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

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