

Neighborhood Water Watch

Partnering with Communities to Protect Local Waterways

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) needs **your** help to monitor the bacteria levels in our neighborhood waterways!

While progress has been made in cleaning up streams flowing through many metro neighborhoods, some of these community waters are still polluted with high levels of bacteria due to cracked and overflowing sewers, failing septic systems, and stormwater runoff.



Kimmar Anderson collects a sample from North Fork Peachtree Creek and prepares it for delivery to CRK's Atlanta lab.

Through Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW), CRK is partnering with local communities to collect and analyze routine samples from all of our local streams. As a volunteer we're asking you to collect and deliver the water sample. When samples indicate poor water quality, CRK NWW works to find and stop the contamination source! Join our team of dedicated NWW volunteers today and help keep watch over our waters!

The amount of bacteria in streams can indicate how safe the water is for recreation.



Vickery Creek Falls- Roswell, GA

E. coli is a species of fecal coliform bacteria that comes from the intestinal tracts of humans and warm blooded animals. The presence of E. coli in streams indicates fecal contamination and the presence of harmful pathogens. The routine data collected by the NWW Program will show how safe the water is over time. If high levels of E. coli are found, CRK will work with the community and government agencies to identify and remedy potential sources.

How You Can Help

- Collect routine (weekly or bi-weekly) water samples from your local stream with CRK provided supplies.
- Deliver the samples to CRK's lab where CRK staff tests them for E. coli with EPA approved equipment.
- Check your results online on CRK's website at www.chattahoochee.org/nww/

Costs

- Private and university labs typically charge \$40-\$50 per test for E. coli. However, CRK was able to purchase the same lab equipment through a generous grant so we are able to test for E. coli at a much lower rate of about \$6 per test. So we ask participating community partner groups help fund the program by covering the costs of lab supplies at a rate of \$300 per year for weekly sampling or \$150 per year for bi-weekly sampling. Funding for these costs are available through grant programs in some cases, please contact CRK for details.

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

- By joining the NWW Program you will also be participating in Georgia's Adopt-A-Stream Program and the results will be entered into the state-wide database. Learn more about Adopt-A-Stream at www.georgiaadoptastream.com



CRK Lab Locations:

*916 Joseph Lowery Blvd NW Suite 3 Atlanta, GA 30318 | *1500 GA-197 Clarkesville, GA 30523 | *35 S. Lafayette Square LaGrange, GA 30240 | *104 Washington St NE Gainesville, GA 30501

***New Drop-Off Location:**

Roswell Drinking Water Plant
100 Dobbs Dr., Roswell, GA 30075

For more information, please visit www.chattahoochee.org or contact Mike Meyer mmeyer@chattahoochee.org

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) environmental advocacy organization with the mission of protecting and preserving the Chattahoochee River system for the people and wildlife that depend upon it.
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