



RAINBOW RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

An underwater photograph showing a dense field of green seagrass blades. The water is clear and blue, with light filtering through from the surface, creating a shimmering effect on the plants.

A Proposal to Save the River

One Rake At A Time, a nonprofit founded in 2015, has a long and well documented history of successfully making a difference and cleaning Florida's waterways, one rake at a time. Now we need a bigger rake. Saving the Rainbow River is going to take more than the occasional community raking to undo the decades of decline.

September 2022

About US



It started informally in 2009 when Art Jones got his Leadership Citrus class to rake out Hunters Spring Park. In 2011, the Kings Bay Rotary Club adopted the project to aid in the efforts to restore Kings Bay. By 2015, the nonprofit was officially formed to carry out this important work. For years, this group worked tirelessly to keep Hunters Spring Park beautiful and healthy. Many community events were held and thousands of people volunteered over the years from students at the Environmental Academy, Duke Energy employees, various Rotary Clubs, and college students. This model of community restoration has spread to other communities and waterways throughout Florida.

Our Vision

With the local nonprofit Save Crystal River taking on the restoration project in Kings Bay to great success. Our local nonprofit, One Rake at a Time, can now focus on efforts to cleanup and restore portions of the Rainbow River.

We started our project with volunteers and city staff cleaning up the the city of Dunnellon public beach for the kids. The park had become over grown with invasive hydrilla and Lyngbya algae and needed saving.

Cleanups are still going on and we have encouraged and expanded the hand raking removal of invasive weeds up and down the entire rainbow river. We raised money to hire paid contractors to help in the volunteer efforts because removing hydrilla by hand is extremely labor intensive.

We are ready to take it to the next step with mechanical help to deep clean the river so we can start replanting native eelgrass. This is the long term solution to control the invasion of Hydrilla. Eelgrass, if planted correctly will shade out and out compete the hydrilla so the state can stop having to spray herbicide to kill the Hydrilla every year. Over use of herbicide over the last 30 years has led to a build up of silt, muck and rotting dead Hydrilla on the bottom of the Rainbow River that now needs to be removed. Our goal is to bring the Rainbow river back to the point where herbicides are no longer needed.

Our Mission

to expand our hand raking with mechanical help that will allow us to prepare the bottom of the rainbow river to replant eelgrass where Hydrilla and Lyngbya algae now dominate.



It Can Be Done

The Rainbow River is the beating heart of Dunnellon. It provides recreation, jobs, and habitat for the critters we all love. But that heartbeat is getting weaker. The lower river is dying and the upper river is starting to see signs of stress. There are so many issues affecting this river it may be easy to throw up your hands and say nothing can be done or let someone else deal with it. But we can't sit back and watch our beloved river decline. We can make a difference and it will take everyone who is willing and able to work together. We are proposing a bold plan because we have to start somewhere. So many of the current plans in place aren't an actual hands on cleaning and replanting plan.

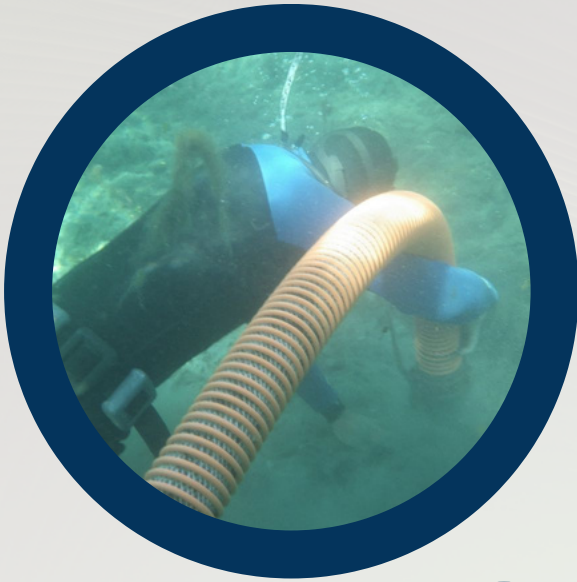


The River needs be repaired, then the river can regenerate. We can improve water quality by removing the decades of dead plants from herbicide applications from the bottom of this river.

Join us in our mission to save the Rainbow for future generations. Let's do it for ourselves, the kids, the otters, and the entire river.

Visit: OneRakeAtATime.org

Restoration is as easy as 1-2-3



It may seem daunting to see a river in trouble and wonder what can be done to save it. It's easy to say we need more studies before we address the problem but that just puts off restoration for later and allows the river to keep dying. There already have been many studies showing what the problems are. We have a proven plan that has been proven successful

1. Remove

The first thing that needs to be done is to remove the Hydrilla, Lyngbya algae, and muck. It's that simple. Divers can hand vacuum it off the bottom strategically and carefully.

