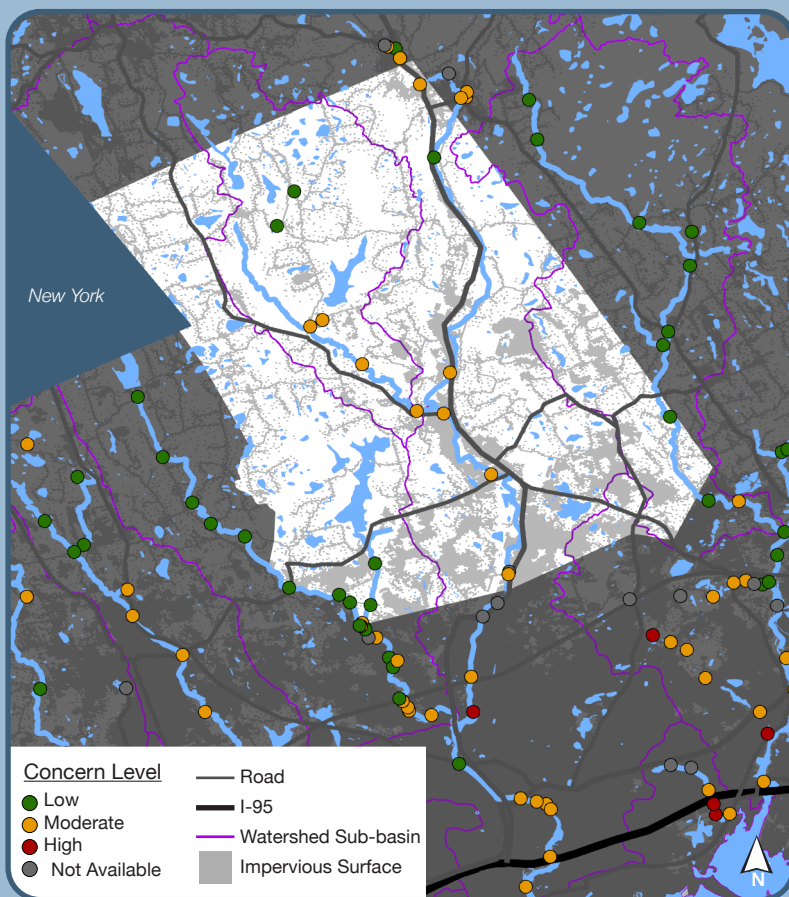


Almost the entire town of Wilton is located within the **Norwalk River** Watershed. The river extends as far north as Ridgefield and meets Long Island Sound at Norwalk Harbor in Norwalk. **Comstock Brook**, a tributary to the Norwalk River, is located in the north central portion of town and meets the Norwalk River at Merwin Meadows Park. The **Silvermine River** watershed encompasses the western border of town and the river discharges to the Norwalk River near Deering Pond. The eastern border of town falls within the **Saugatuck River** watershed, which ultimately discharges to Saugatuck Harbor in Westport.

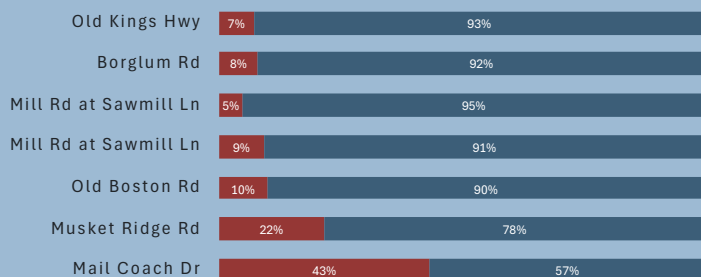
What We Monitor and Why

It is important to monitor the water quality of these rivers and coastal waters to ensure they can continue to be used for fishing, boating, and swimming. One way to evaluate water quality is through concentrations of indicator bacteria. The CT DEEP has established indicator bacteria standards to ensure waters are safe for recreation and shellfishing. Although the indicator bacteria themselves are usually not harmful, elevated concentrations can indicate the presence of sewage, which may contain harmful pathogens that pose a risk to human health.

