



**CITY OF
MOUNT
DORA**

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N E W S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release:

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UPDATED INFORMATION IN REGARDS TO LAKE JOHN/LAKE GERTRUDE:

The overflow from Lake John to Lake Gertrude is an overflow structure that works by gravity flow. This flow is not controlled by employees or switches at any lift stations. The overflow is part of a St. John's River Water Management District permit. Since the overflow was from gravity, there was no decision process involved.

After the storm, the city quickly applied lime to treat the water for fecal coliform which is the primary pathogen involved with sewage overflows. According to reports written on the subject, the three best treatments for sewage overflow are: 1. Lime Treatments, 2. Dilution and 3. UV Light (sunlight). All three of these treatment methods are in place on Lake John and Lake Gertrude.

The city's Public Works Department is currently testing both Lake Gertrude and Lake John on a daily basis for fecal coliform levels and when those levels are safe, the city will report them via press release, website, social media and a Code Red notification for residents around both lakes. Door hangers will be individually placed on every home owners door by city workers.

As of 9/21/2017 at noon - The City of Mount Dora has received confirmation that Lake John and Lake Gertrude meet the Florida Department of Health's guideline for Public Bathing Areas. As such, both lakes are safe for human use.

We appreciate your patience with this matter and will continue to work tirelessly to rectify the spillage.

City of Mount Dora working to clean up Lake John sewage contamination

MOUNT DORA, Fla. (September 14, 2017) – The City of Mount Dora is working to clean up Lake John after a catastrophic failure of a lift station.



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Portions of the roadway in Dogwood Mountain Reserves, located off Old Eustis Road in the Lake John area, suffered a catastrophic event in during the height of Hurricane Irma. The damage resulted in a broken water line. The water line break resulted in a release that went downstream and flooded the Lake John area. The floodwaters also entered the sanitary sewer system resulting in a sewage release at Lift Station #22.

The release went into Lake John, and city water distribution and collection crews have been working diligently since the storm to deal with the situation. As of today, they are getting close to a resolution. During the process, the city notified the Florida Department of Environmental Protection about the release. Once it is under control, the city will have an environmental reparation firm on-site to fully clean the damage that has come from the event.

Close to Lake John is Lake Gertrude, which also had some spillover and will be cleaned up as well.

There is a foul smell in the area and residents are urged to avoid going near the lake until it can be cleaned up. Wildlife in the area appears to be unaffected.
