

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Evaluation and TMDL Program

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT • PEACE RIVER BASIN • UPPER PEACE RIVER PLANNING UNIT

Final TMDL Report

**Nutrient TMDL
For Deer Lake
(WBID 1521P)**

**and Documentation in Support of Development of Site Specific
Numeric Interpretations of the Narrative Nutrient Criteria**

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Acknowledgments

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Web sites

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/index.htm>

Identification of Impaired Surface Waters Rule

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/legal/Rules/shared/62-303/62-303.pdf>

Florida STORET Program

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/storet/index.htm>

2012 305(b) Report

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/docs/2012_Integrated_Report.pdf

Criteria for Surface Water Quality Classifications

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/classes.htm>

Water Quality Status and Assessment Reports for the Sarasota Bay – Peace River – Myakka River Basins

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/basin411/sbpm/index.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 4: Total Maximum Daily Loads in Florida

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/tmdl/florida/>

National STORET Program

<http://www.epa.gov/storet/>

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) developed to address the nutrient impairment of Deer Lake, which is located in the Upper Peace River Planning Unit, that is part of the larger Peace River Basin. The TMDL will constitute the site specific numeric interpretation of the narrative nutrient criterion set forth in paragraph 62-302.530(47)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that will replace the otherwise applicable numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) in subsection 62-302.531(2) for this particular water, pursuant to paragraph 62-302.531(2)(a), F.A.C.. The lake was verified as impaired for nutrients using the methodology in the Identification of Impaired Surface Waters Rule (IWR, Rule 62-303, F.A.C.), and was included on the Verified List of impaired waters for the Sarasota Bay – Peace River – Myakka River Group 3 Basin that was adopted by Secretarial Order on January 15, 2010.

The TMDL process quantifies the amount of a pollutant that can be assimilated in a waterbody, identifies the sources of the pollutant, and provides water quality targets needed to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards based on the relationship between pollution sources and receiving waterbody water quality. The TMDLs establish the allowable loadings to Deer Lake that would restore the waterbody so that it meets its applicable water quality criteria for nutrients.

1.2 Identification of Waterbody

Deer Lake is located in the western area of the City of Winter Haven, Florida within Polk County (**Figure 1.1**). The estimated surface area of the lake is 122 acres and the average depth is 7.5 ft (2.3 m) with a maximum depth of 17.8 ft (5.4 m) (Polk County Wateratlas, 2013). The Deer Lake watershed, including the surface area of Deer Lake, encompasses 410 acres in north central Polk County. Deer Lake is connected to Lake Cannon, which is part of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, by a 24 inch pipe that discharges into Lake Cannon when the lake is at higher water levels. The watershed area is within the Winter Haven/Lake Henry Ridges Lake Region (Region 75-31), which is characterized by Candler-Tavares-Apopka as the dominant soil association of well-drained upland areas, with longleaf pine and xerophytic oak natural vegetation and the underlying geology is composed of Pliocene quartz pebbly sand and the phosphatic Bone Valley Member (Peace River Formation) of the Hawthorn Group (Griffith et al. 1997).

The majority of development in the watershed is urban land use with medium and high density land use comprising about 39 percent of the urban area. Greater than 50 percent of the lake shoreline is directly adjacent to residential development. The watershed includes tree crops of approximately 19 acres that is located in the southwest portion of the basin.

The climate of the Deer Lake and Peace River watershed area is generally subtropical with an annual average temperature of about 73 degrees. Annual rainfall in or near the Peace River drainage basin averages 50 to 56 inches, and approximately 60 percent of the rainfall occurs from June through September (SWFWMD, 2004). The long-term average annual rainfall for Polk County, based on Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) records in the period from 1915 to 2013, is about 52 inches/year.

For assessment purposes, the Department has divided the Peace River Basin into watershed assessment polygons with a unique **waterbody identification** (WBID) number for each watershed or surface water segment. Deer Lake has been given the WBID number 1521P. **Figure 1.2** displays the location of the lake WBID along with the major geopolitical and hydrologic features.

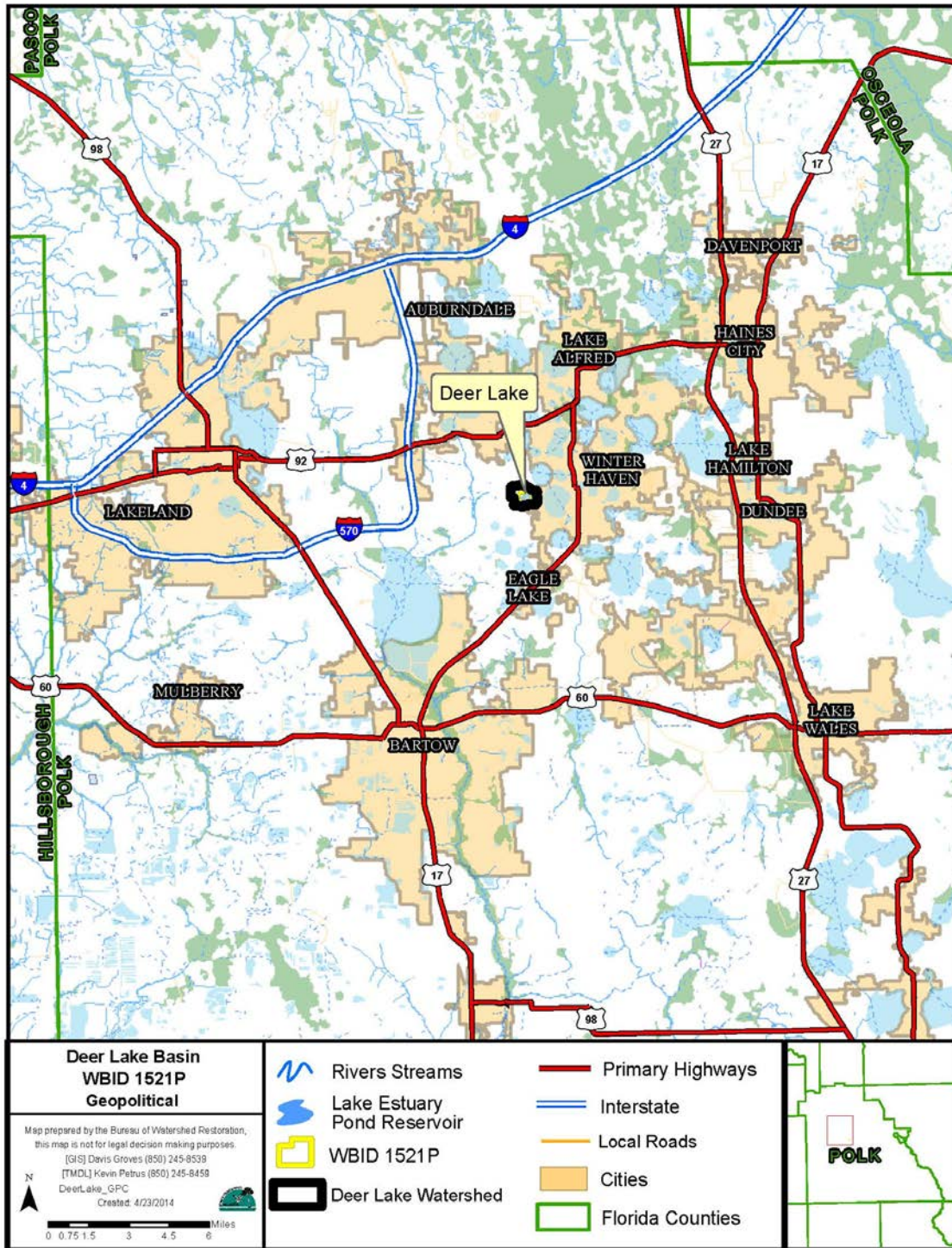


Figure 1.1 Location of Deer Lake and Major Geopolitical Features in North Central Polk County.

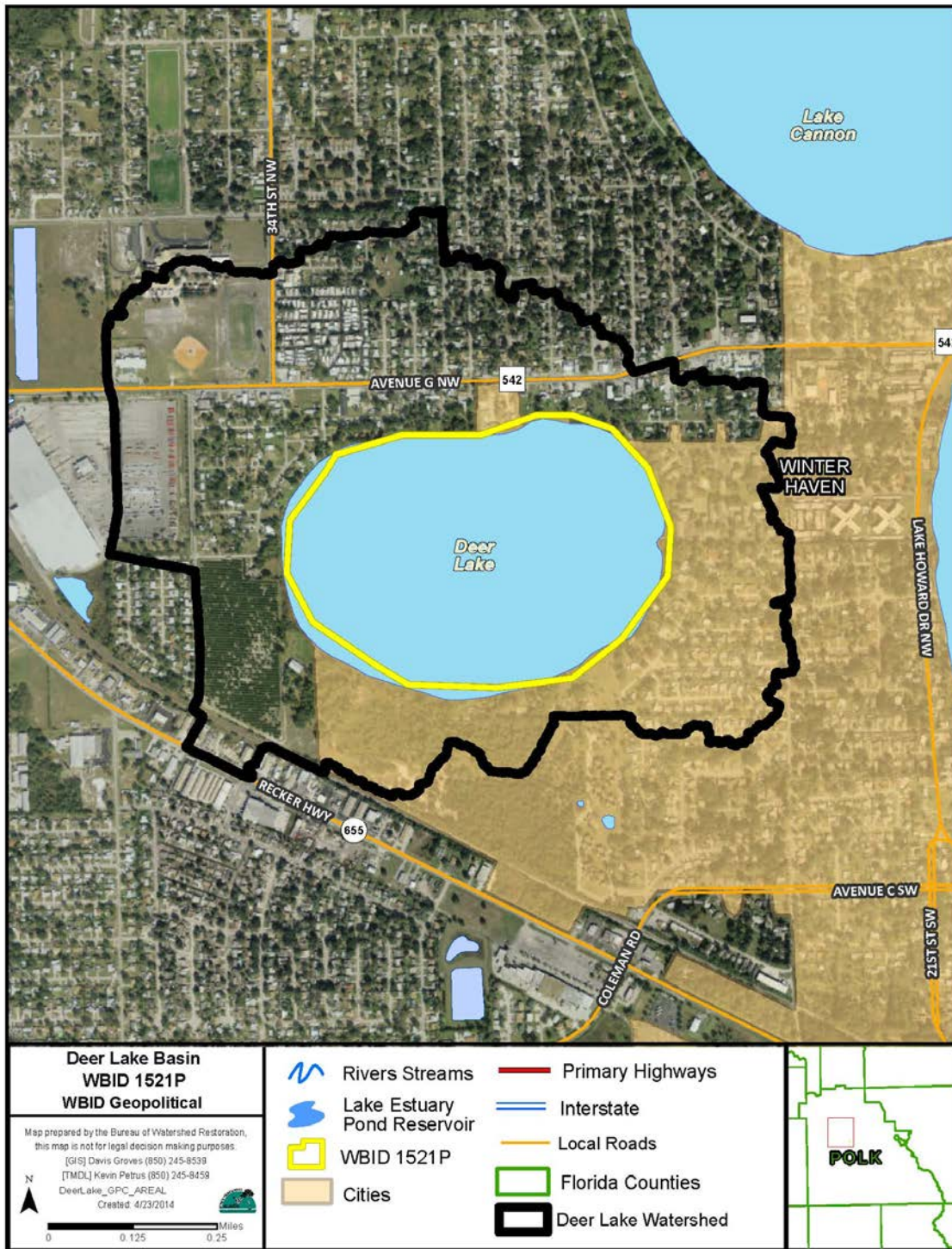


Figure 1.2 Deer Lake with Major Geopolitical and Hydrologic Features.

1.3 Background

This report was developed as part of the Department's watershed management approach for restoring and protecting state waters and addressing TMDL Program requirements. The watershed approach, which is implemented using a cyclical management process that rotates through the state's 52 river basins over a 5-year cycle, provides a framework for implementing the TMDL Program-related requirements of the 1972 federal Clean Water Act and the 1999 Florida Watershed Restoration Act (FWRA, Chapter 99-223, Laws of Florida); as amended.

A TMDL represents the maximum amount of a given pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality standards, including its applicable water quality criteria and its designated uses. TMDLs are developed for waterbodies that are verified as not meeting their water quality standards. They provide important water quality restoration goals that will guide restoration activities.

This TMDL Report will be followed by the development and implementation of a restoration plan to reduce the amount of pollutants that caused the verified impairment of Deer Lake. These activities will depend heavily on the active participation of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), local governments, businesses, and other stakeholders. The Department will work with these organizations and individuals to undertake or continue reductions in the discharge of pollutants and achieve the established TMDLs for the impaired waterbody.

Chapter 2: STATEMENT OF WATER QUALITY PROBLEM

2.1 Legislative and Rulemaking History

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to submit to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a list of surface waters that do not meet applicable water quality standards (impaired waters) and establish a TMDL for each pollutant identified as causing the impairment of the listed waters on a schedule. The Department has developed such lists, commonly referred to as 303(d) lists, since 1992. The state's list of impaired waters, referred to as the Verified List, is required by the FWRA (Subsection 403.067[4], Florida Statutes [F.S.]). It is amended annually to include basin updates and these updates are submitted to EPA for inclusion on the state's 303(d) list.

Florida's 1998 303(d) list included 51 waterbodies in the Peace River Basin. However, the FWRA (Section 403.067, F.S.) stated that all previous Florida 303(d) lists were for planning purposes only and directed the Department to develop, and adopt by rule, a new science-based methodology to identify impaired waters. The Environmental Regulation Commission adopted the new methodology as Rule 62-303, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) (Identification of Impaired Surface Waters Rule, or IWR), in April 2001; the rule was amended in 2006, 2007, 2012, and 2013.

2.2 Information on Verified Impairment

The Department used the IWR to assess water quality impairments in Deer Lake, and the lake was verified as impaired for nutrients based on elevated annual average Trophic State Index (TSI) values during the Cycle 2 verification period (the Cycle 2 verified period for the Group 3 basins is from January 2002 to June 2009). At the time the Cycle 2 assessment was performed, the IWR methodology used the water quality variables total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), and chlorophyll *a* (a measure of algal mass, corrected and uncorrected) in calculating annual TSI values and in interpreting Florida's narrative nutrient threshold. The TSI is calculated based on concentrations of TP, TN, and chlorophyll *a*. Exceeding a TSI of 40, for lakes with color less than 40 PCU, in any one year of the verified period was sufficient for identifying a lake as impaired for nutrients. The annual mean TSI values exceeded the impairment threshold of 40 in 2007 and 2008.

Florida adopted new numeric nutrient standards for lakes, spring vents, and streams in 2011, which were approved by the EPA in 2012. It is envisioned that these standards, in combination with the related bioassessment tools, will facilitate the assessment of designated use attainment for its waters and provide a better means to protect state waters from the adverse effects of nutrient over-enrichment. The new lake NNC, which are set forth in subparagraph 62-302.531(2)(b)1., F.A.C., are expressed as annual geometric mean values for chlorophyll *a*, TN, and TP, which are further described in Chapter 3.

Although the Department has not formally assessed the data for Deer Lake using the new NNC, based on an analysis of the data from 2002 to 2012 in IWR Database Run 48, the preliminary results indicate that Deer Lake would not attain the new lake NNC for chlorophyll *a* and TN for

low color (< 40 PCU), high alkalinity (> 20 mg/L CaCO₃) lakes, and thus remains impaired for nutrients. This time frame represents the Cycle 2 verification period and water quality in more recent years that has been reported. Under the new NNC, Deer Lake is classified as a lake with lower color (<40 PCU) and high alkalinity (>20 mg/L CaCO₃), based on the long-term geometric mean values for color and alkalinity. The preliminary annual geometric mean values for chlorophyll a, TN, and TP during the 2002 to 2012 period are presented in **Table 2.1**.

The sources of data for the Cycle 2 IWR assessment of WBID 1501, and results reported in more recent years, come from one station sampled by Polk County (21FLPOLK...). The county has been sampling at the center of the lake since 1987 at station 21FLPOLKDEER1. In 1999, the county began sampling for corrected chlorophyll a, which is the more common form of chlorophyll a used in assessing surface water quality. The other organizations to sample the lake, Florida LakeWatch (21FLKWAT...) and the U.S. Geological Survey (112WRD...) conducted monitoring intermittently prior to 1993. The sampling locations are displayed in **Figure 2.1**. The individual water quality measurements used in this analysis are available in the IWR database (Run 48), and are available upon request. Water quality results for the period of record for variables relevant to this TMDL effort, which were collected by all sampling entities, are displayed in the graphs in **Appendix B**.

Table 2.1 Deer Lake Annual Geometric Mean Values for the 2002 to 2012 Period.

Year	Chlorophyll a (ug/L)	Total Nitrogen (mg/L)	Total Phosphorus (mg/L)
2002	ID	ID	ID
2003	ID	ID	ID
2004	ID	ID	ID
2005	16	0.96	ID
2006	17	0.94	ID
2007	22	1.24	0.03
2008	32	1.43	0.03
2009	28	1.51	0.03
2010	21	1.53	0.03
2011	12	1.13	0.03
2012	30	1.62	0.03

ID - Insufficient Data to Calculate Geometric Means per the Requirements of Rule 62-303.

Note: Values shown shaded are greater than the new NNC for lakes. Rule 62-302.531(2)(b)1., F.A.C., states that the applicable numeric interpretations for TN, TP, and chlorophyll a shall not be exceeded more than once in any consecutive three year period.

In Florida waterbodies, nitrogen and phosphorus are most often the limiting nutrients. The limiting nutrient is defined as the nutrient(s) that limit plant growth (both macrophytes and algae) when it is not available in sufficient quantities. A limiting nutrient is a chemical that is necessary for plant growth, but available in quantities smaller than those needed for algae, represented by chlorophyll a, and macrophytes to grow. In the past, management activities to control lake

eutrophication focused on phosphorus reduction as phosphorus was generally recognized as the limiting nutrient in freshwater systems. Recent studies, however, have supported that the reduction of both nitrogen and phosphorus is necessary to control algal growth in aquatic systems (Conley et al. 2009, Paerl 2009, Lewis et al. 2011, Paerl and Otten 2013). Furthermore, the analysis used in the development of the Florida lake NNC support this idea as statistically significant relationships were found between chlorophyll a values and both nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations (Florida DEP, 2012).

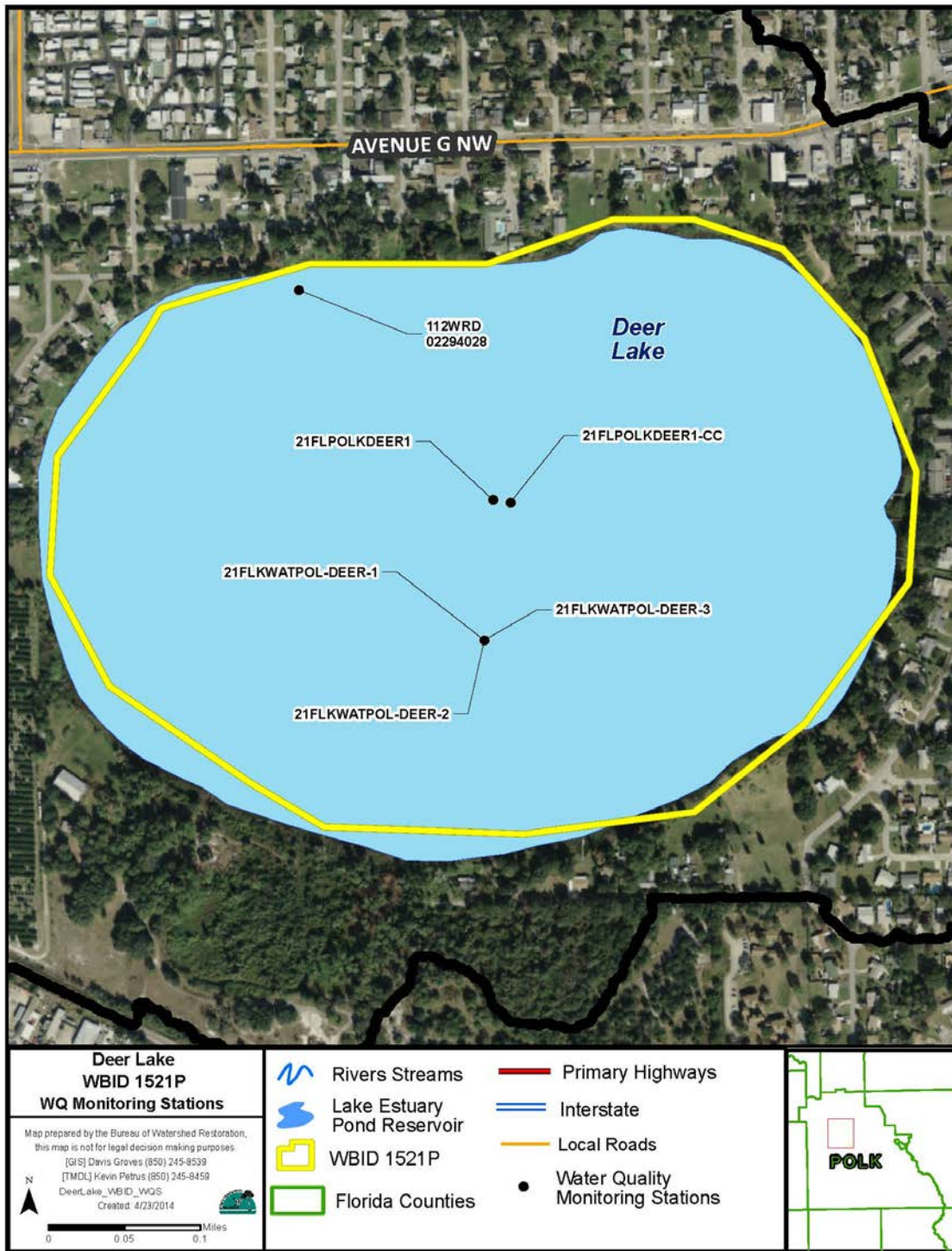


Figure 2.1 Surface Water Monitoring Locations in Deer Lake.

Chapter 3. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICABLE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND TARGETS

3.1 Classification of the Waterbody and Criteria Applicable to the TMDL

Florida's surface water is protected for six designated use classifications, as follows:

Class I	Potable water supplies
Class II	Shellfish propagation or harvesting
Class III	Recreation, propagation, and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife
Class III-Limited	Fish Consumption; Recreation or Limited Recreation; and/or Propagation and Maintenance of a Limited Population of Fish and Wildlife
Class IV	Agricultural water supplies
Class V	Navigation, utility, and industrial use (there are no state waters currently in this class)

Deer Lake is classified as a Class III freshwater waterbody, with a designated use of recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. The Class III water quality criterion applicable to the verified impairment (nutrients) for this water is the state of Florida's nutrient criterion in Paragraph 62-302.530(47)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Florida has newly adopted lake criteria in Rule 62-302.531, F.A.C., for total nitrogen, total phosphorous, and chlorophyll a that went into effect on October 27, 2014. The Department has not formally assessed the data for Deer Lake using the new criteria. However, based on preliminary analysis of the available data, Deer Lake would not attain the new NNC for chlorophyll a and total nitrogen, and is expected to remain listed as verified impaired for nutrients under the new criteria.

The nutrient TMDL presented in this report constitutes a site specific numeric interpretation of the narrative nutrient criterion set forth in paragraph 62-302.530(47)(b), F.A.C., that will replace the otherwise applicable NNC in subsection 62-302.531(2), F.A.C., for this particular water, pursuant to 62-302.531(2)(a), F.A.C. The Water Quality Standards template document in **Appendix D**, provides the relevant TMDL information, including information that the TMDL provides for the attainment and maintenance of water quality standards in downstream waters (pursuant to subsection 62-302.531(4)), to support using the TMDL nutrient target as the site specific numeric interpretation of the narrative nutrient criterion. Targets used in TMDL development are designed to restore surface water quality to meet a waterbody's designated use. Criteria are based on scientific information used to establish specific levels of water quality constituents that protect aquatic life and human health for particular designated use classifications. As a result, TMDL targets and water quality criteria serve the same purpose as both measures are designed to protect surface water designated use.

3.2 Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Nutrient Criterion

The applicable lakes NNC are dependent on the alkalinity and true color (color), based on the long-term period of record (POR) geometric means (GM), **Table 3.1**. Using this methodology, Deer Lake is classified as a lake with low color (<40 PCU) and high alkalinity (>20 mg/L CaCO₃). The new chlorophyll a NNC for low color, high alkalinity lakes is an annual geometric mean value of 20 ug/L, which is not to be exceeded more than once in any consecutive three-year period. The associated TN and TP criterion for a lake can vary on an annual basis, depending on the availability of data for chlorophyll a and the concentrations of nutrients and chlorophyll a in the lake, as described below. If there are sufficient data to calculate an annual geometric mean for chlorophyll a and the mean does not exceed the chlorophyll a criterion for the lake type in **Table 3.1**, then the TN and TP numeric interpretations for that calendar year shall be the annual geometric means of lake TN and TP samples, subject to the minimum and maximum TN and TP limits in the table below. If there are insufficient data to calculate the annual geometric mean chlorophyll a for a given year, or the annual geometric mean chlorophyll a exceeds the values in **Table 3.1** for the lake type, then the applicable numeric interpretations for TN and TP shall be the minimum values in the table. The analyses supporting the criteria represent the best scientific understanding of nutrient and chlorophyll a concentrations that each lake type can support while maintaining designated uses and were used as evidence for establishing the appropriate targets for TMDL development for Deer Lake.

The development of the lake NNC are based on an evaluation of a response variable (chlorophyll a) and stressor variables (nitrogen and phosphorus) to develop water quality thresholds that are protective of designated uses (Florida DEP, 2012). Based on several lines of evidence, the DEP developed a chlorophyll a threshold of 20 µg/L for colored lakes (above 40 PCU) and clear lakes with alkalinity above 20 mg/L CaCO₃. Since the Department has demonstrated that the chlorophyll a threshold of 20 ug/L is protective of designated uses, this value will be used as a water quality target to address the nutrient impairment of Deer Lake. Empirical equations that describe the relationships between chlorophyll a and nutrient concentrations in Deer Lake were then used in the TMDL development approach, which is explained in detail in Chapter 5.

Table 3.1 State Adopted Lake Criteria

Long Term Geometric Mean Lake Color and Alkalinity	Annual Geometric Mean Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	Minimum Calculated Annual Geometric Mean Total Phosphorus NNC	Minimum Calculated Annual Geometric Mean Total Nitrogen NNC	Maximum Calculated Annual Geometric Mean Total Phosphorus NNC	Maximum Calculated Annual Geometric Mean Total Nitrogen NNC
>40 Platinum Cobalt Units	20 µg/L	0.05 mg/L	1.27 mg/L	0.16 mg/L ¹	2.23 mg/L
≤ 40 Platinum Cobalt Units and > 20 mg/L CaCO ₃	20 µg/L	0.03 mg/L	1.05 mg/L	0.09 mg/L	1.91 mg/L
≤ 40 Platinum Cobalt Units and ≤ 20 mg/L CaCO ₃	6 µg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.51 mg/L	0.03 mg/L	0.93 mg/L

1 - For lakes with color > 40 PCU in the West Central Nutrient Watershed Region, the maximum TP limit shall be the 0.49 mg/L TP streams threshold for the region.

3.3 Water Quality Variable Definitions

Chlorophyll a

Chlorophyll is a green pigment found in plants and is an essential component in the process of converting light energy into chemical energy. Chlorophyll is capable of channeling the energy of sunlight into chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis. In photosynthesis, the energy absorbed by chlorophyll transforms carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) into carbohydrates and oxygen (O₂). The chemical energy stored by photosynthesis in carbohydrates drives biochemical reactions in nearly all living organisms. Thus, chlorophyll is at the center of the photosynthetic oxidation-reduction reaction between carbon dioxide and water.

There are several types of chlorophyll; however, the predominant form is chlorophyll *a*. The measurement of chlorophyll *a* in a water sample is a useful indicator of phytoplankton biomass, especially when used in conjunction with analysis concerning algal growth potential and species abundance. The greater the abundance of chlorophyll *a*, typically the greater the abundance of algae. Algae are the primary producers in the aquatic web, and thus are very important in characterizing the productivity of lakes and streams. As noted earlier, chlorophyll *a* measurements are also used to estimate the trophic conditions of lakes and other lentic waters.

Total Nitrogen as N (TN)

Total nitrogen is the sum of nitrate (NO₃), nitrite (NO₂), ammonia (NH₃), and organic nitrogen found in water. Nitrogen compounds function as important nutrients to many aquatic organisms and are essential to the chemical processes that exist between land, air, and water. The most readily bioavailable forms of nitrogen are ammonia and nitrate. These compounds, in conjunction with other nutrients, serve as an important base for primary productivity.

The major sources of excessive amounts of nitrogen in surface water are the effluent from wastewater treatment plants and runoff from urban and agricultural land areas. When nutrient concentrations consistently exceed natural levels, the resulting nutrient imbalance can cause undesirable changes in a waterbody's biological community and drive an aquatic system into an accelerated rate of eutrophication. Usually, the eutrophication process is observed as a change in the structure of the algal community and includes severe algal blooms that may cover large areas for extended periods. Large algal blooms are generally followed by a depletion in dissolved oxygen concentrations as a result of algal decomposition.

Total Phosphorus as P (TP)

Phosphorus is one of the primary nutrients that regulates algal and macrophyte growth in natural waters, particularly in fresh water. Phosphate, the predominant form of phosphorus found in the water column, can enter the aquatic environment in a number of ways. Natural processes transport phosphate to water through atmospheric deposition, ground water percolation, and terrestrial runoff. Municipal treatment plants, industries, agriculture, and domestic activities also contribute to phosphate loading through direct discharge and natural transport mechanisms. The very high levels of phosphorus in some of Florida's streams and estuaries are usually caused by phosphate mining and fertilizer processing activities.

High phosphorus concentrations are frequently responsible for accelerating the process of eutrophication, or accelerated aging, of a waterbody. Once phosphorus and other important nutrients enter the ecosystem, they are extremely difficult to remove. They become tied up in biomass or deposited in sediments. Nutrients, particularly phosphates, deposited in sediments generally are redistributed to the water column. This type of cycling compounds the difficulty of halting the eutrophication process.

Chapter 4: ASSESSMENT OF SOURCES

4.1 Types of Sources

An important part of the TMDL analysis is the identification of pollutant source categories, source subcategories, or individual sources of the pollutants of concern in the watershed and the amount of pollutant loading contributed by each of these sources. Sources are broadly classified as either “point sources” or “nonpoint sources.” Historically, the term point sources has meant discharges to surface waters that typically have a continuous flow via a discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance, such as a pipe. Domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) are examples of traditional point sources. In contrast, the term “nonpoint sources” was used to describe intermittent, rainfall driven, diffuse sources of pollution associated with everyday human activities, including runoff from urban land uses, agriculture, silviculture, and mining; discharges from failing septic systems; and atmospheric deposition.

However, the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act redefined certain nonpoint sources of pollution as point sources subject to regulation under the EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. These nonpoint sources included certain urban stormwater discharges, including those from local government master drainage systems, construction sites over 5 acres, and a wide variety of industries (see **Appendix A** for background information on the federal and state stormwater programs).

To be consistent with Clean Water Act definitions, the term “point source” is used to describe traditional point sources (such as domestic and industrial wastewater discharges) and stormwater systems requiring an NPDES stormwater permit when allocating pollutant load reductions required by a TMDL. However, the methodologies used to estimate nonpoint source loads do not distinguish between NPDES stormwater discharges and non-NPDES stormwater discharges, and as such, this chapter does not make any distinction between the two types of stormwater.

4.2 Point Sources

4.2.1 NPDES Permitted Wastewater Facilities

There are no NPDES permitted domestic or industrial wastewater facilities that discharge within the watershed.

4.2.2 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permittees

Municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) may also discharge pollutants to waterbodies in response to storm events. To address stormwater discharges, the EPA developed the NPDES stormwater permitting program in two phases. Phase 1, promulgated in 1990, addresses large and medium-size MS4s located in incorporated areas and counties with populations of 100,000 or more. Phase 2 permitting began in 2003. Regulated Phase 2 MS4s are defined in Section 62-624.800, F.A.C., and typically cover urbanized areas serving jurisdictions with a population of at least 10,000 or discharging into Class I or Class II waters, or into Outstanding Florida Waters.

The stormwater collection systems in the Deer Lake watershed, which are owned and operated by Polk County, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1, are covered by a NPDES Phase I MS4 permit (Permit No. FLS000015). The city of Winter Haven is a co-permittee in the MS4 permit and a large portion of the watershed is within the city limits.

4.3 Land Uses and Nonpoint Sources

Nutrient loading from urban areas is most often attributable to multiple sources, including stormwater runoff, leaks and overflows from sanitary sewer systems, illicit discharges of sanitary waste, runoff from improper disposal of waste materials, leaking septic systems, and domestic animals. The largest anthropogenic land use in the Deer Lake watershed are urban areas, primarily residential, so urban sources are a significant source of nutrients in the watershed. There is an agricultural area, defined as tree crops, near the southwest shoreline of the lake which may also be an anthropogenic nutrient load in the basin.

In addition to the nutrient sources associated with anthropogenic activities, birds and other wildlife can also contribute considerable amounts of nutrients to waterbodies through their feces, particularly in areas that have bird rookeries. While detailed source information is not always available for accurately quantifying the loadings from wildlife sources, land use information can be used to help identify areas where there is the potential for wildlife to congregate.

4.3.1 Land Uses

The spatial distribution of different land use categories in the vicinity of Deer Lake were identified using the SWFWMD 2011 land use coverage contained in the Department's geographic information system (GIS) library.

Land use categories within the Deer Lake watershed were aggregated using the Florida Land Use Code and Classification System (FLUCCS) expanded Level 1 codes (including low, medium, and high density residential) and are tabulated in **Table 4.1**. **Figure 4.1** shows the spatial distribution of the principal land uses in the watershed. The predominant land use in the lake's drainage area is urban development, making up 62 percent of the watershed area. Medium density residential is the largest urban use type covering 31 percent of the basin. Other common urban land uses include commercial and services (9 percent), high density residential (8 percent), and institutional (6 percent). Agricultural land (tree crops) occupy about 5 percent of the land area.

Most of the area near the lake consists of urban land, primarily medium and high density residential areas, as well as a commercial area along Avenue G NW on the north side of the lake. Greater than 50 percent of the lake shoreline is directly adjacent to residential development. The watershed includes tree crops of approximately 19 acres that is located in the southwest portion of the basin near the lake shore. Also along the southwest shoreline of the lake is natural land, comprised of forest and wetlands, which covers 22 acres.

Table 4.1 Classification of Land Use Categories in the Deer Lake Watershed in 2011

FLUCCs Code	Landuse	Acreage	Percent of Total
1000	Urban Open	13.1	3.2
1200	Medium Density Residential	125.2	30.5
1300	High Density Residential	33.1	8.1
1400	Commercial and Services	36.6	8.9
1500	Industrial	18.9	4.6
1700	Institutional	26.1	6.4
2000	Agriculture	19.0	4.6
3000+4000	Rangeland + Forest/Rural Open	7.2	1.8
5000	Water	116.1	28.3
6000	Wetlands	14.9	3.6
Total		410	100.0

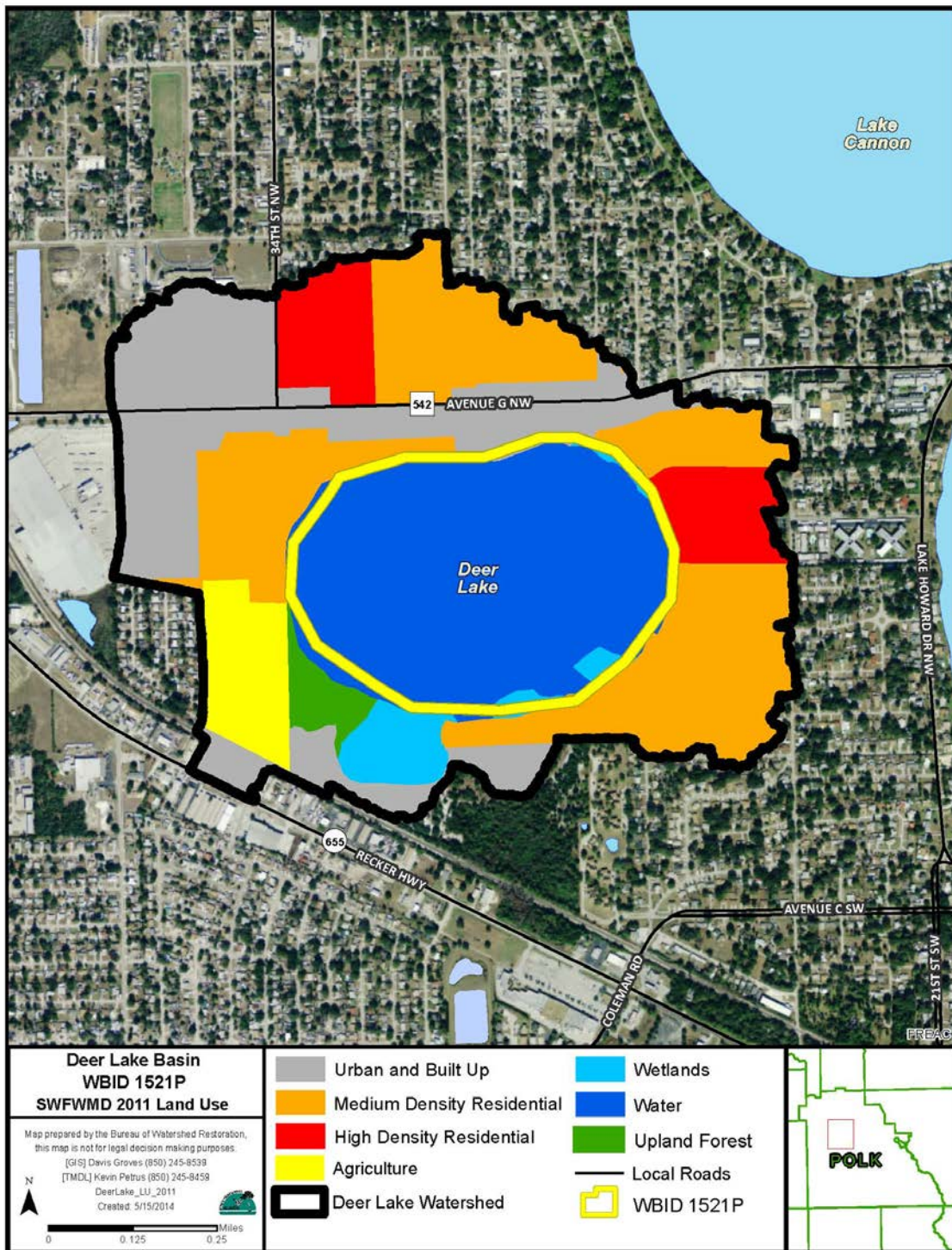


Figure 4.1 Principle Land Uses in the Deer Lake Watershed in 2011.

Polk County Population

According to the U.S Census Bureau, the population density in Polk County, in the year 2010, was 334.9 persons per square mile. The Census Bureau reports that the total population in 2010 for Polk County, which includes (but is not exclusive to) the Deer Lake watershed, was 602,095, with 281,385 housing units. Polk County occupies an area of approximately 1,798 square miles. For all of Polk County, the housing density is 156.5 houses per square mile. (U. S. Census Bureau Web site, 2014).

Polk County Septic Tanks

Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDSs), including septic tanks, are commonly used where providing central sewer service is not cost-effective or practical. When properly sited, designed, constructed, maintained, and operated, OSTDSs are a safe means of disposing of domestic waste. The effluent from a well-functioning OSTDS is comparable to secondarily treated wastewater from a sewage treatment plant. When not functioning properly, however, OSTDSs can be a source of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pathogens, and other pollutants to both ground water and surface water. Information on the location of septic systems was obtained from a Florida Department of Health Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems GIS coverage dated November 2012.

The septic tanks located in the Deer Lake watershed are displayed in **Figure 4.2**. Currently the number of septic tanks in the watershed is estimated to be 76, with the area north of the lake having the largest number of tanks.

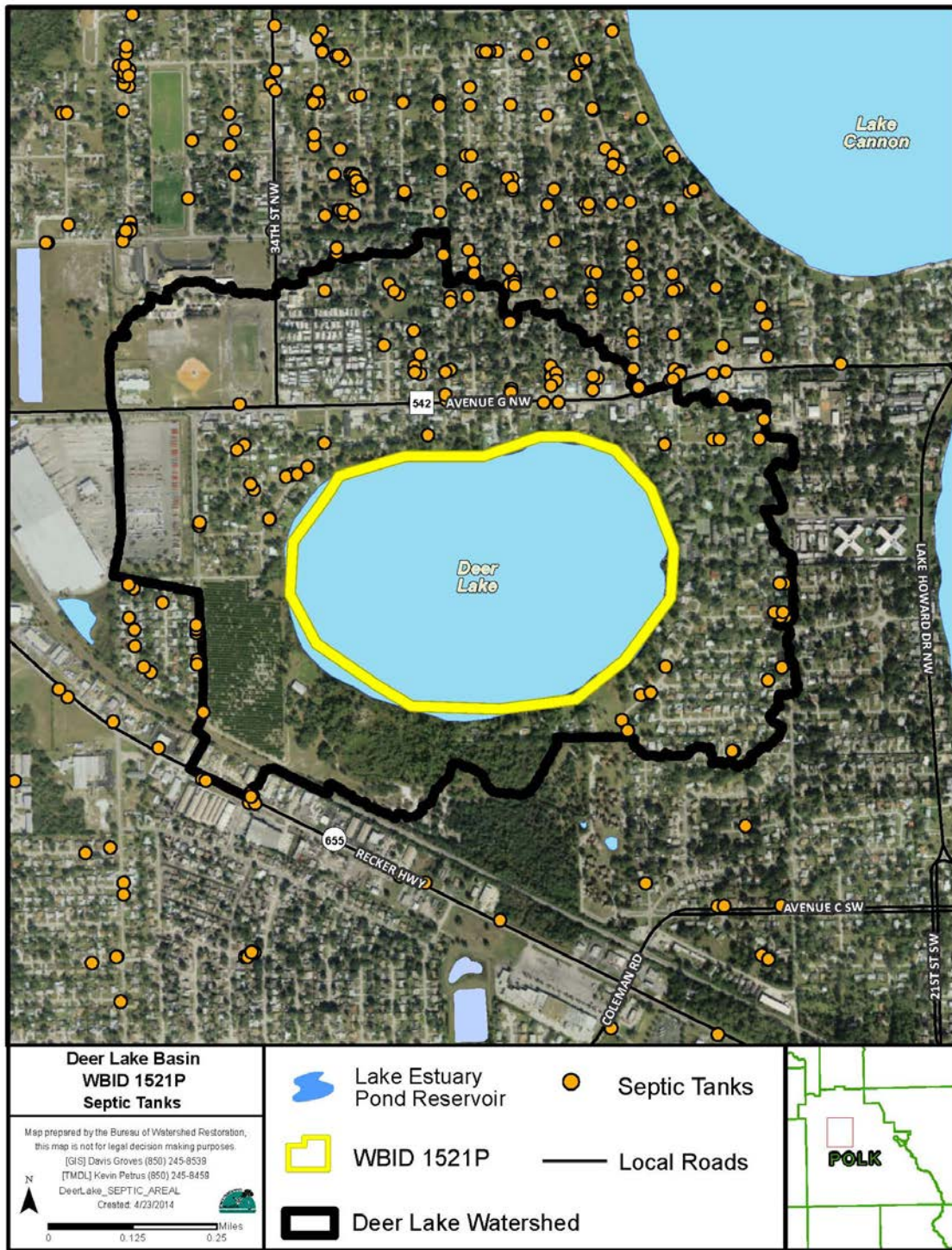


Figure 4.2 Septic Tank Locations in the Deer Lake Watershed and Surrounding Area.

Chapter 5: DETERMINATION OF ASSIMILATIVE CAPACITY

5.1 Determination of Loading Capacity

The TMDL development process identifies nutrient target concentrations and nutrient reductions for Deer Lake in order for the waterbody to achieve the applicable nutrient water quality criteria, and maintain its function and designated use as a Class III fresh water. The method utilized to address the nutrient impairment included the development of regression equations that relate lake nutrient concentrations to the annual geometric mean chlorophyll a levels. For addressing nonpoint sources (both NPDES stormwater discharges and non-NPDES stormwater discharges), the TMDLs are expressed as percent reductions in the existing lake water total nitrogen concentrations necessary to meet the applicable chlorophyll a target.

The primary focus in the implementation of this TMDL is to maintain the lake's annual geometric mean chlorophyll a values at or below the target concentration of 20 ug/L through reductions in nutrient inputs to the system. Nutrient reductions are also expected to result in improvements of dissolved oxygen levels within the lake. When algae die they become part of the organic matter pool in the water column and the sediments. The decomposition of organic substrates by microbial activity exerts an oxygen demand which leads to a lowering of dissolved oxygen levels. Lower algal biomass should lower the biochemical oxygen demand levels in the water column, and sediment oxygen demand in the lake should also decrease over time as reductions in algal biomass will result in less accumulation of organic matter in the lake sediments.

5.2 Analysis of Water Quality

Deer Lake water quality monitoring in recent years has been performed by Polk County. The county has been routinely sampling the lake since 1987 and the assessment included in this report is based on water quality results obtained at station 21FLPOLKDEER1, which is located near the center of the lake. The other organizations to sample the lake, Florida LakeWatch (21FLKWAT...) and the U.S. Geological Survey (112WRD...) conducted monitoring intermittently prior to 1993. The individual water quality results for variables relevant to this TMDL effort for the period of record, which were collected by all sampling organizations, are displayed in the graphs in **Appendix B**.

The results collected at the Polk County sampling location near the center of the lake were evaluated to determine if relationships exist between nutrient concentrations and chlorophyll a levels. The county monitoring at this location provides a consistent data set for evaluating surface water quality. The nutrient and chlorophyll a annual geometric means were used in this evaluation to be consistent with the expression of the adopted NNC for lakes. In 1999, the county began sampling for corrected chlorophyll a, which is the more common form of chlorophyll a used in assessing surface water quality. For the purpose of this analysis, a minimum of two samples per year collected in different quarters of the year, were used to calculate the annual geometric means. In the 1999 to 2012 period, there were sufficient results collected in each year to calculate annual geometric mean values for corrected chlorophyll a and nutrients, with the exception of total phosphorus in 2003 and 2004.

Annual geometric mean values for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) results measured at the center of the lake are presented in **Figure 5.1**. During the 1999 to 2012 period, TN annual means ranged from 0.83 mg/L to 1.88 mg/L and the TP annual means ranged from 0.018 mg/L to 0.055 mg/L. Since 2003, the TN annual mean values have been increasing. TP annual means have generally ranged between 0.02 mg/L and 0.04 mg/L over the last fourteen years.

The chlorophyll a annual geometric mean values along with annual total rainfall are presented in **Figure 5.2**. The chlorophyll a annual geometric mean values in Deer Lake were above 20 ug/L in five of the six years between 2007 and 2012, with the exception of 2011 when the mean was 12 ug/L. Geometric means above the target ranged from 21 ug/L in 2010 to 32 ug/L in 2008. A comparison of annual geometric mean chlorophyll a results to annual rainfall, **Figure 5.3**, indicates there is a slight inverse relationship between these variables but the relationship is weak (p value > 0.05). The results suggest that factors in addition to external nutrient loadings, such as lake residence time and internal cycling of nutrients, may be exhibiting some influence on lake chlorophyll a levels since in years with presumably higher watershed nutrient loadings (i.e. higher rainfall years) the chlorophyll a results tend to be lower.

Recent monitoring conducted by the DEP Southwest District to enumerate the phytoplankton community, suggest that cyanobacteria may have a role in influencing the nitrogen budget for the lake. Samples for phytoplankton enumeration and water quality characterization were collected near the center of the lake in July 2013. The water quality measurements are presented in **Table 5.1** and the phytoplankton community results are presented in **Appendix C**. Phytoplankton in the Phylum Cyanophycota (the blue-green algae) were the dominant group, representing over 90 percent of the algal community based on cell densities. Many blue-green algae taxa are capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen, among them are *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*, which was observed in Deer Lake in considerable numbers, making up about 33 percent of the phytoplankton community.

Invasive aquatic plants occur within Deer Lake, (most notably hydrilla, water hyacinth, and water lettuce) and herbicide treatment is conducted at times to control the spread of these plants in the lake. This practice may enhance the cycling of nutrients within the lake, as the decomposition of dead plant material leads to the release of nutrients into the water column which can be a nutrient source for the phytoplankton community. Herbicide treatment information (acres treated and targeted vegetation) was obtained from the Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Office and compared to the lake chlorophyll a results, **Figure 5.4**. In the 2003 to 2005 period there were four herbicide applications on Deer Lake to control the growth of hydrilla, where between 22 to 58 percent of the lake surface area was treated. Since that time there has been an increase in the lake chlorophyll a levels. The decay of plant remains in the sediments resulting from these treatment events may be a possible factor contributing to the internal cycling of nutrients. Since the year 2000, the other thirty herbicide treatments have typically covered less than five percent of the lake surface area.

The relationships between the chlorophyll a and TN and TP annual geometric mean concentrations are presented in **Figure 5.5** and **Figure 5.6**, respectively. Chlorophyll a exhibits a good positive relationship with TN (r square = 0.49, p value < 0.05). The results indicate there is no apparent relationship between annual geometric mean chlorophyll a and TP (r square = 0.02, p value > 0.05). These observations suggest that with a lowering of the in-lake nitrogen concentrations the chlorophyll a concentrations will decrease.

Table 5.1 Water Quality Results at the Time of Phytoplankton Sampling on July 9, 2013.

Parameter	Value	Qualifier Code
Alkalinity (mg CaCO ₃ /L)	45	
Biochemical Oxygen Demand-5 Day (mg/L)	5.1	
Chloride (mg Cl/L)	26	
Chlorophyll-a, Corrected (ug/L)	32	
Color - true (PCU)	22	
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	11.45	
Fluoride (mg F/L)	0.18	
Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg N/L)	2.1	
NO ₂ NO ₃ -N (mg N/L)	0.004	U
O-Phosphate-P (mg P/L)	0.004	U
Organic Carbon (mg C/L)	14	
pH (SU)	8.86	
Phaeophytin-a (ug/L)	2	U
Sample Depth (m)	0.2	
Specific Conductance (umhos/cm)	219	
Sulfate (mg SO ₄ /L)	16	
TDS (mg/L)	142	
Temperature (deg. C)	25.52	
Total-P (mg P/L)	0.039	
TSS (mg/L)	10	
Turbidity (NTU)	7.5	

U - Indicates that the compound was analyzed for but not detected.

