

The Issue

- June 2018 routine water quality monitoring identified high *Enterococcus* bacteria at Briar Point Beach
- Monitoring data ~40 times higher than RIDOH action value
- Two-week beach closure
- RIDOH and RIDEM could not identify cause in 2018



The Issue

- *Enterococcus* is a Fecal Indicator Bacteria that points to the presence of harder-to-detect pathogens
- Ingesting contaminated water can cause:
 - Gastroenteritis, vomiting
 - Skin rashes
 - Ear/eye/throat infections



Common Potential Enterococcus Sources

Stormwater or Illicit Discharges



Contaminated Groundwater Seeps

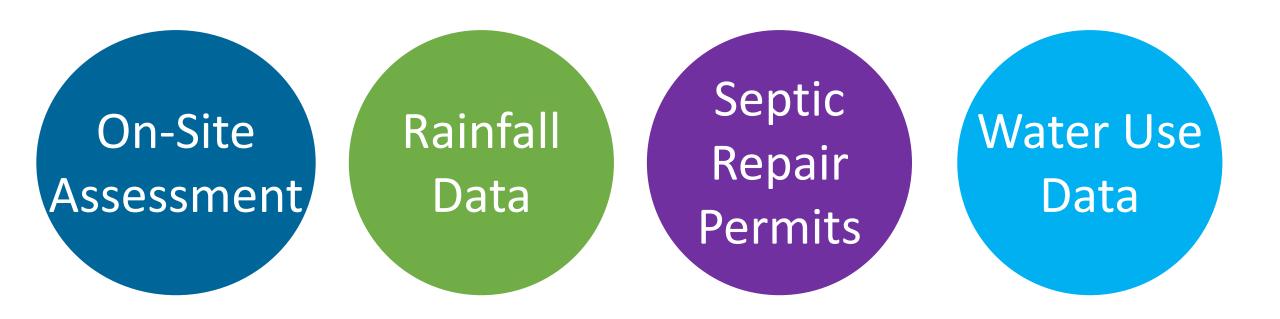


Pet/Wildlife Waste





The Approach



These approaches combined EPA-developed methods with analysis of available secondary data to help identify which potential sources bacteria may be present in Tiogue Lake



Our Findings

Groundwater seep

Pet waste hotspot

Stormwater has a clear signal

Cesspools are present around the lake

Two open septic repair permits in 2018

We were unable to identify a single major point source of *Enterococcus*



What Can We Do?

Near-Term

- Targeted public education and outreach about
 - Septic system and cesspool maintenance
 - Scoop the Poop
 - Lawn maintenance
- Continue to enforce waterfowl feeding ban and make pet waste bags and trash cans available along Arnold Rd causeway





What Can We Do?

Long-Term

- Install Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) retrofits
- Pair GSI retrofits with other roadway projects
- Coordinate Sewer Facility Plan with Community
 Comprehensive Plan
- Consider involvement with Municipal Resilience
 Program or Community Septic System Loan Program





