



Don't Swim in Philadelphia's Rivers and Streams



It is dangerous.

- Philadelphia's rivers and streams are not safe for swimming or wading.
- Swimming or wading can result in drowning, injuries from underwater objects, strong currents, and other hazards.
- Pets are exposed to the same risks as their owners, and should not swim, wade in, or drink the water.

River water is not clean.

- Although it may look clean, germs and pollutants are in the water.
 - If swallowed, germs like *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* can cause serious illness in people with weakened immune systems.
 - Ears, eyes, noses, and throats can also become infected.
- Weather conditions can increase the amount of pollution in the water.
 - Rain can wash animal wastes, lawn and garden chemicals, household cleaners, and things that drip from cars and trucks into river water.
 - Heavy rainstorms can overload sewer systems and cause sewage to flow into the rivers and streams.

It is against the law.

- Swimming and bathing are not allowed outside of organized events such as races or triathlons.

Use Only Safe, Designated Pools for Swimming



Department of
Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
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For more information, contact your doctor, refer to <http://www.phila.gov/Health/>, or contact the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6740