

Florida Water Management Inventory

September 2015 Update



Project Need

Ensuring safe and clean drinking water supplies and proper treatment and disposal of wastewater is a core value of environmental health. Multiple state and local agencies across Florida gather information about drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods. This type of information is vital for disaster preparedness and response activities, public health evaluations, local planning reviews, and environmental risk assessments.

In the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection's Bureau of Environmental Health efforts focus on protection of public health associated with environmental influences including ensuring safe and clean drinking water supplies and proper treatment and disposal of wastewater.

In support of the mission of the Florida Department of Health for public health protection and integration/coordination efforts, the Bureau of Environmental Health is developing a statewide inventory of drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods.

Partnerships

Collaboration with stakeholders is an essential part of this inventory project. Aside from the Department of Health state and county offices, participating stakeholders include public and private utilities; Florida Departments of Environmental Protection, Business and Professional Regulation, Emergency Management, and Agriculture and Consumer Services; Water Management Districts; Public Service Commission; various county and municipal governments; and many others.

Project Goal

The goal of the Florida Water Management Inventory project is to provide a centralized tool, using a data map, linking each built property in the state to information about the corresponding drinking water source (Public Water or Private Well) and the wastewater treatment method (Central Sewer or Onsite Septic).

Benefits to Florida

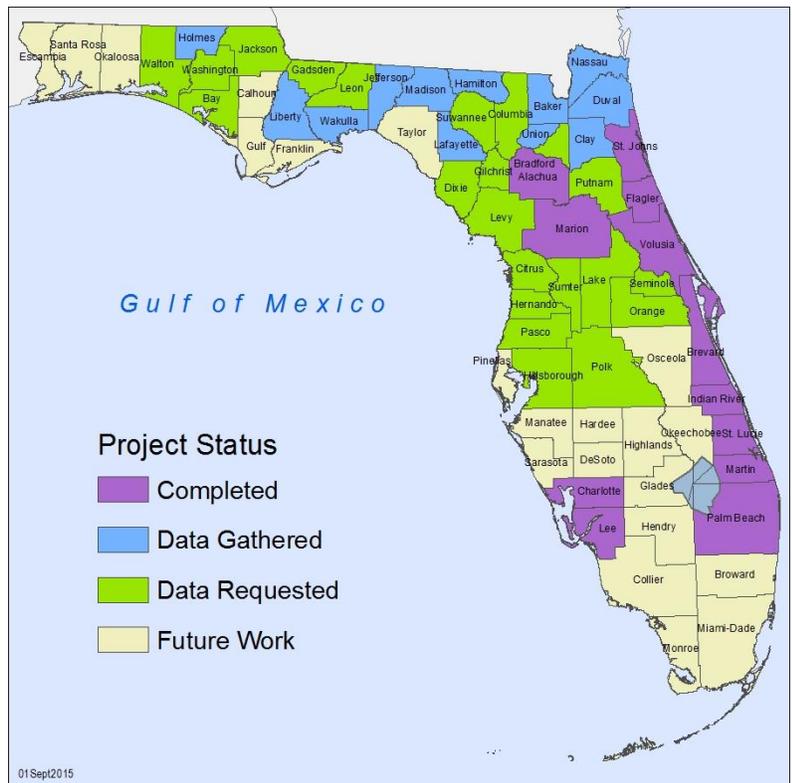
A comprehensive drinking water and wastewater inventory of the approximate 6.5 million developed parcels in Florida will provide many benefits including:

- Enhanced customer service, permitting, development review, and planning activities for state agencies, local government, utilities, citizens, and other interested parties through data sharing. It will also identify redundancies and information gaps for future work.
- Improved disaster preparedness and response activities resulting in accurate estimates of impacts on public health and infrastructure during disasters.
- Centralized web portal of maps and data and consolidated project results, all accessible to the public.
- Aggregated data resource that researchers can use to help evaluate connections between various public health, environmental, or socio-economic factors.
- Enhanced resource for homeowners, home-buyers, realtors and other entities interested in potable water and wastewater services.

Current Status

The project began in April 2014. As of September 2015, mapping and summary reporting is complete for 12 counties and posted on the project website <http://floridahealth.gov/flwmi>. Data gathering is complete for 12 additional counties, data is currently being collected for 22 counties, and 21 counties are planned to start later this calendar year depending on funding.

Due to insufficient funding during June - September, there have been delays in the project. EPA has approved a grant proposal to continue the project through September. A contract between DEP and the Department is being drafted and is anticipated to execute during September 2016.



Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
Bureau of Environmental Health
<http://floridahealth.gov/flwmi>