

FACT SHEET: Long Branch Basin Management Action Plan Adopted by the DEP



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced adoption of the Long Branch Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The action plan, developed in partnership with Orange County and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, identifies actions that are needed to decrease bacteria and nutrients in Long Branch.

The Long Branch BMAP was developed under DEP's comprehensive approach that builds partnerships with local, regional and state interests to identify and restore polluted waterbodies. Similar efforts are currently underway in other areas of the state.

Where is the Long Branch Basin located?

- The basin is located in unincorporated Orange County, between Bithlo and Wedgefield.
- It is a tributary of the Econlockhatchee River.

Why was a BMAP needed in the Long Branch Basin?

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has designated that the water quality in Long Branch should support recreational use and propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria and low levels of dissolved oxygen, Long Branch did not support these uses. In 2006, the DEP adopted water quality restoration targets, called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) that provided numerical water quality restoration targets. The BMAP is the implementation plan that identifies actions that will be taken to achieve these restoration targets.

Who was involved in developing the Long Branch Basin Management Action Plan?

- Orange County
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Who was involved?

Orange County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Agricultural Water Policy worked closely together to develop the Long Branch BMAP. The St. Johns River Water Management District also expressed support for development and implementation of the Long Branch BMAP.

What will the BMAP accomplish?

Reducing the discharges of pollutants into these waterbodies will help achieve water quality standards and designated uses established by the DEP. The phased approach outlined in the BMAP involves implementation of actions such as improved stormwater management alongside activities such as field investigations to better understand the sources of these pollutants. The implementation of BMAP actions will decrease levels of fecal coliforms and increase dissolved oxygen in Long Branch. Results of the field investigations will guide selection of future projects.

Specific actions in the BMAP include continued improvement in Orange County's stormwater treatment and control programs, stormwater management for new development, fertilizer management improvements on County park property, best management practices for agricultural lands, public education and outreach, and ongoing water quality monitoring.

Where can you find more information?

The Long Branch Basin Management Plan is available at:

<ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/water/BMAP/MiddleStJohns/LongBranch/>

The following websites contain more information about water quality protection and restoration activities of Orange County and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

Orange County Environmental Protection Division:

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/CEsrvc/epd/default.htm>

Orange County Health Department:

<http://www.orchd.com/>

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Water Policy:

<http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/>