2. Replant

Once the bottom is clean, and the clean bottom is exposed, native plants will be installed. They are nursery grown to prevent wild harvest from elsewhere and ensure they are healthy and free of pests.

3. Maintain

Spot maintenance will be performed as needed to address any muck that may wash downstream.

A Proven Method

Native eelgrass will outcompete and shade out Hydrilla and Lyngbya algae and become the dominant SAV again. All the state agencies are well aware of it and its benefits and its long term success.



Hydrilla has Invaded

It's green and growing so what's the problem...

Hydrilla is a horrible invasive and is a real problem to the Florida ecosystem. This plant is out-competing our native plants. It grows so dense and tall it's choking our waterways and impedes navigation.

Thousands of dollars are being spent to spray chemicals in our waterways to fight this. This is not the solution. There is a better way.

Removing the muck and restoring the eelgrass beds will prevent the hydrilla from coming back, which means there won't be a need to use chemicals. It's a win-win.

This is the beginning of a 5-year project to clean up and restore the Rainbow River and together we can make a lasting impact on our community for generations to come.

Please help us get this hands-on project going. We have a proven plan and just need money to hire an experienced contractor to vacuum up all the silt and muck and plant eel grass.

The otters, our kids, and all those that call the river home, will be grateful.



Jelly polymers left in the bottom of the River after spraying herbicides. They can last more than 6 months.

A River in decline

All of the major water and environmental agencies have data showing the river is struggling. This restoration will help each one of these plans meet their targeted goals. There is no downside to removing invasives and muck at a large scale that has already been successfully done by raking.



Copies of all of these reports are available at:
<https://onerakeatatime.org/rainbow-river-restoration/science>

SWIM Plan	BMAP	TMDL	Springs Inst.
<p>Sets targets for restoration goals</p> <p>These targets help develop and prioritize management actions</p> <p>Focuses on nitrogen, water quantity issues, and to restore/maintain habitat</p>	<p>Focuses on reducing Nitrogen from entering the groundwater</p> <p>Prioritizes stormwater education, wastewater, and small farm equine BMP initiatives</p>	<p>Total Maximum Daily Loads establishes the allowable level of nutrient</p> <p>This study shows that an 82% reduction of nitrate is needed</p> <p>Provides water quality restoration goals</p>	<p>This aggressive plan has outlined some massive changes that can be implemented to protect the springs.</p> <p>Reducing ground water withdrawals by 60% and limiting human use of the river are two of the main proposals</p>

None of these plans have a hands-on cleanup and replanting element.

Surface Water Improvement Plan

This plan was created to "identify actions needed to improve and protect the Rainbow River".

"The Springs Coast Steering and Management Committee's mission is to build consensus and partnerships to restore and protect our Springs Coast through effective implementation of system specific, scientifically sound, and community-based management plans."

"Although submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation communities are currently healthy in the upper reaches of the river, there are concerns that the future of these communities may be at risk. While native SAV (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation), such as Sagittaria and Vallisneria form extensive meadows in the upper river, they are less abundant in the middle reaches of the river and greatly reduced in the lower river. In the lower river, where native grasses are scarce, Hydrilla and Lyngbya, a filamentous algae, are more common."

"In 2010, the FDEP placed two segments of the Rainbow River, Rainbow Springs Group (WBID 1320A) and Rainbow Springs Group Run (WBID 1320B), on the Verified List of impaired waters for the Withlacoochee Basin (Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.) because of ecological imbalances caused by excessive nitrate. ...The FDEP TMDL target will require an 82% reduction in nitrate concentration in both WBID segments to meet the TMDL"

The strategies in the SWIM plan highlight targets that can be reached for long term improvement in the water quality and ecosystem, but does nothing to tackle the damage that has already taken place.

Additionally, while the Natural Resource portion of the plan places significant efforts to restore and replant vegetation, there is no documented strategy in the SWIM plan as to how this will be accomplished.

