

WATER RESTORATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING



Michael Barr

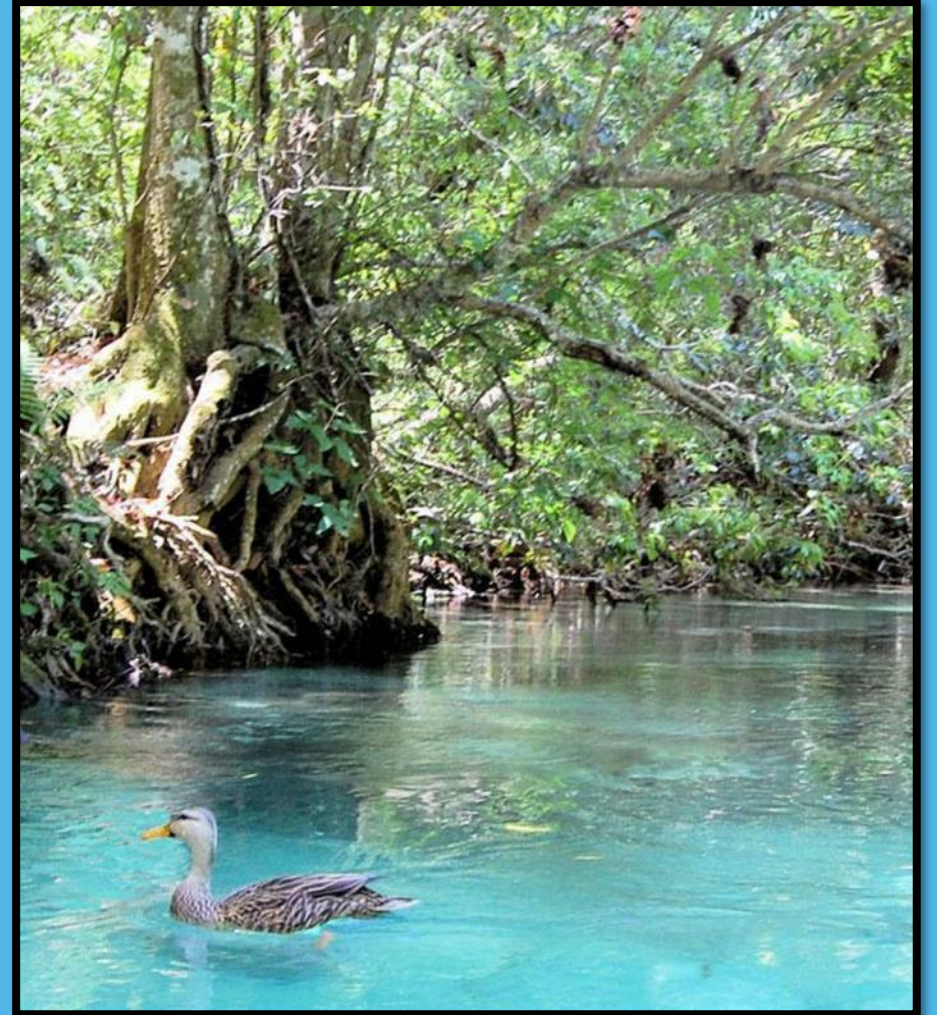
Division of Water Restoration Assistance/
Springs and Watershed Restoration Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Stormwater Association Winter Conference | Dec. 4, 2024



