Government Initiatives for Springs Protection

In addition to serving as a source of drinking water and recreation, Florida’s freshwater springs are a natural resource and a vital part of its ecosystem. To alleviate the threats of depletion and pollution, the Florida Legacy Act has ensured that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be allotted a minimum of $50 million a year for the next 20 years to protect and restore the state’s freshwater springs. The funded initiatives include measures to replace septic systems with central sewer systems, improvements to drainage systems, enhancements to groundwater recharge, modifications to drainage retention areas, replacement of stormwater pipes, rehydration of wetlands, and improvements to recreational infrastructure to control public use.

Our Projects

With nearly 1,000 freshwater springs throughout Florida, our projects are fostering healthy and sustainable practices for residents, visitors, and natural habitats.

Wacissa Springs

Sediments have filled the Wacissa springhead due to unmanaged stormwater runoff and foot traffic. We are restoring the springs by defining access points, stabilizing shorelines, and providing engineered stormwater management facilities in the vicinity. Additionally, we are removing exotic vegetation, silt, and debris in order to create a desirable, natural habitat for local wildlife.

Wakulla Gardens and Magnolia Gardens

In an effort to further reduce nitrogen loading and other pollutants from impacting Wakulla springs, we have been tasked with designing and supervising the construction of a new collection system, lift stations, and force mains to allow more than 400 homes in the Wakulla Gardens and Magnolia Gardens neighborhoods to transfer from onsite sewage and disposal systems to the county’s central sewer facility. Nutrient discharge to Wakulla Springs, one of 33 first-magnitude springs in the state, will be significantly reduced.

King’s Bay

The northern portion of the Southwest Florida Water Management District has developed into a karst landscape, characterized by sink holes, sinking streams, underground caverns, and springs. Using the topobathy lidar point cloud classification process, we identified the most critical areas for material removal throughout King’s Bay. We also researched the quantity of material to be removed and methods for measuring the successes and failures of the project. In order to conduct the research, we utilized a combination of automated and manual filtering tools in Hydrofusion, Pure File Magic’s area-based editor software, and Microstation/Terrasolid software.

Our Services

Our springs protection and restoration projects focus on pollutant reduction and water conservation. Our water and environmental specialists work to promote protection and restoration benchmarks by providing services throughout Florida and the Gulf Coast, including grant writing, engineering, design, permitting, and construction administration.

Debby Preble, PE
dpreble@dewberry.com
850.354.5187
www.dewberry.com