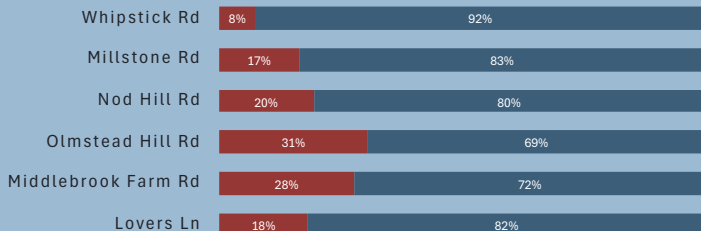


% of Samples Exceeding Single Sample Max

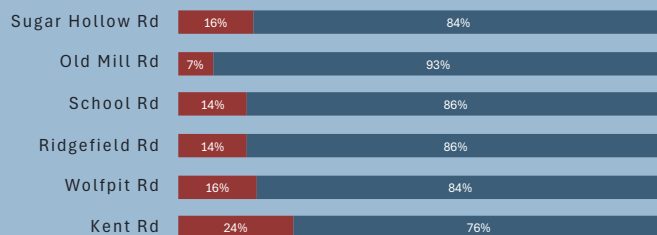
Silvermine River



Comstock Brook



Norwalk River



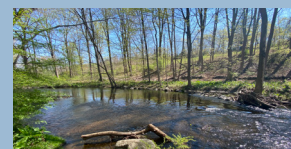
W. Branch Saugatuck River



Silvermine River



Comstock Brook

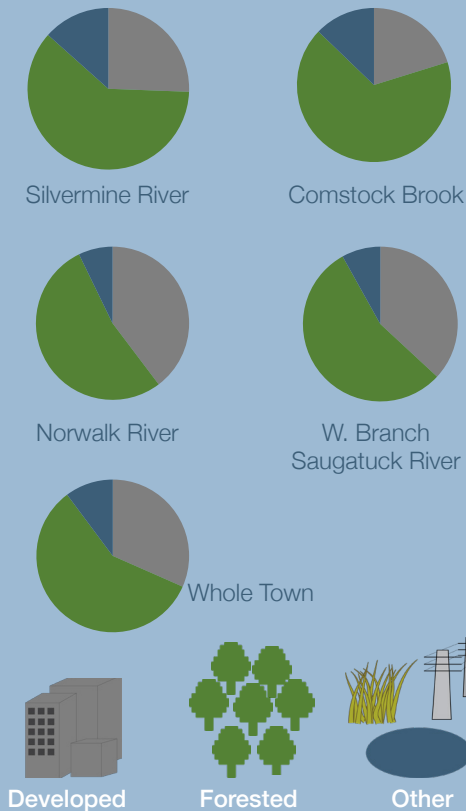


Norwalk River

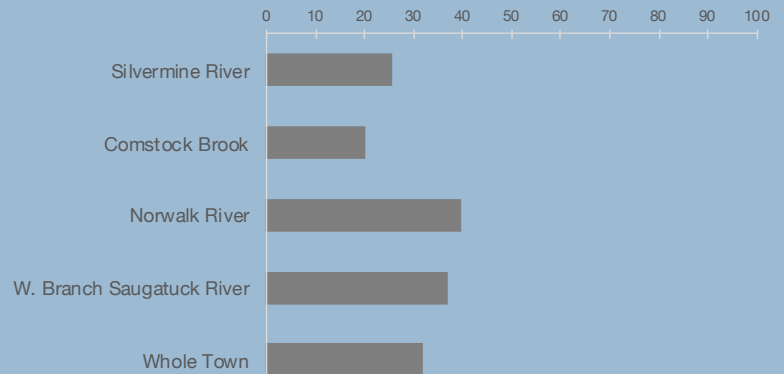
Wilton, CT

There are many factors that can impact bacteria concentrations in our Fairfield County waterways. For example, the more impervious surface present in a watershed (roads, parking lots, roofs, etc.), the higher the bacteria concentrations tend to be. On the other hand, watersheds with greater percentages of forests and forested wetlands tend to have less bacteria. Land use is often correlated with population - as populations grow, impervious surface coverage increases and forested land decreases. Rainfall can also play a role in bacteria concentrations as the runoff picks up potential sources from within the watershed and deposits them into our rivers. Understanding where your town falls within this spectrum of land use and impervious surface coverage can help in assessing the level of risk for impaired water quality in your area.

Landuse



% Impervious Surfaces



Are these Waterways a Concern?

Low concern - Norwalk River, Silvermine River, and Stonebridge Rd site on West Branch Saugatuck River

Moderate concern - Comstock Brook*

High concern - N/A

Concern level based on single sample maximum criteria exceedances (for watersheds) and geometric mean criteria exceedances (for sites) from 1995-2023.

*Asterisk indicates that less than three years of data were collected from 2019-2023.

How You Can Help

Pick up after animals

Watch what you flush into the public sewer!

Do not pour grease, paints, or chemicals down the drain

Be vocal about future town development

Maintain your septic system

Harbor Watch, a program of Earthplace, conducts water quality monitoring and ecosystem research throughout Connecticut. The data presented here are based on an analysis of water samples collected by our staff, interns, and volunteers between May and September from 1995 through 2023. Samples were processed in our state-certified laboratory. A full summary of our analysis can be found on our website harborwatch.org. Data is constantly shared with our municipal partners who we work with to isolate and remove sources of pollution. This analysis was supported by the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund and Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

For more details, data, and maps visit harborwatch.org

