



Cabin John Creek Watershed Monitoring Results 2024-Oct 2025

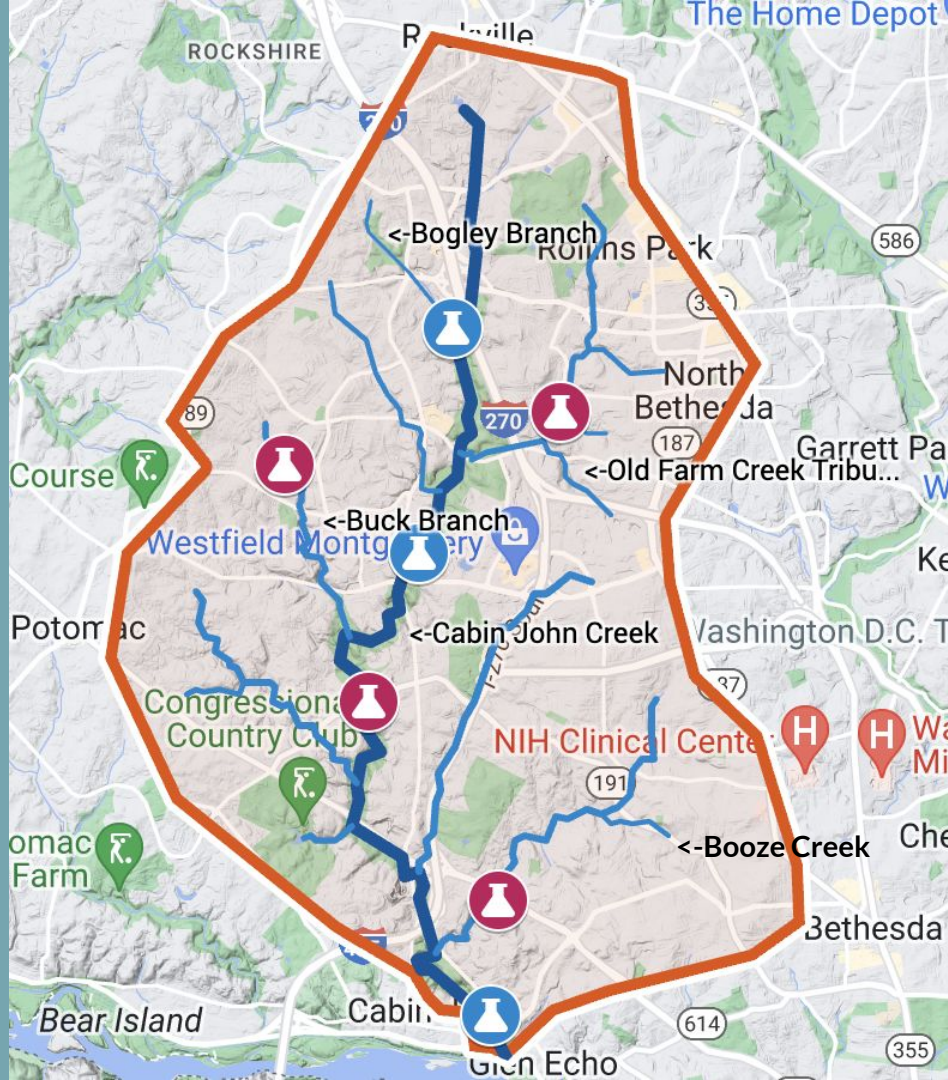
An urban watershed in Montgomery County, Maryland

Updated: Oct 2025



Funding for this program provided by: Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund





