



Loxahatchee River Watershed Status Dubois Lagoon Bacteria Project

Dubois Lagoon Swimming Area is a popular Palm Beach County Park, which occasionally has high bacteria levels that result in beach closures. One of the limitations to bacteria testing is it takes 24 hours to obtain results so closures occur *after* the observation.

A mutual goal of District and Palm Beach County Parks staff is to try and maximize the protection to human health. Therefore, we are seeking to improve our understanding of bacteria patterns throughout the drainage basin. One of our goals is to help the Park's staff possibly shift to a *predictive* approach to closures. Alternatively, we may learn that these high bacteria levels are not associated with human pathogens in which case alternative water quality criteria may be more appropriate.

We are presently in the reconnaissance stage of this project, but at our meeting we will share with you some of the details of this interesting and relevant project.

