

Chattahoochee River Recreation

Photograph



USGS real-time Webcam



<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/rivercam/webcam-helen.html>

E.coli: Watershed Protection Benchmarking

	Chattahoochee - Atlanta	Comal River and Dry Comal Creek
• E.coli testing frequency	• Once/week	• Once/month
• Raining during sampling posted?	• Yes	• No
• Public E.coli postings	• Weekly	• Monthly with 3-5 month delay in posting

E.coli: Watershed Protection Benchmarking

	Chattahoochee - Atlanta	Dry Comal Cr Comal River
• Turbidity indicator for E.coli?	• Yes	• No
• Number of river sampling locations	• Two – Medlock - Paces Ferry	• One – Hinman Island
• River Webcams for flow/turbidity	• Two – 14 th Street - Helen	• No

(Next page identifies websites)

E.coli: Watershed Protection Websites

	Chattahoochee - Atlanta	Dry Comal Comal River
• E.coli education (BacteriALERT Program in Atlanta)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://ga2.er.usgs.gov/bacteria/default.cfm• http://ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/bacteria/understanding-data.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
• Actual E.coli count	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://ga2.er.usgs.gov/bacteria/mainreport.cfm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.gbra.org/documents/crp/data/9wqitabl-hinman.pdf
• Real Time turbidity and est. E.coli count	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/bacteria/helpturbidity.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
• Turbidity data posted on USGS floe and gage height graphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&cb_63680=on&format=gif_default&site_no=02335000&period=3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Note: All E.coli information for the Chattahoochee is gathered and reported by USGS

Chattahoochee BacteriALERT Program



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USGS Georgia Water Science Center: Chattahoochee River BacteriAlert

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Chattahoochee River BacteriAlert Program

Background: How safe is it to swim, wade, and boat in the Chattahoochee River today? For a highly urbanized river such as the Chattahoochee, much of the answer depends on [bacteria](#) levels in the water. This website provides "real time" turbidity data, the estimated E coli bacteria count, the most recent E. coli bacteria counts (sample collected each Thursday), and National Park Service health advisories for two locations on the Chattahoochee River ([view map](#)).

Current conditions

Here are the current conditions for the Chattahoochee River sites:

- [Chattahoochee River at Norcross](#) (Medlock Br. Rd)
- [Chattahoochee River at Atlanta](#) (Paces Ferry Rd)

Understanding E coli

- ✓ [Understanding the data](#)
- ✓ [Find out about the bacteria](#)
- ✓ [E.coli data tables](#) (last 20 weeks)

Publications

[USGS Scientific-Investigations Report 2012-5037](#)

Escherichia coli Bacteria Density in Relation to Turbidity, Streamflow Characteristics, and Season in the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta, Georgia, October 2000 through September 2008—Description, Statistical Analysis, and Predictive Modeling

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&cb_63680=on&format=gif_default&site_no=023360008



Current National Park Service Chattahoochee River Bacteria Health Advisories

Chattahoochee River at Norcross (Medlock Br. Rd)
Currently, there is not a National Park Service health advisory in effect

Chattahoochee River at Atlanta (Paces Ferry Rd)
Currently, there is not a National Park Service health advisory in effect

Current turbidity and estimated E. coli bacteria counts for the Chattahoochee River

Site	Most recent turbidity		Estimated E. coli count
	Date/Time	Turbidity, in NTU	
Chattahoochee River at Norcross (Medlock Br. Rd)	06/06 4:15 PM EST	5	58
Chattahoochee River at Atlanta (Paces Ferry Rd)	06/06 4:45 PM EST	19	207

Chattahoochee River at Norcross: The last E.coli water sample was taken on Thursday 05/26 at ; the measured E. coli count was 42
Chattahoochee River at Atlanta: The last E.coli water sample was taken on Thursday 05/26 at ; the measured E. coli count was 70

Chattahoochee BacteriALERT Program



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South Atlantic Water Science Center - Georgia

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CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER BACTERIALERT LINKS

[Project home](#)