Water Quality	Target
Water clarity in the river	>100 feet ¹
Nitrate concentration in the springs and river	<0.35 mg/L ²
Water Quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river system	TBD in 2016 ³
Natural Systems	
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the river	>65% ⁴
Coverage of invasive aquatic vegetation (hydrilla/filamentous algae) in the river	<10% ⁴

¹ Based on Anastasiou 2006 and average river-wide data presented in Table 3

² FDEP 2013 - Nutrient TMDL for Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow Springs Group Run

³ SWFWMD 2015 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

⁴ Based on data presented in Table 4 from the 2011 Rainbow River Vegetation Evaluation (Table 4 and DCWI 2012)

Our project will help the SWIM plan implement its goals through partnership and the best available science.



Habitat Restoration - Revegetation	
Install and maintain desirable submerged aquatic vegetation where appropriate	SWFWMD/FFWCC/Local/Residents/NGO
Install and maintain emergent aquatic vegetation where appropriate	SWFWMD/FFWCC/Local/Residents/NGO
Investigate ways for permit exemptions and for streamlined permitting pathways for appropriate revegetation projects	SWFWMD/FFWCC/FDEP/USACE
Habitat Restoration - Living Shorelines	
Install living shorelines where appropriate	SWFWMD/FFWCC/Local/Residents
Install and properly maintain floating wetland systems where appropriate	SWFWMD/FFWCC/Local/Residents
Develop a homeowners guide to living shorelines	SWFWMD/FFWCC/Local
Investigate ways for permit exemptions and for streamlined permitting pathways for appropriate living shoreline projects	SWFWMD/FFWCC/FDEP/USACE

Basin Management Action Plan

This plan is a phased approach and will continue until the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of nitrogen is met. In the Rainbow Springs there needs to be an 82% reduction in nitrogen to meet the TMDL goals.

"The phased BMAP approach allows for incrementally reducing loadings through the implementation of management actions, while simultaneously monitoring and conducting studies to better understand water quality dynamics (sources and response variables) in each impaired waterbody. In subsequent five-year management cycles, progress will be evaluated and adjustments made or new projects added, as needed, to meet the TMDL. ...Phased implementation is particularly important in ground water systems because of "legacy" nitrogen already in ground water. A legacy source contributes to the continuing rise in nitrate concentrations, but the source entered the aquifer as a result of past land use practices. The response of ground water-driven systems to changes in land use or practices is typically slower than surface water-driven systems and can be on the order of years or decades. This lag time in response to reductions in nitrate loading by changes in practices is one of the factors that should be considered when evaluating the success of management actions."

"ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF BMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Through the implementation of the wastewater, stormwater education, and small farm equine BMP initiatives, other projects and activities listed in this BMAP, and future NSILT source assessment, stakeholders expect the following outcomes:

- Decreased concentration of nitrate in Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow Springs Group Run.
- Decreased loading of nitrogen to the UFA.
- Improved coordination and communication between state and local governments and between all levels of government and the community.
- Improved project selection and targeted project implementation through the use of the Guiding Principles and the NSILT.
- Enhanced public awareness and understanding of the impacts of nitrogen loading on Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow Springs Group Run."

Our project will provide actionable steps that will aid the BMAP by increasing native aquatic plants, reducing nitrates by removing muck, and provide a wonderful example of public/private partnerships- all goals of this plan



Education and Outreach	R035	Rainbow River Vegetation Education	SWFWMD	Funding helped develop DVDs, brochures, and posters describing the value of aquatic vegetation to the sustainability of the aquatic community and recommending proper etiquette of river use.	Rainbow River Conservation	2010	Complete	2010
Education and Outreach	R040	Blue Run Aquatic Planting	SWFWMD	Approximately 30 volunteers learned how aquatic plants help filter stormwater and participated in planting at Blue Run.	Marion County Parks and Recreation; Rainbow River Conservation	2009	Complete	2009
Education and Outreach	R044	Aquatic Vegetation Video	SWFWMD	A 10-minute video showing the value of submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation in the Rainbow Springs Aquatic Preserve and the impact of recreational use on vegetation.	Paul Marraffino; Tracy Colson	2009	Complete	2009

The BMAP recognizes the importance of SAV but only addresses this in a very limited way. The plan has no large-scale habitat restoration goals.

Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load

"The TMDL establishes the allowable level of nutrient loadings to Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow Springs Group Run that would restore these waterbodies so that they meet their applicable water quality criterion for nutrients. This report will be used as the basis for discussions during the development of the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)."

"Nitrate concentrations in water samples from Rainbow Springs Group now often exceed 2 mg/L. Long-term records indicate that nitrate concentrations at Rainbow Springs have increased from a concentration of < 0.1 mg/L in 1927, to concentrations that now often exceed 2.0 mg/L, or 20 times the historical level. Additionally, Department data show that current nitrate levels in Rainbow Springs are 40 times the background level of 0.05 mg/L found in many of Florida's springs."

