

Golf Course Requirements in Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)

Questions (Q) and Answers (A) Summary

October 27, 2025, via GoTo Webinar

1:00 pm – 2:16 pm EDT

Attendees

Donald Abell, Tara Golf & Country Club
Bill Balash, Barefoot Bay Recreation District
Evelyn Becerra, DEP
Paul Belansky, Indian River Club
Mike Bellino, Concert Golf Partners
Laurie Bland, City of Miami Springs
Matt Boyd, Orchard Island Golf & Beach Club
Robby Boyd, River Strand Golf & Country Club
Mark Brandenburg, Miller Legg
Thomas Brinson, The Moorings Yacht & Country Club
Jennifer Bryan, Florida GCSA
Kyle Bunney, Vero Beach Country Club
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting
Scott Campbell, The Moorings Yacht & Country Club
Jeff Cathey, Troon
Michael Cauley, Mariner Sands Country Club
Eric Charest, Indian River County
Kim Clayback, City of Bradenton
Dennis Croumie, Riomar Country Club
Nicholas Czerkies, City of Cocoa Beach
Kevin Downing, Independent Turf Partners
Ryan Duffell, International Golf Maintenance
John Dyckman, Troon
Joel Ehrhart, Lakewood National Golf Club
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP
Nicolas Garibay, Suntree Country Club
Alyssa Garrahan, City of Melbourne
Jimmy Germana, Citizen
Mark Gerstung, Citizen
James Godsey, Citizen
John Gold, Troon
Alphonso Gwyn, City of Bradenton

Samuel Hankinson, DEP
Sandra Holloman, Fore Golf Services
Don Johnson, Citizen
Cameron Karaus, The Country Club of Orlando
Brianne Kenny, Troon
Michelle Knight, Sweetwater Golf & Country Club
Erik Knudsen, Woodmont Country Club
Joseph Kovach, Citizen
John Lammrish, Plantation Bay Country Club
Trey Lavalette, Citizen
Ryan Leeds, Sox Erosion
Alan Lichter, Dubsdread Golf Course
Scott MacPhee, Sailfish Point
Clinton Marrs, Alaqua Country Club
Phillip Martin, Citizen
Sverker Mejstedt, Citizen
Sarah Menz, DEP
Karen Miller, City of Sebastian
Stan Mrozek, Citizen
Jared Nemitz, Windsor
Brian Norman, City of Bradenton
AJ Petrulak, Citizen
Aaron Pizer, Hometown America
Joe Postel, Parkland Golf & Country Club
Eli Rahz, Lemon Bay Golf Club
Ricky Reeves, Clublink
Mark Reid, The Breakers Palm Beach
Clark Reisinger, Citizen
Neil Robbins, Citizen
Beth Robertson, DEP
Trudi Rock, Zellwood Station
Shane Schutte, Arlington Ridge Golf Club
Tony Sharma, Wedgewood Golf Course/Grand Island
Kevin Shields, Kitson & Partners
Mike Shirey, City of Bradenton
Brandie Smith, Indian River Club
Bryan Smith, Red Tail Golf Club
Cherry Stowe, Town of Orchid
Danielle Straub, City of Melbourne
Mickey Subotic, Esplanade Golf & Country Club

Eric Swenson, Floridian National Golf Club
Chris Threatt, Waterlefe Golf & River Club
Tony Tomalewski, DEP
Bryan Unruh, UF
David Vazquez, City of Hollywood
Carlos Wagner, Hometown America
Nate Watkin, Sox Erosion
Craig Weyandt, Martin County
Blake Wilson, Citizen
Christi Winn, City of Melbourne
Scott Wyckoff, Victoria Hills Golf Club
Kylie Yanchula, Indian River County
Christopher Zinna, DeBary Golf & Country Club

Q & A

Questions about DEP Contacts

Q: How do I know who is my BMAP coordinator?

A: The presentation included a color-coded map of the BMAP areas and the associated coordinator (see following page for a copy of the map). If you received an email from DEP about the BMAP requirements, the person that contacted you is likely your BMAP coordinator. If you are still unsure who is your BMAP coordinator, email BMAPProgram@FloridaDEP.gov with your question and the name and address of your golf course and your coordinator will respond to you.

