

# Future Scenarios: Finding Your Way To Healthy Springs

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# Purpose Of Future Scenarios Exercise

To help stakeholders visualize what it would take to attain alternative futures - best and worst - for springs.



# **Future Scenarios** *for Imagination*

- **Tap human curiosity about the future**
- **Make the most of the appeal of stories**
- **Stimulate imagination to think in new ways**

# **Future Scenarios** **for *Understanding***

- **Increase understanding when complexity and uncertainty are high**
- **Promote communication among individuals and groups**

# Future Scenarios for *Creative Planning*

- Help stakeholders to perceive consequences of actions now and decades in the future
- Help stakeholders to plan creatively for a future of healthy springs

# *VALUE of Future Scenario Exercises*

- Improved awareness of what is at risk
- Creative solutions to potential problems
- Better collaboration among stakeholders

# *Ways to Conduct Future Scenario Exercises*

- **Simple exercise can be done in 1 day, with Future Scenarios provided**
- **More effective to have multi-day exercise with the group creating Future Scenarios**
- **Can be an extended exercise that engages very large groups on highly contentious issues (such as apartheid in South Africa)**

# *Future Scenario Exercise for Fanning & Manatee Springs Working Group*

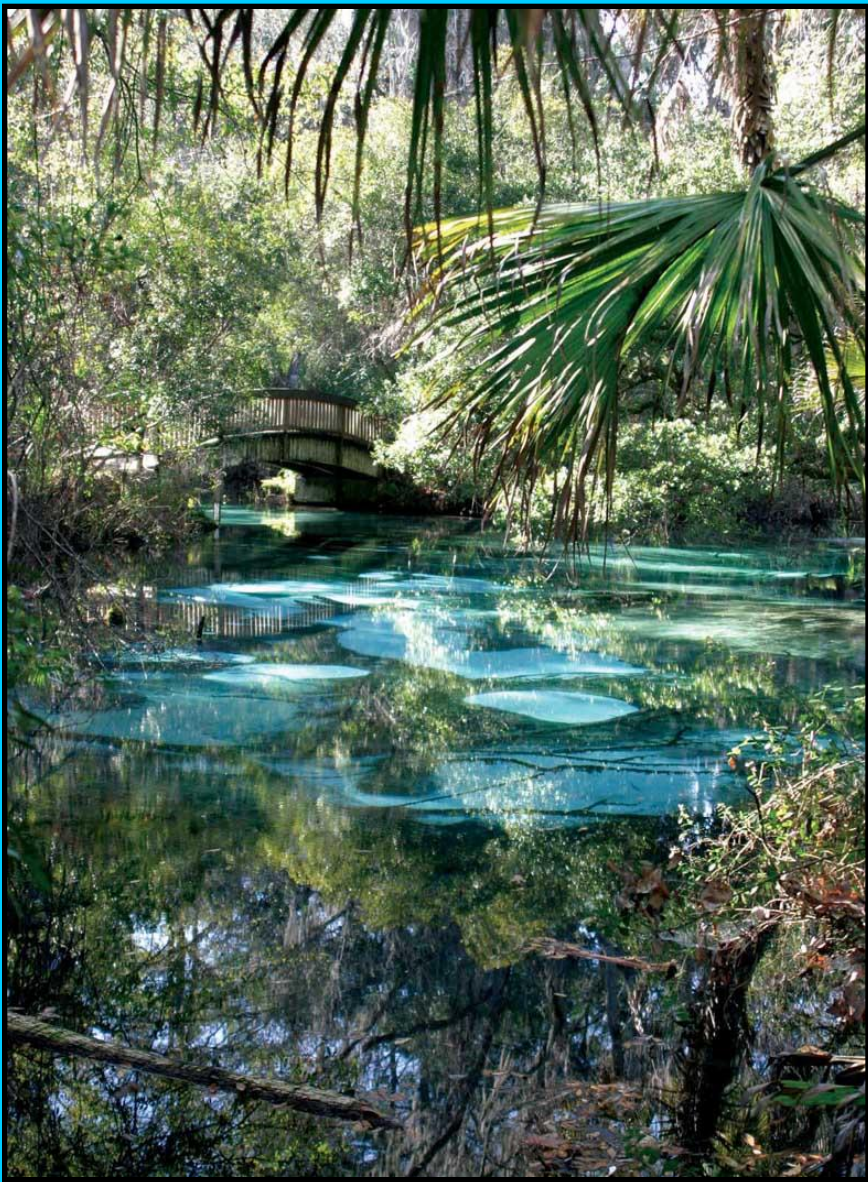
- Created best and worst Future Scenarios for the year 2040.
- Introduced Future Scenarios at one meeting.
- Dedicated the next meeting to visualizing what would need to happen to attain those alternative futures.
- Followed up at the next meeting.

