



LAUDERTRAC



WATERWAY QUALITY UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

October 2021

IMPROVING OUR WATERWAYS

Miami Waterkeeper Water Quality Monitoring Update

The City of Fort Lauderdale engaged Miami Waterkeeper (MW), a South Florida-based non-profit organization, to continuously monitor the quality of the City's waterways and provide status updates for neighbors and visitors.

Each Tuesday, MW technicians perform water quality testing of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB – Enterococci) within the City of Fort Lauderdale's key recreational areas:

1. Sand Bar (Sampled from SE 10th Street)
2. Lake Sylvia (Sampled from the parking area at the end of Harbor Beach Parkway)
3. Middle River (Sampled from the George English Park kayak launch)
4. Sunrise Bay (Sampled from Birch State Park)
5. Sweeting Park (Sampled from the North Fork of the New River)
6. Coontie Hatchee Park (Sampled from the South Fork of the New River)
7. Tarpon River (Sampled from SE 9th 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)

Using the Florida Department of Health's (FDOH) Florida Healthy Beaches program criteria, MW reports whether the samples meet waterway quality thresholds. These health-based standards address public health concerns about ingestion and duration of exposure to water while swimming and recreating. The FDOH standard is stricter than the environmental-based Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Class III Enterococci water standard that is designed to protect human health and aquatic life. Since the start of sample collection on January 12, 2021, the monitoring data for these sites has been valuable in helping the City develop an understanding of long-term trends in waterway quality related to bacteria. As of October 12, 2021, 556 samples have been collected with 61% of those samples meeting or exceeding FDOH's Florida Healthy Beaches Program standards. In addition, 75% of those samples have met or exceeded the FDEP Class III standards. Seven of the ten monitoring sites meet the FDEP water quality standard more than 80% of the time.

Should a tested waterway site not initially meet the FDOH Florida Healthy Beaches program criteria, Miami Waterkeeper will re-test the waterway on the following Thursday. Easy-to-understand results 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).

To learn more about FDOH's Florida Healthy Beaches program, visit 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.



Photos of Miami Waterkeeper taking water samples at Lake Sylvia

Canal Cleaning

The City continues to receive periodic navigable waterway cleaning services from private providers. Between January and September 2021, approximately 84 tons of debris have been removed including tree limbs, palm fronds, coconuts, and litter such as discarded beverage containers. These materials enter our waterways naturally from trees located at the water's edge, by direct dumping, or through our stormwater conveyance system. Decaying vegetation from trimmed landscaping can be a source of bacterial pollution and can add nutrients creating conditions that may support algal blooms.

84 Tons
**Tree limbs,
palm fronds,
debris, and litter
removed from
waterways**



Debris in the waterway east of Cordova Road



Debris collected from waterway including vegetation and litter

Get information and updates



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000

Website: www.fortlauderdale.gov

Sign Up for Alert FTL: www.fortlauderdale.gov/alertftl

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