"A study of the Rainbow Springs catchment concluded that the predominant source of nitrate in the springs was fertilizer. Jones et al. (1996) estimated that fertilizer, principally from improved pastures, provided about 46% of the total potential contribution of nitrogen to Rainbow Springs."

"Atmospheric deposition was also identified as an important potential nitrogen source (~17% of the total input) (Jones et al. 1996)."

Most of the Rainbow Springshed is classified as vulnerable. Every effort is needed to help protect this river and watershed. However, even if we stopped all fertilizer tomorrow it would still take 10-20 years to see that reduction in the Rainbow River.

The Rainbow River Restoration Project will help the Rainbow River meet the TMDLs for nitrogen by removing millions of tons of nitrogen and nutrient rich muck from the bottom of the waterways which will help remove those legacy nutrients.



FINAL TMDL Report: Withlacoochee Basin, Rainbow Springs Group and Rainbow Springs Group Run (WBIDs 1320A and 1320B), Nutrients, January 15, 2013

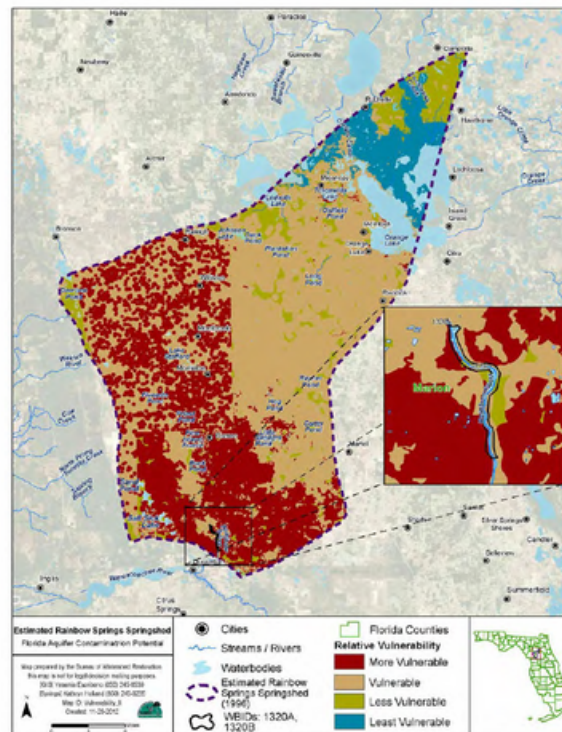


Figure 1.7. Aquifer Vulnerability in the Estimated Rainbow Springs Springshed

Florida Springs Institute Report

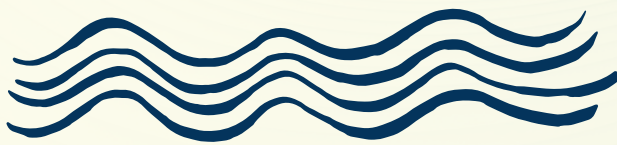
"The Rainbow Springs System has received numerous regulatory protections including recognition as a National Natural Landmark, designation as an Outstanding Florida Water, inclusion in a Florida Aquatic Preserve, and State Park status. Despite this recognition and regulation, the Rainbow Springs System has had significant degradation in the last 50 years due to agricultural, urban, and industrial development in the surrounding springshed."

"The Rainbow Springs Restoration Action Plan calls for significant changes in human activities both within the springshed and in the entire Floridan Aquifer System. Existing estimates of the regional groundwater balance indicate that current permitted groundwater uses are excessive and severely damaging to aquifer levels and spring flows. The only practical way to provide comprehensive springs flow restoration throughout North Florida is to reduce the total quantity of groundwater that is being pumped. An overall reduction of 60% or more from current pumping rates will likely be required to restore springs to healthy flow rates."

"Recreational activities in the Rainbow Springs System need to be limited to a human carrying capacity that is based on resource protection. Specific recommendations include restricting motor boats on the river with engines over 10 horsepower, dividing the river into separate use zones for diving and boating, reducing the number of entry and exit points to eliminate shore damage and hardening those ingress and egress locations, and implementing more effective public use education."

This plan lays out some pretty drastic changes that would need to happen to restore these rivers back to the goal of their state pre-1960s. While this is an amazing goal, it can be very difficult to implement. Furthermore, while it addresses the need for better water quality it doesn't address any legacy damage in the form of muck and invasive species.

