Arkansas Swim Beach Program

Pursuant to Rules and Regulation of Outdoor Bathing Places of 1998

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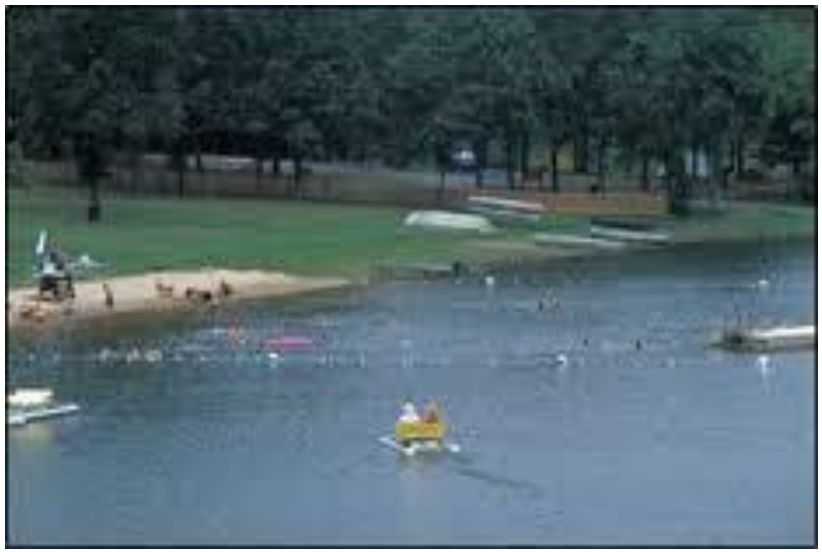
Arkansas Department of Health

130 Monitored Swim Beaches in Arkansas



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Private Corporations, Cities, U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forestry Service and Arkansas State Parks are common operators of swim beaches.

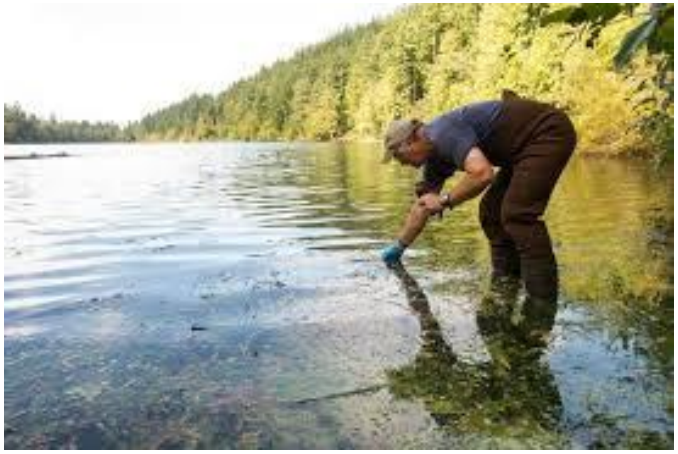
US Army Corps of Engineers®

Swim Beach Definition

Outdoor Bathing Places (Swim Beaches): Any bathing place, together with buildings and appurtenances if any and the water and land areas used in connection therewith, as a natural pond, lake, stream or other body of water which is operated for a fee or any other compensation or which is openly advertised as a place for bathing or swimming for the public. This definition does *not* apply to swimming pools.

Water Quality Parameters

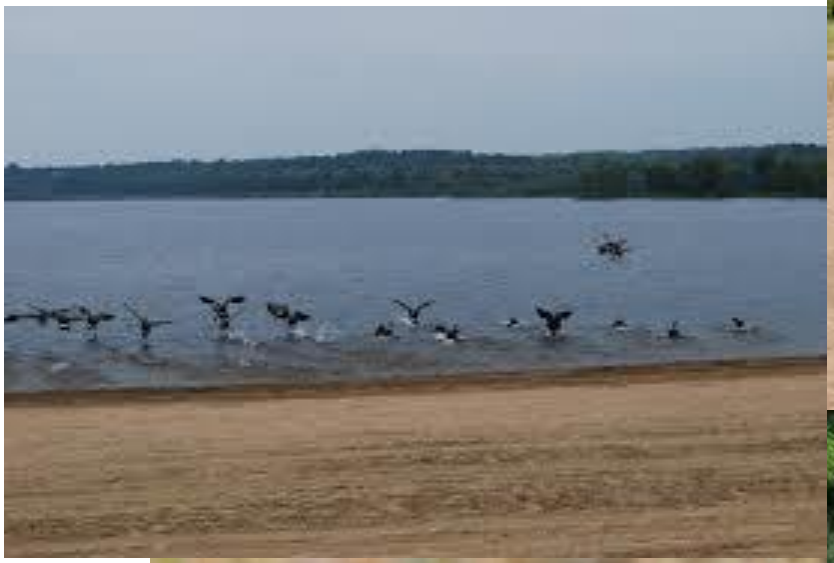
- Grab *E. coli* samples are collected on monthly intervals.
- Samples results exceeding 126 *E. coli* density per 100 ml will require beach closure.
- Two consecutive samples for two days below this threshold are required to reopen the swim beach.