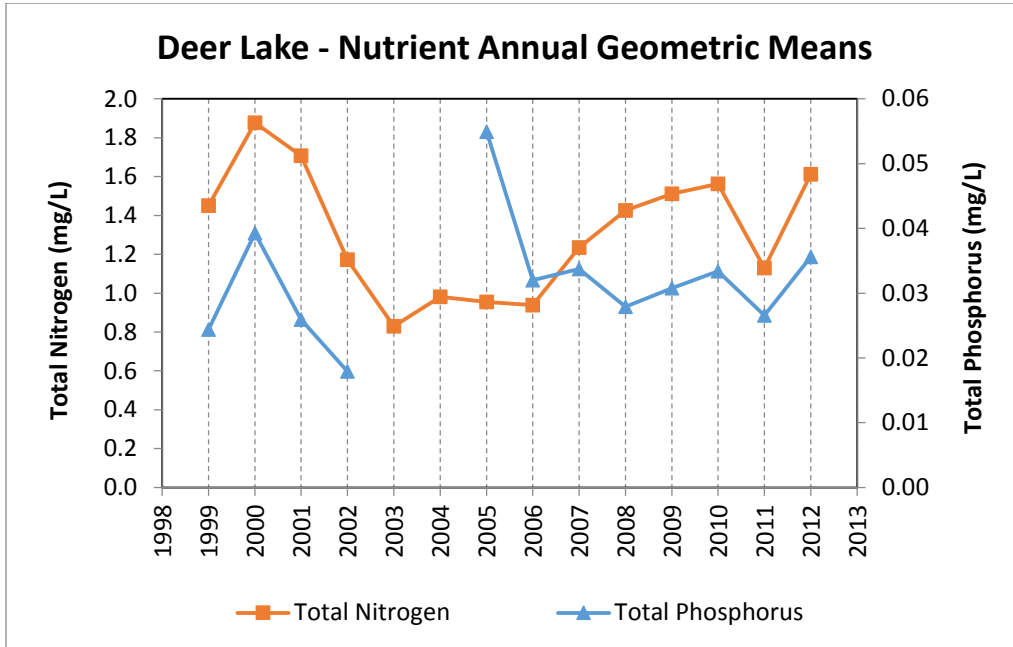


Figure 5.1 Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Annual Geometric Means in Deer Lake.

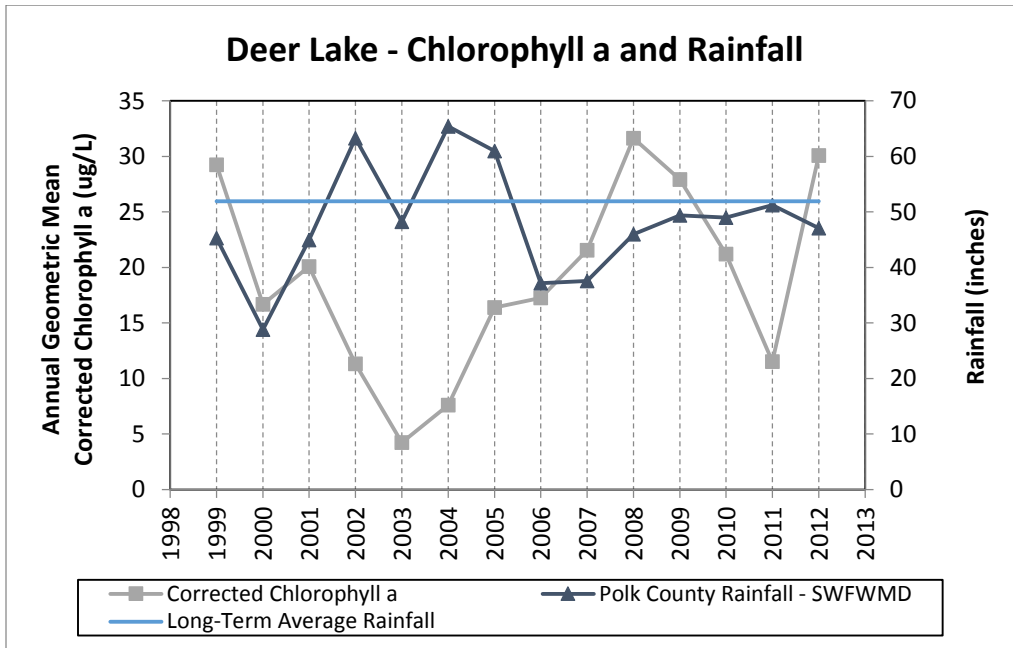


Figure 5.2 Deer Lake Chlorophyll a Annual Geometric Means and Annual Rainfall.

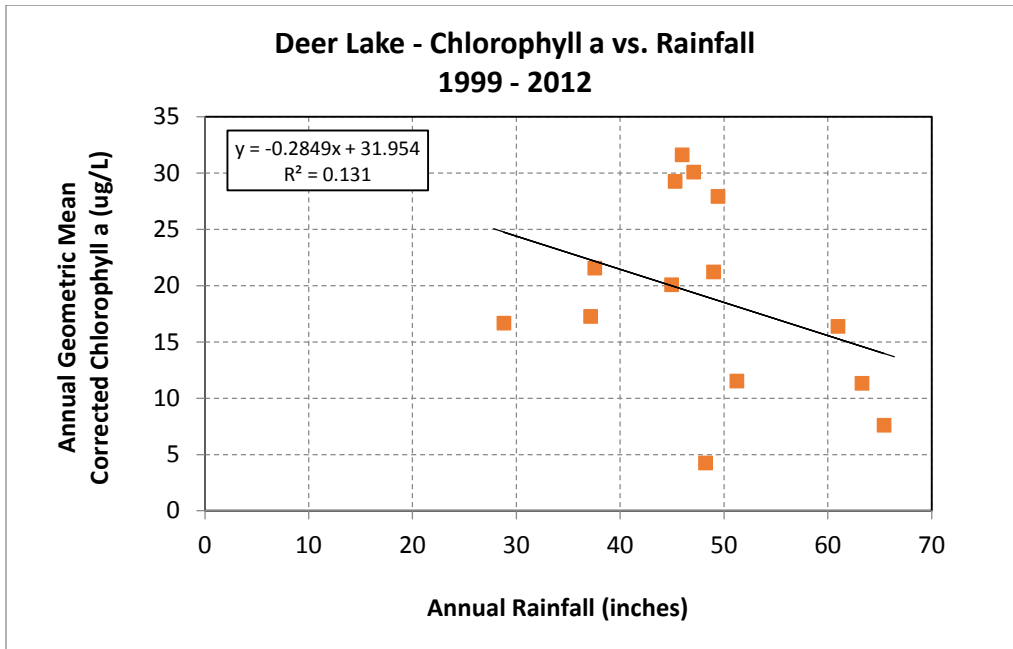


Figure 5.3 Relationship Between Deer Lake Chlorophyll a Annual Geometric Means and Annual Rainfall.

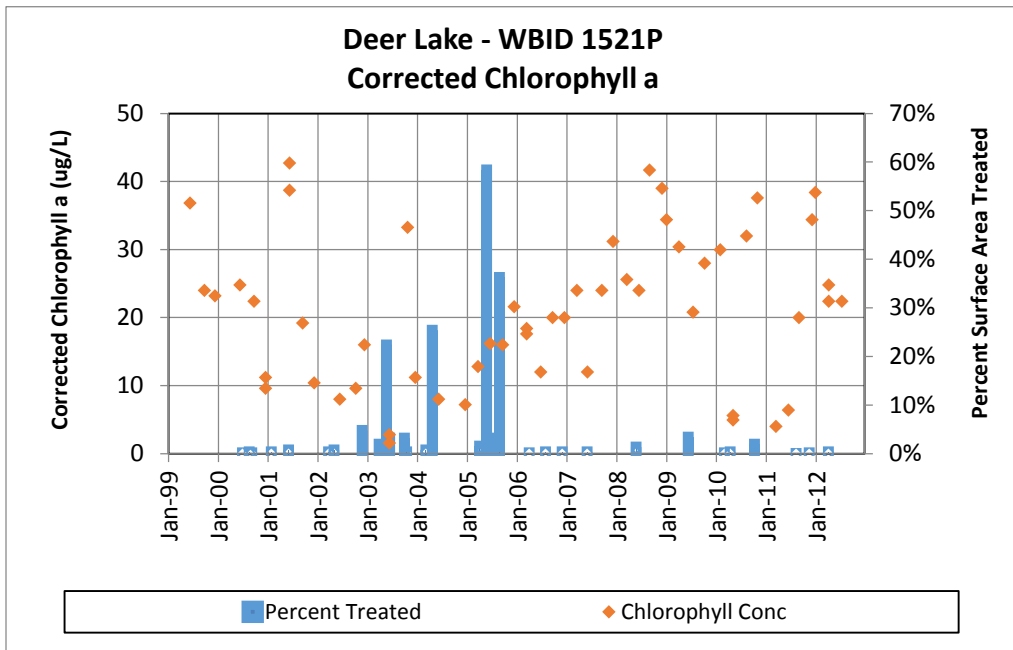


Figure 5.4 Deer Lake Chlorophyll a Results and Lake Area Treated for Invasive Aquatic Plant Growth.

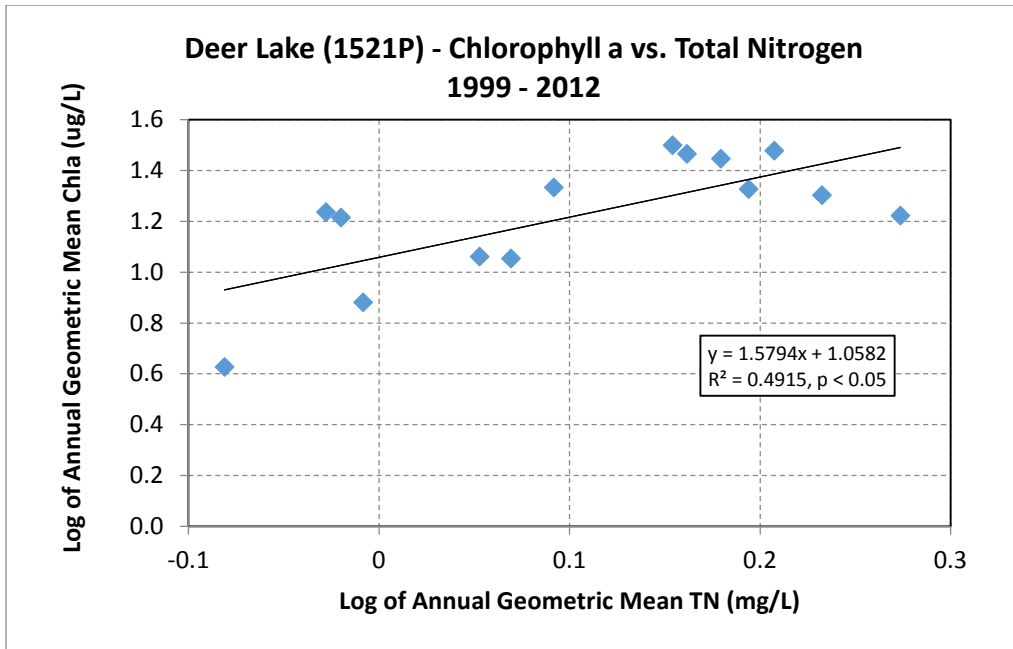


Figure 5.5 Relationship Between Annual Geometric Means of Chlorophyll a and Total Nitrogen in Deer Lake.

