



The Homeowner's Guide to Living in a Springshed



Volusia County covers over 1,200 square miles in East Central Florida, and includes sixteen municipalities, numerous springs, and is bordered on the west by the St. Johns River and on the East by the Atlantic Ocean.

Currently, Volusia County has a population of approximately 500,000 people, and is growing. 90% of Volusia County residents depend on Florida's aquifers and springs for their drinking water, which flows directly beneath our feet.

What is an aquifer?

Aquifers can be thought of as a vast underground system of porous rocks that hold water and allow it to flow through the holes in the rock.

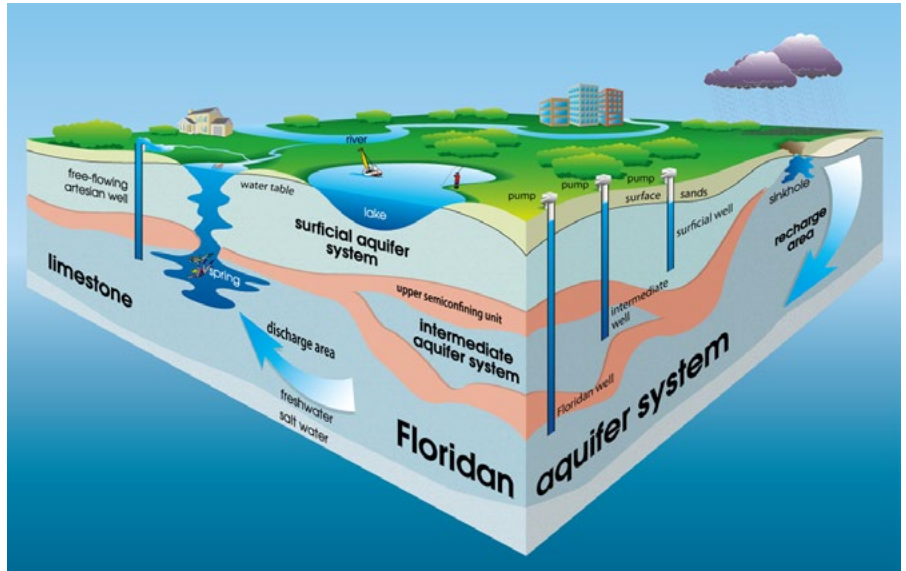
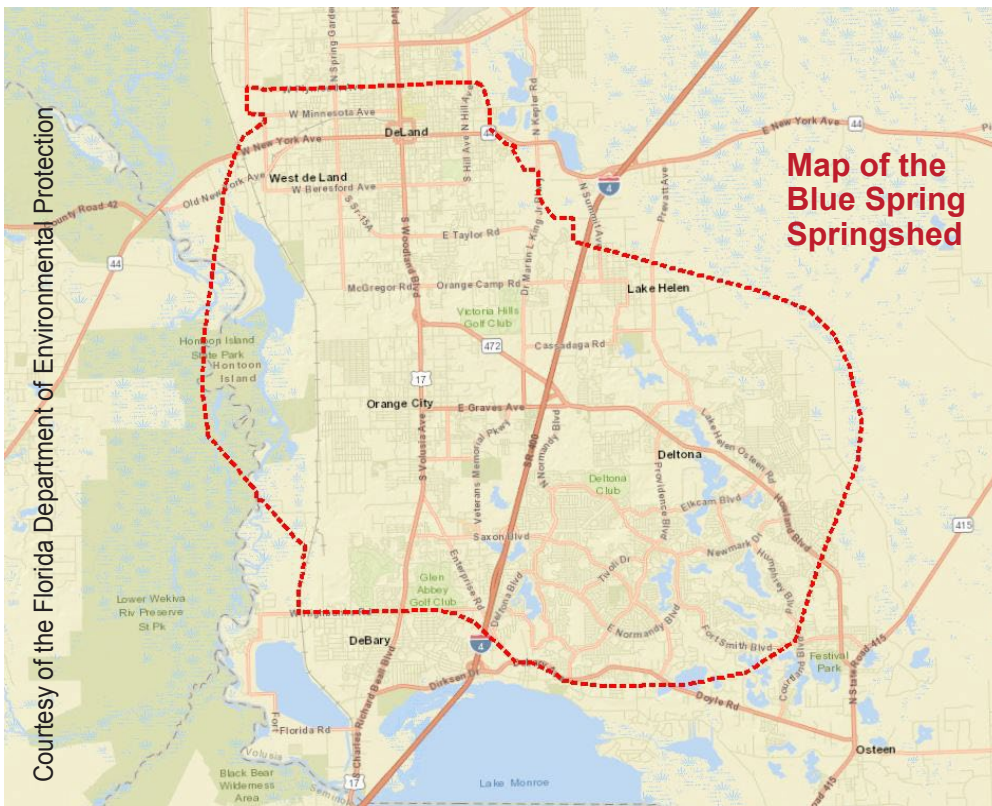


Image courtesy of the St. Johns Water Management District

An important part of the aquifer in our region is the Blue Spring Springshed. A springshed is an area that contributes to the spring flow. The water that flows from Blue Spring comes from rainfall in the 130-square-mile springshed, which encompasses portions of five cities within Volusia County.



