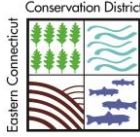


EASTERN CONNECTICUT CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

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January 19, 2024

Rebecca Jascot, Environmental Analyst
CT DEEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Yantic River

In 2023, volunteers with The Last Green Valley Water Quality Monitoring Program, with oversight from Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) staff, conducted a trackdown survey for *E. coli* bacteria in the Yantic River. This monitoring followed a CT DEEP and US EPA approved QAPP. Samples were collected weekly for 10 weeks by the volunteers and assessed for *E. coli* at the DPH lab in Rocky Hill.

The results from the Yantic Trackdown Survey were submitted to CT DEEP in time for review prior to the drafting of the 2024 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report. There were 7 monitoring sites, from Yantic Falls in Norwich to the Savin Lake outfall in Lebanon. It was a rainy summer, which likely influenced the results, but in some of the monitoring locations, elevated levels of *E. coli* were detected in the water samples during dry weather.

Six of the sampling sites failed to meet the geometric mean of 126 MPN/100 ml. Only the Savin Lake outfall geomean was less than 126 MPN/100 ml. Every site, including the Savin Lake outfall, had at least one sample > 576 MPN/100 ml.

The Yantic River is a popular fly-fishing stream. There is also a section of the river that has been published as a white-water canoe/kayak area. The elevated pathogen concentrations following rain events make recreational contact with the water a potential hazard. The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District recommends that DEEP consider making the Yantic River a priority area in the 2024 IWPM Phase II process.

Sincerely,

Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
The Last Green Valley Water Quality Monitoring Program Volunteer Coordinator
Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator