



# FoCJC E-Coli Bacteria Monitoring Program

Our water quality program is built on community science. We recruit volunteers each year to help us collect samples and investigate our waterways to track their health and safety. Our pilot bacteria monitoring in 2022 and our inaugural 2023 bacteria program was funded by Chesapeake Bay Trust and Montgomery County Government.

Friends of Cabin John Creek will contract with Anacostia Riverkeeper as our lab contractor. Anacostia Riverkeeper provides us with the E-Coli sampling bottles, labels and forms and FoCJC provides testing kits including coolers, ice packs, pH strips, thermometers, gloves, markers and tape. Although supported by Anacostia Riverkeeper's protocol and lab, we do not take turbidity samples as part of our bacteria monitoring.

## Our Goal

We aim to provide up-to-date, accurate water quality data for the CJC watershed to not only ensure the health of its waters, but to provide recreationists and families with the information they need to enjoy the Cabin John Creek in a fun and safe environment.

## How does it help?

Ensuring clean water is critical to the local ecosystem, wildlife, our health, food (rockfish and blue crabs!), and resiliency of our oceans. Monitoring the bacteria in our streams gives us a gauge of their health and safety. Water quality is essential to ensuring residents have safe and healthy access to the Cabin John Creek and its streams for recreation like fishing, swimming, and play.

Bacteria tests include **E-Coli, pH, and temperature**. The Anacostia Riverkeeper lab will process our samples and send us our data results. Friends of Cabin John Creek will notify the communities in the watershed by posting the results on our website, social media, SwimGuide.org, local listservs, and trailheads. We will also send the results to MCDEP and WSSC.

## What is The Process?

FOCJC will be conducting bi-weekly water quality monitoring at three (3) sites from June to mid-September to inform the public about up-to-date water quality health as well as help inform



long-term policy decisions about local waterways. Volunteers can sign up for as many or as few sampling days as they want.

Testing occurs every other Wednesday morning and is delivered by 9am to the designated drop off. It is best to have a buddy team of 2 people where one takes the measurements and the other verifies and records the results on the paper form. A driver will deliver the samples (on ice) to Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park by 10am each Wednesday for lab processing. Anacostia Riverkeeper sends the results within 1-2 days to our monitoring lead and volunteers report and post the results.

**Step 1 (creekside, 15 mins):** About 15 minutes at your favorite creek is all it takes! FoCJC provides the cooler kit containing the collection vials and materials. The data collection form is easy to complete in the field, although it is better to have a buddy recording the results.

**Step 2 (drop off, 30 mins):** Once collected, drop off the sample(s) and forms at Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot at the designated time window.

- Fill out the transfer of custody form.
- A volunteer will transfer the samples to a larger cooler with ice packs and drive the samples to Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park.

**Step 3 (Reporting, 1-4 hours):** Once results are emailed to the FoCJC lead, they may distribute to volunteers for updating the FoCJC website, posting to Facebook, sending to relevant listservs, and posting at Cabin John Creek kiosks and trailheads. Also, the data will be entered into the SwimGuide.org.

**Step 4 :** If not able to monitor the next bi-weekly session on a specific date, return the kit to FoCJC so we can deliver it to another monitor signed up for that day.

## Required Training

**Step 1 (home):** The monitoring lead will send you training materials and schedule training. If you have been trained the prior year, you only need to pass the online test. Please review the materials before attending an in-person training session.

**Step 2 (creekside):** New volunteers must attend an annual FoCJC in-person training session along the Cabin John Creek. Repeat volunteers who have monitored one season do not have to repeat in field training but must pass the online test in Step 3.

**Step 3 (test):** New volunteers will be tested on procedures during your creekside training. New and repeat volunteers (monitored in the prior summer) must pass an online test. Once you pass, you will be sent the FoCJC Monitoring Liability Waiver.



## How Often Do We Monitor?

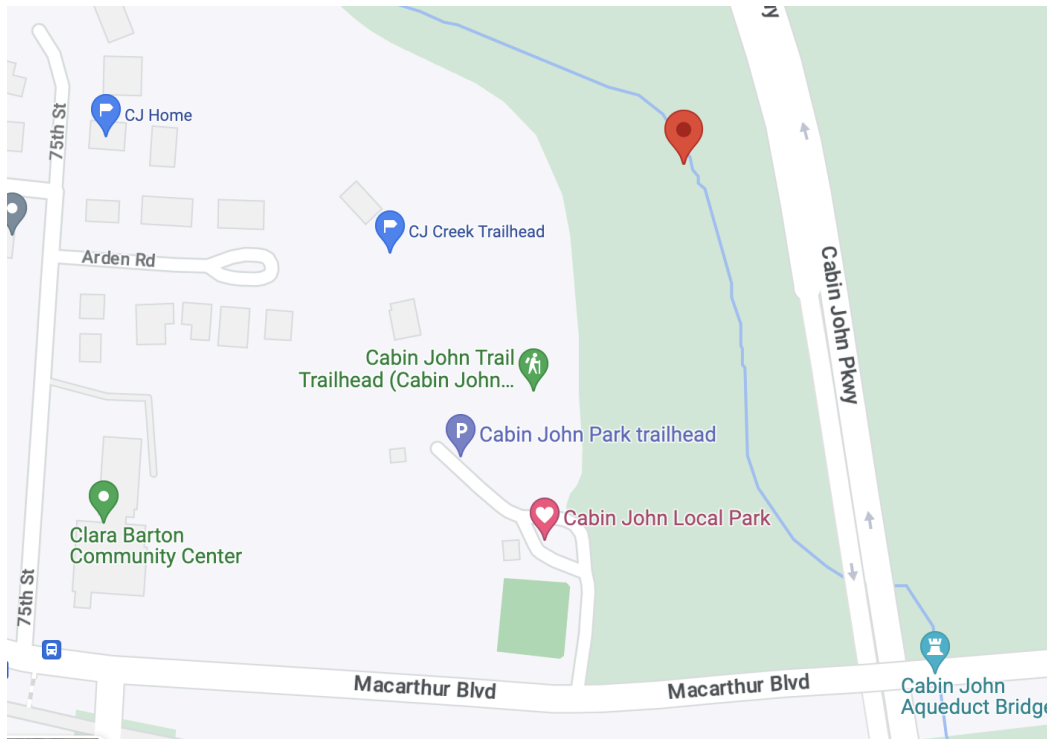
We monitor bacteria bi-weekly from June through mid-Sep at the following three (3) sites along Cabin John Creek:

<b>CJ-1:</b> FoCJC WQM Site 1 - CJ Local Park	Cabin John Creek	<b>Cabin John Local Park (MacArthur Blvd):</b> Site is at the picnic table by the creek at the first trail down to the creek.  38°58'29.5"N 77°08'58.9"W <a href="#">Site 1 Map Location</a>
<b>CJ-2:</b> FoCJC WQM Site 2 - Locust Grove Nature Center	Cabin John Creek	<b>Locust Grove Nature Center:</b> Take the trail at the nature center. Walk down the steps to the creek trail and then turn right onto the CJ Trail to the first bench overlooking the creek before the big sycamore tree.  39°01'32.6"N 77°09'29.2"W <a href="#">Site 2 Map Location</a>
<b>CJ-3:</b> FoCJC WQM Site 3 - Goya Dr	Cabin John Creek	<b>Goya Drive:</b> Take the CJ Trail at the end of Goya Dr then your second left down to the creek. This is a popular crossover to the other side for mountain bikers so move upstream a little so you don't get disturbed.  39°03'05.5"N 77°09'19.4"W <a href="#">Site 3 Map Location</a>



## CJ-1: FoCJC WQM Site 1 - CJ Local Park

38°58'29.5"N 77°08'58.9"W by the picnic table at the first access to the creek.





## CJ-2: FoCJC WQM Site 2 - Locust Grove Nature Center

39°01'32.6"N 77°09'29.2"W creekside access at bench before the sycamore fire ring.

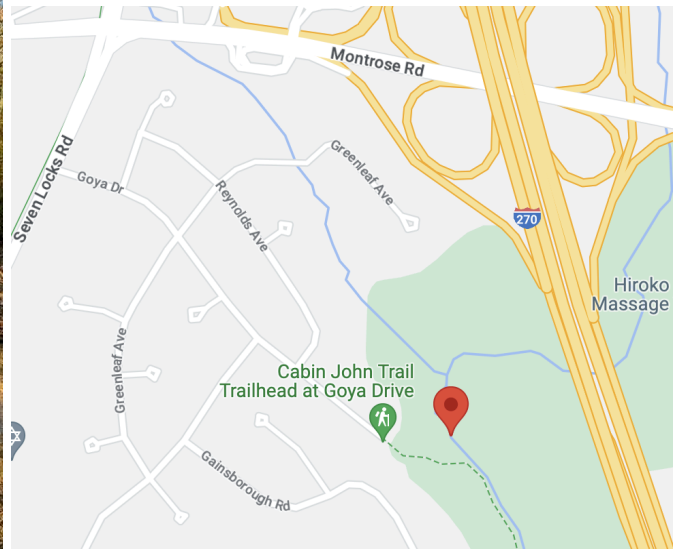






### CJ-3: FoCJC WQM Site 3 - Goya Dr

39°03'05.5"N 77°09'19.4"W creekside access second path to the left from the trailhead at Goya Dr.



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