Watershed is

- 25 square miles
- 90% urbanized
- 26% impervious

Cabin John Creek →
Potomac River →
Chesapeake Bay

We have has 7 test
sites



Water Quality Monitoring

Macroinvertebrates



Chemicals



E-Coli



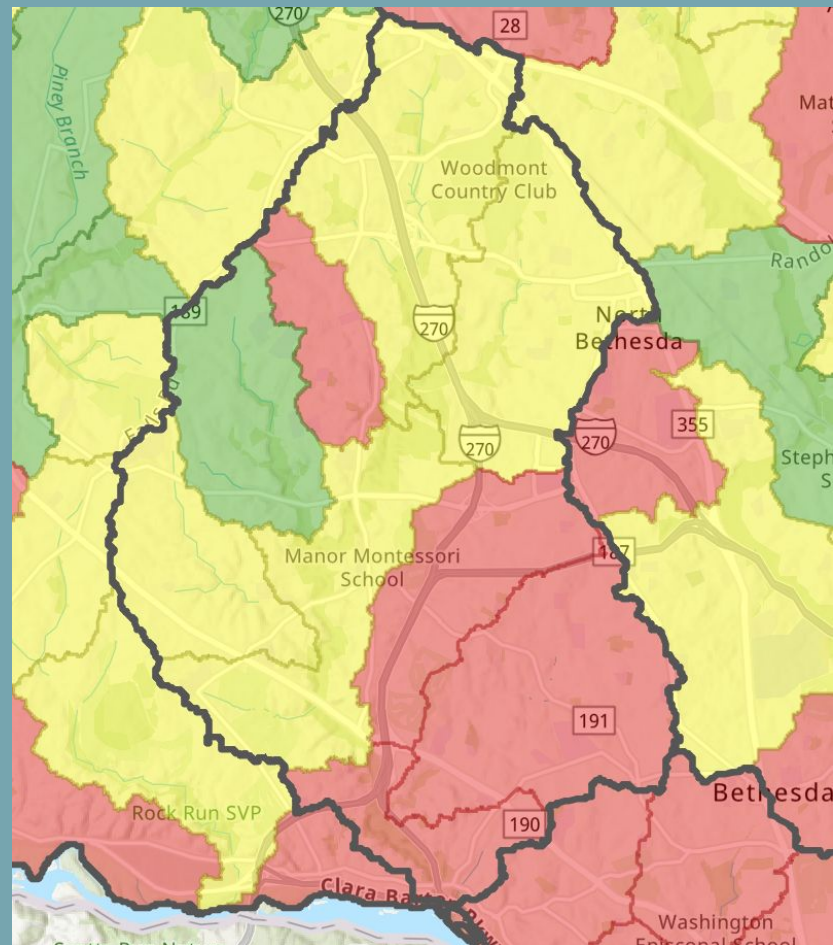
Volunteer!

monitoring@cabinjohncreek.org

Cabin John Creek Watershed

Water Quality 2019

- Latest report from Montgomery County Department Environmental Protection
- Measures organisms in streams



*Source & Map: Montgomery County DEP -

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/clean-water-montgomery/stream-health/stream-conditions.html>



Macroinvertebrates

- Fly larvae, beetles, ...
- Sensitive to pollutants & stressors
- Measure diversity & health quarterly at CJ Local Park

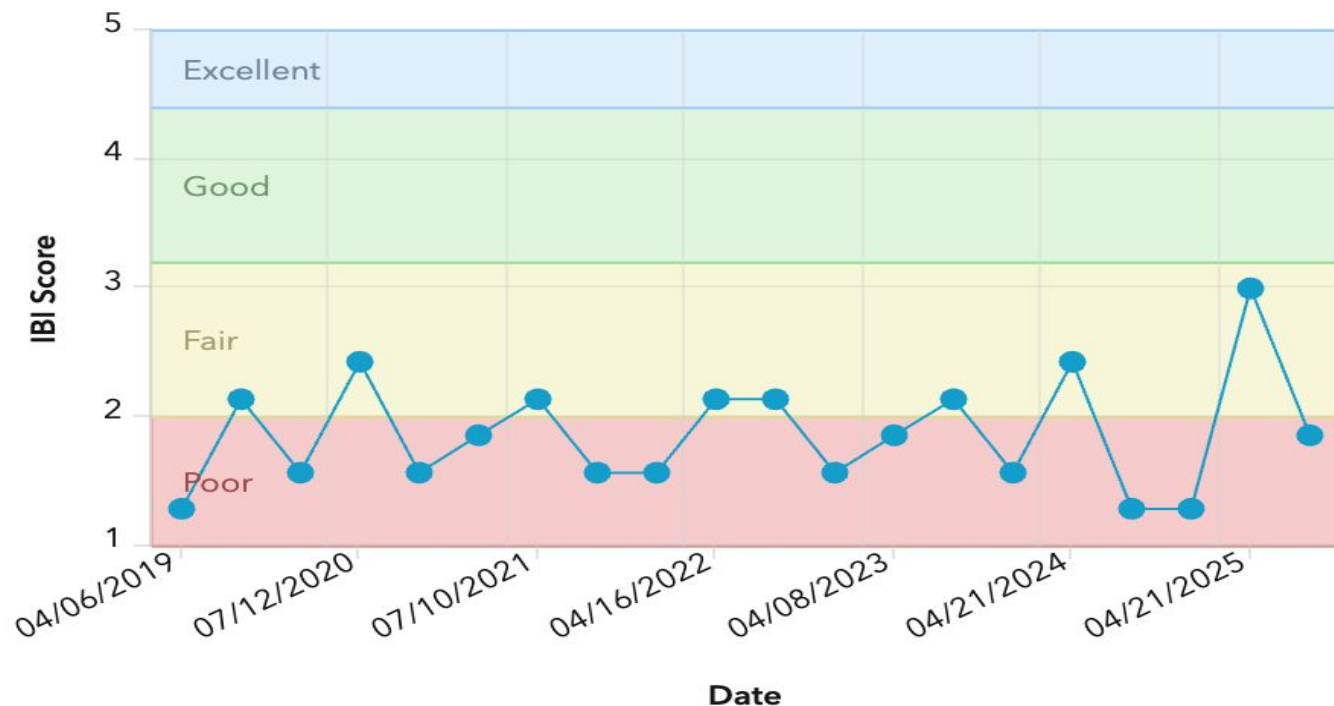




Monitoring Site: Cabin John Creek

Macroinvertebrates

Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) Scores





Chemicals

- Measure Pollutants (Salt, Phosphate, Nitrate, Silt)
- Measure Stressors (pH, Temp, Oxygen)
- Teams measure monthly at 7 sites





Chemicals

- **Salt/Chloride is the primary chemical that is consistently FAIR/POOR across our sites.**
 - **TOXIC results after a snow/ice event in the winter**
 - **Winter 2024-2025 was above average cold and snow and elevated salt levels**
- **Phosphate, Nitrate have been normal**
- **pH, Temp, Oxygen readings have been normal**
- **Silt increases after rain events**

Cabin John Creek Chloride Results

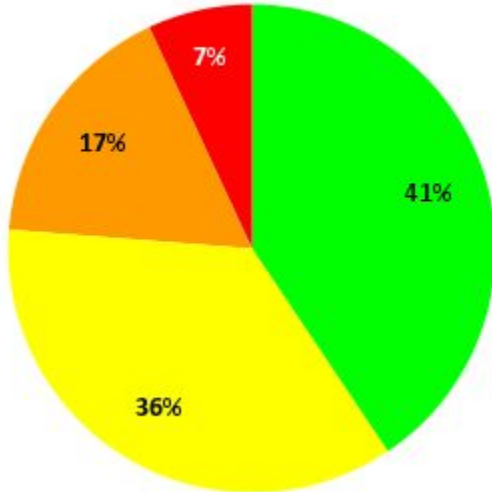
Excellent
(0-30 ppm)

Fair
(31-100 ppm)

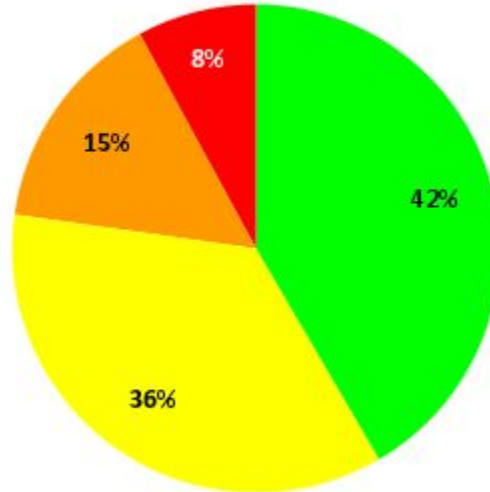
Poor
(101-230 ppm)

Toxic
(>230 ppm)

