

***FACT SHEET: Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan
Adopted by the DEP***



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced adoption of the Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The action plan, developed in partnership with the Suwannee River Partnership; Alachua, Columbia, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford Counties; the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Suwannee River Water Management District; and the Springs Working Groups for Ichetucknee and Santa Fe identifies actions that are needed to decrease nutrients in the Santa Fe River Basin.

Where is the Santa Fe River Basin located?

- The basin includes all or portions of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Union and Gilchrist Counties and encompasses over 1 million acres.

The Santa Fe River basin 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.

Why was a BMAP needed in the Santa Fe River Basin?

The Santa Fe River is a Class 3 water body suitable for recreational use and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Due to the presence of algal mats as a result of increased nutrients, the springs of the Santa Fe River Basin did not support these uses. In 2008, the DEP adopted water quality restoration targets, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that provided numerical water quality restoration targets for the Santa Fe River. The TMDL requires reductions in nutrient concentrations of 35 percent. The BMAP is the implementation plan that identifies actions that will be taken to achieve these restoration targets.

Who was involved?

The action plan, developed in partnership with the Suwannee River Partnership; Alachua, Columbia, Gilchrist, Union, Bradford Counties; the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Suwannee River Water Management District; and the Springs Working Groups for Ichetucknee and Santa Fe identifies actions that are needed to decrease nutrients in the Santa Fe River Basin.

What will the BMAP accomplish?

Reducing the nonpoint source discharges of pollutants that end up in the Santa Fe River 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 agricultural and urban best management practices (BMPs), improved stormwater management and increase wastewater reuse alongside activities such as continued water quality sampling to better control and understand the sources of these pollutants. The implementation of BMAP actions will decrease the levels of nutrients that ultimately end up in the Santa Fe River.

The local stakeholders have committed to over \$25 million in projects to achieve restoration in these water bodies, and committed to monitoring the water bodies to ensure restoration occurs. Specific actions in the BMAP include wastewater infrastructure and stormwater system management; regulations, ordinances and guidelines; conservation and land acquisition; best management practices for urban and agricultural lands, public education and outreach; and ongoing water quality monitoring.

This effort demonstrates the commitment of local governments and stakeholders to the restoration of water bodies in their part of the state. To the credit of local government many projects have been implemented in advance of finalizing the BMAP (restoration plan). Examples of significant project commitments include the following:

City of Lake City - \$22.5M for stormwater and wastewater (including reuse) projects.

Alachua County - \$1.85M to date on Stormwater Master Plan; and \$30M for acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in the Basin

SRP and FDACS - \$1.85M for cost share BMP projects for agriculture

Where can you find more information?

The Santa Fe River Basin Management Plan is available at:

http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Santa_Fe/

The following websites contain more information about water quality protection and restoration activities in the Santa Fe River Basin:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Santa_Fe/

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

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