

Friends of the Reedy River

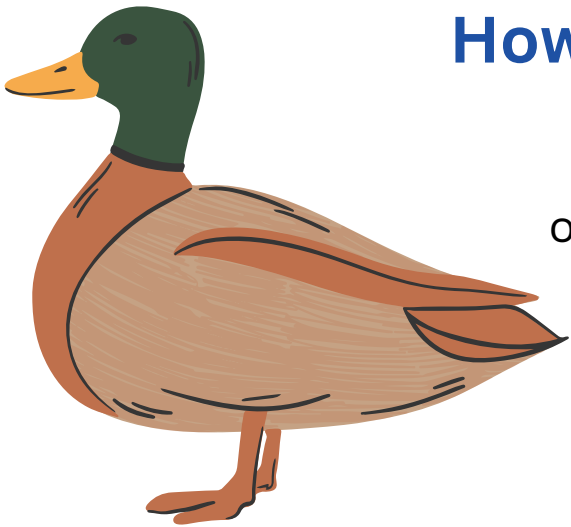
What is *E. Coli*?

E. Coli is *Escherichia coli*, a group of fecal coliform bacteria. *E. Coli* is an indicator organism of fecal contamination in freshwater. It is associated with animal waste and less risky to culture in a lab than other pathogens. Its presence indicates a potential risk to human health. If *E. Coli* is found, other viruses may also be present in the water.



How does *E. Coli* get into streams?

E. Coli in water comes from human and animal waste, broken pipes, and stormwater outfalls. Fecal material can be transported to waterways through runoff. Grass and vegetated land absorbs rainfall, but developed lands create more impervious surfaces that lead straight to waterways, allowing bacteria to flow right in.



When should I sample *E. Coli*?

Sampling for *E. Coli* should be done at least monthly during dry weather conditions. Collect samples below riffles or in flowing water.

Source: South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer Handbook

For more information, visit the South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer Handbook!