# **Part One**

## ***Presented Two Possible Future Scenarios***

**Clarified the context of each Future Scenario for Fanning & Manatee Springs:**

- environmental context**
- economic context**
- social context**
- political context**



**Fountains of Youth**



**Stagnant Cesspools**

# **Year 2040 Best Scenario**

## ***FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH***

### **Environmental Context**

The flow of water in the springs is ample, readily supporting healthy and diverse spring ecosystems in the clear-water spring runs.

### **Economic Context**

There is a thriving economy in the area surrounding the springs based on protection and prudent use of the clean and plentiful groundwater.

# **Year 2040 Best Scenario**

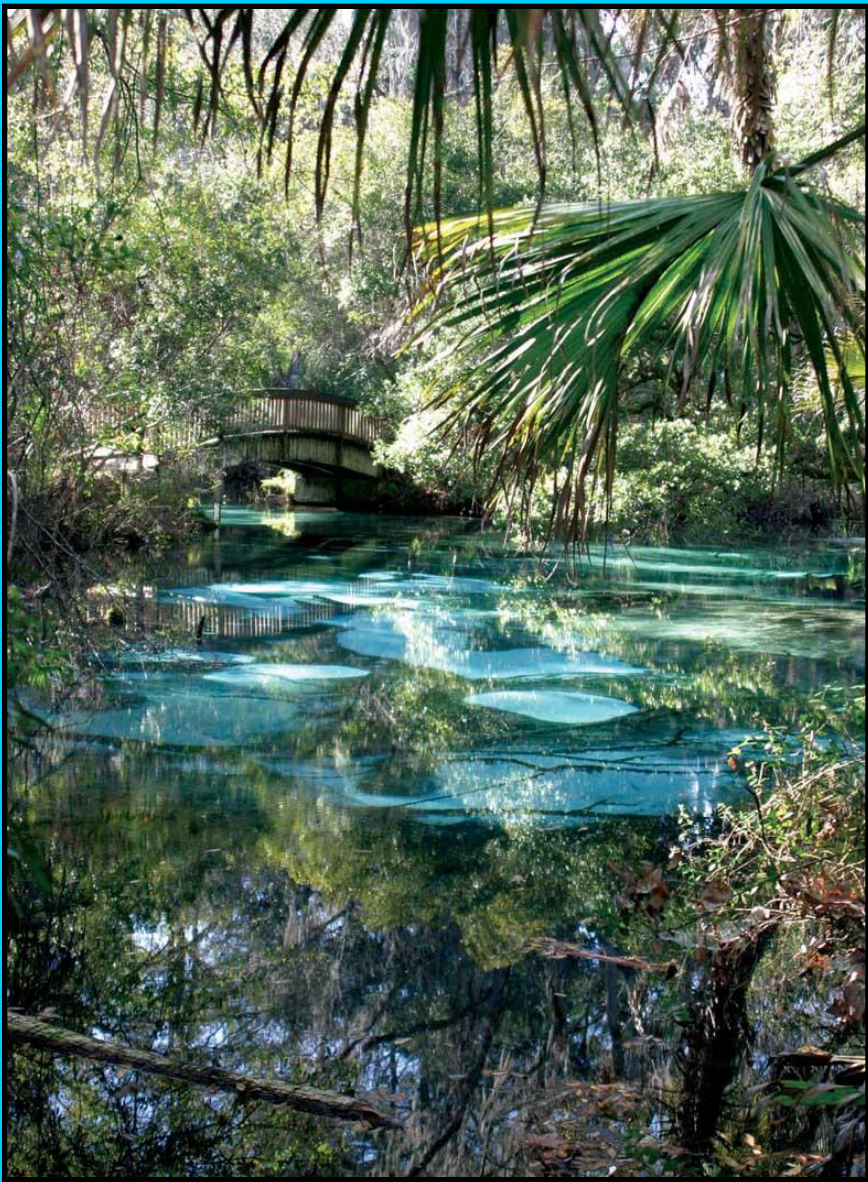
## ***FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH***

### **Social Context**

**The standard of living in the area surrounding the springs is much higher than the national average because of ample clean groundwater and jobs created by that.**

### **Political Context**

**A large majority of voters in the area surrounding the springs think that clean plentiful groundwater and springs protection are top political priorities.**



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# **Year 2040 Worst Scenario** ***STAGNANT CESSPOOLS***

## **Environmental Context**

The water in Fanning & Manatee Springs is usually turbid green and has high concentrations of algal toxins, nutrients, and pesticides.