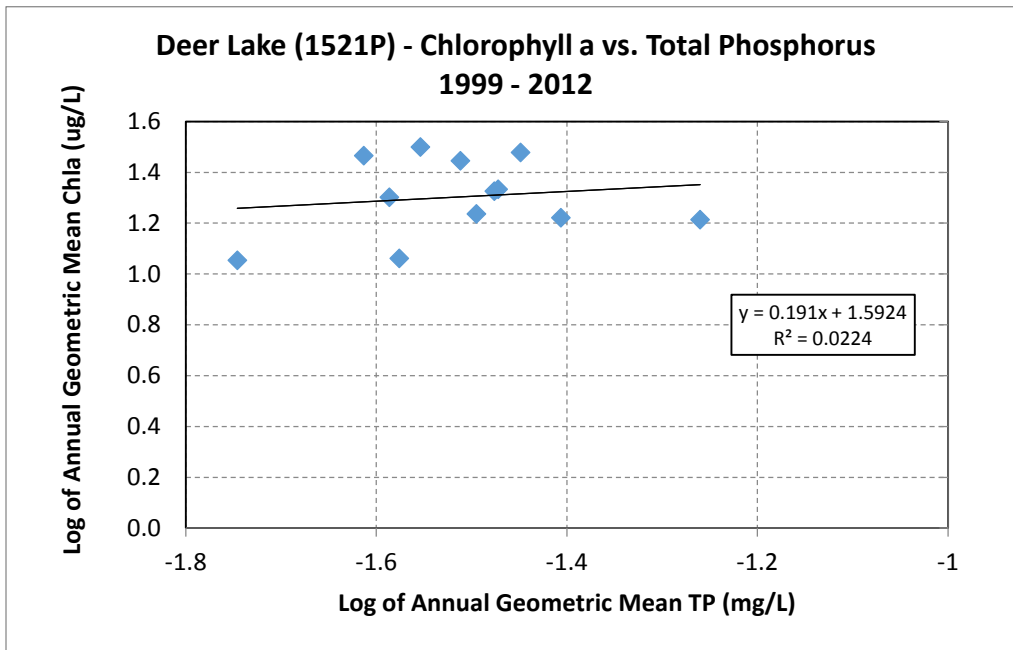


Figure 5.6 Relationship Between Annual Geometric Means of Chlorophyll a and Total Phosphorus in Deer Lake.

5.3 The TMDL Development Process

The method used for developing the nutrient TMDL is a percent reduction approach, whereby the percent reduction in the existing lake TN concentration was calculated to meet the TN target. As discussed in Chapter 3, the NNC chlorophyll a threshold of 20 ug/L, expressed as an annual geometric mean, was selected as the response variable target for TMDL development. To identify the TN water quality target, the regression equation explaining the relationship between annual geometric mean chlorophyll a and TN, **Figure 5.5**, was used to determine the TN concentration necessary to meet the chlorophyll a target of 20 ug/L. An annual TN geometric mean of 1.42 mg/L results in a chlorophyll a annual geometric mean of 20 ug/L.

Based on an assessment of the lake results as presented in **Table 2.1**, the TP annual geometric means did not exceed the applicable NNC of 0.03 mg/L in any year. The available data indicate that the lake TP results are meeting the applicable NNC. Additionally, there is not an evident relationship between chlorophyll a and TP annual geometric mean concentrations, **Figure 5.6**, suggesting that the existing TP condition is not a significant contributor to lake eutrophication. The available information indicates that the existing lake phosphorus concentrations and TP loads to the lake are not having a detrimental effect on surface water quality, so there is not a need to develop a TMDL for TP. Although a TP TMDL is not necessary, the lake TP concentrations should be maintained at existing conditions to ensure that the applicable NNC continues to be attained.

Deer Lake is expected to meet the applicable nutrient criteria and maintain its function and designated use as a Class III water when surface water TN concentrations are reduced to the target concentration, which will address the anthropogenic contributions to the water quality impairment. The approach used to establish the nutrient target and the TMDL, addresses meeting the chlorophyll a target, which is protective of the lake's designated use.

The existing lake nutrient conditions evaluated for establishing the TMDL, were the TN concentrations measured in the 2002-2012 period. This period includes the entire Cycle 2 verified period and water quality in more recent years. The geometric means were calculated from TN results available in IWR Database Run 48. For the purpose of establishing the TMDL, the existing TN condition used in the percent reduction calculation is the maximum TN annual geometric mean value in the 2002-2012 time frame. The highest geometric mean value, 1.62 mg/L, occurred in 2012, **Table 5.2**. The use of the maximum geometric mean value in setting the TMDL is considered a conservative assumption for establishing reductions as this will ensure that all exceedances of the TN target are addressed.

The equation used to calculate the percent reduction is as follows:

$$\frac{[\text{measured exceedance} - \text{target}]}{\text{measured exceedance}} \times 100$$

The measured exceedance is the maximum TN annual geometric mean value. For the maximum TN value of 1.62 mg/L to achieve the target concentration of 1.42 mg/L, a 12 percent reduction in the lake TN concentration is necessary. The nutrient TMDL value, which is expressed as an annual geometric mean, addresses the anthropogenic nutrient inputs which contribute to the exceedances of the chlorophyll a restoration target.

Table 5.2 Deer Lake Nutrient Annual Geometric Means Used to Calculate the Percent Reduction Needed to Meet the Water Quality Target.

Year	IWR Run 48 TN Annual Geometric Mean (mg/L)
2002	ID
2003	ID
2004	ID
2005	0.96
2006	0.94
2007	1.24
2008	1.43
2009	1.51
2010	1.53
2011	1.13
2012	1.62
Maximum Geometric Mean	1.62

ID - Insufficient Data to Calculate Geometric Means per the Requirements of Rule 62-303.

5.4 Critical Conditions

The estimated assimilative capacity is based on annual conditions, rather than critical/seasonal conditions because (a) the methodology used to determine the assimilative capacity does not lend itself very well to short-term assessments, (b) the Department is generally more concerned with the net change in overall primary productivity in the segment, which is better addressed on an annual basis, and (c) the methodology used to determine impairment is based on annual conditions (annual geometric means or arithmetic means).

Chapter 6: DETERMINATION OF THE TMDL

6.1 Expression and Allocation of the TMDL

A TMDL can be expressed as the sum of all point source loads (wasteload allocations or WLAs), nonpoint source loads (load allocations or LAs), and an appropriate margin of safety (MOS) that takes into account any uncertainty about the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality:

As mentioned previously, the WLA is broken out into separate subcategories for wastewater discharges and stormwater discharges regulated under the NPDES Program:

$$\text{TMDL} \cong \sum \square \text{WLA}_{\text{wastewater}} + \sum \square \text{WLA}_{\text{NPDES Stormwater}} + \sum \square \text{LAs} + \text{MOS}$$

It should be noted that the various components of the TMDL equation may not sum up to the value of the TMDL because a) the WLA for NPDES stormwater is typically based on the percent reduction needed for nonpoint sources and is accounted for within the LA, and b) TMDL components can be expressed in different terms [for example, the WLA for stormwater is typically expressed as a percent reduction and the WLA for wastewater is typically expressed as a mass per day].

WLAs for stormwater discharges are typically expressed as “percent reduction” because it is very difficult to quantify the loads from MS4s (given the numerous discharge points) and to distinguish loads from MS4s from other nonpoint sources (given the nature of stormwater transport). The permitting of stormwater discharges is also different than the permitting of most wastewater point sources. Because stormwater discharges cannot be centrally collected, monitored and treated, they are not subject to the same types of effluent limitations as wastewater facilities, and instead are required to meet a performance standard of providing treatment to the “maximum extent practical” through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

This approach is consistent with federal regulations [40 CFR § 130.2(l)], which state that TMDLs can be expressed in terms of mass per time (e.g. pounds per day), toxicity, or **other appropriate measure**. The TMDL for Deer Lake is expressed in terms of a nutrient concentration target and the percent reduction for nonpoint sources necessary to meet the target, **Table 6.1**, and represents the maximum lake total nitrogen concentration the surface water can assimilate to meet the applicable nutrient criteria. The TMDL will constitute the site specific numeric interpretation of the narrative nutrient criterion set forth in paragraph 62-302.530(47)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that will replace the otherwise applicable numeric nutrient criteria in subsection 62-302.531(2) for this particular water, pursuant to paragraph 62-302.531(2)(a) F.A.C.

Table 6.1 TMDL Components for Deer Lake

WBID	Parameter	TMDL (mg/L) ¹	WLA Wastewater (lbs/year)	WLA NPDES Stormwater (% Reduction) ²	LA (% Reduction) ²	MOS
1521P	Total Nitrogen	1.42	NA	12%	12%	Implicit

¹ Represents the annual geometric mean lake value that is not to be exceeded.

² As the TMDL represents a percent reduction, it also complies with EPA requirements to express the TMDL on a daily basis.

NA - Not Applicable

6.2 Load Allocation (LA)

A total nitrogen reduction of 12 percent is required from nonpoint sources. It should be noted that the load allocation includes loading from stormwater discharges that are not part of the NPDES Stormwater Program.

6.3 Wasteload Allocation (WLA)

6.3.1 NPDES Wastewater Discharges

There are no NPDES wastewater facilities that discharge directly to Deer Lake or its watershed. As such, a WLA for wastewater discharges is not applicable.

6.3.2 NPDES Stormwater Discharges

Polk County and Co- Permittees (FDOT District 1 and the City of Winter Haven) are covered by a Phase I NPDES municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit (FLS000015) and areas within their jurisdiction in the Deer Lake watershed may be responsible for a 12 percent total nitrogen reduction in current anthropogenic loading. It should be noted that any MS4 permittee is only responsible for reducing the anthropogenic loads associated with stormwater outfalls that it owns or otherwise has responsible control over, and it is not responsible for reducing other nonpoint source loads in its jurisdiction.