Our project will help the Springs Institute in their goals to see a healthier and cleaner river. We will increase SAV, decrease algae, reduce the need for herbicides, and create more fish habitat - all part of their springs report card system



Goals

- Reduce regional groundwater extractions by 50 percent or more as needed to restore average spring flows to 95 percent of their historic levels;
- Reduce nitrogen loading to springsheds from fertilizer and human/animal wastewater disposal by 50 to 90 percent as needed to consistently achieve Florida's springs nitrate numerical nutrient standard of 0.35 mg/L;
- Eliminate or mitigate structural alterations affecting springs health;
- Curtail the widespread use of herbicides for aquatic plant control in springs and spring run ecosystems, and
- Determine and enforce human carrying capacities for publicly-owned springs and reduce recreational impacts as needed to maintain springs ecological health.

FSI Springs Report Cards

Spring/Year:	Flow	Clarity	Nitrate	Faunal Prod/SAV	Spring Cond. Index/Algae	Fish Biomass	Photo Eff.	Overall Grade
Ichetucknee (2008)	A	B+	D+	B	D-	n.d.	n.d.	B-
Ichetucknee (2016)	D	B-	D	F	n.d.	B	C	C-
Rainbow (2009)	D+	A+	F	n.d.	A-	C-	B-	C+
Rainbow (2016)	F	B	F	C	n.d.	D	C+	C-
Silver (2009)	F	A+	F	n.d.	C+	C+	B-	C+
Silver Glen (2009)	C-	A-	A+	n.d.	C-	B	C+	B-
Wakulla (2016)	A	D	C	D	n.d.	F	B	C

Our Rainbow River Restoration Plan

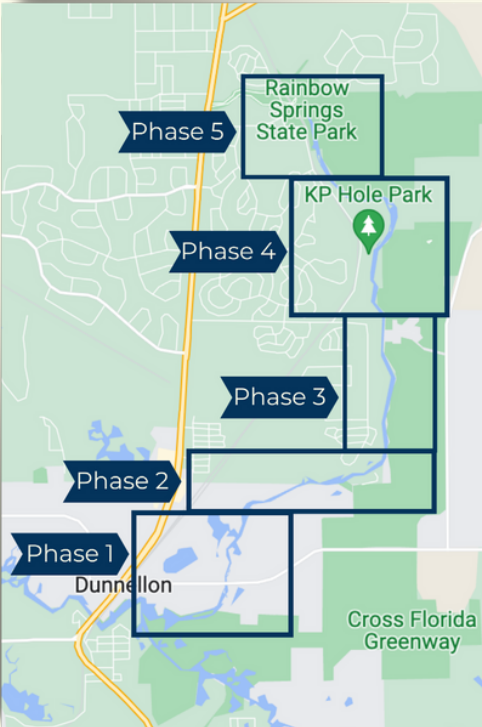
Our plan aims to eventually restore all of the Rainbow River. Right now we are focused on Phase 1.

First we need to do a detailed survey to apply for the permits needed. This will permit 25 acres for restoration from the Withlacoochee to the bridge to start.

Once we have the permits we will seek funding for restore these most critical 25 acres.

Then when we've shown just how successful this restoration is we can move our focus up river, targeting individual areas that need restoration.

Restoration includes removing the muck, replanting appropriate native vegetation, installing shoreline stabilization projects if needed, and addressing the issues caused by old phosphate pits such as blue cove.



Phase 1: The First 25 Acres

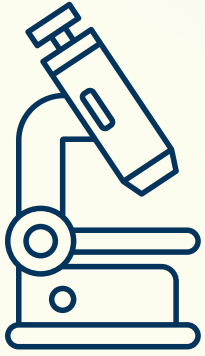
Note: During the survey and permitting of the first 25 acres a plan to address the islands in the river will be determined.



How are we going to do this?

We have a simple, actionable plan that will show immediate and lasting results. We can keep studying the problem and talking about how to fix it - or we can dive in "one rake at a time" and tackle this problem while simultaneously supporting all of these other long term efforts. Doing something is better than letting the river decline further while we wait for another study.





1. Survey

Before any work can begin, a detailed technical survey and engineered drawings must be completed in order to be 'shovel-ready' to apply for permits. This survey involves performing survey transects across the river at regular intervals. In these transects all kinds of data is collected than detailed profiles of the river bottom are drawn..

SAV

Any existing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation is identified, mapped using sub-meter accurate GPS, as well as a quantitative assessment that includes: abundance, species composition, percent coverage, canopy height, epiphyte coverage, and general observations

Sediment

The composition of the river bottom is mapped. This allows the biologists to know how much muck needs to be removed.