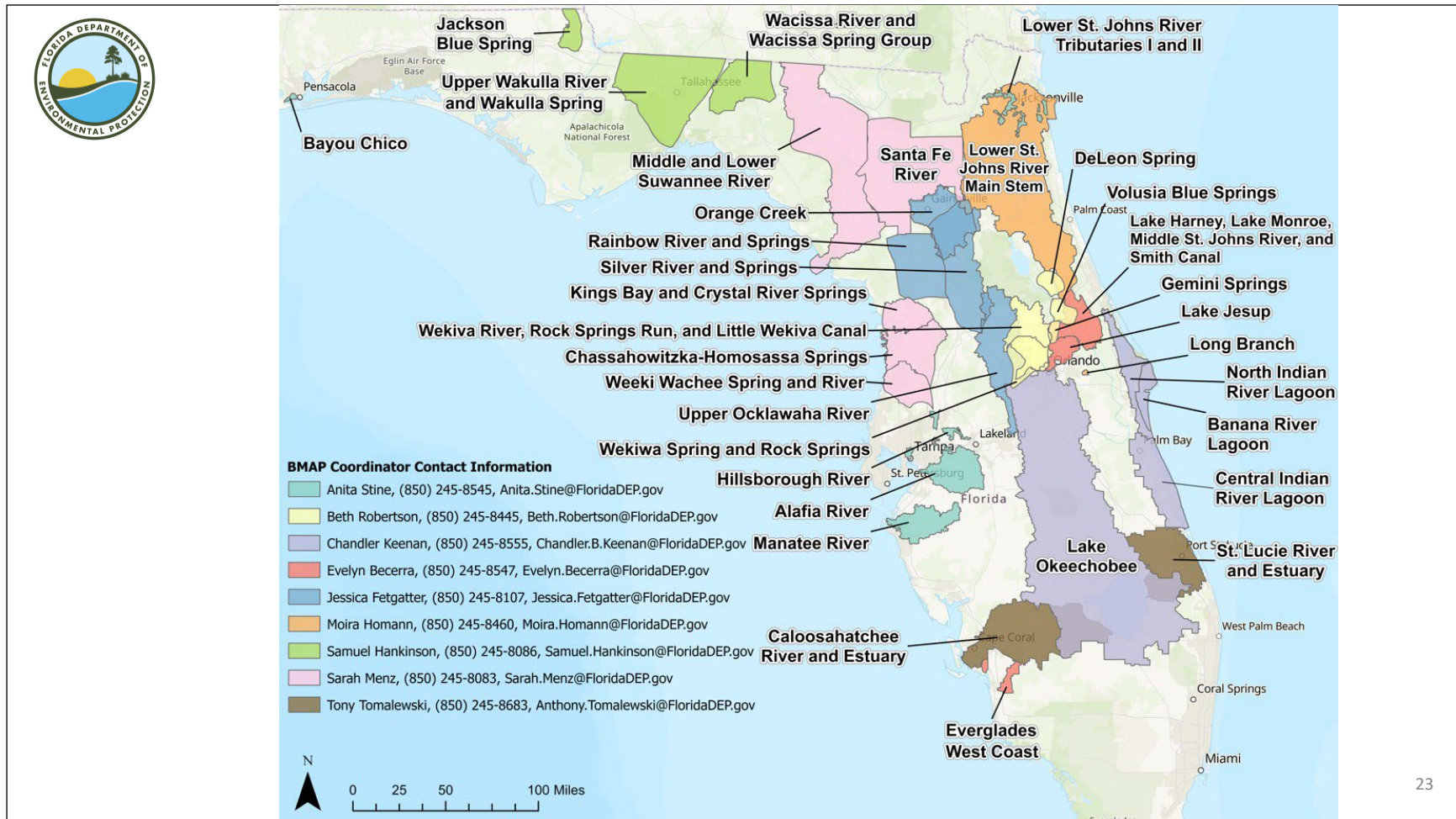


Figure 1. Map of the BMAP areas with the DEP coordinator names and contact details

Q: Where are the BMAP offices located?