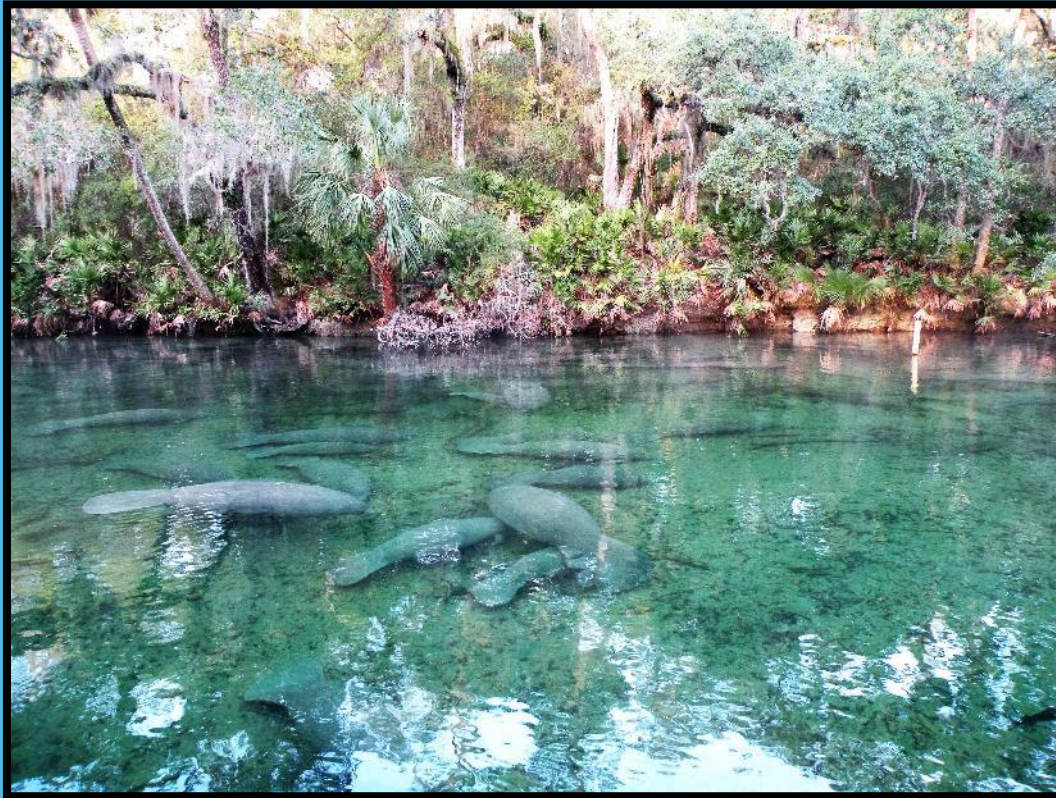
DIVISION OF WATER RESTORATION ASSISTANCE FUNDING PROGRAMS

- Springs Restoration.
- Water Quality Improvement.
- Nonpoint Source Management:
 - EPA 319(h).
 - State Water Quality Assistance Grant (SWAG).
- State Revolving Fund (SRF).
- Alternative Water Supply.





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Springs Restoration Grant Program

Annual state appropriation of at least \$50 million.

Eligible projects are land acquisition and capital projects that protect the quality and/or quantity of water from springs:

- **Agricultural Best Management Practices.**
- **Wastewater.**
- **Water Conservation.**
- **Hydrologic Restoration.**
- **Stormwater.**
- **Other types of Water Quality and Quantity.**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Springs Grant Submittal Process

Project proposals are submitted to the jurisdictional Water Management District or to the Protecting Florida Together (PFT) application portal.

- WMDs begin solicitation in late fall to early winter.
- Projects are evaluated by the WMD and reviewed by the Governing Board at a public meeting.
- Project proposals sent to DEP in May.
- PFT portal anticipated to open July 1.