## **Economic Context**

The economy in the area surrounding the springs has failed because of degradation and imprudent overuse of groundwater.

# **Year 2040 Worst Scenario** ***STAGNANT CESSPOOLS***

## **Social Context**

**Most people in the area surrounding the springs have a low level of understanding of the connection between clean abundant groundwater and family and community health.**

## **Political Context**

**Funding to support protection and prudent use of groundwater for the springs is unpredictable and minimal.**

## **Part Two**

# ***The Spring Working Group Imagined the Future***

**During a whole-day meeting, participants imagined realistic events, decisions, forces that could result in each Future Scenario.**

**Must be realistic.**

## **Part Three**

### ***Small Groups Developed Stories about the Future of the Springs***

- **Small DIVERSE groups listed what could lead to their Future Scenario, and created a story based on these.**
- **Each group told its story to the whole spring working group.**
- **Recorded stories and archived lists.**
- **Hired and trained 4 facilitators to assist.**

# **Dominant Themes of Future Scenario Stories for Fanning & Manatee Springs**

- Public Awareness is Crucial**
- Need for Regular Spring Monitoring**
- Necessity of Regulations**
- Value of Agriculture as a Dominant Land-Use in the Springshed**

# **Part 4**

## **Using The Stories To Help The Springs**

### **GROUP IDEAS**

- Put stories on our website**
- Take stories to local schools, students make film of stories, put film on YouTube**
- Make a brochure of stories & give to decision-makers**
- Make a flyer of stories and distribute by mail**
- Do this exercise in other spring working groups**

# Information on Future Scenarios

Future Scenario stories from August 12, 2009 meeting of Fanning & Manatee Springs Working Group are at <http://share2.myfwc.com/spring/default.aspx>

