

For Immediate Release:

## **Chattahoochee River Conservancy Releases Summer Water Quality Report**

Columbus-based environmental non-profit Chattahoochee River Conservancy has compiled data collected throughout the recreational season into a Summer Water Quality Report for the middle Chattahoochee area. Chattahoochee River Conservancy monitors popular swimming, boating, and recreation areas along the Chattahoochee River during the summer and publishes the data each week via the Swim Guide app. Swim Guide can be downloaded for free in the App Store or viewed online at [www.theswimguide.org](http://www.theswimguide.org).

### **How to read this report:**

This report communicates two data sets per sample location. The number listed is an average of the weekly results for E.coli bacteria. E.coli exists in all natural waterways and is not considered a threat to human health in amounts less than 235 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of water. Stormwater runoff, warm-blooded wildlife, and pollution are all potential causes for increased levels of E.coli.

The color (Green, Yellow, Red) denotes the percentage of times each location “passed” the weekly test by measuring below 235 colony forming units of E.coli in 100 milliliters of water. Green areas are healthy, with few to zero issues with bacteria. Yellow areas are healthy but need improvement. Red areas typically exhibit unhealthy levels of E.coli and should be avoided until improvement is shown through testing.

### **What does this mean for our area?**

The section monitored each summer during this project (North Lake Harding to Columbus Convention and Trade Center) is a healthy segment of the Chattahoochee River with generally low levels of E.coli bacteria. There are **no** locations in the area monitored that should be avoided due to bacteria levels. Standing Boy Creek is a large tributary and it is not uncommon for large tributaries to exhibit higher bacteria levels within 24 hours of a large rain event, such as occurred this summer. The sample locations marked Yellow within Downtown Columbus are healthy but higher bacteria levels were observed due to sediment buildup slowing flows, urbanization, and wildlife present in the area. These locations are under improvement through a joint effort between Chattahoochee River Conservancy, Uptown Columbus, Columbus Water Works, Whitewater Express, and WC Bradley. Chattahoochee River Conservancy would like to commend our partners for their willingness to respond to the need for improvement in these areas and we will update the community as we progress.

### **Contact:**

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