

# Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

## Policy No. 19-4

Title: Springs Restoration Grants and Septic System Upgrades Policy

Date Adopted: July 9, 2019

Effective Date: July 9, 2019

Reference: N/A

Policy Superseded: None

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It shall be policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida that a new policy entitled “Springs Restoration Grants and Septic System Upgrades Policy” is hereby adopted, to wit:

### **Section 1. Purpose and Intent**

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide a procedure for expending the Springs Restoration Grant Funds and associated local match for the Septic System Upgrades Program. The use of the Grant Funds and local match are to assist property owners in the Wakulla Springs Priority Focus Area to upgrade existing septic systems to advanced treatment for nitrogen removal in compliance with the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).
- B. The intent of this policy is to develop eligibility and implementation criteria for selection of upgrade sites.

### **Section 2. Program Eligibility**

- A. Eligible properties for consideration of funding are those with existing on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS), also known as septic systems. Funding shall be limited to replacement of the OSTDS supporting existing, currently habitable structures on a parcel of record.
- B. Properties shall be located within Leon County’s portion of the BMAP Priority Focus Area adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- C. Properties shall be located in the unincorporated area of Leon County.

**Section 3.**  
**Program Selection Criteria**

- A. Wilkinson Woods Subdivision. Initial priority shall be given to properties located in the Wilkinson Woods Subdivision as designated in the original grant agreement before soliciting participation from other properties within the Priority Focus Area.
- B. Failing system. Priority shall be given to properties with documented failing OSTDS.
- C. Density of property. Priority shall be given to properties commensurate with the number of existing OSTDS per acre on the parcel of record.
- D. Age of system. Priority shall be given to properties proportionate with the age of the existing OSTDS.

**Section 4.**  
**Program Funding**

- A. Funding from the State of Florida's Springs Restoration Grant for Advanced Septic Systems Pilot Project is to be utilized for the placement of passive treatment systems such as the In-ground Nitrogen-reducing Biofilters.
- B. Future funding is anticipated to be augmented by FDEP allocations for Septic Systems Upgrades. These future grants will require up to 50% local match dollars. Replacement system technology will be selected based on site-appropriateness and cost-effectiveness.

**Section 5.**  
**Program Implementation**

- A. Applications for assistance will be accepted in Fall 2019. They shall be reviewed monthly and prioritized in accordance with Criteria listed in Section 3.
- B. A list of funding requests shall be maintained by staff.
- C. Property owners participating in the Advanced Systems Pilot Project will be requested to agree to a one-year sampling effort by FDEP staff.
- D. System installers will be under direct contract with Leon County, where property owners have granted permission for access.
- E. Operation and maintenance of advanced systems shall be the responsibility of property owners upon completion of the project installation.

*Adopted July 9, 2019*