Benthic

Any other important benthic resources are mapped

Invasives

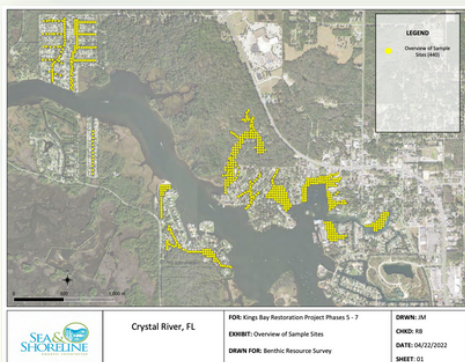
Presence of invasive/ nuisance algae is mapped

Water Quality

Water quality parameters including pH, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and benthic level Photosynthetic Active Radiation (PAR)

Work Plan

A detailed quote on costs of cleaning the river so we find funding and start working



Examples of the types of data needed to apply for the permits

2. Permits

These permits are incredibly complex and address every issue ranging from turbidity, water quality, and impacts to wildlife and the community.



To see the Kings Bay Restoration Project DEP permits visit: (see 5/11 permit application).



OFW

Because the Rainbow River is designated an Outstanding Florida Waterway, this sets the level of acceptable turbidity to 0 NTUs above background. What this means is we cannot create any additional turbidity to the river. Turbidity curtains are placed around our work areas to prevent this.

Methodology

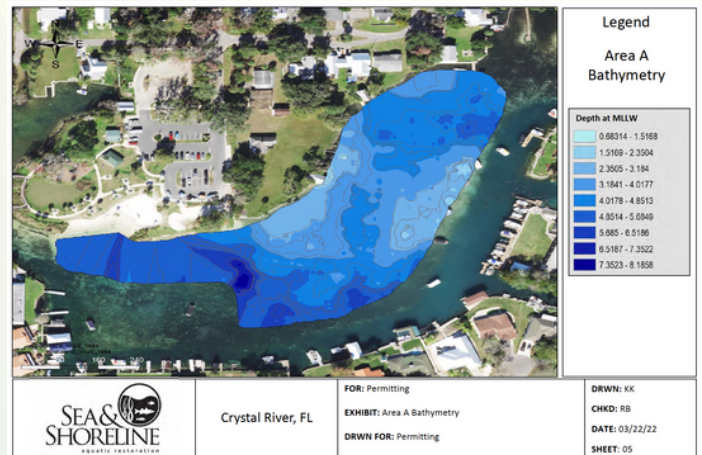
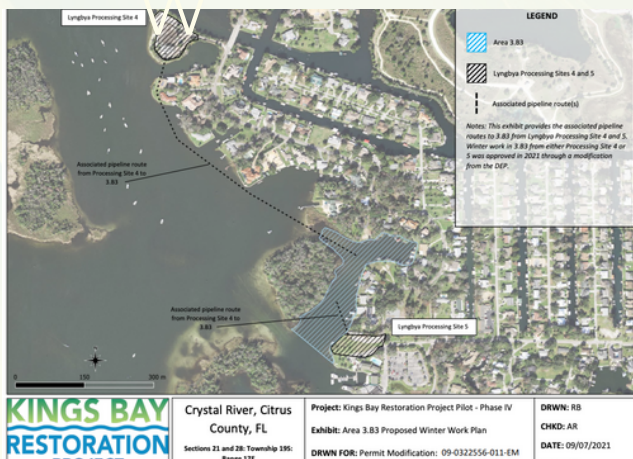
Every step of this project needs to be detailed, from what kind/size vacuum will be used to where the muck will be disposed of

Planting

During the permitting phase we need to figure out how many plants will be installed, what kind of planting unit, and where they will be planted

Monitoring

DEP has a set schedule that needs to be followed to monitor the restoration, typically for 3 years.



Examples of technical drawings needed for permits



3. Funding

The Florida Legislature just awarded us the needed to conduct the surveys and submit the permits.

Now that the cost of the permit is covered, we need to raise funds to provide things like community outreach and education, continue hand raking until we have the funds to start this large scale restoration, and to keep working to raise the \$25M. This project will bring in millions of dollars worth of restoration efforts to this community and will have wide ranging ecological and economic benefits. Showing we have matching funds for grant applications is crucial for obtaining future funding.