The rainfall seeps down into the aquifer and slowly flows through the limestone, before discharging at the spring.

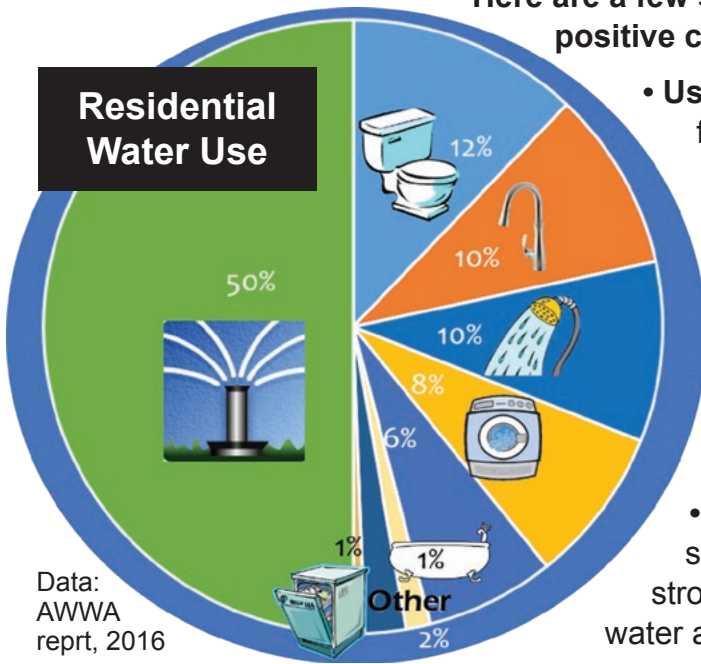
We are fortunate to live near three beautiful springs. Volusia Blue Spring, DeLeon Spring, Green Springs and Gemini Springs. Along the way, the water picks up pollutants that are ultimately discharged at the spring, and that affects the health of the spring run.

As our population continues to grow, our water quality is being negatively impacted due to pollution from fertilizer runoff and septic tanks.

Courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

What happens in a springshed can affect a spring, even if you live or work miles away!

Here are a few simple actions that you can take to effect positive changes for our springshed and springs:



- **Use water responsibly.** 50% of residents' water use is for irrigation. Only water when your plants are showing signs of stress, or when you can see footprints in your lawn. Reducing water use lowers your cost and saves our springs.

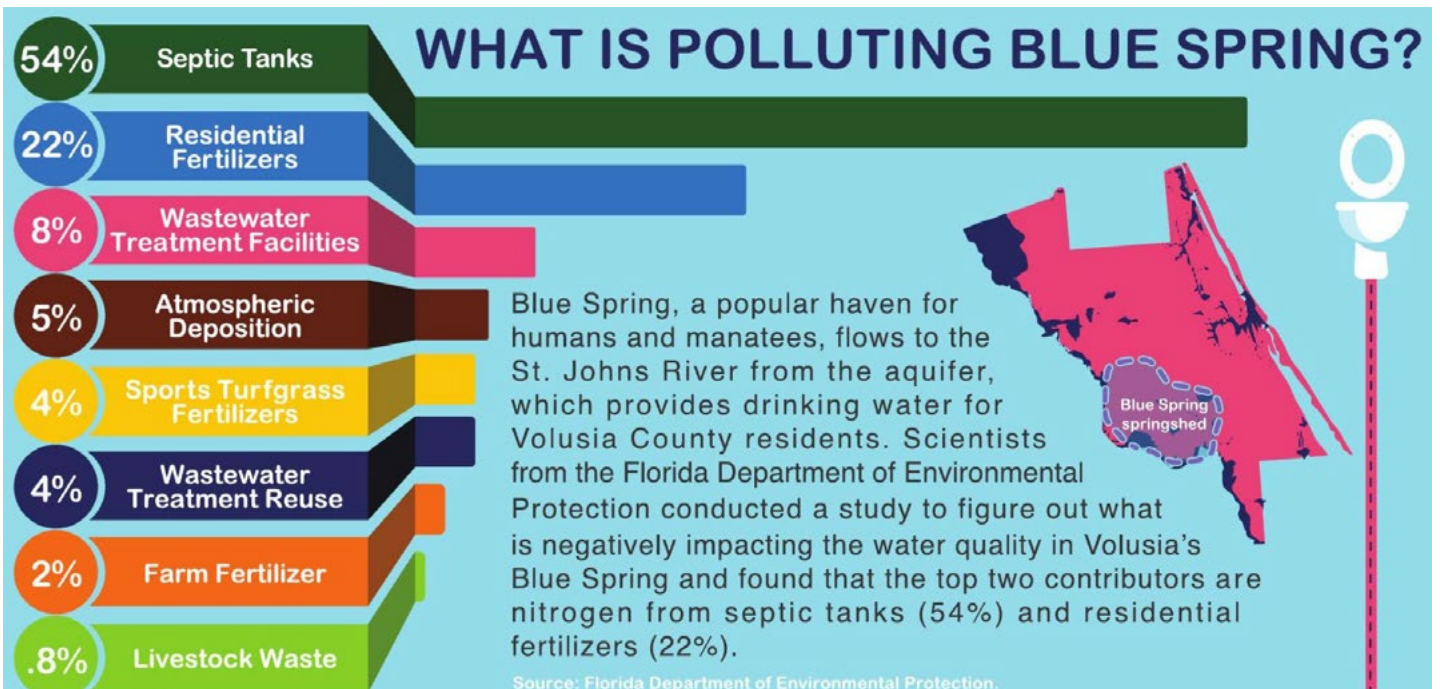
- **Explore sustainable landscaping.** Learn about native and Florida friendly plants that are adapted to Florida's growing conditions and need less water and fertilizer to thrive. Visit BeFloridian-Now.org for more information.

