

Water Quality Report for Vaughn Creek near Heffner Rd.

Vaughn Creek near Heffner Rd. is listed as a Class II trout stream* and has an Exceptional Resource Water classification** by the State of Wisconsin. These classifications identify Vaughn Creek at this location as one of Wisconsin's highest quality waters, with no changes in baseline water quality allowed. The data collected from this site will help establish those baseline conditions. Future monitoring can be compared to this baseline to see if changes are occurring and whether action may be needed to address pollution sources.

***Trout Stream Classification (State of Wisconsin)**

Class 1: Highest quality trout waters. No stocking needed to maintain populations.

Class 2: Some natural reproduction, but stocking is needed to maintain a desirable sport fishery.

Class 3: No natural reproduction. Populations maintained by stocking.



Brook Trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*

Sampling began at this site for *E. coli* in April of 2010. These were the first samples of any kind collected by BRWA volunteers at this site. The following is a summary of *E. coli* data for Vaughn Creek near Heffner Rd. We will be presenting these data compared to other volunteer data in the Bad River Watershed at a public meeting later in 2011.

****Water Classification**

Wisconsin's highest quality surface waters are classified as:
Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW): Highest quality waters, typically no human point sources of pollution exist, no changes in baseline water quality allowed.
Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW): Similar to ORW but some human point sources of pollution exist. No changes in baseline water quality allowed.

E. coli Data Summary and Conclusion

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) are a type of fecal coliform bacteria found in the intestines of all warm-blooded animals, including humans. The presence of *E. coli* in water may indicate contamination from sewage or animal waste. During rain events or snow melts, *E. coli* may be washed into streams. BRWA compares its *E. coli* data to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criterion of 235 CFU/100mL (colony forming units per 100 mL). Colony counts above this number may indicate water that is unsafe for drinking and swimming.

A total of seven *E. coli* samples were collected from Vaughn Creek near Heffner Rd. during 2010. All samples were well below EPA's criterion, indicating good water quality.

Thanks to Bobbi Rongstad and Tom Podlesny for collecting data at this site!