



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER[®]

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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper launches Swim Guide water safety program for 2026 season

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is excited to announce the return of Swim Guide for the summer of 2026. From Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends, CRK will publish a Swim Guide, an interactive map with red or green lights, to help you decide if it is safe for primary contact recreation at popular swimming spots on the Chattahoochee River.

Each Thursday, CRK staff, interns, and volunteers collect water samples at popular recreation sites and analyze them in the laboratory for *E. coli* bacteria. On Friday afternoons, CRK will publish the data on a new [interactive dashboard](#) in addition to the official [Swim Guide](#) website.

“We launched a Swim Guide program because we want people to feel safe recreating on the Chattahoochee River,” says Jessica Sterling, CRK’s Technical Programs Director. “Water quality on the river has improved a lot over the last 30 years and we have the data to show it. We want to spread the word about the many recreational opportunities on the Chattahoochee.”

This is the second year that CRK has published a weekly Swim Guide that includes swimming spots throughout Lake Lanier, Metro Atlanta, West Point Lake, and Columbus. This year, CRK added several new sites, including four new sites on the Chattahoochee River below the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

It is important to note that samples are only collected once a week, and water quality conditions can change quickly. If it has rained in the last 48 hours, if the river is high and muddy, or if the water in a lake has a [bright green color](#), CRK recommends using caution when coming into contact with the water.

CRK monitors water quality at more than 300 stream, river, and lake sites year-round on a weekly basis through the [Neighborhood Water Watch](#) program. The water quality data are available to the public on the [Neighborhood Water Watch database](#).

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Media contact:

Rosemary Pitrone, CRK Communications Director

rpitrone@chattahoochee.org

- For inquiries about Lake Lanier, contact Becca Risser at brisser@chattahoochee.org
- For inquiries about Metro Atlanta (Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area), contact Jess Sterling at jsterling@chattahoochee.org
- For inquiries about West Point Lake and Columbus, contact Ashley Desensi at adesensi@chattahoochee.org

About Chattahoochee Riverkeeper:

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to educate, advocate, and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, including its lakes, tributaries, and watershed, in order to restore and conserve their ecological health for the people and wildlife that depend on the river system and in recognition of the important ecosystem functions provided throughout the region and planet. For more information, visit www.chattahoochee.org.