



Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Dry Season” phase of Port St. Lucie’s microbial testing study to begin Thursday

PORT ST. LUCIE (Feb. 14, 2017) – The City of Port St. Lucie is about to begin the next phase of its microbial tracking study – which is a multi-month effort to research and identify sources of microbial bacteria in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

The St. Lucie River and Estuary are critical resources for Florida’s Treasure Coast and extremely important to the economic and environmental well-being of the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County and Martin County. The City began this microbial tracking study in June 2016, after the Department of Health issued health advisories about the levels of microbial bacteria in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Water samples from the “wet season” were taken in June, July and August of 2016. The next phase of “dry season” sampling is scheduled to begin Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. More “dry season” samples are scheduled to be taken on March 16, 2017 and April 13, 2017.

This study is a collaborative effort between the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County and St. Lucie County Department of Health and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The goal of the City, with the Microbial Source Tracking Study, is to identify potential areas of concern, come up with a comprehensive plan and focus resources on special projects to improve water quality and preserve the St. Lucie River – the centerpiece of the Treasure Coast.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is currently reviewing the data collected last year. The results of the complete study are expected later this summer after all the water samples have been tested and analyzed.

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The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life's opportunities. With over 179,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida's eighth largest city by population (South Florida's 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida's east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works. For more information, please visit: www.cityofpsl.com