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Springs Grant Evaluation

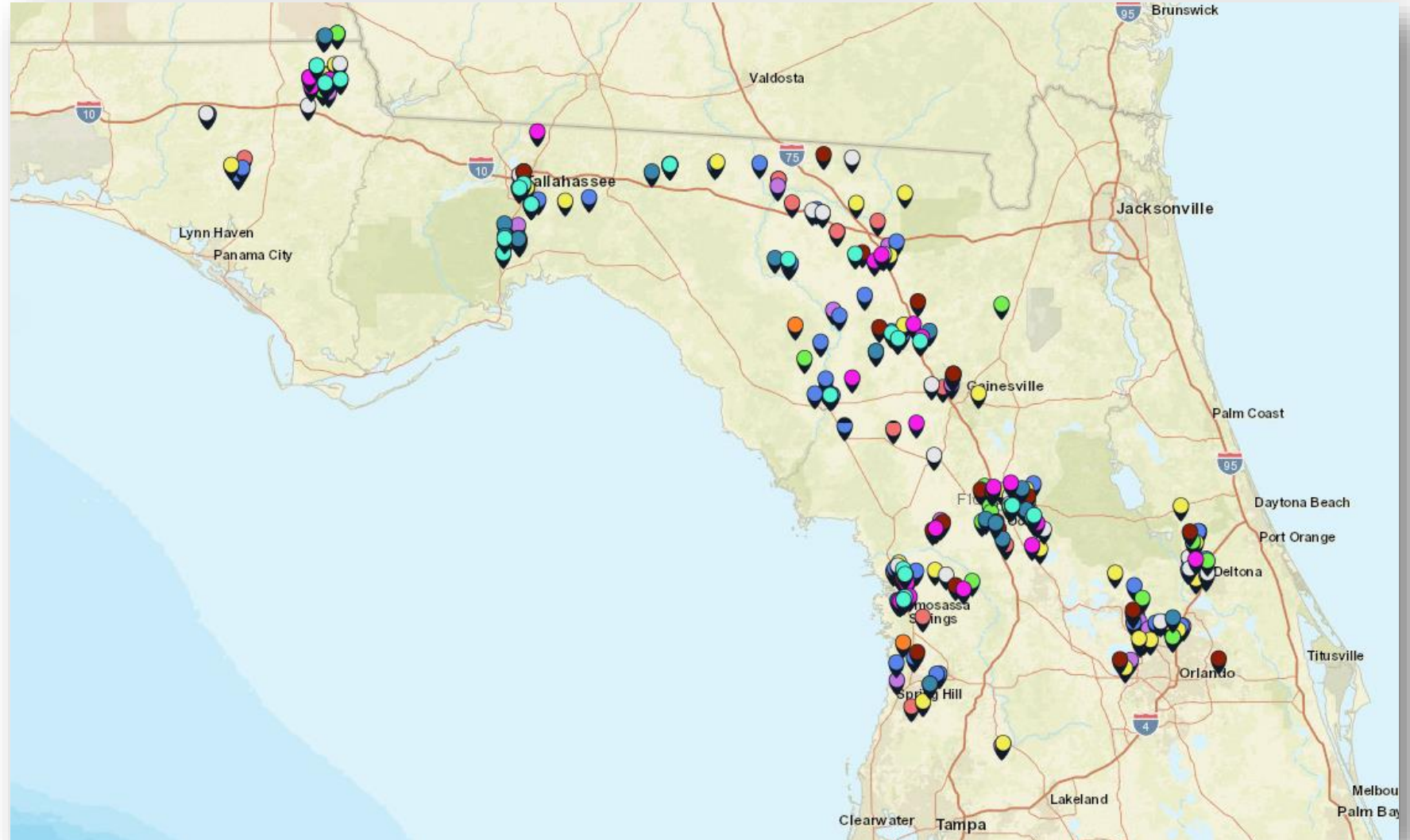
- DEP consolidates list of proposed projects and posts for public comment.
- Factors considered in evaluating projects:
 - Nutrient reduction and cost effectiveness.
 - Water savings.
 - Cost sharing.
 - Readiness to proceed.
 - Whether project is in a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area.
 - Whether project impacts spring that has a minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFL).



SPRINGS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards Summary (Fiscal Years 2013-2014 through 2023-2024)

- 369 awards.
- \$529,848,490.
- 1,029,162 Total Nitrogen pounds per year reduced.
- \$55,000,000 to be awarded FY 2024-25.





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Water Quality Improvement Grant

- Established under 403.0673, Florida Statutes (F.S.) (Formerly the Wastewater Grant).
- \$189 million was appropriated for statewide grant for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 cycle.
 - Separate Water Quality Improvement grant appropriations for Indian River Lagoon, Caloosahatchee River and Biscayne Bay areas.
- To be eligible for funding, a project must improve the quality of waters that:
 - Are not attaining nutrient or nutrient-related standards;
 - Have an established total maximum daily load; or,
 - Are located within a BMAP or a reasonable assurance plan area adopted by final order, an accepted alternative restoration plan area, or located within a rural area of opportunity.
- Project proposals are submitted through the PFT portal.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Water Quality Improvement Grant

Eligible projects include:

- Septic to sewer projects.
- Wastewater treatment facility upgrades that result in improvements to water quality.
- Stormwater treatment projects.
- Projects that qualify as a cooperative agricultural regional water quality improvement element as part of a BMAP.
- OSTDS upgrades to enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems or other equivalent wastewater system that achieves 65% reduction in total nitrogen.
- Other projects listed in a BMAP.





