

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Do I have to adopt an entire lake?

A. Due to the sheer size of many of Lake County's lakes, volunteers will be asked to only adopt a section of shoreline.

Q. How many people does a volunteer group need?

A. The simple answer is as many as it takes. It is recommended that you involve enough people to make the shoreline cleanups, water-quality monitoring and/or educational activities manageable.

Q. What is in it for me?

A. With your organization's name on an Adopt-a-Lake sign or the County's Web site, you will be recognized as a community member who takes action.

Q. Can a sign say whatever we want it to?

A. No, signs are generally for the name of those conducting the cleanups. The intention is to recognize you, not your message.

Q. Can I place the official sign wherever I want?

A. The sign will be placed at the discretion of the Lake County Department of Environmental Services.

Q. Which lakes are eligible for adoption?

A. Any lake listed on the Lake County Water Atlas (www.lake.wateratlas.org) is eligible for adoption.



LAKE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

13130 County Landfill Road
Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: (352) 253-1659

www.lakecountyfl.gov
keyword: adopt



WATERSHED ACTION VOLUNTEERS
St. Johns River Water Management District

A Program of the St. Johns River Water
Management District

107 N. Lake Ave., Tavares, FL 32778
Phone: (352) 343-3777, ext. 88

www.sjrwmd.com/education/wav/

*Helping to protect, preserve and
restore Lake County's lakes.*



LAKE COUNTY ADOPT-A-LAKE PROGRAM

Lake County
Department of Environmental Services

Sign up to volunteer:

(352) 253-1659

www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: adopt

GET INVOLVED

Organizations or individuals interested in the Lake County Adopt-a-Lake Program may become involved by contacting the Lake County Department of Environmental Services (352-253-1659) or by submitting a request form online at www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: adopt.

A packet of materials will be sent to each interested party. Included in the packet is a list of program procedures, safety guidelines, policy for sign recognition and an application.

The Adopt-a-Lake Program is a volunteer program that is similar in some aspects to an adopt-a-road program. The Adopt-a-Lake Program encourages local civic organizations, individuals and fraternal and business groups to adopt a segment of a lake's shoreline. Unlike an adopt-a-road program where litter cleanup is the sole component, the Lake County Adopt-a-Lake Program is comprised of three separate components: Water-Quality Monitoring, Education and Pollution Prevention.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Lake County Adopt-a-Lake Program helps to preserve and enhance the County's lakes. Volunteers can elect which components of the program best fit their desired level of participation.

Water Quality Monitoring

The water quality monitoring component requires volunteers to perform field testing and the collection of water quality samples. Staff at the Lake County Water Resource Laboratory analyzes the samples, adding the data to a collection of information available on the Lake County Water Atlas at www.lake.wateratlas.org. Volunteers receive training in water-quality testing by Lake County and St. Johns River Water Management District. The minimum volunteer commitment for this component is four samples annually, one per quarter; however, a monthly sample schedule is preferred.

Education

The education component requires volunteers to take an integral role in alerting residents of how their daily activities can affect the water quality of lakes in their community. Through distributing brochures and speaking at neighborhood meetings, volunteers of the Adopt-a-Lake program will help other residents understand proper lakefront and shoreline practices, such as identifying beneficial and nuisance aquatic vegetation, how fertilizers and septic tanks can harm lakes, and the certain regulations regarding shoreline activities, including creating a beach and building a dock. The minimum volunteer commitment for this component is twice annually.

Pollution Prevention

The pollution prevention component requires volunteers to remove and properly dispose of litter from a portion of the lake's shoreline. Participants will be supplied with the necessary equipment and safety procedures for this activity. A secondary activity to this component is to maintain a fishing line (monofilament) recycling station in the adopted area. The minimum volunteer commitment for this component is 12 times annually. Participation in an annual county-wide cleanup event is also encouraged.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners enacted an Adopt-a-Lake Ordinance on January 22, 2008. The purpose of the program is to involve the public to assist with the effort of protecting, preserving and restoring Lake County's most prized natural resource, its hundreds of freshwater lakes.

Volunteers participating in the program save the taxpayers of Lake County countless dollars in shoreline cleanup and lake monitoring costs. By adopting a portion of a lake, civic and other nonprofit organizations help to generate pride in their community and create economic benefits to all citizens of Lake County.