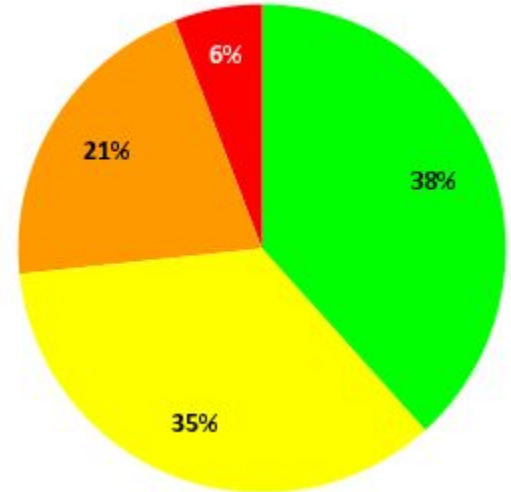
2024 - Oct 2025



2024

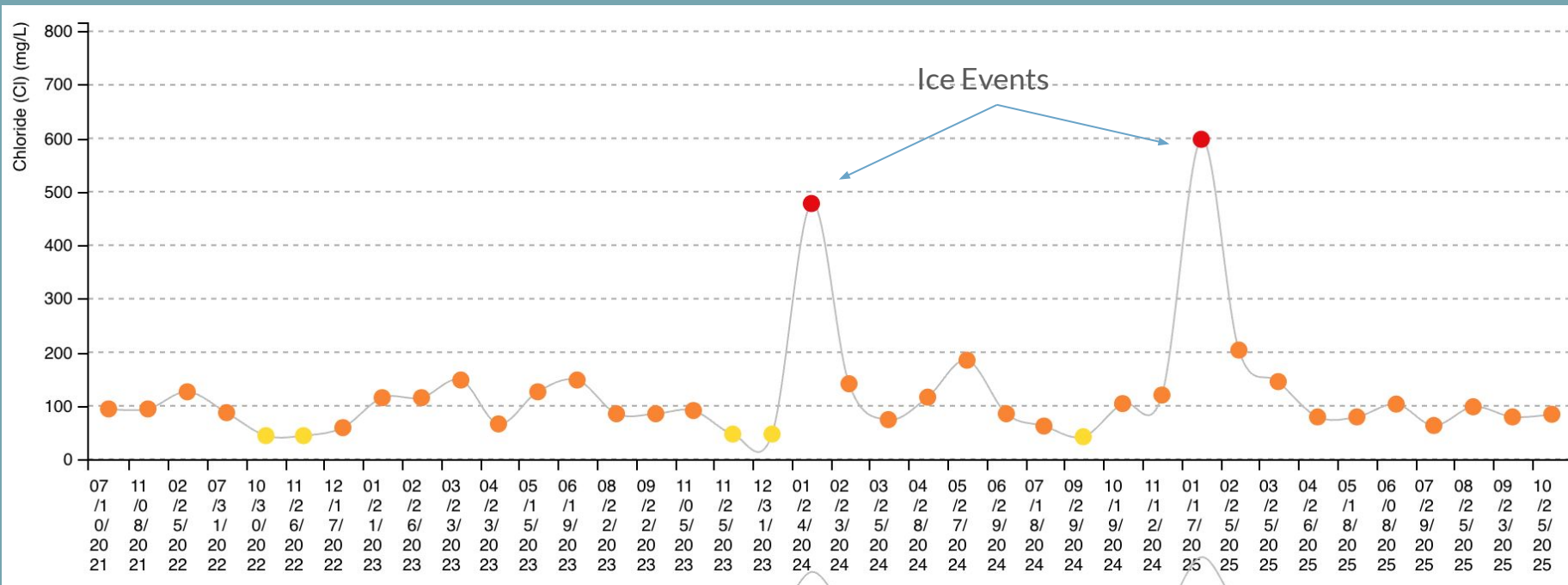


2025 (Jan-Oct)





Cabin John Local Park Chloride Results





Shovel

Clear walkways before
snow turns to ice.



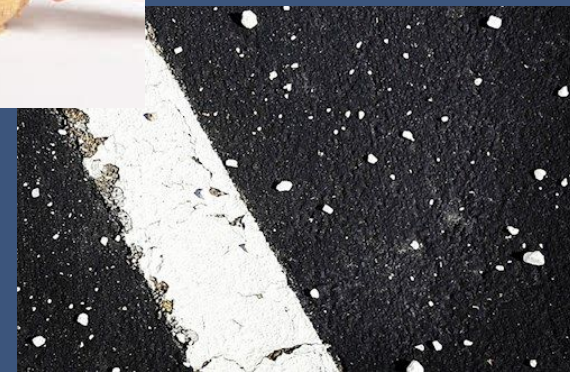
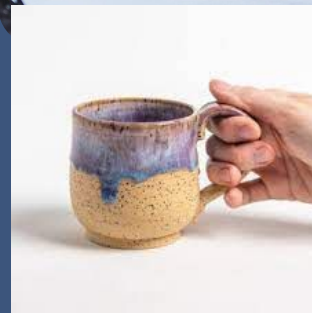
Scatter

A **12 oz mug** of salt treats
a 20-foot driveway or 10
sidewalk squares.



Sweep

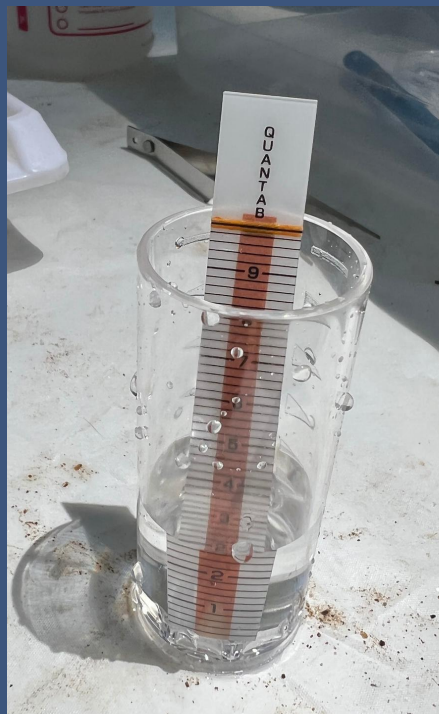
Sweep up excess salt
and reuse it!



Free Test Kit!

SaltWatch.org

Help us monitor salt
in your nearest creek





SALT WATCH™
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Chloride test instructions on other side.
Need help? Visit saltwatch.org.

Quantab			ppm(mg/L)			Quantab			ppm(mg/L)		
Units	%NaCl	Cl ⁻	Units	%NaCl	Cl ⁻	Units	%NaCl	Cl ⁻	Units	%NaCl	Cl ⁻
1.4	0.005	31	4.8	0.036	220	5.0	0.039	238			
1.6	0.006	37	5.0	0.039	238	5.2	0.042	257			
1.8	0.007	44	5.2	0.042	257	5.4	0.046	276			
2.0	0.008	50	5.4	0.046	276	5.6	0.049	297			
2.2	0.010	58	5.6	0.049	297	5.8	0.052	318			
2.4	0.011	66	5.8	0.052	318	6.0	0.056	341			
2.6	0.012	75	6.0	0.056	341	6.2	0.060	365			
2.8	0.014	85	6.2	0.060	365	6.4	0.064	391			
3.0	0.016	95	6.4	0.064	391	6.6	0.069	418			
3.2	0.017	106	6.6	0.069	418	6.8	0.074	448			
3.4	0.019	117	6.8	0.074	448	7.0	0.079	479			
3.6	0.021	130	7.0	0.079	479	7.2	0.085	513			
3.8	0.024	143	7.2	0.085	513	7.4	0.091	551			
4.0	0.026	157	7.4	0.091	551	7.6	0.098	592			
4.2	0.028	172	7.6	0.098	592	7.8	0.105	637			
4.4	0.031	187									
4.6	0.034	203									