## Books and Manuals

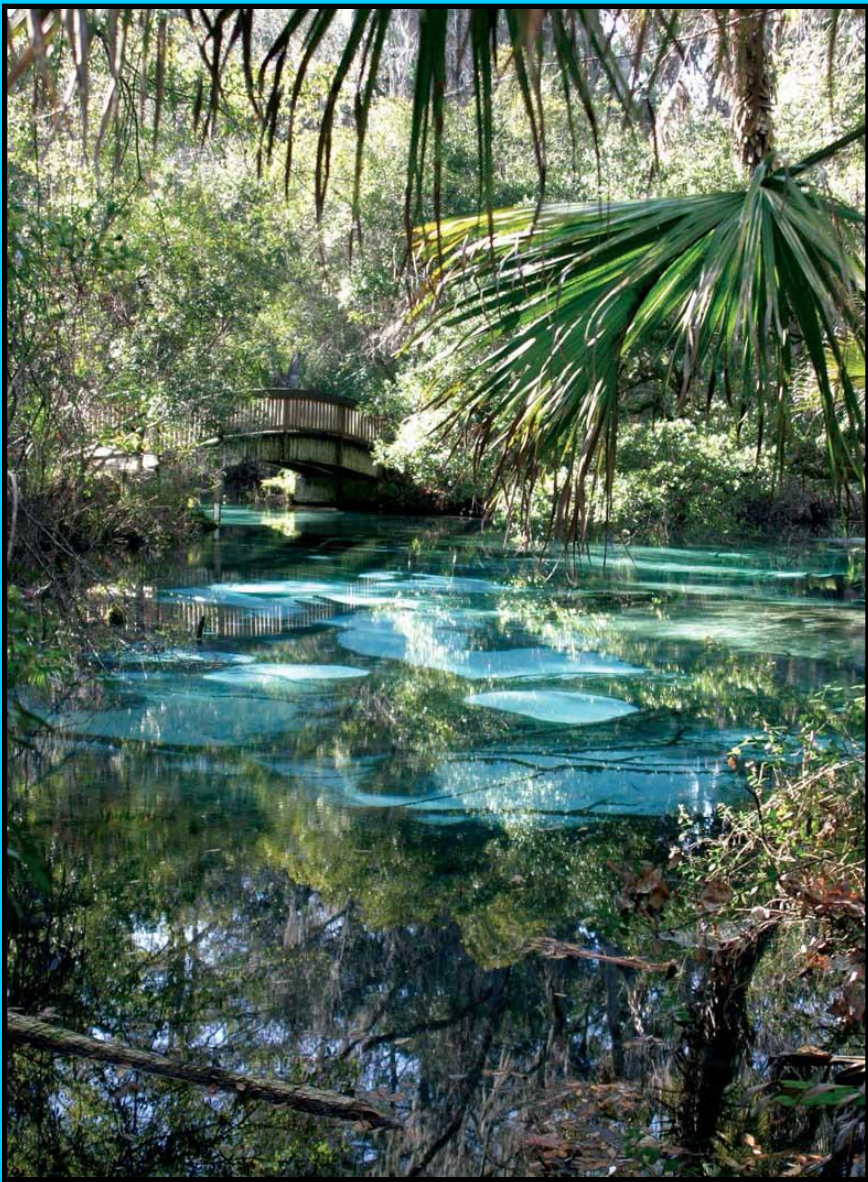
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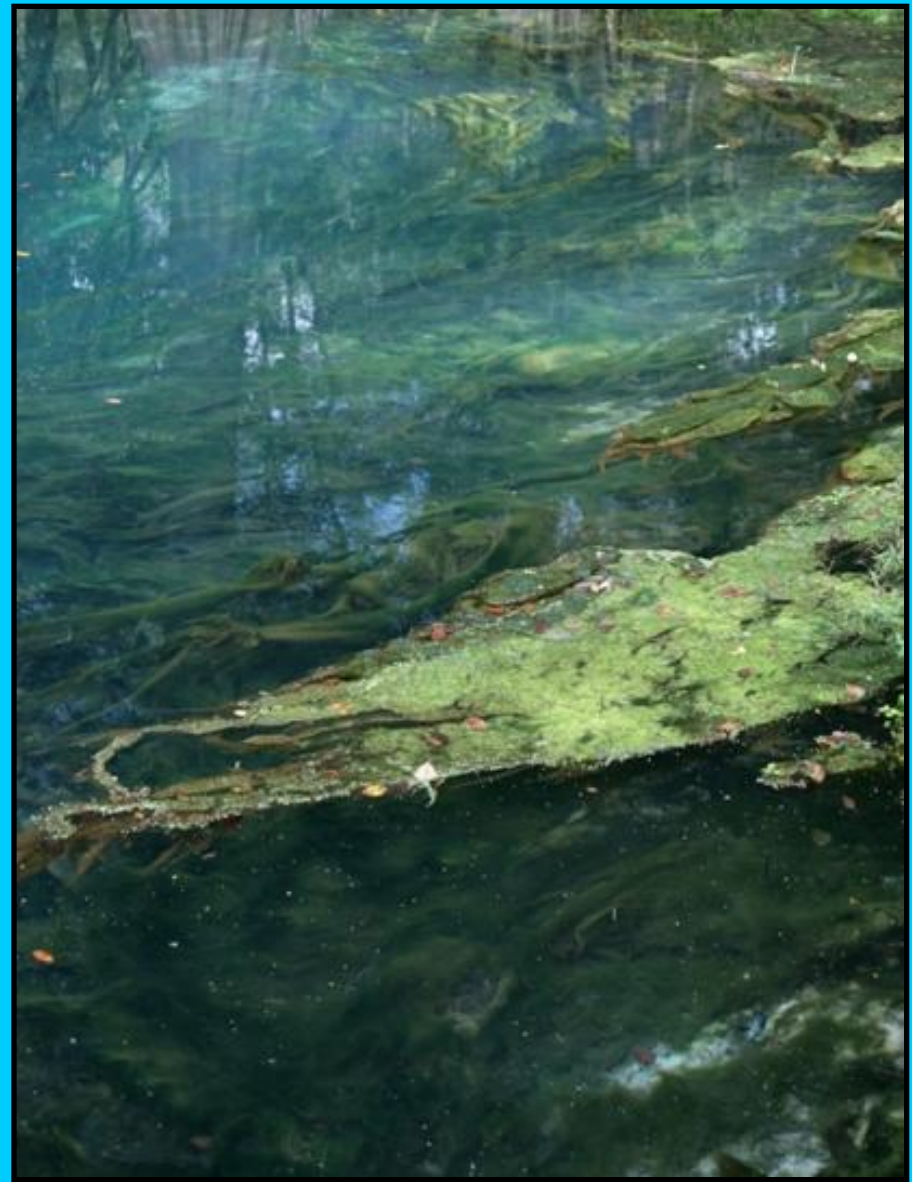
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**Fountains of Youth**



**Stagnant Cesspools**