Sat. May 16th, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Please RSVP to Tracie (978-275-0120 x13 - tsales@merrimack.org) to indicate interest in volunteering and determine space available for training sessions. Thank you.

Board of Directors

In Search of Board Members

Are you a 'thinker-shaker-maker' type of person? The MRWC is looking for you and seeks members to the Board of Directors who have the time, resources, and commitment to help in turning the words of the [Mission Statement](#) into reality. Some, but certainly not all, board member attributes would include people who are community activists and organizers, engineers, land developers, recreation/outdoor enthusiasts, lawyers, education specialists, and environmentalists. A challenging, but very rewarding task for board members is taking on a particular project or program and becoming the "champion" for it.

Perhaps being a board member is not for you, but you know of someone who would benefit from such involvement and be a fine resource and representative of the MRWC. To discuss your potential, or someone you know, please contact the MRWC Executive Director Christine Tabak [978-275-0125 x15 - ctabak@merrimack.org]

Office Update

It was succinctly stated the other day in the office: "Without our volunteers, we'd be like fish out of water...not liking it and not lasting long!" Many thanks to our volunteers who help in many ways from special events to everyday routine office tasks: JoLynn Burdick, Monica Reum, Denise Hurt, Michael LaBonte.....thank you!

For all our social networking readers.....MRWC is now on "**Twitter**" and "**Facebook**"....see bottom of this page for links.

Are you a Business or Corporation? Have you adopted a Merrimack-Mile yet?

Show your commitment and support for clean water - for safe drinking, swimming, and boating - as well as your care for the flora and fauna in and around the Merrimack River by adopting *Merrimack-Miles* - part of the MRWC Green Revolution. This is a new initiative to provide business and industry with a means of demonstrating their support and active role in this *Green Revolution*. Many companies are launching sustainability initiatives in many "green" areas of environmental impact, and adopting a Merrimack-Mile makes direct impact.

Not a business or corporation? Please pass this on to your employer and others appropriately. Their support is needed!

The miles await adoption. Show you care. Details at: www.merrimack.org/membership/merrimack-mile.htm

Earth Day Celebration! 2009

Thank You, Sponsors

ECS - Environmental Compliance Services, Inc.

Horsley Witten Group

Toner Express of NH

Mill City Environmental Corporation

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

Please consider our sponsors for their expertise and services.

It was a most beautiful April 25th at Plum Island for Earth Day 2009 with activities, displays, demonstrations and the "State of the Merrimack River" presentation. The generosity of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Parker River National Wildlife Refuge to host the event served was appreciated. Executive Director Christine Tabak, and Water Resources Manager Tracie Sales, presented highlights of the 2008 MRWC annual report on the Merrimack River Water Quality Monitoring, Analyzing, Protecting and Promoting Project (MAPP Project)...a.k.a "State of the Merrimack River." [See web site for event details and full MAPP Program report: www.merrimack.org.

Things to do...

Looking for some adventure?

Come learn how to kayak!

Contoocook River Kayak Day - Saturday,

June 20th - 12noon-4pm - Concord, NH

MRWC and the Contoocook River Canoe & Kayak Company have partnered to create a learning day full of fun. Registration required. For details:

www.merrimack.org/programs/Contoocook-Kayak-Day.html

MRWC members only. Membership is easy...to find out how and join us, go to www.merrimack.org



...do you have five minutes?

There's still time to share your perspective in our survey:

(copy/paste web address into browser)

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=_2fXm2ya80MczlwxmM9_2b1Nqg_3d_3d

We'd like to hear from you!

Free MRWC tee-shirt for a few random survey participants!

Social Media: Connect with MRWC....

twitter <http://www.twitter.com/merrimackriver>

facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Merrimack-River-Watershed-Council-Inc/75709458051>