- **Let your grass grow.** Longer grass absorbs more sunlight and grows deeper roots, making your lawn stronger, thicker, and more capable of finding its own water and nutrients in the soil.

- **Follow Volusia County's fertilizer ordinance,** which applies to all homes and businesses in Volusia County, except those in Deltona, which has its own fertilizer ordinance. Remember, what goes on the surface can end up in our water supply. Skip the fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, or consider organic or non-toxic solutions. Visit Volusia.org/BeFloridianNow for more information about how to fertilize like a Floridian.

- **Keep storm drains clear** of yard waste, clippings and other debris. Grass clippings contain nitrogen—free fertilizer for your lawn!

- **Consider your options,** if you are on a septic system. Visit GreenVolusia.org for more information about changing the way you go.



Blue Spring, one of more than a thousand springs in Florida, is the largest spring on the St. Johns River and plays a vital role in the survival of our beloved manatees. Be sure to visit during the winter when manatees leave the St. Johns River for the warm waters of Blue Spring, which maintains a constant 72 degrees F temperature.

Volusia County is a remarkable place to live, work, and play. Enjoy and explore our pristine beaches, beautiful rivers and lakes to boat and kayak, miles of bicycle and jogging trails, preserves and parks to hike and picnic, and sparkling springs to swim and tube. We can all work together to conserve and preserve these amazing natural resources for generations to come.

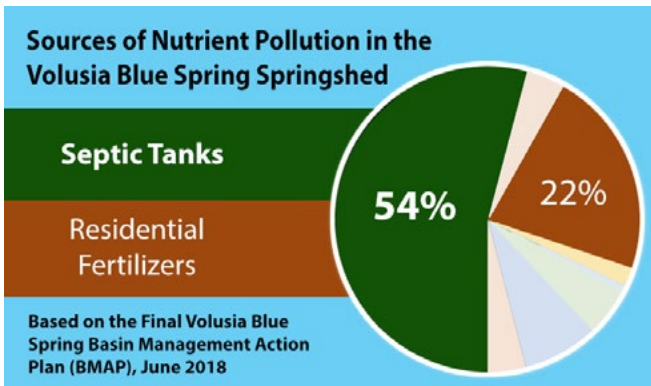
Basin Management Plans (BMAP)

Three springs in Volusia County are covered by BMAPs; Gemini and Deleon have been adopted and Blue Spring is still Pending. To learn more visit floridadep.gov/springs/protect-restore

For more information, or to get involved, please visit VolusiaWater.org.



“Water is the bond we all share, it defines us, and is the magnet that brings people here. It is our duty to protect, conserve, and preserve these precious natural resources.” —Cynthia Barnett



Make a pledge to conserve water and display this yard sign on your property!

We Conserve Water

FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL OUR CHILDREN



50% of our Springs' water is used for residential irrigation!



This project was funded with the help of the **Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida** via proceeds from the "Protect Florida Springs" license plate.

"We Conserve Water" Yard Sign

Limited supply available. Pick up your "We Conserve Water" yard sign at the City of DeLand Public Services Building, 1102 S. Amelia Ave., DeLand. 386-626-7196

Some useful resources to explore:



Volusiawater.org
Gardeningsolutions.IFAS.ufl.edu
Greenvolusia.org
Sjrwmd.com
Marinediscoverycenter.org
Gardenclubofdeland.org
Pawpaw.fnpschapters.org
Lecfriends.com
Westvolusiaaudubon.org
Bluespringalliance.org



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