Background information

- [Background](#)
- [BacteriAlert Q&A](#)
- [Chattahoochee facts](#)
- [Partners](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Sampling and analysis

- [Water-sample analysis](#)

Understanding bacteria

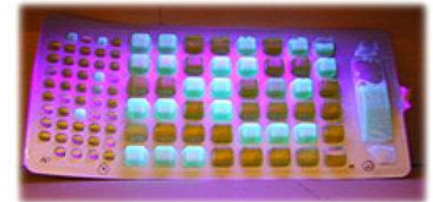
- [What are bacteria?](#)
- [Understanding turbidity](#)

Chattahoochee River BacteriAlert Understanding BacteriALERT data

E. coli data value

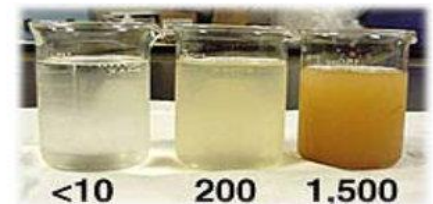
The E. coli bacteria count value is reported as the number of colonies per 100 milliliters (ml) of water. As of mid-2002, only occasional water samples are being taken, as current turbidity values are used to predict E. coli counts. Information about E. coli bacteria is available.

To determine the E. coli concentration in a water sample, the water must be taken to a lab where it is separated into different dilutions. Chemicals are added to the water, which is then sealed in plastic containers and incubated in an oven for about 20 hours. This process allows the E. coli bacteria colonies to grow enough to fluoresce under ultra-violet light.



Turbidity

Picture of three glass beakers with water with turbidities of 10, 200, and 1500. Turbidity is the amount of particulate matter that is suspended in water. It is measured in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). Turbidity makes the water cloudy or opaque and it is measured by shining a light through the water. At base flow, the Chattahoochee near Atlanta is usually a clear green color, and turbidities are low. During a rainstorm, particles from the surrounding land are washed into the river making the water a muddy brown color, indicating water that has higher turbidity values.



E.coli test results reported weekly



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Chattahoochee River BacteriAlert Program

Medlock Bridge sampling site

Date	Time	E.coli	T coli	Rain
05-26-2016		42	2,518	N
05-19-2016	12:57PM	80	6,488	N
05-12-2016	1:32PM	39	2,869	N
05-05-2016	9:35AM	40	2,143	N
04-28-2016	10:10AM	45	3,214	N
04-21-2016	10:50AM	18	868	N
04-14-2016	10:55AM	27	638	N
03-31-2016	10:48AM	17	611	N
03-24-2016	9:37AM	42	494	N
03-17-2016	9:55AM	18	542	N
03-10-2016	11:39AM	24	524	N
03-03-2016	10:40AM	28	550	N
02-25-2016	10:47AM	310	6,131	N
02-18-2016	10:35AM	38	639	N
02-11-2016	12:21PM	32	599	N
02-04-2016	11:06AM	590	17,329	Y
01-28-2016	10:55AM	25	374	N
01-14-2016	8:35AM	22	642	N

