

WHY YOU SHOULD NOT SWIM IN THAT CREEK...

In Alachua County, we have miles of creeks that flow to our lakes, rivers, and groundwater. Many of the creeks receive untreated stormwater which transports pollutants, such as bacteria. Sanitary sewer lines that carry sewage cross and follow several creeks, and occasionally release sewage. Once bacteria is in our creeks, it continues to regrow in the sediments. Most of the creeks have bacteria levels that exceed state standards and could pose a health risk to humans and pets - even when the water looks clean and inviting.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

If creek water gets into your mouth, nose, eyes or into scratches or cuts; it can lead to Recreational Water Illnesses. Stomach bugs are the most common and can sometimes be serious. Ear, nose and eye infections; rashes; and respiratory discomfort are also possible. Children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems are the most vulnerable.

WHAT'S IN THE CREEK ANYWAY, AND WHAT CAN I DO?

SOURCES OF BACTERIA

WHAT CAN I DO?

Pet waste that is left on the ground

Scoop it! Bag it! Trash it! at home and while walking pets.



Failing septic systems

Have your septic system inspected every 3-5 years.



Sanitary sewer overflows

Put cooking grease in a container and then in the trash.

Only flush the 3 Ps (pee, poop, and paper). Everything else belongs in the trash, including "flushable" wipes.

Feces from wildlife and feral cats

Put trash in covered trash cans to reduce nuisance wildlife.



ENJOY OUR CREEKS FROM DESIGNATED TRAILS IN OUR PARKS.

**REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING
OR POTENTIAL POLLUTION**

www.AlachuaCountyWater.org

