

## End of 2022 Summary:

**NOT  
GOOD**

- Bacteria monitoring – Is out of date, latest published data for Bristol rivers is 5+ years old (data is published for the Harbour)
- Riverfly scores - Look OK. The latest result is higher than the threshold (a good thing, no problems are being identified) but bear in mind the thresholds are set low due to the urban, heavily modified river environment
- Nitrate/Phosphate levels – phosphate is high – bad, only algae benefits
- Numerous sewage spills occurred in 2021 from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The Airport Road CSO was the main cause of issues on the brook
- Wessex Water - Respond well when pollution is reported to them and have a strategic clean-up plan - but we need them to: Quickly fix the problematic CSOs; Trace / follow-up misconnections; Report progress Vs their plan
- Awareness / oversight by our local politicians – Tbc. In December Kye Dudd (Council Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Waste and Energy) was emailed – no response to date.

# Water quality monitoring - life

## Most recent Riverfly scores

Site	Calculated value	Threshold for site
RiverName: Brislington Brook, SiteName: Nightingale Valley, 17/12/2022	6	2

For a typical healthy river site the calculated value might be 7 or 8 or more - this reflecting an abundance of diverse families/species (mayflies, olives, shrimps, caddis, stoneflies, etc). However, for an urban stream the Brislington Brook site was pretty good when last sampled

# Water quality monitoring – chemicals

Site	Nitrate N-NO <sub>3</sub>	Phosphate P-PO <sub>4</sub>
Whitchurch Bristol, 17/07/2022	Medium	High

High = Nitrate over 2mg/L,  
Phosphate over 0.1mg/L

# Sewage spills into the brook too frequently

Constituency	Number of raw sewage events	Duration, hours
Bristol East	448	302
Bristol North West	2,588	6,203
Bristol South	169	277
Bristol West	287	361
Bristol overall	3,492	7,144

Site	2021 number of events	2021 duration of discharges, hours
Airport Road Cso (Wessex Water), Permit number: 103287	37	118
St Annes Terrace Cso (Wessex Water), Permit number: 100584/CS/01	25	16
Brislington Hill Cso (Wessex Water), Permit number: 12935	18	10
Somerdale Av Spring Gardens Cso (Wessex Water), Permit Number - 100575/CS/01	17	8
Bath Road (No 2) Cso (Wessex Water), Permit number: 100582/CS/01	14	2
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- The data for 2022 is due in mid 2023. Google - **Is my river safe to play in**
- No of days when over 20 mm rain fell in Bristol in 2021 (i.e. heavy rainfall): **5**  
(Source: Bristol Weather Centre)

## Wessex Water has:

- ✓ Acknowledged reports and cleaned up the debris quickly
- ✓ Confirmed plans to upgrade North Bristol sewers by end 2023
- ✓ We need to keep watching / reporting pollution to them and asking them to tackle the problematic sewage outfalls

## We can all act to help:

- 1) **The 3 Ps** - only ever flush Pee / Poo / Paper down the U bend (less potential for blockages)
- 2) **Report suspected sewage pollution** immediately to Wessex water: **0345 600 4 600**
- 3) **Volunteer** – eg litter picking / balsam bashing, eg is Frome Fairies still going?
- 4) **Email / write to those with power** – politely let them know what you feel plus also ask:
  - **Your MP** – What will she do about the situation in her constituency (Horfield Brook / Frome)?
  - **Kye Dudd (Council Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Waste and Energy)** – What is he doing to hold Wessex Water to account for pollution in Bristol’s green / blue spaces?
  - **Your local councillors** – What are they doing to help & to hold Kye / Wessex Water to account?
  - **Wessex Water** – What are they doing which will cut sewage pollution in Bristol?

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My BCC Councillors -  
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