

# CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®

Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

www.chattahoochee.org

## Neighborhood Water Watch

Partnering with Citizens Groups to Protect Local Waterways

While progress has been made in cleaning up streams flowing through metro Atlanta neighborhoods, some of these waters are still polluted with high levels of bacteria due to cracked and overflowing sewers, failing septic systems, and stormwater runoff. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) needs your help to monitor the bacteria levels in your neighborhood waterways.

In the Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) Program, CRK is partnering with local communities to collect and analyze routine samples from your local streams. Join our team of NWW volunteers today!

NWW volunteers collect routine samples from a local neighborhood stream and deliver them to CRK's lab for analysis.



*NWW volunteer Amanda Mayberry collects a sample from Tanyard Creek and prepares it for delivery to CRK's lab.*

*The amount of bacteria in streams can indicate how safe the water is.*



*E. coli* is a species of fecal coliform bacteria that comes from the intestinal tracts of humans and warm blooded animals. The presence of *E. coli* in streams indicates fecal contamination and the presence of harmful pathogens. The routine data collected by the NWW Program will show how safe the water is over time. If high levels of *E. coli* are found, CRK will work with the community and government agencies to identify and remedy potential sources.



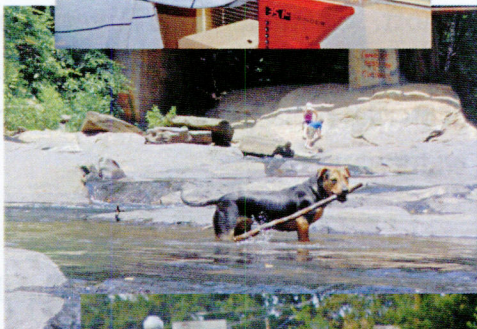
## How You Can Help

- Collect routine (weekly or bi-weekly) water samples from your local stream with CRK provided supplies.
- Deliver the samples to CRK's lab where CRK staff tests them for E. coli with EPA approved equipment.
- Check your results online on CRK's website.



## Costs

- Private and university labs typically charge \$40-\$50 per test for E. coli. However, CRK was able to purchase the same lab equipment through a generous grant so we are able to test for E. coli at a much lower rate of about \$6 per test. So we ask participating community partner groups help fund the program by covering the costs of lab supplies at a rate of \$300 per year for weekly sampling or \$150 per year for bi-weekly sampling. Funding for these costs are available through grant programs in some cases, please contact CRK for details.



## Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

- By joining the NWW Program you will also be participating in Georgia's Adopt-A-Stream Program and the results will be entered into the state-wide database. Learn more about Adopt-A-Stream at [www.georgiaadoptastream.com](http://www.georgiaadoptastream.com).



### CRK Lab Locations:

916 Joseph Lowery Blvd NW  
Suite 3  
Atlanta, GA 30318

615 Oak Street  
Suite 1000  
Gainesville, GA 30501

For more information, please visit [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org) or contact Jason Ulseth at [julseth@chattahoochee.org](mailto:julseth@chattahoochee.org)

**Chattahoochee Riverkeeper** (CRK) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) environmental advocacy organization with the mission of protecting and preserving the Chattahoochee River system for the people and wildlife that depend upon it. 916 Joseph Lowery Blvd., Suite 3, Atlanta, GA 30318 — (404) 352-9828 — [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org)

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