

## Waukesha County's Procedures for Collecting Water Samples

- Water samples are taken by Park Foremen on Monday mornings in sterile bottles provided by the Waukesha County Environmental Health Division. Fox Brook and Menomonee Parks also take an additional sample on Wednesday mornings.
- Four samples at each beach location are collected from designated points. These are then used to create one composite result for each beach location.
- On Monday, samples are taken to the Administration Building by each Park Foreman and delivered to the lab at the Waukesha County Environmental Health Division no later than 10:00 a.m. Fox Brook and Menomonee Parks also transport the second weekly samples into the office on Wednesday mornings before 10:00 a.m.
- During the two-week period when each park is hosting swim lessons, samples are delivered no later than 8:15 a.m. on the designated days.
- Samples are also taken within 24 hours of a heavy rainfall (determined by ½ inch of rain in a gauge at the park).



A complete list of testing procedures and the weekly results are posted on-line at [www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com) or at each beach house.

## Beach Hours:

- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. weekdays  
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. weekends & holidays
- On days that are projected over 90 degrees, the beaches will open one hour EARLIER - 10:00 am on weekdays and 9:00 am on weekends and holidays.



## Waukesha County Beach Locations

- Fox Brook Park
- Menomonee Park
- Minooka Park
- Muskego Park
- Mukwonago Park
- Naga-Waukee Park

## BEACH RULES & REGULATIONS

- ▶ Swimming in designated areas only.
- ▶ Swimming permitted only when lifeguard is on duty; follow lifeguard's instructions.
- ▶ Children 5 years old or younger **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages not permitted.
- ▶ Floatation devices of any kind are prohibited.
- ▶ No animals allowed.
- ▶ No glass containers allowed.
- ▶ Proper swimming attire required.
- ▶ Grilling permitted in designated areas only.
- ▶ No fishing tackle permitted.
- ▶ No running dives.

## PARK FEES & RESERVATIONS (262) 548-7801

For additional information and reservations contact:  
WAUKESHA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND LAND USE

515 Moreland Blvd., Room AC 230, Waukesha, WI 53188  
Phone (262)548-7801; Fax (262)896-8071  
For a 24 hour recorded activity report, call (262)548-7800  
TDD available (262)896-8075

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of emergency, dial 911. To contact the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, dial (262)548-7111

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## WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK SYSTEM



# Beach Water Quality Testing Procedures

## 2010

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Waukesha County Park System

Recreation • Education • Preservation

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)

## Frequently asked questions

### Why do you need to test the water?

Waukesha County Park System is committed to giving our customers the best swim experience; making safety our first priority.

Testing for Water Quality is done weekly at all Waukesha County Beaches and twice a week at Fox Brook and Menomonee Parks. The County has tested water quality since 1970, before there were any state guidelines for testing. Water quality testing is done as a precaution to warn customers when bacteria levels are high.

Water is also tested after a heavy rainfall. Pollution in beach water may be higher during and immediately after rainstorms because surface water draining into the beach may include run-off from the areas surrounding the beach. For this reason, swimmers should always use caution after a rain event.

### What are you testing for?

Beach water may contain microorganisms that you cannot see. One of those microorganisms is E. coli, which is found in feces of animals, including humans.

### What is E. coli?

E. coli is the abbreviated name for Escherichia coli. The name E. coli encompasses a wide range of bacteria, some which help us and some of which hurts us. About 0.1% of the total bacteria within an adult's intestines is represented by E. coli. The presence of E. coli and other bacteria within our intestines is necessary for us to develop and operate properly. E. coli we acquire from our surroundings can sometimes be harmful to us. The presence of E. coli in swimming areas means that other disease-causing microorganisms may be present as well.

### What illness can I get from swimming in polluted water?

Micro organisms found in polluted water can cause flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, and fever. Other germs can cause ear infections, eye infections, and skin rashes. Due to the Waukesha County's water sampling and beach closing procedures, exposure to potential causes of illness is reduced.

### What signage will be posted?



"Good" signage will be posted when water counts are under 235, the EPA's good water quality guideline.

### Beach "Advisory" signage



If a sample has an E. coli count over 235, "Advisory" signage will be posted. An additional sample will be taken immediately and the beach advisory will remain in place until the E. coli level is reported to be less than 235 cfu/100mL. "Advisory" is in effect when counts exceed the EPA's good water quality guidelines, but does not warrant closing the beach at that time.

### Beach "Closed" signage



Beaches will close and signage will be posted when a sample has an E. coli count greater than 1000. An additional sample will be taken immediately and the beach will reopen only when a count is below 1000.

### What causes beach pollution?

There are many sources of E. coli bacteria, including the following:

- Animal droppings from geese, dogs, etc.
- Runoff from residential streets and yards
- Children having "accidents" in the water

### What can I do to reduce the E. coli levels at Waukesha County Beaches?

- ◆ Please do not swim when you have diarrhea. This is especially important for kids in diapers. You can spread germs in the water and make other people sick.
- ◆ Please practice good hygiene. Take a shower before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing a diaper. Germs on your body end up in the water.
- ◆ Please take your kids on bathroom breaks or check diapers often. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean that it's too late.
- ◆ Please change diapers in a bathroom and not on the beach. It is suggested to use rubber pants or swim diapers while swimming.
- ◆ Please wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming. Everyone has invisible amounts of fecal matter on their bottoms that end up in the water.
- ◆ Please do not feed the geese or other waterfowl.
- ◆ Please do not bring your pet on the beach and properly dispose of your pet's waste.