



Alachua County

Alachua County Water Quality Code

Alachua County Water Quality Code Ordinance 02-27

- *Adopted August 2002 by the Board of County Commissioners*
- *Effective January 1, 2003*



Little Hatchet Creek in the Gainesville Airport Industrial Park (Photo Credit: Joy McBane, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department)

Implements Alachua County Charter Amendment 1, passed in November 2000 that gave the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida the authority to establish standards for protecting the environment by prohibiting or regulating air or water pollution.

Prohibitions

- Prohibits discharge of any material into surface water, groundwater or stormwater systems that result in a:
 - A violation of the State of Florida's Surface Water Quality Standards in Chapter 62-302 FAC,
 - A violation of the State of Florida's Groundwater and Drinking Water Standards in Chapter 62-520 and 62-550 FAC, and/or
 - A violation of the State of Florida's Groundwater and Surface Water Cleanup Target Levels in Chapter 62-777 FAC.

Site Remediation and Monitoring

- Authorizes the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department to order the cleanup, abatement, or monitoring and take other actions as needed to cleanup, abate or monitor pollutant discharges.

General Requirements

- General direct discharge to surface water and groundwater of wastewater from cleaning operations, waste management, equipment storage and maintenance and litter are prohibited.



Stormwater Management Systems

- Prohibits any person from discharging non-stormwater to a stormwater system, exceptions include approved discharges by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department.



FDOT Sediment Trap construction in Hogtown Creek east of NW 34th Street (Photo Credit Robin Hallbourg, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department)



Discharge of nutrient-laden irrigation water to the stormwater system

Erosion and Sedimentation Control

- Requires use of best management practices (BMPs) for sedimentation and erosion control for all excavations. BMPs must provide equal or better protection than those currently compiled by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Excavation and Filling

- Land excavation and/or filling activities, including dewatering, shall not have an adverse impact on surface water or groundwater quality.

Reimbursable Costs and Enforcement

- Should violations be found, code allows for reimbursement to the County of all investigative costs incurred by the County.
- Civil citations for noncompliance may be issued for violations.

For more information contact:

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
201 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 201
Gainesville, Florida 32601-6538
352/264-6800



Illicit discharge to Springstead Creek from a stormwater conveyance system south of NW 39th Avenue (Photo Credit: Joy McBane, Alachua County Environmental Protection Department)