Nashua River Watershed: 2026 E. coli Report Card

NASHUA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

≥ .25" of rain previous 3 days	.1" to .24" of rain previous 3 day	Mixed or borderline rain previous 3 days	No rain previous 3 days

Upstream ↓ Downstream

Site Name	Town	State	Water Body	6/3/2026	6/10/2026	6/17/2026	6/24/2026	7/1/2026	7/8/2026	7/15/2026	7/22/2026	7/29/2026	8/5/2026	8/12/2026	8/19/2026	8/26/2026	Geometric Mean of the Last Five Sampling Weeks
Still River Depot	Harvard	MA	Still River	85.7	50.4	46.4	1986.3	58.3	>2419	45.7	104.3	145.0	461.1	77.1	75.4	137.4	**78.6**
Trap Falls	Ashby	MA	Willard Brook	6.3	21.3	6.1	261.3	11.0	365.4	8.5	65.1	21.2	185.0	98.5	42.0	25.3	**35.5**
Adams Dam	Townsend	MA	Squannacook River	143.9	142.1	93.3	770.1	111.2	816.4	517.2	1119.9	686.7	214.3	129.6	275.5	186.0	**396.3**
Bertozzi Wildlife Mngt. Area	Groton	MA	Squannacook River	30.1	49.6	37.3	156.5	46.4	110.6	101.7	129.1	517.2	307.6	55.6	72.3	111.9	**94.5**
West Groton Bridge	West Groton	MA	Squannacook River	21.8	7.5	4.1	24.9	13.5	55.7	33.6	65.0	22.8	272.3	51.2	21.6	36.8	**36.0**
Groton Conservation Trust	Groton	MA	Nashua River	28.8	67.7	39.3	51.2	20.1	151.5	33.6	47.9	49.5	488.4	69.1	55.6	53.8	**48.3**
Fitch's Bridge Road	Groton	MA	Nashua River	44.1	41.0	25.6	60.2	29.2	166.4	43.5	34.1	29.2	201.4	54.5	79.8	62.4	**53.8**
Petapawag Canoe Launch	Groton	MA	Nashua River	30.5	59.4	90.6	78.9	58.1	129.6	113.7	52.9	66.3	365.4	68.9	129.1	59.4	**76.9**
Nissitissit at Prescott	Pepperell	MA	Nissitissit River	85.7	86.2	66.3	461.1	43.5	579.4	27.9	52.9	73.3	325.5	104.3	72.7	43.2	**69.4**
Heald Pond	Pepperell	MA	Heald Pond	6.3	4.1	1.0	1.0	4.1	1.0	5.2	2.0	1.0	5.2	3.1	1.0	1.0	**2.1**

Reported in Most Probable Number of Colony Forming Units (cfu) / 100ml of water

Safe for Swimming	Unsafe for Swimming
≤ 235 CFU	>235 CFU

E. coli results are reported as Colony Forming Units (CFU) per 100 mL of water

Massachusetts Beach Water Quality Standard:
A single *E. coli* sample should not exceed 235 CFU/100 mL and the geometric mean of the five most recent samples collected during the same bathing season should not exceed 126 CFU/100 mL.

Note: The sites included in this report card are not officially designated public beaches. The Massachusetts Beach Water Quality Standard is provided for reference only and is not enforceable at these locations. Swimming is at your own risk.

For Questions:
Utkir Adkhamov
Senior Water Quality and Ecological Restoration Associate
utkira@nashuariverwatershed.org
360-612-7453

Support for the *NRWA Weekly Swimming Hole Monitoring* Program is provided by the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Fieldstone Foundation Inc., Bristol Myers Squibb, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