Weekly E.coli test results on USGS website

--- Rained this day

Hinman Island Test Results on GBRA website

Station Number 9
Latitude 29/42/29

Comal River at Hinman Island
Longitude 98/07/26

Parameter	Parameter Code	Date and 24 hour time											
		9/2/14	10/7/14	11/11/14	12/2/14	1/6/15	2/2/15	3/9/15	4/6/15	5/6/15	6/8/15	7/6/15	8/4/15
Flow (cfs)	61	67	86	119	142	131	177	277	192	221	310	343	311
E. coli(org/100mL)	31699	200	180	340	210	150	260	1100	120	210	88	770	94
Suspended Solids(mg/L)	530	1.50	1.90	0.90	1.20	0.90	1.40	25.6	0.50	1.40	1.90	1.60	1.50
Turbidity(NTU)	82079	1.5	<0.5	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.9	23.2	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0
pH	400	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.7	7.4
Temperature(C)	10	27.0	24.2	22.0	21.0	20.4	20.6	17.0	23.2	23.3	23.6	24.7	23.6
Dissolved Oxygen(mg/L)	300	9.8	7.6	9.1	9.7	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.1	8.3	10.2	10.2	8.5
Conductivity(umhos/cm)	94	568	618	583	600	594	592	566	591	604	605	577	593
Total Phosphorus(mg/L)	665	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	0.05	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02
Nitrate-N(mg/L as N)	620	1.41	1.58	1.78	1.80	1.62	1.69	0.96	1.83	1.81	1.79	1.88	1.79
Chloride(mg/L)	940	19.7	19.6	20.2	20.3	22.0	19.5	24.4	23.1	19.8	20.1	20.1	19.7
Sulfate(mg/L)	945	32.8	32.9	35.2	35.6	38.0	33.6	59.2	38.6	32.8	32.4	32.9	31.1
Total Hardness(mg/L)	900	271	276	275	282	155	274	237	264	280	333	286	287
Ammonia-N(mg/L)	610	<0.10		0.30		0.22		<0.10		<0.10		<0.10	
Chlorophyll a(mg/m ³)	32211	<1.0	<1.0	1.34	1.54	<1.0	<1.0	4.51	<1.0	<1.0	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Pheophytin(mg/m ³)	32218	<1.0	<1.0	<1.00	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	1.14	<1.0	<1.0	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen(mg/L)	625	<0.20		<0.20		<0.20		0.40		<0.20		<0.20	

Parameter	Parameter Code	Date and 24 hour time				
		9/1/15	10/19/15	11/11/15	12/1/15	1/4/16
Flow (cfs)	61	223	203	299	317	317
E. coli(org/100mL)	31699	190	180	310	160	130
Suspended Solids(mg/L)	530	1.30	1.10	1.60	1.40	1.20
Turbidity(NTU)	82079	0.7	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.6
pH	400	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5
Temperature(C)	10	24.1	22.4	23.3	22.5	21.3
Dissolved Oxygen(mg/L)	300	9.4	8.6	8.6	9.5	9.3
Conductivity(umhos/cm)	94	596	590	589	582	600
Total Phosphorus(mg/L)	665	<0.02	<0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Nitrate-N(mg/L as N)	620	1.93	1.83	1.86	2.00	1.88
Chloride(mg/L)	940	19.8	19.5	19.4	18.5	20.5
Sulfate(mg/L)	945	32.3	32.6	32.0	30.7	31.6
Total Hardness(mg/L)	900	296	278	275	275	272
Ammonia-N(mg/L)	610	<0.10		<0.10		<0.10
Chlorophyll a(mg/m ³)	32211	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Pheophytin(mg/m ³)	32218	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen(mg/L)	625	<0.20		<0.20		<0.20

Screenshot taken
on June 6, 2016

E.coli Advisories on Texas Beaches

cgis.glo.texas.gov/Beachwatch/#loc=64

West End Galveston - Dellanera Park

Receive Alerts

Receive an alert when this location changes advisory levels.

Stay Informed --- updates via email

Share

Facebook Twitter

Beach Description

Name: West End Galveston - Dellanera Park
Advisory: Medium
County: Galveston County
Last Update: Jun 22 2016 9:00AM --- once/week
Latitude: 29.24066
Longitude: -94.87286

Sampling, testing and reporting by Texas Gen'l Land Office

--- 54 test locations

West End Galveston - Dellanera Park
Level: Medium
Bacteria counts are between 35 and 104 cfu/100 ml
Hide Detail

--- test results

Beach Advisory – Pt. Aransas, Texas



Comal E.coli Watershed Protection Plan

Summary: USGS has E.coli educational, data gathering and reporting protocols that appear to be Best Practices

Recommendations as part of Comal WPP:

- Petition the USGS to develop the same testing and information system for Comal River as they have for the Chattahoochee River
- Do the same for the equipment they are using - examples: turbidity
- Pursue immediately as it may take USGS 1-2 years to implement – Federal funds but need to be budgeted
- Continue with on-going WPP work efforts