

## Horst, Rachel

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**From:** CEER@brevardfl.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:40 PM  
**To:** Horst, Rachel  
**Subject:** A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026030

### Recommendation # 2026030

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026030 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

#### Contact Information:

<b>Group/Organization</b>	Resident IRL Water Safety Testing Committee
<b>Name</b>	William R Klein
<b>Address</b>	3 INDIAN RIVER AVE APT 906 TITUSVILLE FL 32796-5821 US, Titusville FL 32796
<b>Phone</b>	(321) 607-6517
<b>Email</b>	klein_william_r@hotmail.com
<b>Alternate Email</b>	

#### Recommendation Information:

<b>Recommendation ID</b>	2026030
<b>Recommendation Title</b>	Monitor recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health
<b>Areas Affected</b>	Indian River Lagoon
<b>Department Affected</b>	
<b>Current problem</b>	Every year thousands of people swim and recreate in the IRL in Parrish Park on Max Brewer Causeway. No one monitors and tests the water for recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health. There is a 60-mile distance between free beaches and free parking except for Parrish Park. It is well known that there has been contamination with unsafe levels of Fecal Coliform and E. coli in this area. It is not monitored for Public Safety. The city has measured water near Space View Park several times in September and October 2023 that were 24,196 cfu/100ml of both Fecal Coliform and E. coli. There were no warnings posted. This greatly exceeded EPA 2012 recreational water quality criteria recommendations for protecting human health in all coastal and non-coastal waters designated for primary contact recreation use. The Federal EPA Recommended limit for Enterococci is 35 cfu (colony forming units)/100 ml. This is the US EPA website: "2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria".
<b>Recommendation</b>	We request the County begin routine testing of Indian River Lagoon recreation areas for fecal contamination. When contamination exceeds EPS safe-use standards, we believe the County should: Post temporary advisory signs at the affected location

Issue a public notice so residents know to avoid the water until levels return to safe limits. Many other Florida counties already do this as a standard public health practice. The testing itself is not cost-prohibitive; I've been told it can be done for approximately \$50 per sample. Considering how many families, anglers, paddlers, and visitors use these water, the health and safety benefits far outweigh the expense. Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and County, and Indian River Counties measure water safety and post warnings when the water contamination in areas where people recreate in the water exceed safe Federal EPA measurements. Also, other communities like Key Biscayne Beach and Virginia Beach measure water safety, post warnings, and may place barriers when swimming is not safe. The past results have shown that all beaches have days of results that exceed safe conditions. That is why Counties and Cities monitor and post warnings when it is not safe for people to swim because of water pollution. The St. Lucie County Health Department collects biweekly samples from locations on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River – these include River Park Marina & Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie. Similar to the Healthy Beaches Program, water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria. Advisory signs will be posted if higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria are present. They list their measurements in 3 categories. Good: 0 to 35 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. Moderate: 36 to 70 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. Poor: 71 or more cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. I have attached a file about the Key Biscayne Beach Water Quality Program.

**Attachments**

Beach Water Quality.docx

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Here are some details about what other Cities and Counties do.

[https://keybiscayne.fl.gov/services/public\\_works/resiliency\\_sustainability/beach/beach\\_water\\_quality/index.php](https://keybiscayne.fl.gov/services/public_works/resiliency_sustainability/beach/beach_water_quality/index.php)

# Beach Water Quality

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[Beach Water Quality](#)

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) currently conducts weekly beach water sampling at the following four (4) locations:

- Crandon Park North
- Crandon Park South
- Key Biscayne Beach Club
- Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

[\*\*Click here for the FDOH site: Florida's Healthy Beaches \(DADE\)\*\*](#)

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## **Miami Waterkeeper Bacteria Monitoring Program**

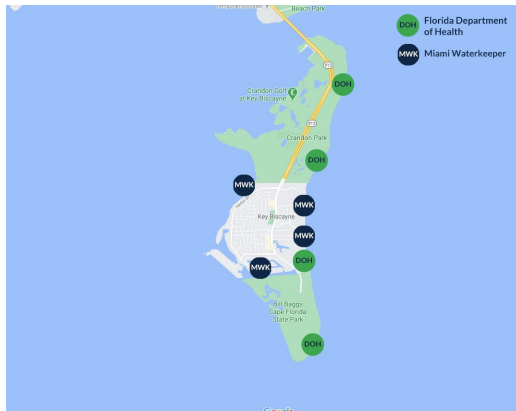
The Village is collaborating with Miami Waterkeeper (MWK) to conduct weekly water sample collection and analysis on bacteria related water quality. This monitoring is complementary to

the bacteria monitoring undertaken by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) at other locations in Crandon Park (north and south), Cape Florida Park and one location at the Key Biscayne Beach Club.