A: The DEP BMAP Program is based in Tallahassee, Florida and is part of the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (DEAR).

Questions About Identifying Specific Golf Course Requirements and Ownership

Q: The nutrient management plan must be submitted for all golf courses in these 2025 BMAP areas—both publicly-owned and privately-owned?

A: Yes.

Q: If our golf course is managed by a third party, who is responsible for certification and reporting?

A: The golf course owner is responsible for ensuring the course complies, but a management company or third party is welcome to assist with compliance activities and reporting.

Q: Do publicly-owned golf courses include special districts that have a golf course as an amenity?

A: This can differ depending on the BMAP, please contact your basin coordinator or email BMAPPprogram@FloridaDEP.gov include the BMAP your course is in, and the name and address of your golf course in your email.

Q: If there is no BMAP established in our area, there is no need to submit any documents?

A: That is correct; golf courses located outside 2025 adopted BMAP areas do not need to participate in BMAP reporting.

Q: Do the golf course best management practices (BMPs) get included with other BMPs for the municipality?

A: Yes, if a municipality owns a golf course the nutrient loading from the course is attributed to them and the BMPs would also be attributed to them.

Q: How do I tell if my golf course is located in a springs BMAP area?

A: If you are unsure of the BMAP type for your area, please contact your basin coordinator or email BMAPPprogram@FloridaDEP.gov with your question, the BMAP your course is in, and the name and address of your golf course.

Q: What is a geographic information system (GIS) shapefile and how do I get one?

A: A GIS is a type of software used to map data geographically, and the data files that it uses are called “shapefiles.” GIS is particularly useful to compare, say, a golf course location compared to a GIS shapefile of the BMAP areas, so you can easily see where the BMAP boundaries are compared to your location.

Q: If the DEP is so focused on preserving our natural resources, what is being done to curb the ever-increasing development within the state around the springs and basins? Why are former conservation areas now being developed?

A: Ultimately, it is up to the local governments to manage growth and the protections for their local resources. The BMAPs have mechanisms and predictions to help address future growth and acknowledge the benefits of conservation areas. Please refer to the applicable BMAP document for your golf course and the load projection tables.

Q: Do local government (e.g., city- or county-owned) golf courses not need to submit an NMP and just have to have the superintendent certifications?

A: Thank you for asking - that is incorrect. Publicly-owned golf courses must meet all the other reporting requirements and have the superintendent certification.

Q: If a golf course within a municipality makes improvements, can the city in which that private golf course is located get credit toward their municipal reduction targets/allocations?

A: In many cases, no. In springs areas, the municipality has their own reduction assignments and privately-owned golf courses are separate from the city's assignments. There may be some relationships between municipalities and specific courses that necessitate a different approach. Please talk to your basin coordinator if there are privately-owned courses related to the associated local government and how shared activities may be associated with each entity's allocations and milestones.

Q: When will the golf course reporting begin?

A: Initial reporting to notify your BMAP coordinator of your superintendent's Golf Course BMP Program certification status, is required by January 14, 2026. Golf course requirements will continue with the draft nutrient management plan due July 27, 2026, and annual reporting mid-November 2026 to mid-January 2027. Local governments will continue their BMAP annual reporting through the Statewide Annual Report process.

Questions about Golf Course Superintendent Certification

Q: If an assistant superintendent is certified, but the head superintendent is not, is that allowed?

A: In general, the head superintendent must be certified to be compliant, but if this is your situation, you can discuss this with DEP on a case-by-case basis.

Q: My golf course is owned by the homeowners association (HOA) -- does that mean the superintendent certification is not required?

A: For courses in springs BMAP areas, the superintendent must be certified, whether the course is publicly- or privately-owned. In surface water BMAP areas, only superintendents of publicly-owned courses must be certified, although all superintendents are encouraged to be certified.

Note that if your course is in both a spring and a surface water BMAP area, the spring requirement applies. If the course is owned by an HOA, that is considered to be private ownership.

