



# LAUDERTRAC



## WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

July 2021

### IMPROVING OUR WATERWAYS

#### George English Lake Restoration

The City is committed to ensuring that Fort Lauderdale waterways are clean and safe. Crews from Gator Dredging will use hydraulic dredging equipment to remove approximately 600 cubic yards of sediment from the south side of George English Lake over the next month. Neighbors will likely notice turbidity/cloudiness in the water. This is a by-product of the sediment removal process and will be monitored to ensure compliance with the permits that have been issued. Crews will pump the sediment into large bags that will trap the sediment and release the water through a disinfection system before returning it to the lake. The site will be monitored by Wood Environmental who will ensure that the work



is performed as permitted and with minimal disruption to natural resources. Gator Dredging will begin to mobilize to the site on Monday, July 26. Once the work begins, completion is expected within 30 days. Crews will be on site Monday through Saturday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. While this work is underway, the parking area along the east side of the lake will be unavailable and the walking trail that connects the boat ramps to the tennis and basketball courts will be closed. Learn more about this project and an ongoing boat ramp renovation at [ftlcity.info/gepimprovements](http://ftlcity.info/gepimprovements).

#### Miami Waterkeeper Water Quality Monitoring Update

The City of Fort Lauderdale continues to monitor waterway quality through an agreement with Miami Waterkeeper, a South Florida-based non-profit organization. Miami Waterkeeper uses the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Florida Healthy Beaches program criteria to determine waterway quality thresholds. These standards address public health concerns about ingestion and duration of exposure to water during activities such as swimming and recreating. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) also maintains a classification system for waterways that is designed to protect human health and aquatic life. According to FDEP, Class III waterways have a limit for Enterococci bacteria of 130 MPN and are designated for uses including fish consumption and recreation. Since the start of weekly sample collection on



January 12, 2021, the monitoring data has been valuable in helping the City develop an understanding of long-term trends in waterway quality. As of July 13, 2021, 270 weekly samples have been collected on Tuesdays. Approximately 61% of those samples have met or exceeded the FDOH Florida Healthy Beaches Program standard for bacteria. In addition, approximately 74% of those samples have met or exceeded the FDEP Class III bacteria standard. The sampling sites at Sweeting Park, the Himmarsee Canal, and the Tarpon River consistently have the lowest passing rates. The City is investigating sources, actively pursuing sediment removal, implementing water quality remediation, or cleaning the upstream stormwater management systems to improve water quality in these areas.

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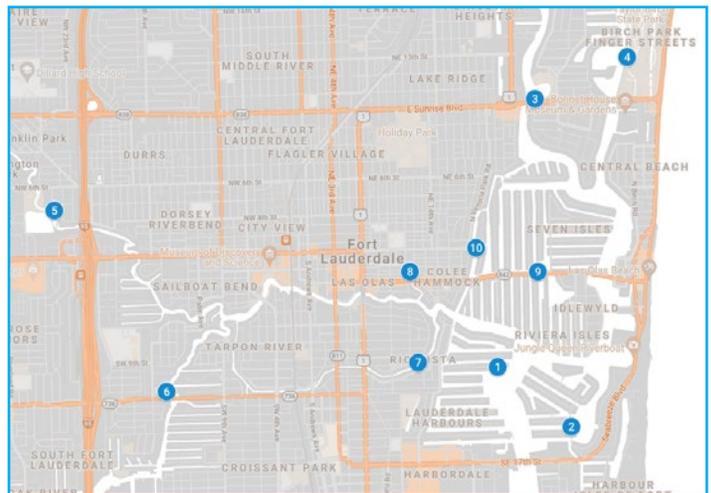
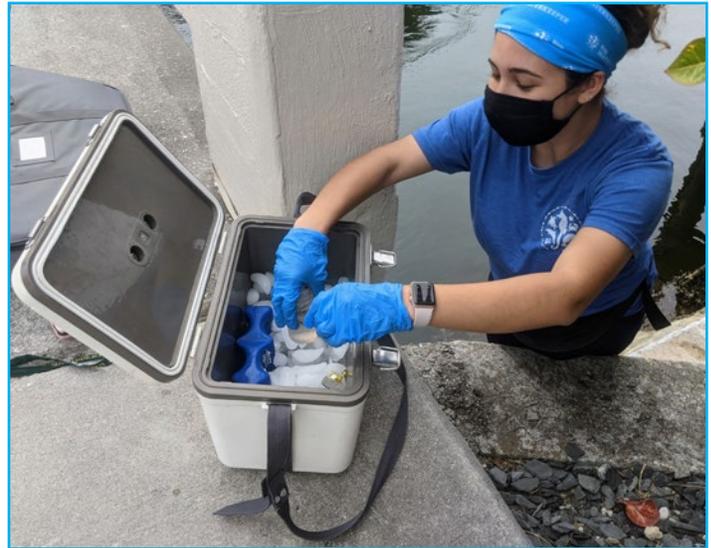
**Miami Waterkeeper performs water quality testing of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB – Enterococci) every Tuesday within the City of Fort Lauderdale’s key recreational areas:**

1. Sand Bar (Sampled from SE 10 Street)
2. Lake Sylvia (Sampled from the parking area at the end of Harbor Beach Parkway)
3. Middle River (Sampled from George English Park kayak launch)
4. Sunrise Bay (Sampled from Birch State Park)
5. Sweeting Park (Sampled from North Fork of the New River)
6. Coontie Hatchee Park (Sampled from South Fork of the New River)
7. Tarpon River (Sampled from SE 9 Avenue Bridge)
8. Himmarshee Canal (Sampled from Las Olas Boulevard)
9. Royal Palm Drive (Sampled from Las Olas Boulevard)
10. Annie Beck Park (Sampled from the waterway stairs)

Any sites that do not initially meet the FDOH Florida Healthy Beaches program criteria are re-tested on the following Thursday. The easy-to-understand results of that testing are posted online for a 12-month period and are also made available to the public via the Swim Guide web and phone app ([www.swimguide.org](http://www.swimguide.org)).

To learn more about the FDOH’s Florida Healthy Beaches program, visit [www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality](http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality).

To learn more about FDEP surface water quality standards, visit [www.floridadep.gov/comm/press-office/content/dep-101-surface-water-quality-standards](http://www.floridadep.gov/comm/press-office/content/dep-101-surface-water-quality-standards).



## Get information and updates



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