Potential Sources of Funding

- BP Oil Spill RESTORE Funds
- DEP Springs Restoration Funds
- Legislative Appropriations
- Federal and Private Grants
- Other foundations and non-profits
- Community donations
- Street fairs, music events, and bake sales

\$137,415 Awarded 9/7/22 by the Florida Legislature

\$1.5M Needed for the first 3 acres to get the project started (this is approximately a year's worth of work)

\$11M The estimated cost of restoring the remaining 22 acres

\$30M Once we complete the first 25 acres we will have a better sense of how much it will cost to restore the whole river.

4. Contracts



In order to work in Florida's waterways we will need an agreement with DEP or the granting agency. This regulates how the work is carried out, how expenses are reimbursed, and that all work and reports meet their high standards.

Tasks

Each task to be completed will be listed, along with the deliverables that will be provided, the documentation of the completion of each task, and the performance standards that need to be met.

Reimbursement

Work must be completed and documented to state standards before payments are reimbursed. Where appropriate, granting agencies can provide a small portion of funds in advance to get the project started, then the rest is issued upon completion of each task.

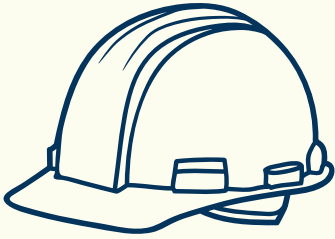
Project Evaluation Study

An independent, third party study will be completed to document biological diversity as well as to perform a stratified ground-truthing of benthic habitat conditions post removal of algal detrital material to ensure work is done properly.

Audit

Any project that receives over \$750,000 must have a single or program-specific audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F (Federal Standards) or Florida Statute 215.97

5. Restoration



This is where the fun begins! Now that this rigorous permitting process is complete, we will begin the actual work. We will work with the City of Dunnellon to find an appropriate work site (such as next to the existing waste water treatment facility or other out of the way place).

Vacuum

Divers will manually remove the muck off the bottom with a 3 inch hose. Muck is hydraulically pumped onto land.

De-Watering

Once on land the water is filtered, a polymer is added, and then put into a geo-tube bag. This special bag traps all the organic particles and lets clean water out.

Clean Water

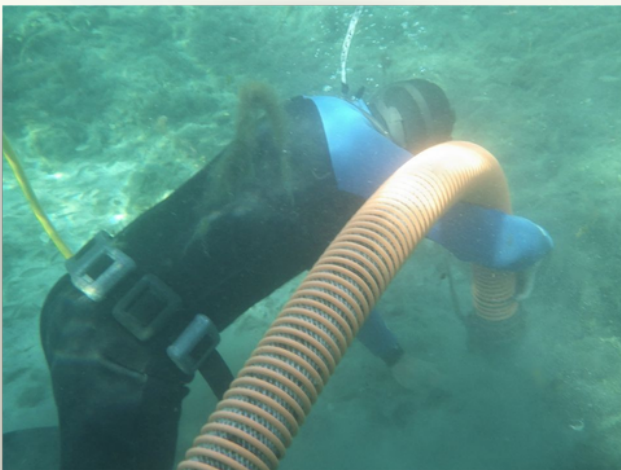
Is piped back to the river. A turbidity curtain is placed around the outfall pipe.

Re-plant

Plants will be installed either by hand or mechanically using a specialized boat in shallow areas.

Maintain

Divers will check on the plants and spot clean as needed monthly



Hand Vacuuming



Hand Planting

Muck Processing



Once the vacuumed muck is pumped on land, the material is first separated of large debris using a settling tank. Then it is pumped into large bags where a water safe, biodegradable polymer is added to capture all the organic particles (including the nutrients in that muck). This is then pumped into a special filter bag that traps the muck and organic material, and allows the water to seep out. Then this crystal clear water is returned to the river cleaner than when it came out.

Take a virtual tour

Several years ago Friends with Fins, an educational children's show, did an episode on the Kings Bay Restoration Project. Watch this short video to see how the process works.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANb_Bh8NOGE





Thanks to the nonprofit Save Crystal River's extensive bid process in 2018, DEP is satisfied with the selection of Sea & Shoreline. Since this will be the exact process in a new location we can piggyback off this RFQ just as another nonprofit, the Homosassa River Restoration Project, did.

Sea & Shoreline was found to be the only qualified vendor to complete a precision aquatic restoration project, with very minimal disruption to the community and an amazing success rate of all their projects. Since we are measuring success of this project in the survival of eelgrass we can't just hire any old dredging company. We need their experience and expertise to ensure our project sees the same success..