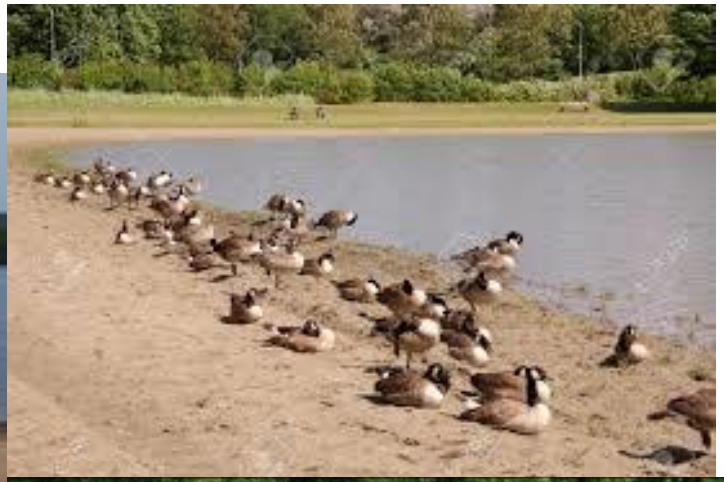


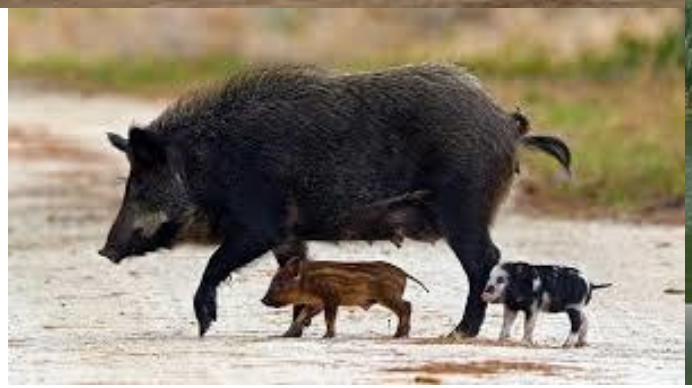
Challenges of Operating a Swim Beach

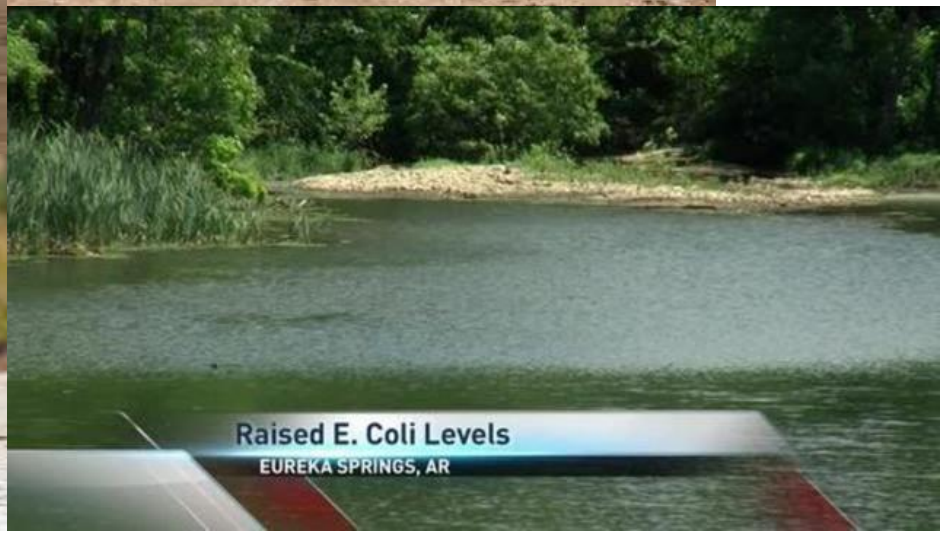
FLOODING

Wildlife









Health Risk Communication

- *E. coli* sample results are often represented as the only public health and safety factor in opening a “safe” swim beach.

- Other safety factors are just as important:
  - clarity (turbidity) of the water
  - flooding
  - flow rates
  - debris in the water or on the beach
  - low water levels

Laboratory Analysis

- Water sample results require, in general, at least a week to report results.
- Resampling the swim beach begins immediately at the next available testing day.
- Two weeks can elapse before two consecutive days of compliant samples result are recorded.

2016 Swim Beach Report

- The 2016 Arkansas Beach Sampling Season began April 19, 2016 and ended October 1, 2016.
- 130 sites were sampled.
- 615 samples were collected.
- 58 samples (9%) exceeded regulatory limits (>126 *E. coli*).