

***FACT SHEET: Bayou Chico Basin Management Action Plan
Adopted by the DEP***



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced adoption of the Bayou Chico Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The action plan, developed in partnership with the City of Pensacola; Escambia County; the Escambia County Health Department; the Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA); the Florida Department of Transportation; the Bayou Chico Association; the U.S. Naval Air Station; and the Bay Area Resource Council identifies projects and management actions needed to decrease bacteria in six Waterbody Identification units (WBIDs) in the (Pensacola) Bayou Chico Basin.

Where is the Bayou Chico Watershed located? The Bayou Chico watershed is located in the southern end of Escambia County, having an approximate water surface area of approximately 0.39 mi² and discharges directly into Pensacola Bay.

The Bayou Chico Basin BMAP was developed under DEP's comprehensive approach, building partnerships with local, regional and state interests to identify and restore polluted waterbodies. In other areas of the state, similar efforts are currently underway.

Why was a BMAP needed in the Bayou Chico Basin?

The Bayou Chico watershed consists of two Class III fresh waterbodies (Jones Creek and Jackson Creek) and four Class III marine waterbodies (Bayou Chico, Bayou Chico Drain, Bayou Chico Beach, and Sanders Beach) suitable for recreational use and the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. Due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, these six waterbody segments in the Bayou Chico 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 these six WBIDs. The BMAP is the implementation plan that identifies the actions needed to achieve these restoration targets.

Who was involved?

The action plan, developed in partnership with the City of Pensacola, Escambia County; the Escambia County Health Department, the Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA); the Florida Department of Transportation; the Bayou Chico Association; the U.S. Naval Air Station, and the Bay Area Resource Council identified projects and management actions needed to decrease bacteria in these six impaired WBIDs of the Bayou Chico Basin.

What will the BMAP accomplish?

Identification, elimination, and prevention of discharges of fecal coliform bacteria 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 projects including sanitary sewer expansion projects, stormwater improvements, pet waste ordinance adoption, septic tank inspections and Clean Marina and Boatyard Program implementation. This BMAP highlights these and other projects that will address the known and suspected sources of fecal coliform and other pathogens. The combined implementation of BMAP projects and management actions and the five-year BMAP milestone evaluation will eliminate sources and decrease levels of fecal coliforms of the Bayou Chico Basin BMAP WBIDs.

Specific actions in the BMAP include highly integrated local stakeholder communication and response source identification protocols; wastewater infrastructure repairs and upgrades; sanitary sewer expansion projects; increased stormwater system maintenance management; septic tank regulation and ordinance; public education and outreach; and enhanced water quality monitoring programs.

Where can you find more information?

The Bayou Chico Basin Management Plan is available at:

<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/PensacolaBasin/BayouChico/FinalBayouChicoBMAPDocuments/>

The following websites contain more information about water quality protection and restoration activities in the Bayou Chico Basin:

<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/PensacolaBasin/BayouChico/Meetings/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest District Office:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/northwest/>