You Are Invited
Public Input Open House
Septic System Remediation Plans to Help Protect Our Springs

When: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Time: From 4pm – 7pm
Where: Sandhill Scout Reservation (Boy Scout Camp)
11210 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville

Hernando County invites you to an
informational Open House to discuss the State mandated
Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System (OSTDS) Remediation Plan for Weeki Wachee Springs.

In July of 2016 the Governor signed into law the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act to protect 33 Florida springs threatened by excessive nitrate pollution. As a result, Hernando County has been tasked to find ways to comply with the requirements associated with the 2016 legislation.
The state mandated Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System Remediation Plan requirement for Weeki Wachee Springs is the driving force for the Septic to Sewer Conversion plan.

Hernando County performed a study in 2016 to determine which septic systems impact Weeki Wachee Springs. The study also prioritized the areas based on level of impact. The first focus area (District A) chosen is immediately adjacent to the spring and has the most immediate impact on it.

What You Should Know Before the Open House

The federal Clean Water Act requires that state environmental agencies complete Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired waters and that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and approve (or disapprove) those TMDLs. TMDLs identify all point source and nonpoint source pollutants within a watershed and establish the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive without causing exceedances of water quality standards. In Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is the regulatory agency charged with establishing TMDLs for waters that fail to meet water quality standards and characterize how much of each pollutant the water body can assimilate without violating those standards.

Once TMDLs are established, Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) are developed to address the impairments. BMAPs are the "blueprints" for restoring impaired waters by reducing pollutant loadings to meet the allowable loadings established in TMDLs. BMAPs represent a comprehensive set of strategies - permit limits on wastewater facilities, urban and agricultural best management practices, conservation programs, financial assistance and revenue generating activities, etc. - designed to reduce the pollutant loadings mandated by the TMDLs. These broad-based plans are developed with local stakeholders, they rely on local input and local commitment, and they are adopted by FDEP Secretarial Order to be enforceable. Stakeholders in the process include regulatory Agencies (FDEP, SWFWMD, FDOH), local governments (counties and cities), business and industry, agriculture, environmental group residents, and other interested parties.
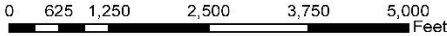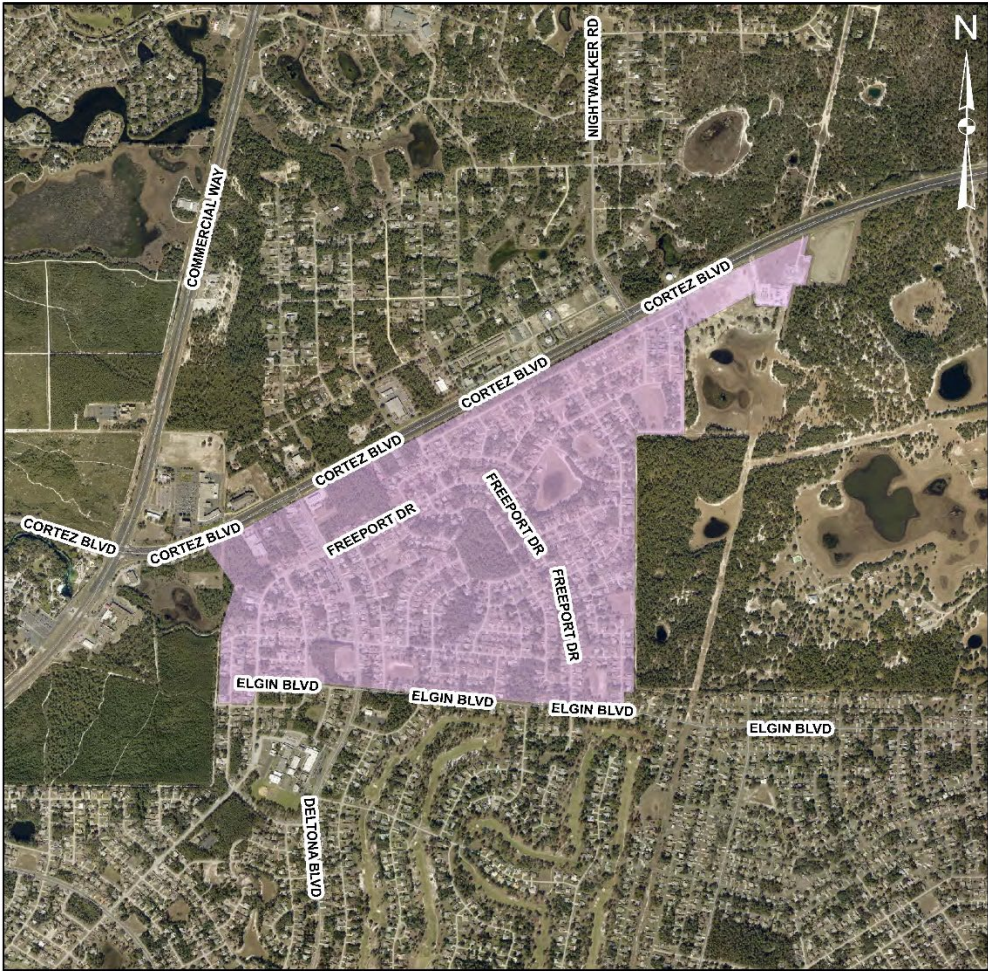
In 2016, the Florida legislature passed Senate Bill 552 which contained the **Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act**. This Act is a key driver behind the activities (and associated funding) to reduce nutrients in our state's first magnitude springs. The Florida Legislature identified 33 "Outstanding Florida Springs "that require additional protections to ensure their conservation and restoration for future generations. These protections are included in the BMAPs prepared for each spring. These plans are focused on reducing nitrogen pollution that is impacting the water quality of the springs. Nitrogen from septic tanks and agricultural/fertilizer sources have a greater impact on some springs more than others, so the BMAPs contain a tailored mix of strategies.

In June 2018 FDEP adopted 13 restoration plans, addressing all 24 nitrogen-impaired Outstanding Florida Springs. The Weeki Wachee Springs BMAP was adopted June of 2018 and includes an OSTDS Remediation Plan requirement as defined in the BMAP.

Focus Area District A

Not sure if you're in District A? Do a search here:

Legend

District A