

# RESOURCES

**The Santa Fe River Springs Working Group**

[www.santaferiversprings.com](http://www.santaferiversprings.com)

**Florida's Springs: Protecting Nature's Gems**

[www.floridasprings.org](http://www.floridasprings.org)

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

[www.doacs.state.fl.us](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us)

**Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**

[www.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu)

**Suwannee River Partnership**

[www.suwannee.org](http://www.suwannee.org)

**Our springs will live or die by the level of goodwill of the people of Florida.**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

*Funded by*



**Current Problems**

*Adopt A River  
Restore A Shore*

[www.currentproblems.org](http://www.currentproblems.org)

Photo credits

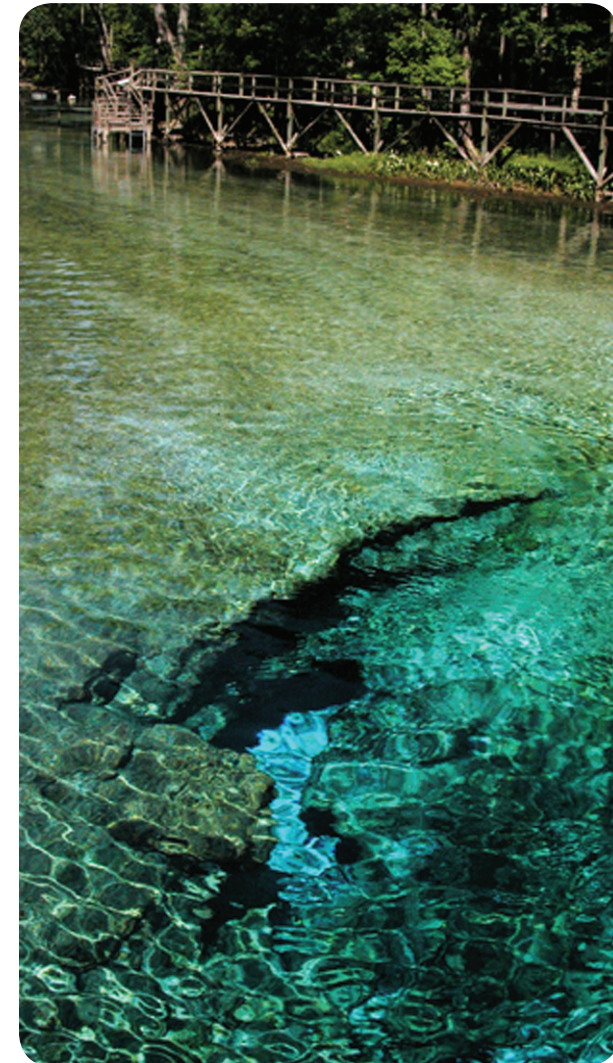
Front: Georgia Schemitz

Outside Flap: Stephen Hofstetter

Inside Flap: Andrea Cellini

Graphic design by Andrea Cellini

# SOLUTIONS FOR PROTECTION OF OUR SPRINGS



## HOMEOWNERS

### Lawn Care:

- Eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides in your yard. If fertilizer is absolutely necessary, use one with slow release nitrogen and little or no phosphorous.
- Plant centipede grass because it requires the least amount of fertilizer.
- Plant native trees and shrubs because they need little or no fertilizer or irrigation.
- Reduce the size of your lawn and replace with native vegetation.
- Irrigate only when plants show signs of wilting; this conserves water and reduces pollution.

### Stormwater:

- Keep pollutants, such as pesticides and fertilizer, out of stormwater runoff. Stormwater recharges the groundwater which is your drinking water and the springs' water.
- Keep your stormwater on your property by

creating swales, rain barrels, and rain gardens.

- Do not direct untreated stormwater into sinkholes.

### Septic Systems:

- Have your septic system inspected and maintained every 2-3 years.
- Never flush pesticides, toxic chemicals or ammonia into a septic system.
- Never plant trees or shrubs in the drainfield. Also, don't park vehicles on the drainfield.
- Conventional septic tanks in the springshed and in close proximity to caves, karst windows and sinkholes can contaminate groundwater and degrade our springs and rivers. Consider upgrading yours to a performance based system which reduces nitrates below 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).
- Septic system effluent should be discharged into a pressure dosed drainfield or by drip-irrigation.

## FARMERS



- Contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the most recent Best Management Practices and follow them.
- Use fertilizer only when soil tests indicate the need and use the minimum amount.
- Create buffers of native vegetation around waterbodies and sinkholes.
- Keep livestock out of waterways and sinkholes.
- Work with the Suwannee River Partnership to improve your farm and obtain financial assistance to do so.

## MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS

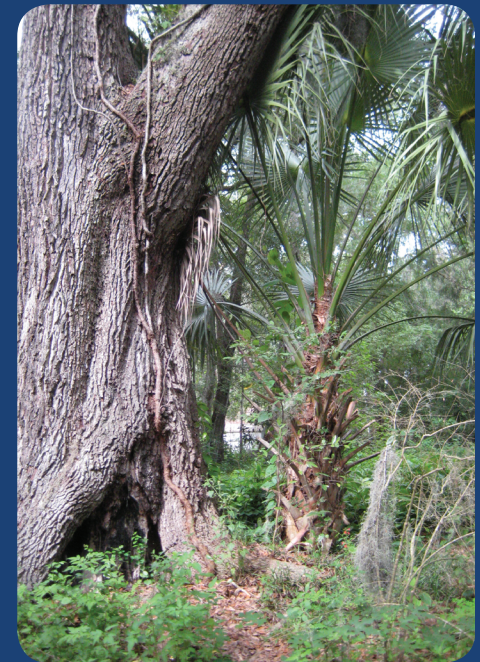
- Upgrade treatment with a goal of meeting Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards of 3 mg/L total nitrogen.
- Substantially increase the distribution and reuse of reclaimed water.
- Replace leaky sewer pipes and manhole structures.
- Sinkholes on the sprayfield should be properly filled to preclude direct drainage to the Floridan aquifer.
- Use swales and infiltration techniques at a local scale instead of regional collection systems.
- Do not direct untreated stormwater to sinkholes.

## WHAT'S AILING OUR SPRINGS?

Excessive nutrients, especially the nitrate form of nitrogen, are contaminating our groundwater, springs, and rivers.

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Reduce the amount of nitrate contaminating our groundwater and springs from all possible sources.



Springs love trees, lush lawns make them sick. The atmosphere continuously deposits nitrogen on your lawn. Don't add more.