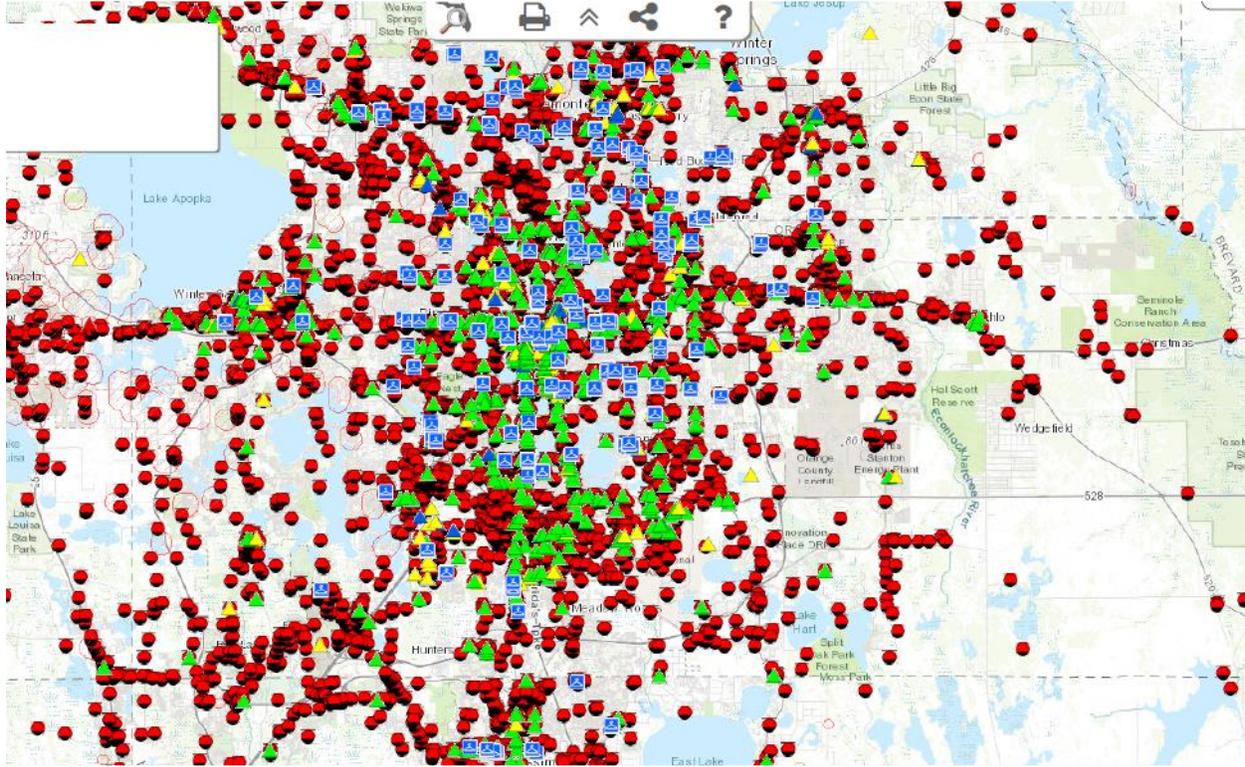


ORLANDO AND ORANGE COUNTY AREA CONTAMINATION MAP



Our Contaminated Waters in Orange County

by Sharon Bramlett

Question? Do you agree we have a right to clean and safe water for drinking, food production, health, sanitation, and ecosystem regeneration? Contaminants are ingested, absorbed through the skin, and stored in all species, including humans and plants, and passed down for generations.

The costs of contaminated water are immense and multigenerational, impacting current and future citizens, current and future water bodies, and ecosystems. We all need to educate ourselves to the importance of safe, clean water source protection.

We enjoy Florida and its natural beauty for camping, swimming, boating, fishing, cooking, and of course bathing and drinking water.

The Florida Department of Health, Orange County, regulates private potable wells, commercial limited use, and community limited use water systems. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulates public water supply systems, based on the Florida Safe Drinking Water Act enacted in 1974. FDEP is responsible for delineation of groundwater contamination, and contaminated areas create greater health risk, higher construction costs, and the necessity to connect to a public water supply. In 1996, the FDEP developed the Safe Water Assessment and Protection Plan (SWAPP) to ensure drinking water is safe at our sources, and at our tap water. The link to more SWAPP info is:

<https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/>

The groundwater creates saturated layers of earth called aquifers, which are the major source of drinking water in Florida. Contaminants of concern are present in groundwater and drinking water from many sources, such as erosion of natural deposits, fertilizers, pesticides, septic systems, agricultural uses, improper disposal of hazardous waste and petroleum compounds, accidental discharges of hazardous chemicals and petroleum compounds, especially fuel storage tanks, drycleaners, stormwater runoff from roads, buildings, lawns, industrial and energy production facilities, and many other sources.

Many citizens are not aware of the immense quantity of contaminants of concern in our groundwater in Orange County, Florida. An example of known contamination of Orange County groundwater is the presence of 81 identified cattle dipping vats, which were used in early 1900s until approximately 1962 to eradicate ticks in cattle and animals, and typically contain arsenic, and other known probable carcinogens such as DDE, DDT, DDD, and toxaphene.

The following FDEP map of contamination monitoring facilities including fuel storage tanks, waste cleanup sites, drycleaner solvent contamination (hanger symbol), and petroleum contamination monitoring is from the Map Direct website for the Orlando area. This map does **NOT** include the contaminant plume, just the facility location. Groundwater flows from the discharge location typically to lower elevations, including rivers, lakes, springs, and some drinking water supply locations.

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER!