

## IMPACTS

Most bacteria that enters rivers and lakes originates from human, pet, and animal waste, as well as farms and contaminated soil.

Faulty septic systems, improper disposal of pet waste, and use of manure as a fertilizer may contribute bacteria, viruses, and protozoa to surface water.

Bacteria enters waterbodies primarily during rainstorms and snowmelt events as water flows over the ground surface and collects bacteria as it travels to a river, lake, or roadway storm drain system.

Directly connected drainage systems to a waterbody have the potential to discharge bacteria. Any bacteria discharged will have a direct impact on the lake or river.



Source: Hawaii.gov



Source: US EPA

“POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS”

CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
[WWW.CT.GOV/DOT/CTDOT-MS4](http://WWW.CT.GOV/DOT/CTDOT-MS4)



Source: US EPA



**Bacteria**  
and Stormwater  
Pollution

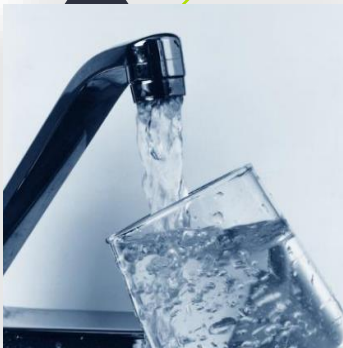
## BACTERIA IN WATER

Bacteria is a **major water quality concern**, as it can affect **human health** and recreational activities such as **swimming and fishing**.

Pathogens including *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Staphylococcus* are commonly found in the lakes, rivers, and reservoirs that we rely on for recreation and drinking water.

The illnesses caused by these type of bacteria can be severe—even **life threatening** among certain populations, including children and the elderly.

Bacterial contamination of surface water is often **caused by humans**— and can be prevented by humans by applying **simple lifestyle changes**.



Source: US EPA

## SOURCES

- Septic systems
- Sanitary cross connections
- Waterfoul
- Pet Waste
- Manure piles

**Studies have shown that residential areas contribute significantly more bacteria to surface water than industrial and commercial sites**



Source: US EPA



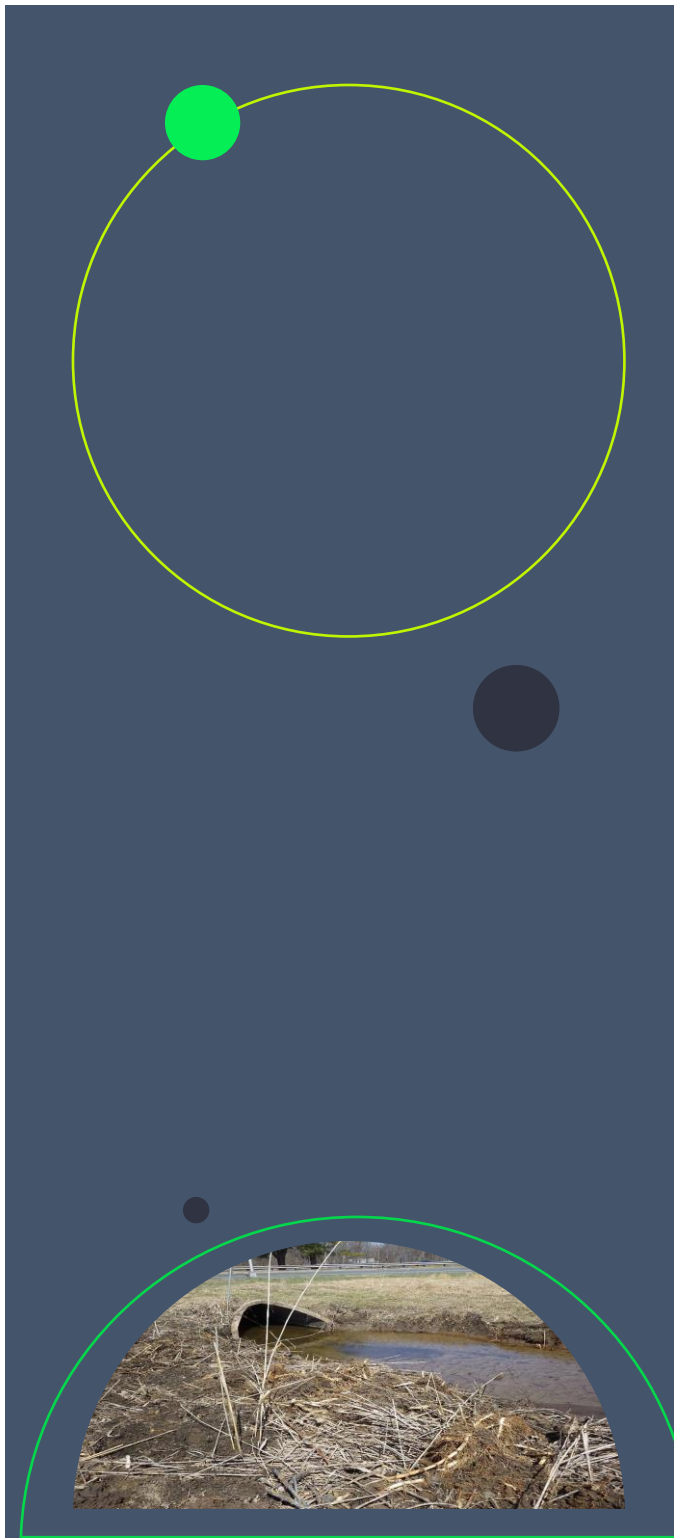
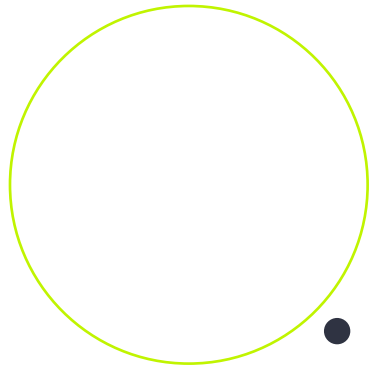
Source: CTDOT

## PREVENTION

Here are ways in which you can prevent bacteria from entering the lakes and rivers of our state:

- Discard **leaves and debris** from your property to prevent leaf litter from entering stormwater catch basins on your street
  - *Coliform bacteria* tend to breed in damp leaves and debris in catch basins
- Pick up after **your dog** and properly dispose of all **pet waste**
- Properly maintain and service the **septic system** on your property
- **Do not dump** any substance into a stormwater **catch basin**

Source: US EPA



Source: US EPA