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Water Quality Improvement Grant

Considerations for awarding funding include:

- Nutrient reduction and cost effectiveness.
- Project readiness.
- Local cost share, except for rural areas of opportunity.
- Previous state commitment, including previously funded phases and previous partial appropriations for the proposed project.
- Project is in a location where reductions are most needed to attain nutrient-related standards of an impaired waterbody.

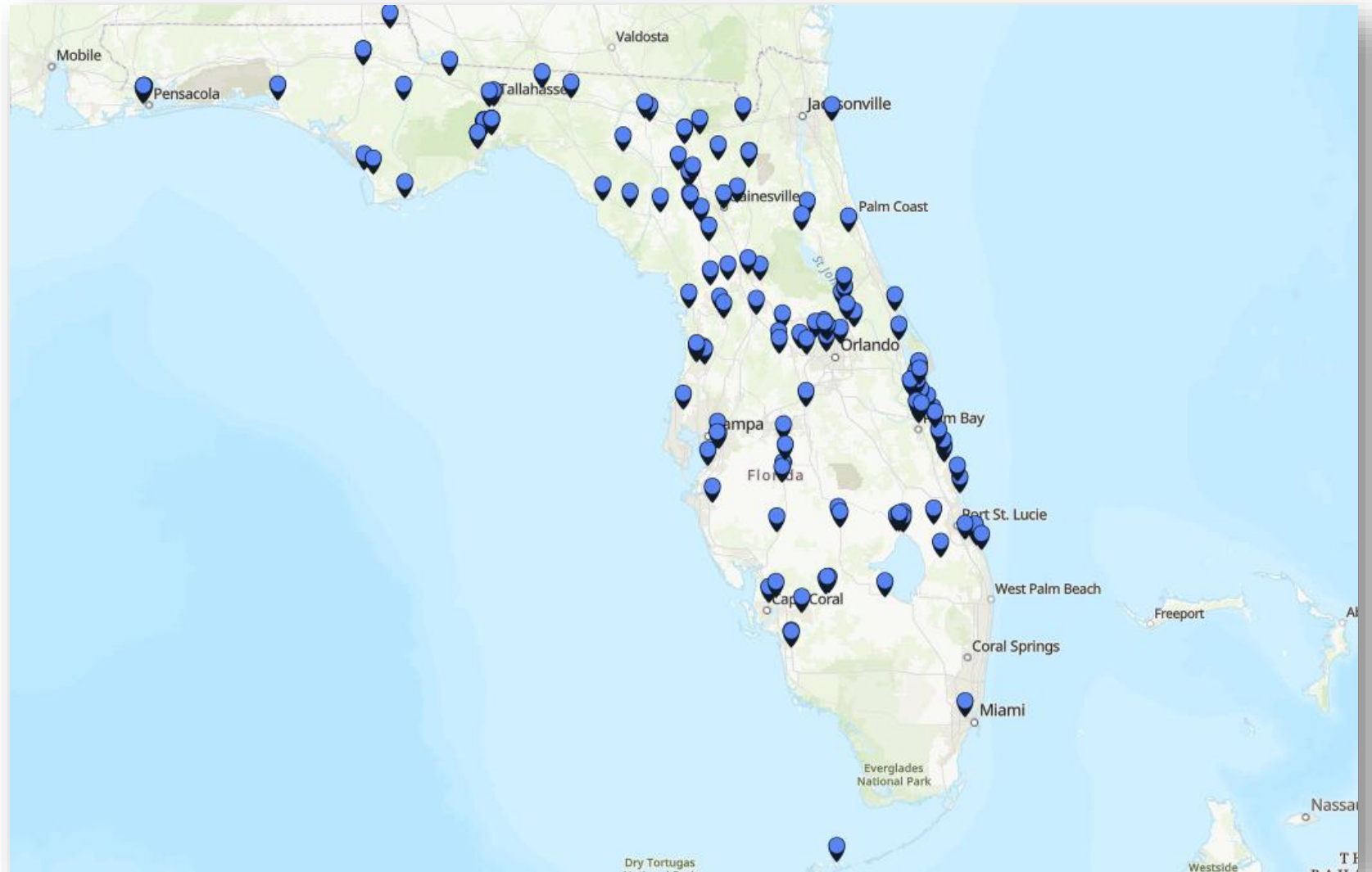




WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards Summary (Fiscal Years 2021-2022 through 2023-2024)

- 175 awards.
- \$966,000,000.
 - Includes \$425,000,000 American Rescue Plan Act Funds.
- 2,213,029 Total Nitrogen pounds per year reduced.
- 509,936 Total Phosphorus pounds per year reduced.





NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT: EPA 319(H) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT

Federal Grant through the U.S. EPA

- \$3 million total funding.
- Construction, education and monitoring.
- 40% match requirement, may use state grant/loans towards match.
- Planning and design may be eligible for match.
- May take two years to receive grant award.

Eligibility

- Water quality improvement/restoration.
- Groundwater protection.
- Stormwater BMPs.
- Agricultural BMPs.
- Nonpoint source education.
- Septic to sewer connections (not sewer construction).





NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT: SWAG

State grant for projects that reduce stormwater pollutant loadings in impaired waterbodies.

- \$5-7 million total funding each year
- Shovel ready construction projects.
- No required Match.
- No required water quality monitoring.
- Faster application to grant award date.



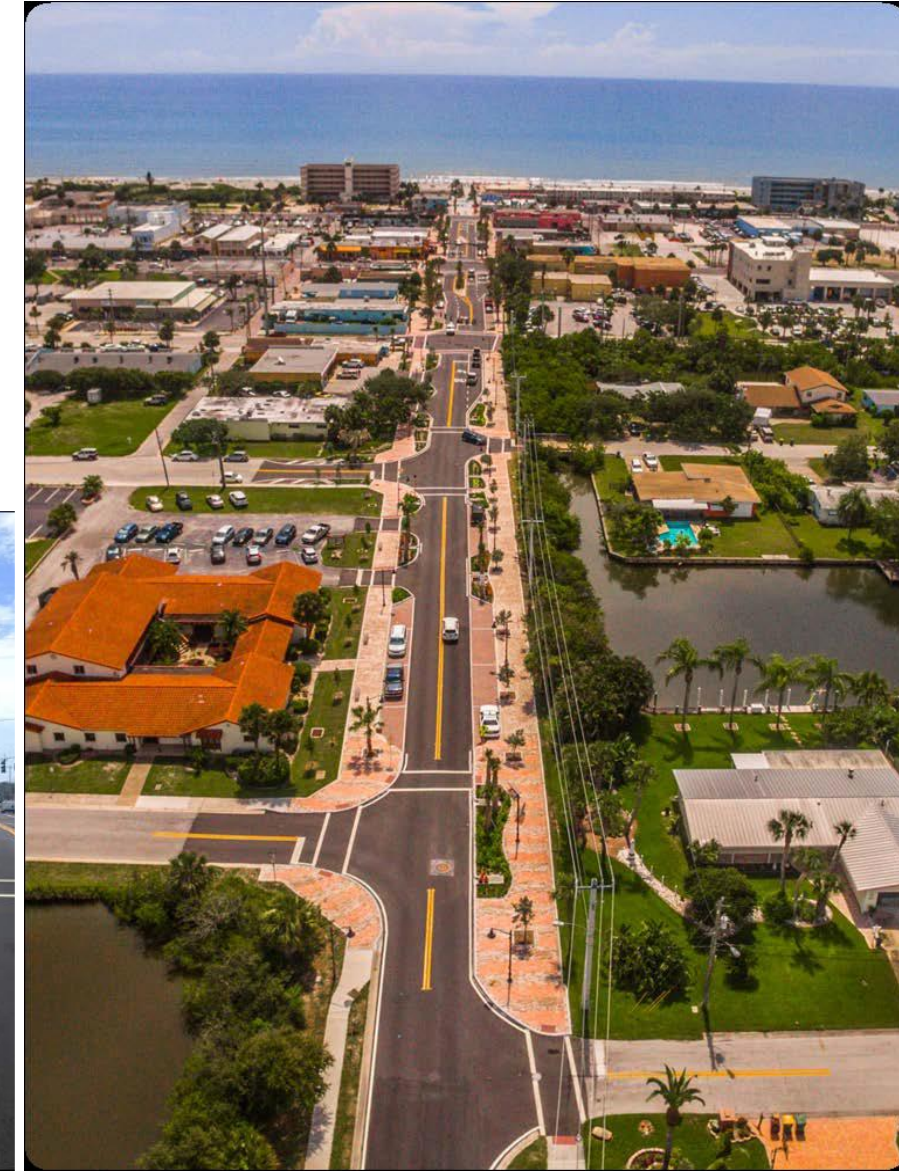
How to submit a proposal:

- One application for both 319 and SWAG grants through a Protecting Florida Together portal.