To Learn More Visit:

<https://seaandshoreline.com/>



Jim Anderson
Founder/Partner

Jim has developed and patented several subaquatic restoration technologies and has worked with the USACE, NOAA, FDEP, FWC/FWRI, and others to explore options for reversing seagrass losses

Carter Henne
PARTNER/PRESIDENT

He is a native Floridian with a passion for creating self-sustaining natural aquatic habitats through education and scientifically proven restoration methods.



Jeff Huenink
PARTNER/CEO

Jeff joined Sea & Shoreline after successful careers in business and the Florida State Legislature. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Marketing

Letters of Support



CITY OF DUNNELLO

20750 River Drive
Dunnellon, FL 34431
(352) 465-8500
FAX (352) 465-8505

April 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Dunnellon City Council representing the citizens of the City of Dunnellon, Florida, USA, in a unanimous vote of five on April 8, 2019, declared that it fully supported the efforts of Art Jones and his 501c3 organization; "One Rake at a Time, Inc." to apply for and hopefully obtain any available grant opportunities to help with the cleanup and restoration efforts in the Rainbow River.

The Dunnellon City Council fully supports the issuances of all permits necessary for the removal of invasive weeds and algae and replanting of native eelgrass in areas where it belongs in order to restore fish and wildlife habitat, along with improving water clarity and reducing nutrient pollution.

Sincerely,


Dale Burns
Mayor



CITY OF DUNNELLO

20750 RIVER DRIVE
DUNNELLO, FL 34431
(352) 465-8500
FAX (352) 465-8500


July 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Dunnellon City Council representing the citizens of the City of Dunnellon, Florida, USA, in a unanimous consensus on July 6, 2022, declared that it fully supported the efforts of Art Jones and his 501c3 organization; "One Rake at a Time, Inc." to apply for and hopefully obtain any available grant opportunities to help with the cleanup and restoration efforts in the Rainbow River.

The Dunnellon City Council fully supports the issuances of all permits necessary for the removal of invasive weeds and algae and replanting of native eelgrass in areas where it belongs in order to restore fish and wildlife habitat, along with improving water clarity and reducing nutrient pollution.

Sincerely,


William P. White
Mayor



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

Visitors and Convention Bureau

109 W Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34475
Phone: 352-438-2800
Fax: 352-438-2801



October 5, 2022

One Rake at a Time
12163 Palmetto Way
Dunnellon, FL 34432

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rainbow River is one of our crown jewels in beautiful Marion County and is enjoyed by guests and residents alike. Visiting this breathtaking body of water is an integral part of many family traditions.

As such, the Tourist Development Council is supportive of the Rainbow River Restoration Project initiated by the nonprofit, One Rake At A Time, Inc. This project to clean and restore the Rainbow River is important to the county's environmental and economic health. We fully support their efforts to apply for the appropriate grants and permits needed to carry out this work that will improve the water quality and health of the river.

Restoration efforts have the potential to ensure that our community and the guests we invite continue to experience this important natural resource in its healthiest state, while safeguarding the economic vitality it will continue to bring to the local economy in Dunnellon and Marion County.

We appreciate your consideration in advance and thank you for anything you can do to help with this very important initiative.

Respectfully,

Loretta Shaffer, CPM, CDME
Tourism Development Director
Ocala/Marion County Visitors and Convention Bureau



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

McPherson Governmental Campus

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

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District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Jeff Gold, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Chairman
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

October 18, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Marion County is blessed with numerous examples of natural beauty throughout the county, and the Rainbow River is no exception. Its picturesque views and clear waters attract thousands of visitors from all over the county, state, country, and globe. They come to the river to swim, tube, kayak, or simply bask in its scenic beauty.

In addition to enjoying the beauty, visitors to the Rainbow River also have a positive economic impact on the area as well. In order to keep the river in a condition for it to be enjoyed by this and future generations of nature lovers, Marion County supports One Rake at a Time, Inc. and its Rainbow River Restoration Project. This project will have a positive impact on the river's health and allow it to thrive.

On behalf of Marion County, its Board of County Commissioners, and its residents, we offer our support of One Rake at a Time, Inc.'s independent Rainbow River Restoration Project. In doing so we affirm our commitment to being good stewards of Marion County's natural resources.

Very respectfully,

Carl Zalak III, Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator

SAVE THE RAINBOW RIVER RIVER

*From
This*



*To
This*

...before it is just a memory



[OneRakeAtATime.org](https://www.OnerakeAtATime.org)



 **One**
Rake At
A Time

“As we clean up our
springs we will
become twice as
motivated to stop
polluting them”
- Art Jones

THANK
YOU