GREATER LOWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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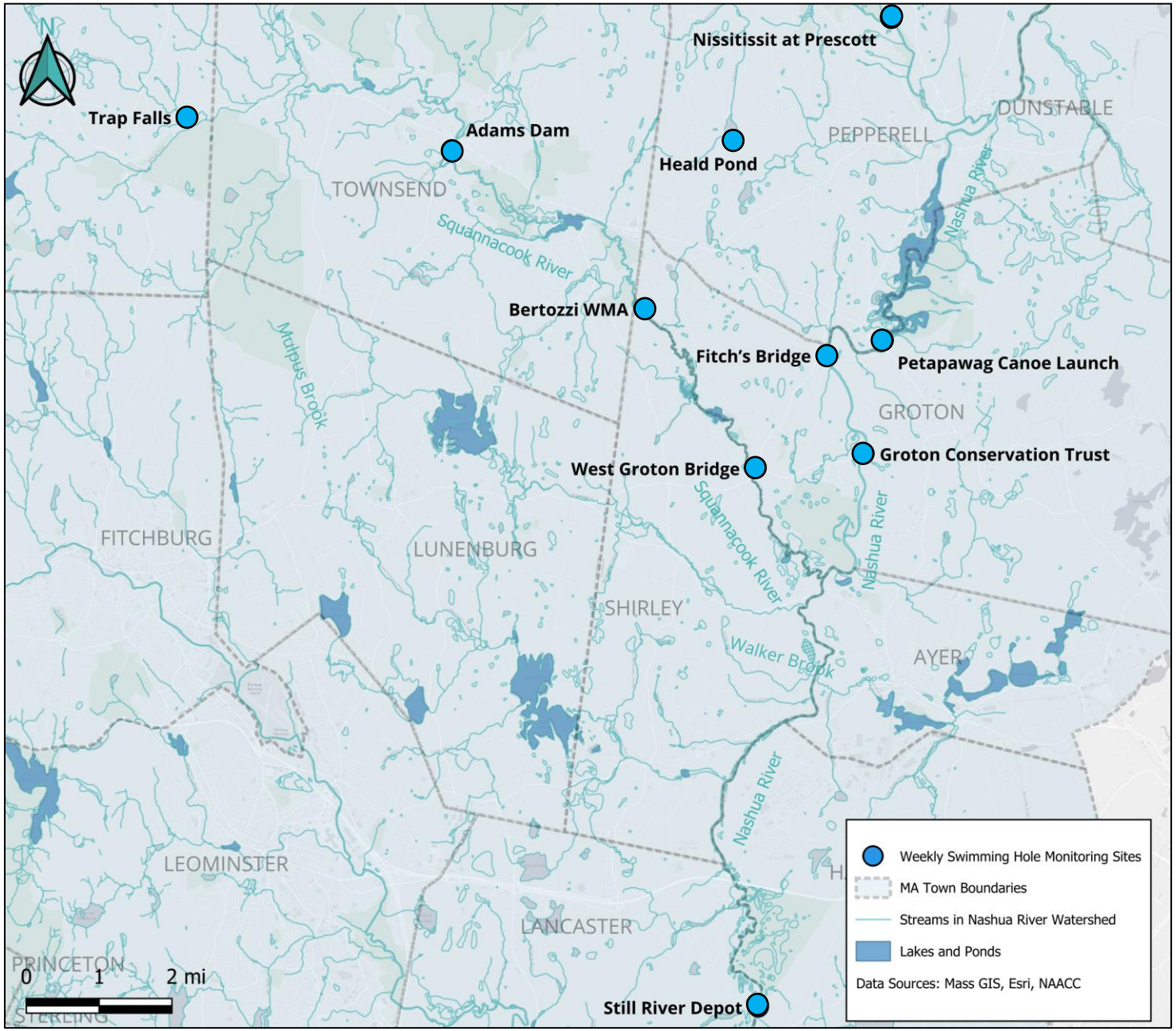
MassDEP

2026 Weekly Swimming Hole Monitoring Locations



Downstream

Upstream

NASHUA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Safe for Swimming

Unsafe for Swimming

Not Sampled

Advisory: *NRWA reminds the public that swimming at monitoring locations is at your own risk. While we provide regular updates on water quality, conditions can change quickly and may not always reflect real-time safety.*

NRWA 2026 *E. coli* Monitoring Summary

- This week marked the 13th and final sampling round of NRWA's **2026 Swimming Hole Monitoring Program**. This summer, with the help of 30 volunteers, we collected and analyzed 156 water samples from 10 popular swimming and recreational sites across the watershed.
- Overall, *E. coli* results showed more frequent unsafe swimming conditions than in recent seasons. Adams Dam continued to be a site of concern, with unsafe *E. coli* levels recorded during 6 of the 13 sampling rounds.
- NRWA will continue investigating potential bacteria sources at Adams Dam and Still River Depot through follow-up sampling, eDNA source-tracking, and groundwater testing. If specific sources are identified, we will share the findings with the public and local Boards of Health.
- Volunteers also helped document drought conditions by taking photos at monitoring sites throughout the watershed. These observations will support the Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) and strengthen NRWA's drought outreach and documentation efforts.
- Thank you to all our volunteers for their dedication throughout the season and to our local Boards of Health for their continued cooperation and support.