St. Marys River access sites now included on free Swim Guide app

For the News-Leader

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. Marys 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," St. Marys Riverkeeper Anna Laws said. "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 advan-

tage 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.

The St. Marys River is 130 miles long and winds through four counties in two states, from the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia to the Amelia River in Florida.

The St. Marys Riverkeeper is a nonprofit environmental organization devoted to protecting and enriching the St. Marys River watershed through water quality monitoring, education and advocacy.

Submitted by the St. Marys Riverkeeper