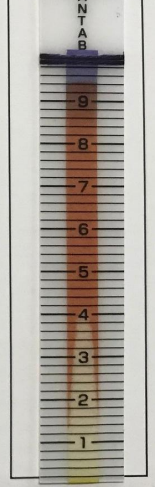
USE BY: 08/2024 Lot A2238

QUANTAB® Test Strip



Yellow Band

White Peak



Monitoring bacteria

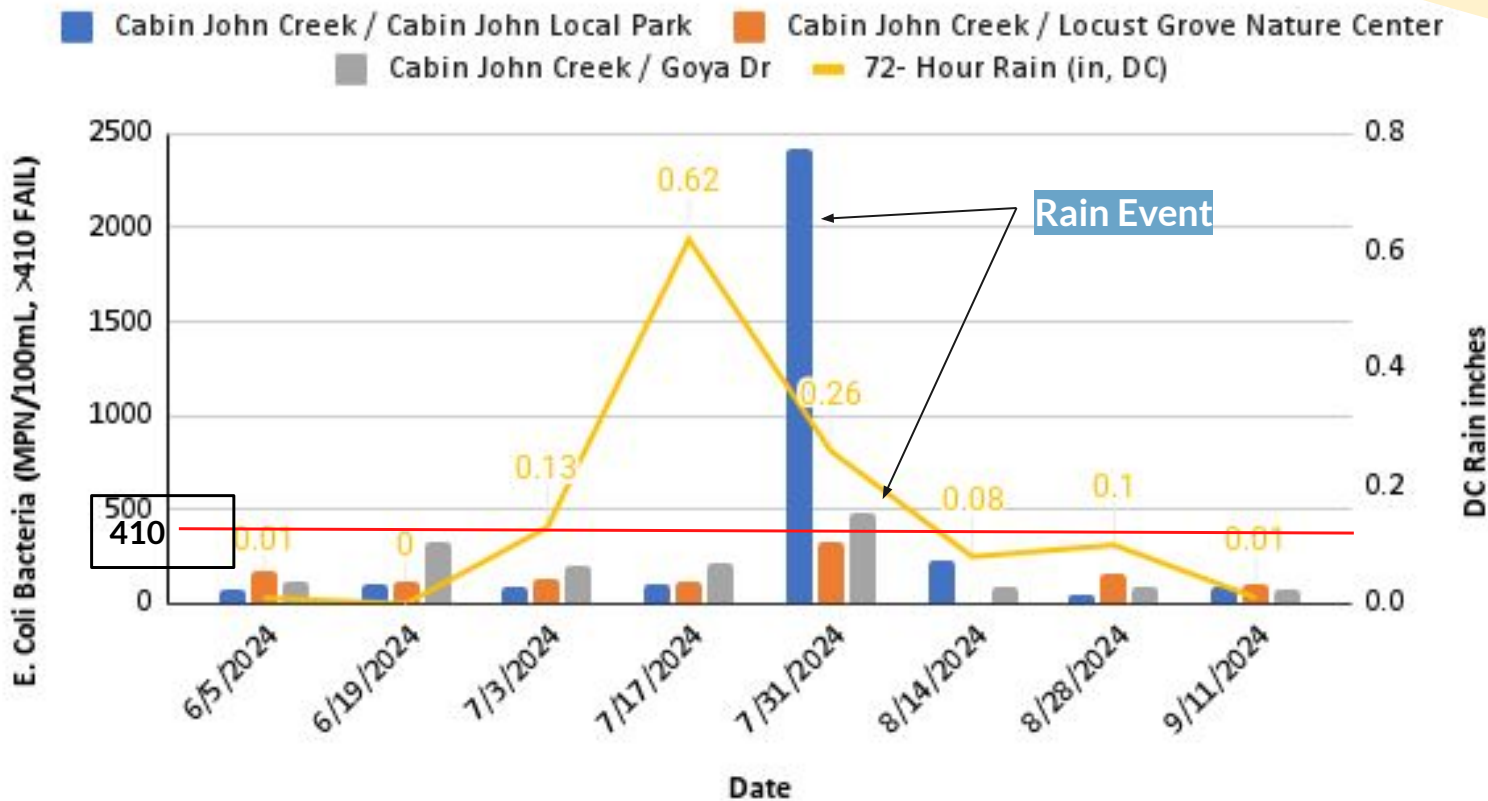
- Some bacteria are harmful to humans and pets if they come in contact with the water
- *E. coli* -- a bacterium found in the intestines of humans and other warm-blooded animals – is often used as an indicator for the presence of several pathogens that live in digestive systems
- Monitoring will inform the public whether the bacteria level meets EPA standards





