

[Guide](#), an international program that posts current water quality conditions at swimming areas and helps ensure that swimmers and boaters are aware of any potentially hazardous conditions from fecal bacteria and other contaminants.

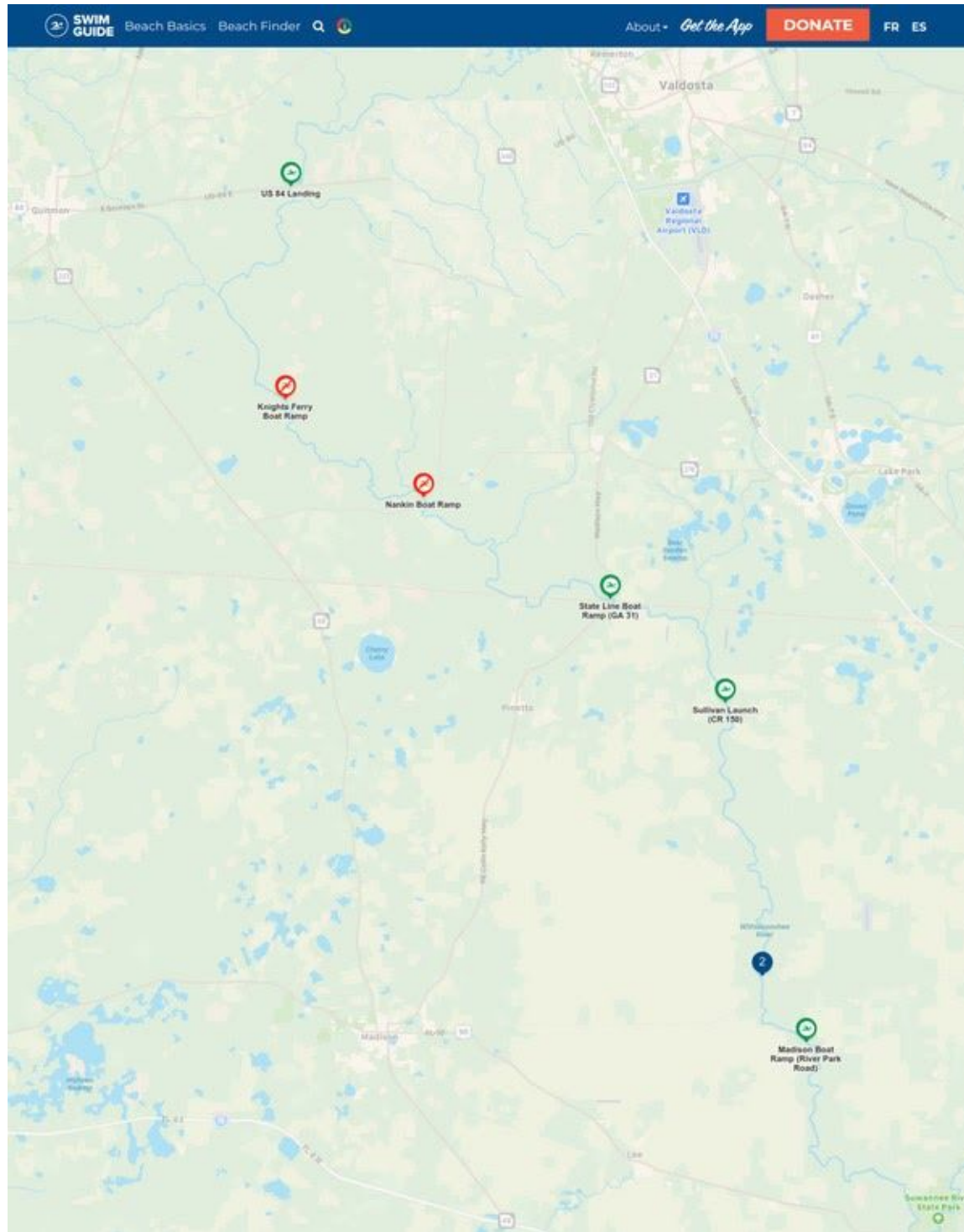


Photo: Suzy Hall for WWALS, of Michael and Jacob Bachrach testing for WWALS at Nankin Boat Ramp, Withlacoochee River, [2020-07-03](#)

Withlacoochee River “beaches” (canoe and kayak launches and boat ramps) updated by WWALS in [Swim Guide](#)

Yet more testing is needed. Increasing the frequency and the number of locations where testing is performed will help to find potential contamination sources or to rule some out. Ongoing testing is also needed to determine whether the application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as fencing cattle away from wetlands and creeks are actually helping reduce fecal contamination in our waterways. Further supporting hydrologic (leaching, flow, and dilution), chemical, isotopic, and biologic testing such as DNA are also needed.