

DIVE IN

to Preserve and Protect *Our Springs*

New equipment has enhanced the scientific monitoring of this spring and allows for real-time water quality data collection. Data is now collected more frequently with equipment located directly in the spring run. The data provides new and exciting ways for the Suwannee River Water Management District to monitor events and conditions that contribute to water quality changes.

WHAT DATA IS COLLECTED?

The water quality monitoring equipment collects up to seven different types of data. Along with the data listed, the equipment can monitor conductivity, dissolved organic matter and turbidity.

How Monitoring Helps the Health of Our Springs



Nitrate

Nitrate naturally occurs in the environment and is essential for plant growth. Excess nitrate leads to damaging algal growth and comes from sources including animal and human waste.



Temperature

Spring temperature is very consistent throughout the year and provides a stable habitat for plants and animals. Changes in water temperature can be caused by the mixing of spring water and river water when water levels change.



Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is the amount of oxygen in the water and it is “breathed” by underwater plants and animals. If dissolved oxygen falls too low, the organisms in the springs cannot survive.



pH

pH is a measurement on a scale of 0-14 of how acidic (0-6) or basic (8-14) water is, with 7 being neutral. pH is affected by other chemicals in the water and is an easy way to determine if chemical changes are happening.

HOW IS THE DATA USED?

- The water management district uses data to identify patterns in water quality, weather and flow as well as to monitor effectiveness of water quality improvement projects.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection uses water quality data for long-range planning and project development that preserve the health of natural resources while supporting economic growth.
- Florida State Parks like this one use the data to develop their management plans to protect natural resources.
- Scientists and other researchers use the data to better understand the underlying environmental conditions for their specific experiment, project or question.
- Everyone can be a partner in protecting our springs by taking simple actions that go a long way in keeping Florida’s water resources clean and healthy. Visit ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov to learn more.

