



**West Hants Regional Municipality
Standard Operating Procedure
Recreational Swimming
Waterbody Quality Advisory**

Approval Date:	March 19, 2024	Reviewed By:	Kathy Kehoe, Director Community Development
Revision Date:	August 6, 2024	Approved By:	 Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

1. Objective

To provide guidelines on when to issue a recreational swimming waterbody quality advisory for an area that is currently tested for recreational swimming water quality when potentially hazardous water quality conditions are detected.

2. Applicability

This Procedure applies to four recreational swimming areas located adjacent to the following municipal recreation parks: Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid); Kempt Quarry Recreation Site; Falls Lake Park (Pioneer Drive) and Armstrong Lake Park. Public Advisories, if necessary, are solely for awareness purposes and is not regulated by the provincial or federal government. The results are to be used as a guide only and for public awareness purposes. The locations identified are not designated beaches through the Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change Department and West Hants Regional Municipality is not required to complete regular testing. However, although not required by federal or provincial guidelines, West Hants Regional Municipality takes a higher level of care for the community and collects water samples at various water access points for recreational swimming purposes.

3. Definitions

- a. "Lake", "Pond" or "Waterbody" means a body of water.
- b. "Community Development Staff" hired by the Municipality to take the water samples.
- c. "Director" means the Director of Community Development, or their designee.
- d. "Manager" means the Manager of Parks & Recreation Facilities, or their designee.
- e. "Supervisor" means the Supervisor of Parks & Grounds, or their designee.
- f. "Summer Season" means the period July 1st – August 31st.
- g. "CSO" means combined sewer overflow.

4. References

- a. Guidelines for Canadian Recreation Water Quality, Summary Document Health Canada, 2024
- b. SOP for Water Quality Testing for Recreational Swimming

5. Signage

Kempt Quarry Recreation Site; Falls Lake Park (Pioneer Drive) and Armstrong Lake Park -

The park(s) adjacent the waterbody will be signed advising that that water is not suitable for swimming immediately upon a single receipt of a water quality test report from a sample taken by a West Hants Regional Municipality employee showing E. Coli contaminant level above 235 units (regardless of the geometric mean). If such a report is received, the following actions will be undertaken. The signage will be placed near the water access point that is located in a prominent location within the park.

Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid)

Permanent signage installed at four access points; Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch, and Windsor Waterfront Park & the Riverside Trail (Lake Pesaquid) advising the public that during and after rainfall events, stormwater and untreated wastewater may discharge into Lake Pesaquid (CSO). The signage includes a QR code (quick response code) that is updated to make the public aware if there is a current CSO in effect.

Issuing a Waterbody Advisory Notice

- I. The Parks & Grounds Supervisor will:
 - I. Immediately notify the Manager, Parks & Recreation Facilities of the test results.
 - II. Notify Director of the test results.
 - III. Coordinate with Parks & Grounds staff to initiate the re-sampling procedure per SOP Water Quality Testing for Recreational Swimming as soon as practicable but in any event not later than three (3) days.
 - IV. Immediately install “Water Not Suitable for Swimming” signage.
 - V. Coordinate with the Parks and Grounds Supervisor to initiate the resampling procedure as per SOP for Water Quality Testing for Recreational Swimming.
- II. Director will:
 - I. Arrange for notices of waterbody advisory to be posted on the Municipality’s social media sites and the municipal webpage as soon as practical.
 - II. Notify the CAO and Municipal Council of the advisory via email.

Public Works Notice of CSO at **Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid)**

- III. All PWs CSO reports will be assumed to have the equivalent of a positive test result or an E. Coli contaminant level above 235 units. This assumption will be maintained until proper testing is conducted as noted above.
- IV. When a CSO is reported on the weekend or holiday when staff are not available for testing or the laboratory is not open for analysis, the Lake area will be assumed as having the

equivalent of a positive test result or an E. Coli contaminant level above 235 units. This assumption will be maintained until proper testing is conducted as noted above.

6. Waterbody Quality Advisory Lifting Procedure

When a Municipally tested waterbody has an advisory due to water quality issues, the advisory will only be lifted when two (2) consecutive water quality test reports show E. Coli contaminant level below 235 units and a geometric mean of less than 126 units of samples taken as per SOP for Water Quality Testing for Recreational Swimming. Upon receipt of two such reports the following actions will be taken:

- a) Parks and Grounds Supervisor
 - I. Notify the Manager, Parks & Recreation Facilities that the waterbody advisory may be lifted.
 - II. Notify Director of the test report and that the waterbody advisory may be lifted.
 - III. Coordinate with Parks & Grounds staff to remove all “Warning Water Not Suitable for Swimming” signs when the water quality advisory involves the following areas: Kempt Quarry Recreation Site; Falls Lake Park (Pioneer Drive) and/or the Armstrong Lake Park.
- b) Director
 - V. Director will:
 - I. Arrange for notices of the waterbody advisory due to water quality being lifted to be posted on the Municipality’s social media sites and the municipal webpage as soon as practical.
 - II. Notify the CAO and Municipal Council of the waterbody advisory for water quality being lifted via email.