

# COMMUNITY UPDATE



**WE'RE COMMITTED TO**  
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT,  
THE COMMUNITY, AND  
OUR INFRASTRUCTURE



*Example  
of what the  
R-card looks  
like after  
testing for  
bacteria.*

**Visit the FORR website for  
an accurate map of all the  
storm water and sewer lines  
entering the Roland Run:  
[rolandrunfriends.org](http://rolandrunfriends.org)**

## What is Bacteria?

Bacteria are naturally found in our waterways. Though most are harmless, the presence of certain bacteria serve as indicators for other more harmful pathogens in the water. *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) or enterococci are common bacteria that live in the intestines of humans and animals and are present in feces. High levels of E. coli or enterococci mean it is more likely that harmful bacteria are present in the water. Bacteria in water can come from many sources, including wastewater, agricultural runoff, or pet waste. Bacteria levels are usually higher after rainfall, when bacteria on land are washed into waterways.

### How do we measure it?

FORR is using the R-Card method to sample for E. coli on a monthly basis year round, which is called low-frequency monitoring. This is a great way to set the baseline for what are considered "normal bacteria levels" in your stream.

Enterococcus is sampled in tidal waters and E. coli is sampled in non-tidal waters. Samples can be measured at home using R-Card or Coliscan, or through lab analysis. Bacteria samples are collected in the field then grown in an incubator. Colonies are then counted to determine the number of colony forming units (CFU) or most probable number (MPN) per 100 mL of water, depending on the

method used.

### Why do we care?

FORR and the Country Club Park community cares for many reasons, but there are two reasons that really resonate with our community.

- **Human Health:** High bacteria levels in areas where people recreate could increase the risk of people getting sick from contact with the water.
- **Pollution:** Sudden spikes in bacteria values, especially in dry weather, can indicate sources of pollution such as leaking septic systems, broken sewer lines, or livestock manure entering waterways.

### How is my water?

In general, groups either use a single value or an average over a certain period of time to calculate the health of their waterways. Per the Mid-Atlantic Tributary Assessment Coalition (MTAC) protocol, 235 CFU/mL is often used as a cutoff for E.coli using a single value, but standards vary from state to state. The use of averages is encouraged when looking at recreational health, please refer to your state's bacteria guidelines for more specific information.



For specific data points go to the FORR website: [rolandrunfriends.org](http://rolandrunfriends.org)

FOLLOW US ON:



## Neighborhood News

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

#### What is the Economic Criteria?

According to the County's Executive Order No.2024-011, any new or preservation development projects receiving County discretionary financial support—including loans, grants, payments—in lieu of taxes, tax credit, TIFs, and bonds—are required to designate a percentage of units to affordable housing and set them aside to be preserved at specific income thresholds. The order requires that 20 percent of units must be set aside for affordable units, 10 percent for households at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and 10 percent for households below 80 percent.

**100% of AMI = \$122,200  
50% of AMI is \$61,000  
80% is \$97,760**

**"Maryland faces a housing shortfall of at least 96,000 units, according to state government estimates. Baltimore County, obligated by the federal government to increase its supply of affordable housing, has not yet met the target of 1,000 new units by 2028."**

February 5, 2025  
THE BALTIMORE BANNER



#### IN MEMORIAM

*This issue is dedicated to the memory of Jenny O'Flaherty (1951-2024), a long-time Country Club Park resident, gardener and environmentalist. She is missed.*



**Looking for Gardening Ideas and Information?**  
**Friends of Roland Run suggest you go to University of Maryland Extension's Home and Garden Information Center:**  
**[extension.umd.edu/hgic](https://extension.umd.edu/hgic)**