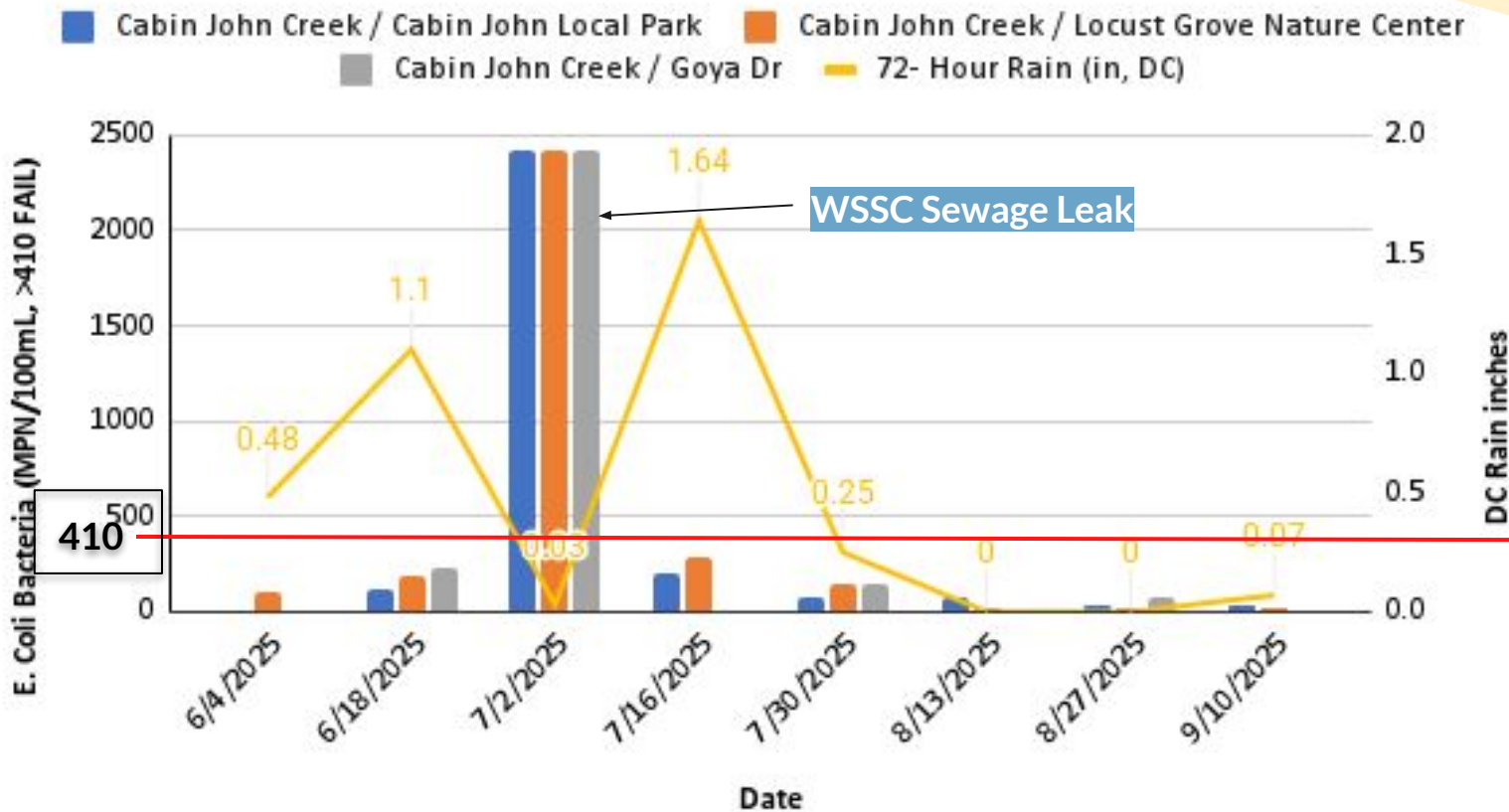
FoCJC Bacteria Results Summer 2024

Avoid 72 hrs after heavy rain.



FoCJC Bacteria Results Summer 2025

Avoid 72 hrs after heavy rain.



There's no such thing as the poop fairy.



**Only you can make your
pet's waste disappear.**

Pet waste contains **harmful bacteria** and **parasites** that **make people and pets sick**. When it is left on the ground, it washes down storm drains and **contaminates our streams** and rivers.

Scoop it. Bag it. Trash it.



DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