Q: If a golf course superintendent is not required to be certified (because it is a private course in a surface water BMAP or in an area where the 2025 BMAP is not in effect) do we have to report it?

A: You do not have to report the certification status if the superintendent certification is not required for your golf course. You are, however, welcome to report and confirm that, for your course, there is not a requirement.

Q: Is there an independent way to determine if a person is certified?

A: No. At the present time, a superintendent can reach out to Dr. Unruh (jbu@ufl.edu), University of Florida, to check on their certification status.

Q: How do we report our Florida Golf Course BMP Certification status to DEP?

A: You report that information to your BMAP coordinator, preferably via email, and DEP will track those responses. If you are uncertain who is your coordinator, you can email the general email address here: BMAPPprogram@FloridaDEP.gov.

Q: Would the superintendent be considered the Golf Course Director? Or would this be the outside contractor that completes maintenance of the golf course, or both?

A: DEP would need to discuss that situation individually with the golf course staff if you do not have a superintendent for your course, so the agency can ensure everyone is on track for their requirements.

Q: Can you explain the difference between the January 14, 2026, and December 31, 2026, certification requirements?

A: Applicable golf courses must report by January 14, 2026, to DEP whether their superintendent is certified. If your superintendent is not yet certified and is required to be certified, they have until December 31, 2026, to complete their certification. Applicable golf courses include all golf courses in adopted 2025 *springs* BMAPs as well as publicly-owned golf courses in 2025 adopted *surface water* BMAPs. Golf courses located outside the 2025 adopted BMAP areas do not currently have these requirements. Some areas have 2025 BMAPs that are not yet adopted, so the golf course requirements in these areas are not currently in effect, pending their full adoption. Golf courses in these areas will be notified when the requirements go into effect.

Q: Where can I get a copy of the Florida Golf Course BMP Manual?

A: You can download the Golf Course BMP Manual from the University of Florida website here: <https://flgolfbmp.com/>.

Questions about Sampling and Nutrient Management Plans

Q: Do we have to pay for soil sampling or is sampling performed by the University of Florida or fertilizer/chemical vendors sufficient? Will clubs be held responsible for paying for sampling to be done?

A: It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the sampling is performed according to UF-IFAS/DEP recommendations or standard industry practice and provide the results to DEP. DEP does not track who pays for the sampling, so those arrangements are up to you.

Q: At multi-course facilities, are all courses required to sample?

A: Yes, the sampling requirement is for each course.

Q: Do you want samples from all areas of the golf course – greens, tees, fairways, and rough?

A: The nutrient management plan allows each course to describe their own approach(s) for sampling. Past results must be provided with the NMP and then new results included in the annual reporting.

Q: What is tissue sampling?

A: Tissue sampling refers to measuring the nutrient content of plant tissue from turfgrass or other ground cover. Some plant material is collected and then sent to a laboratory for plant tissue analysis. The results can help determine how much fertilizer is needed. There is more information about tissue analysis in the Golf Course BMP Manual.

Q: Does DEP provide sampling services/analysis?

A: No.

Q: Is there someone that can come to our course to help figure out how to do sampling?

A: The BMP manual offers some guidance on the “when” and “where” sampling should occur. Additionally, Dr. Unruh (jbu@ufl.edu), University of Florida, is working on building a “fact sheet” offering guidance.

Q: When do the sampling requirements go into effect?

A: If a facility uses fertilizer rates greater than those in the BMP manuals, the facility is required to conduct water quality monitoring prescribed by DEP or a WMD that demonstrates compliance with water quality standards. The NMP requires facilities to submit information on existing soil, water quality and/or tissue sampling. Soil and tissue sampling is already included as recommendation in the existing Golf Course BMP Manual.

Q: Do you have a list of engineers or other professionals who can do the sampling tests? Most soil testing labs do not test for nitrogen as it is difficult to obtain accurate results. Where do you recommend getting nitrogen testing for soils?

A: DEP does not have a list of specific vendors, but the links below may be helpful:

[Laboratories Homepage](#)

[Florida Health Environmental Laboratories](#)

Please note that Dr. Unruh (jbu@ufl.edu), University of Florida, is working on gathering this type of guidance information.