- Key Biscayne Yacht Club
- Mariner Drive
- Key Biscayne Beach Club
- Public Beach Access near Silver Sands Beach Resort

**Click here for Miami Waterkeepers site: [Swim Guide](#)**

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Sampling occurs every Monday and results are posted on Tuesdays via the Swim Guide application: <https://www.theswimguide.org/affiliates-confirmation/miami-waterkeeper/>.

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Miami Waterkeeper resamples and reanalyzes the water at any site that exceeds the bacteria threshold of 70 MPN per 100mL until the bacteria (enterococci) level at that site is no longer in exceedance.

Miami Waterkeeper reports the results of all the samples on the Swim Guide application, social media (Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiWaterkeeper>

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, Instagram @miamiwaterkeeper, Twitter @MiamiWaterkpr) and the MWK website ([https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water\\_monitoring?utm\\_campaign=water-quality&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=kb-newsletter](https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water_monitoring?utm_campaign=water-quality&utm_medium=link&utm_source=kb-newsletter)

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Sampling locations where bacteria analysis reveals poor water quality, even after one sample, are indicated by a red site marker on Swim Guide.

Facebook page [\(9\) miami waterkeeper - Search Results | Facebook](#)

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**WATER QUALITY UPDATE**  Results are in for our Miami sites, sampled on 2026-01-21. See the image for full results!

Read more about our [#WaterQuality](#) monitoring work here:

[https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water\\_quality\\_monitoring](https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water_quality_monitoring)



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**TO:** Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

**THROUGH:** Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

**FROM:** Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

**SUBJECT:** Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026030

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CEER #2026030, titled Monitor recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health, was received by the County from William R Klein.

**Citizen Statement:**

Every year thousands of people swim and recreate in the IRL in Parrish Park on Max Brewer Causeway. No one monitors and tests the water for recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health There is a 60-mile distance between free beaches and free parking except for Parrish Park. It is well known that there has been contamination with unsafe levels of Fecal Coliform and E. coli in this area. It is not monitored for Public Safety. The city has measured water near Space View Park several times in September and October 2023 that were 24,196 cfu/100ml of both Fecal Coliform and E. coli. There were no warnings posted. This greatly exceeded EPA 2012 recreational water quality criteria recommendations for protecting human health in all coastal and non-coastal waters designated for primary contact recreation use. The Federal EPA Recommended limit for Enterococci is 35 cfu (colony forming units)/100 ml. This is the US EPA website: "2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria".

**Citizen Recommendation:**

We request the County begin routine testing of Indian River Lagoon recreation areas for fecal contamination. When contamination exceeds EPS safe-use standards, we believe the County should:

Post temporary advisory signs at the affected location

Issue a public notice so residents know to avoid the water until levels return to safe limits

Many other Florida counties already do this as a standard public health practice. The testing itself is not cost-prohibitive; I've been told it can be done for approximately \$50

per sample. Considering how many families, anglers, paddlers, and visitors use these water, the health and safety benefits far outweigh the expense.

Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and County, and Indian River Counties measure water safety and post warnings when the water contamination in areas where people recreate in the water exceed safe Federal EPA measurements. Also, other communities like Key Biscayne Beach and Virginia Beach measure water safety, post warnings, and may place barriers when swimming is not safe. The past results have shown that all beaches have days of results that exceed safe conditions. That is why Counties and Cities monitor and post warnings when it is not safe for people to swim because of water pollution.

The St. Lucie County Health Department collects biweekly samples from locations on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River – these include River Park Marina & Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie. Similar to the Healthy Beaches Program, water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria. Advisory signs will be posted if higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria are present. They list their measurements in 3 categories.

Good: 0 to 35 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

Moderate: 36 to 70 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

Poor: 71 or more cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

### **Staff Analysis:**

The Florida Department of Health conducts seasonal, bi-weekly water quality sampling at designated Brevard County ocean beaches under the Healthy Beaches Program. This monitoring focuses on enterococci bacteria to assess potential public health risks associated with recreational water use. However, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) does not routinely sample recreational beach areas within the Indian River Lagoon. Expansion to include routine testing in the lagoon is not funded.

This recommendation was also brought up during the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Workshop held on January 5, 2026, in Titusville. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon ordinance (Ordinance 2016-15), authorizes funding “To restore the Indian River Lagoon through financing, planning, construction, maintaining, and operating capital improvements and capital maintenance projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife and marine habitat, remove muck and reduce pollution.” Monitoring fecal coliform bacteria or operating a public health advisory program would represent an operational public health monitoring program rather than a capital infrastructure restoration project and thus is not an eligible use of SOIRL funds.

Within the lagoon itself, the Space Coast chapter of the Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force currently conducts volunteer-based monitoring at 14 locations from Cocoa Beach to Grant. Their sampling focuses on fecal indicator bacteria to evaluate recreational health risks, and results are publicly available on their website. While this provides useful supplemental data, it is not a county or state-operated public health program. Currently, Brevard County does not have a funding source to establish such a program.

**Staff Recommended Action:**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026030 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.