

Florida Water Management Inventory

September 2016 Update



Project Need

Information about drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods are vital for disaster preparedness and response activities, local planning evaluations, and environmental risk assessments. These activities relate to environmental health and the protection of public health by detecting and preventing disease caused by natural and manmade factors in the environment.

Multiple state and local agencies across the state of Florida gather information about drinking water sources and wastewater treatment methods; however, historic data gathering methods have been fragmented. This results in the lack of readily accessible information to evaluate impacts to Florida's water quality and quantity.

The Florida Department of Health (Department) has developed a centralized comprehensive mapping tool to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

Project Goal

The goal of the Florida Water Management Inventory project is to link each built property in the state to information about the drinking water source type (public water or private well) and the wastewater treatment method (central sewer or onsite sewage).

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.

Benefits to Florida

A comprehensive drinking water and wastewater inventory of the approximate 6.9-million developed parcels in the state of 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.
- Enhanced resource for homeowners, home-buyers, realtors and other entities interested in potable water and wastewater services.
- Centralized web portal of maps and data as well as consolidated project results which will all be accessible to the public.

Current Status

The project began in April 2014. As of September 2016, mapping and summary reporting is complete for all Florida counties and posted on the project website

<http://floridahealth.gov/flwmi>. This project collected data for 91% of the volume of DEP permitted wastewater, and 79% of the DEP permitted drinking water service connections in the state. The study results show that there are approximately 2.1-million onsite wastewater systems in Florida and 680,000 private drinking water wells in Florida. These numbers will be refined as this project continues to acquire and verify new data.



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