



## St Marys Riverkeeper and UNF create a Living Shoreline

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. – Volunteers from the St. Marys Riverkeeper joined students from the University of North Florida's Coastal and Marine Biology Program on May 1 to work on a living shoreline coastal restoration project along

the Old Town Fernandina waterfront on the Amelia River.

This is the second phase of the Living Shoreline project started in 2019. Altogether, more than 70 refurbished crab traps have been installed into the shoreline next to the Fernandina Plaza Historic State Park, where the project can be viewed at low- to mid- tide. The Riverkeeper, Anna Laws, and groups of students from Dr. Kelly Smith's biology classes will be visiting the sites throughout the summer to continue monitoring oyster and plant growth on the experimental structures.

Living shorelines are made of natural materials that improve water quality, provide fisheries habitat, increase biodiversity and promote recreation. The shoreline will function as a wave break to halt or slow erosion of the marsh while simultaneously providing oyster habitat and restore lost marsh vegetation. To learn more, please visit our [website](#)

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**Don't miss this opportunity to join  
the Riverkeeper for free!**

Free Memberships for 2021!

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**St. Marys River now in Swim Guide**

**Is it safe to get in the water?** For those who

enjoy swimming, fishing, kayaking and boating along the beautiful St. Marys River, the answer is as easy as “green” for “go” or “red” for “no” with the free [Swim Guide](#) app.

Developed by Canada’s *Swim Drink Fish*, the app for IOS or Android has information about more than 8,000 recreational waters in 11 countries – now including the St. Mary’s River.

“We regularly test public access sites along the river for contaminants such as *E. coli*, which can indicate other harmful pathogens in the water,” said St. Marys Riverkeeper Anna Laws. “Using the app, folks can quickly check before they put in their boat or start their river float. It also provides a lot of other basic information that we hope river users will take advantage of.”

In addition to water quality data, Swim Guide provides a map, weather updates, and information about the destination - such as parking, amenities, photos and more. If the water is at a safe level for swimming, a green icon is indicated, if not -- a red icon will let you know. Each level is explained in detail. The app also has a way users can report problems on the river, such a litter, debris or wildlife issues.



**ST. MARYS**  
**SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 12**  
**AT THE ST. MARYS RIVERFRONT**  
Join us at the Waterfront Park for this free community event!

**LOCAL VENDORS | LIVE MUSIC 6-8PM | FOOD TRUCKS | GAMES & PRIZES**

**9AM: Childrens Fishing 10AM: Stingray River Race 4PM: Fishing Prizes 5PM: Duck Race Starts**

The banner features a yellow background with large, bold, orange and red text. It is decorated with blue and white wavy lines representing water. The text includes the event name, date, location, and a list of activities and vendors.

The festival features an open water swimming race on the St. Marys River! Find out more on our [website](#).

**Thank you**

We genuinely appreciate the continued support and generosity of our members, partners and donors. With your help, we are looking forward to a productive 2021!

[Donate here](#)