MINUTEMEN CORRIDOR STORMWATER LID IMPROVEMENTS

Funding Source	Amount
Federal 319(14)	\$544,540
SWAG	\$450,000
Legislative Appropriation	\$800,000
Project Total	\$1,794,540





SRF

Florida's largest financial assistance program for water infrastructure, capitalized by federal grants through EPA.

- Low-interest loans to local governments to plan, design, and build or upgrade water, wastewater and stormwater facilities.
- Interest rates on loans are below market rates and vary based on the economic wherewithal of the community.
- Discounted assistance (e.g., very low interest rates, grants, etc.) for small communities is available.
- Federal requirements for fair wages, American Iron and Steel, asset management plans.
- Eligible as match to other DEP grants.

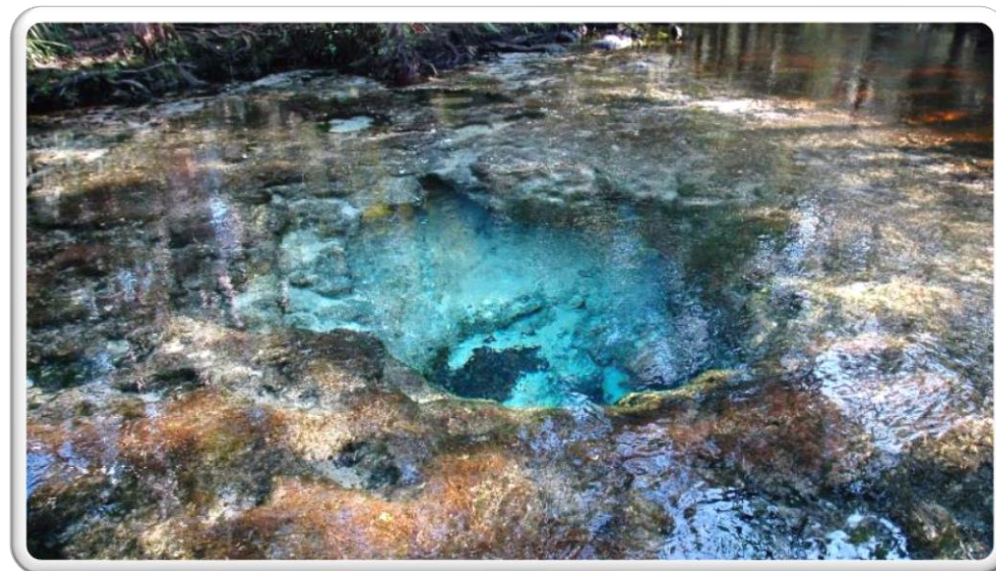




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Alternative Water Supply Grant Program

- \$55 million was appropriated for Fiscal Year 24-25 to help communities plan and implement vital conservation, reuse, and other alternative water supply projects.
- Examples of eligible projects include:
 - Reclaimed or recycled water.
 - Saltwater & brackish water (desalination projects).
 - Surface or stormwater captured during heavy rainfall.
 - New storage capacity, including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects.
 - Water use efficiency/Conservation Projects.
 - Any other source designated as non-traditional in a regional water supply plan.
 - Lower Floridan Aquifer supplies (vs. UFA).





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Alternative Water Supply Grant Program

- Funding considerations include:
 - Projects that provide regional benefits.
 - Projects that benefit waterbodies with adopted MFLs.
 - Readiness to proceed, cost effectiveness, local cost share.
- Any public or private entity can apply by submitting applications to their WMD for evaluation and approval. The Department also has opportunities for submitting applications through the Protecting Florida Together grants portal.





THANK YOU

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Division of Water Restoration Assistance
Springs and Watershed Restoration Program

Contact Information:

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Protecting Florida Together (QR Code):

<https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions>

Division of Water Restoration Assistance:

<https://floridadep.gov/wra>

DEP Funding Opportunities

<https://floridadep.gov/Funding>

