

equally low. WWALS provides an ongoing online composite spreadsheet of water quality test results from these and other sources, plus red and green indicators on Swim Guide, an international water quality advisory smart phone app. <https://wwals.net/issues/testing/>. We know of no other local area in Georgia (or Florida) with such a magnitude of frequently updated water quality data, which lets everyone know when our rivers are clean or not.

GA-EPD has screened out from Recreational classification stretches within 10 river miles downstream of an NPDES wastewater location. The next public Alapaha River access upstream from Willacoochee Landing is Sheboggy Boat Ramp at US 82. The City of Alapaha WPCP is little more than two miles upstream from Sheboggy Boat Ramp, which Berrien County paid to renovate in 2018. Sheboggy Boat Ramp is essential for people to boat downstream to get to Willacoochee Landing, and all the Alapaha River in between should be redesignated as Recreational.

In our subtropical climate, people boat and swim year-round. Some people even prefer to be on the water in the winter because there are fewer insects. Thus, the proposed second-class Recreational designation with overall lower bacterial contamination limits and even lower winter limits is inappropriate for waterways in Atkinson County.

It is extremely important to us as citizens, parents, and community leaders to do our best to preserve the wildlife, natural beauty, and cleanliness of our environment for future generations. Therefore, Atkinson County believes that the higher standards designated for Recreational waterbodies are applicable for the Alapaha River and are in full support of this change. Further, Atkinson County wishes the same higher, first-class, Recreational standards year-round, and for the entire extents of the Alapaha River along Atkinson County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this decision.

Sincerely,



Gloria Farrell,
Commission Vice-Chairperson