

## SOS Scores 2022

<i>Franklin County</i>	Stream	Spring Score	Date	Fall Score	Date	Yearly Avg	
Gills Creek	Gills Creek (BTWNM)	10	11-Apr	9	19-Sep	9.5	S
	Gills Creek (Liberty Hall)	11	3-May	7	25-Oct	9	S
	Gills Creek (Truman Hill)	12	19-May	12	3-Nov	12	S
	Indian Creek	12	28-Apr	6	24-Oct	9	S
	Jack O'Lantern Creek	11	23-Apr	7	21-Nov	9	S
Hardy Road Area	Grimes Creek	6	21-May	9	18-Sep	7.5	G
	Indian Run	7	18-May	7	17-Oct	7	U
Upper Blackwater	Blackwater, Dillons Mill	11	21-Apr	10	7-Oct	10.5	S
	Maggodee Creek, Boones Mill	8	17-May	6	7-Oct	7	U
Lower Blackwater	Blackwater, Riverdance	10	13-May	6	17-Oct	8	G
	Foul Ground Creek	10	15-May	8	16-Oct	9	S
	Poplar Camp Creek	12	12-May	11	21-Sep	11.5	S
Pigg River							
Tributaries (to Leesville Lake)	Pigg River, Waid Park	8	10-Apr	7	30-Sep	7.5	U
	Storey Creek	9	4-Apr	9	7-Nov	9	S
<b><i>Bedford County</i></b>							
Northern Shore, SML	Jumping Run (Goodview)	8	25-Apr	8	26-Sep	8	G
	South Fork, Hickory Creek	9	27-Apr	9	30-Sep	9	S
	Stoney Creek (Beechwood W.)	n/a	not tested	n/a	not tested	n/a	n/a
	Average Score	9.6		8.3		8.90625	
Scoring Key:	0-7: Unsatisfactory (U)	2		7		3 (4)*	
	8: Gray Area (G)	3		2		3 (6)	
	9-12: Satisfactory (S)	11		7		10 (6)	
* 2021 results in parentheses							

## Summary Comments

Water quality scores for sixteen monitored streams in 2022 showed marked improvement over the previous year, as the number rated fully satisfactory climbed from six to ten. Although fall scores fell generally across the board, that was likely due more to lack of rain leading up to the latter testing season than a drop in water quality, per se. This variance within a year is not unusual and the annual averages take it into account.

Overall, the Gills Creek scores were the highest; all these streams flow into the Roanoke River on the Franklin County side of the Lake.

With the exception of Maggodee Creek, the Blackwater River tributaries were generally healthy. We need to think about locating the Maggodee testing site to a location further upstream or downstream where the results won't be so affected from highway runoff.

The three Bedford County streams, all of which empty into the Roanoke River, once more test out as generally satisfactory, although the Stoney Creek site was inaccessible this year due to a mother bear and her cubs taking up residence near the testing location. Adding an additional stream, Poorhouse Creek at the SML State Park, is under consideration; its inclusion would give us a fourth site in Bedford located closer to the dam.

An area of concern are the Hardy Road sites in Franklin County, which seem to have suffered from logging and construction activities, which leads to increased silt buildup in the streams.

Finally, the main Pigg River site, at Waid Park, continued its record of declining scores, most likely due to agricultural activities upstream of the site. As evidenced by the high scores at Truman Hill Farm on Gills Creek and at Ayers Farm on Poplar Camp Creek, farm streams can develop a record of consistently high scores if their stewards make efforts to control fertilizer use and fence off streams from livestock. That does not appear to be the case for Pigg River.

All in all, it was a good year.