



Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Administration

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KP HOLE RE-OPENS Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (July 23, 2009) – The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department has re-opened swimming, tubing and diving at KP Hole in Dunnellon (9435 SW 190th Avenue Road). Officials from the Marion County Health Department took water samples Wednesday and say the water quality has returned to normal. As a precaution, the health department recommended temporarily closing the KP Hole Wednesday.

As part of a public service, health department officials monitor the water quality of public swimming areas each week during the summer. The Marion County Parks and Recreation Department also tests the water quality on a monthly basis as part of its permitting requirements.

Health department officials closed all public swimming areas along the Rainbow River swimming Wednesday after water samples revealed higher than normal amounts of fecal enterococci, a bacteria commonly found in the intestines of warm blooded animals. Now, no enterococci is present at KP Hole.

According to David Payne, an environmental supervisor with the health department, fecal enterococci is common to Florida, especially this time of year due to the heat. He said poor water quality is not necessarily associated with the number of people swimming in an area. He said many factors, such as stormwater run off, can contribute to poor water quality. He also said closing the KP Hole and other swimming areas along the Rainbow River was a precaution and no cause for alarm.

No one has reported illnesses.

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