

# Press Release: Septic-to-Distributed Sewer Conversion Program

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

City of Apopka Launches New Program with Assistance from The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to Help Protect and Restore our Iconic Springs.

**APOPKA, Fla. November 17, 2020** – The City of Apopka is pleased to announce a new program to help protect and restore our iconic springs. In partnership with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), the City has obtained funding assistance to replace septic tanks with Distributed Sewer. Grant funding assistance will cover 75 to 100% of the installation costs. The program is currently open to residents within the Wekiva Glen subdivision.

“We are happy to partner with St. Johns River Water Management District and other state environmental agencies to look at new technologies that are not only cost-effective but also enhance the water quality of our springs,” said Mayor Bryan Nelson.

Distributed Sewer is a new method of providing sewer service anywhere and without the need to connect to a sewer plant through pipes. This service is provided by the City of Apopka and the treatment unit will be installed and maintained by the City or its contractors. Once installed, the only cost to the homeowner will be a monthly bill comparable to a normal sewer bill. Residents will never again have to worry about septic tank pump-out or drain-field replacement costs. In addition, residents will also be free of maintenance responsibilities and of backups during heavy rains and power outages.

“We are excited to join with the city of Apopka and the state of Florida by providing a funding match to help homeowners take advantage of this opportunity to protect Wekiwa Springs,” said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. “This innovative system will reduce nutrients that can fuel harmful algal blooms and impair water quality in our waterways and our Outstanding Florida Springs.”

The Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (Chapter 373, Part VIII, Florida Statutes [F.S.]), provides for the protection and restoration of Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS), which comprise 24 first magnitude springs, 6 additional named springs, and their associated spring runs. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has assessed water quality in each OFS and determined that 24 of the 30 OFS are impaired for the nitrate form of nitrogen. Wekiwa Spring and Rock Springs are two of the impaired second magnitude OFS.

For questions on the program or if you are interested in signing up, please contact Jeff Littlejohn (850-363-9644 / [jlittlejohn@onsyte.com](mailto:jlittlejohn@onsyte.com)) or Scott Forester (770-356-1067 / [sforester@onsyte.com](mailto:sforester@onsyte.com)) with OnSyte Performance.

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