6.4 Margin of Safety (MOS)

TMDLs must address uncertainty issues by incorporating a MOS into the analysis. The MOS is a required component of a TMDL and accounts for the uncertainty about the relationship between pollutant loads and the quality of the receiving waterbody [Clean Water Act, Section 303(d)(1)(c)]. Considerable uncertainty is usually inherent in estimating nutrient loading from nonpoint sources, as well as predicting water quality response. The effectiveness of management activities (e.g., stormwater management plans) in reducing loading is also subject to uncertainty.

The MOS can either be implicitly accounted for by choosing conservative assumptions about loading or water quality response, or explicitly accounted for during the allocation of loadings. Consistent with the recommendations of the Allocation Technical Advisory Committee (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, February 2001), an implicit margin of safety (MOS) was used in the development of the TMDL because of the conservative assumptions that were applied. The TMDL was developed using the highest TN annual geometric mean value to calculate the percent reduction.

Chapter 7: NEXT STEPS: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND BEYOND

7.1 Implementation Mechanisms

Following the adoption of a TMDL, implementation takes place through various measures. Implementation of TMDLs may occur through specific requirements in NPDES wastewater and municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) permits, and, as appropriate, through local or regional water quality initiatives or Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs).

Facilities with NPDES permits that discharge to the TMDL waterbody must respond to the permit conditions that reflect target concentrations, reductions, or wasteload allocations identified in the TMDL. NPDES permits are required for Phase I and Phase II MS4s as well as domestic and industrial wastewater facilities. MS4 Phase I permits require that the permit holder prioritize and take action to address a TMDL unless their management actions are already defined in a BMAP. MS4 Phase II permit holders must also implement responsibilities defined in a BMAP.

7.2 Basin Management Action Plans

BMAPs are discretionary and are not initiated for all TMDLs. A BMAP is a TMDL implementation tool that integrates the appropriate management strategies applicable through the existing water quality protection programs. The Department or a local entity may develop a BMAP that addresses some or all of the contributing areas to the TMDL waterbody.

Section 403.067, Florida Statutes, called the “Florida Watershed Restoration Act” provides for the development and implementation of BMAPs. BMAPs are adopted by the Secretary of the Department and are legally enforceable.

BMAPs describe the management strategies that will be implemented as well as funding strategies, project tracking mechanisms, water quality monitoring, as well as fair and equitable allocations of pollution reduction responsibilities to the sources in the watershed. BMAPs also identify mechanisms to address potential pollutant loading from future growth and development. The most important component of a BMAP is the list of management strategies to reduce the pollution sources, as these are the activities needed to implement the TMDL. The local entities that will conduct these management strategies are identified and their responsibilities are enforceable. Management strategies may include wastewater treatment upgrades, stormwater improvements, and agricultural best management practices.

Additional information about BMAPs is available at the following Department web site:
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>

7.3 Implementation Considerations for Deer Lake

In addition to addressing reductions in watershed pollutant contributions to impaired waters during the implementation phase, it may also be necessary to consider the impacts of internal sources (e.g., sediment nutrient fluxes or the presence of nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria) and the results of any associated remediation projects on surface water quality. In the case of Deer Lake, the recent phytoplankton monitoring results suggest that other factors besides watershed loading inputs, such as nitrogen fixation, may also be influencing the lake nutrient budget and the growth of phytoplankton. Additionally, sediment nutrient fluxes should be considered as a potential source considering the herbicide treatment of the lake to control the growth of invasive aquatic plants. Approaches for addressing these other factors should be included in a comprehensive management plan for the lake.

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Appendix A: Background Information on Federal and State Stormwater Programs

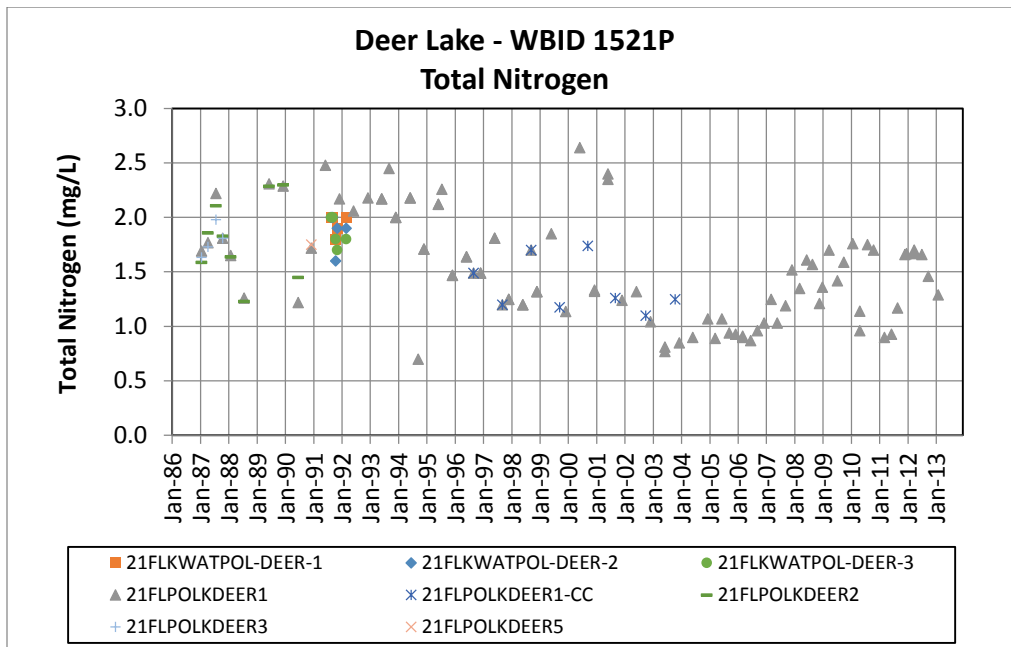
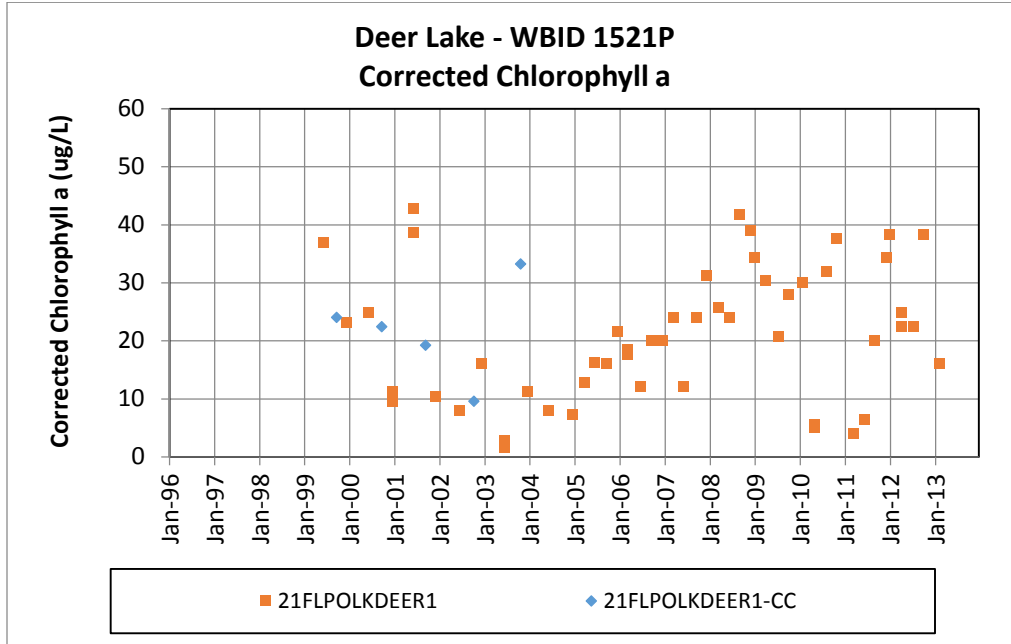
In 1982, Florida became the first state in the country to implement statewide regulations to address the issue of nonpoint source pollution by requiring new development and redevelopment to treat stormwater before it is discharged. The Stormwater Rule, as authorized in Chapter 403, F.S., was established as a technology-based program that relies on the implementation of BMPs that are designed to achieve a specific level of treatment (i.e., performance standards) as set forth in Chapter 62-40, F.A.C.

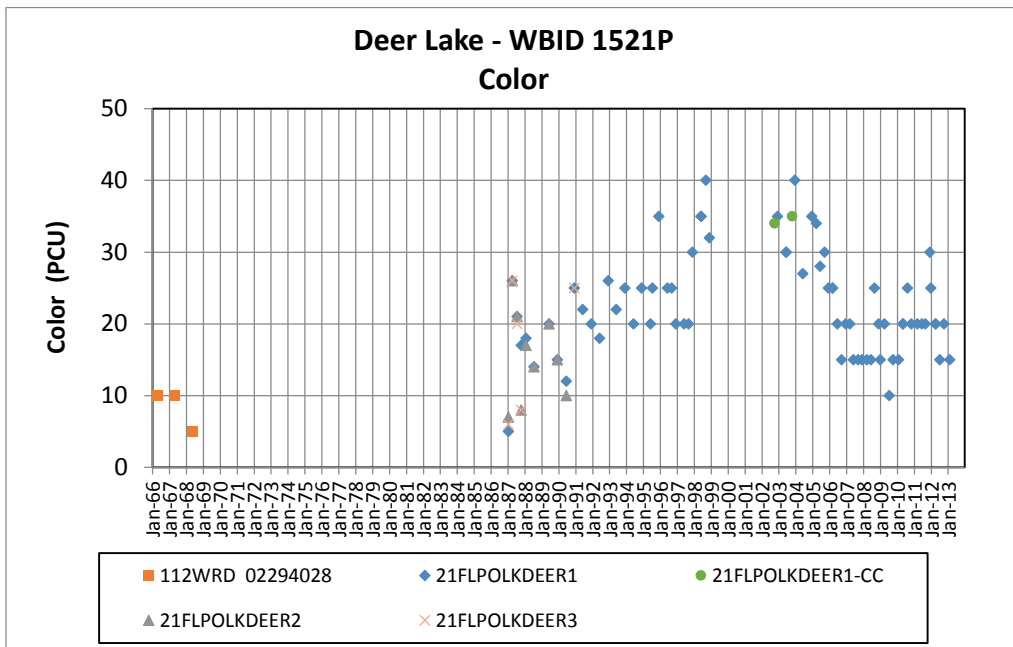
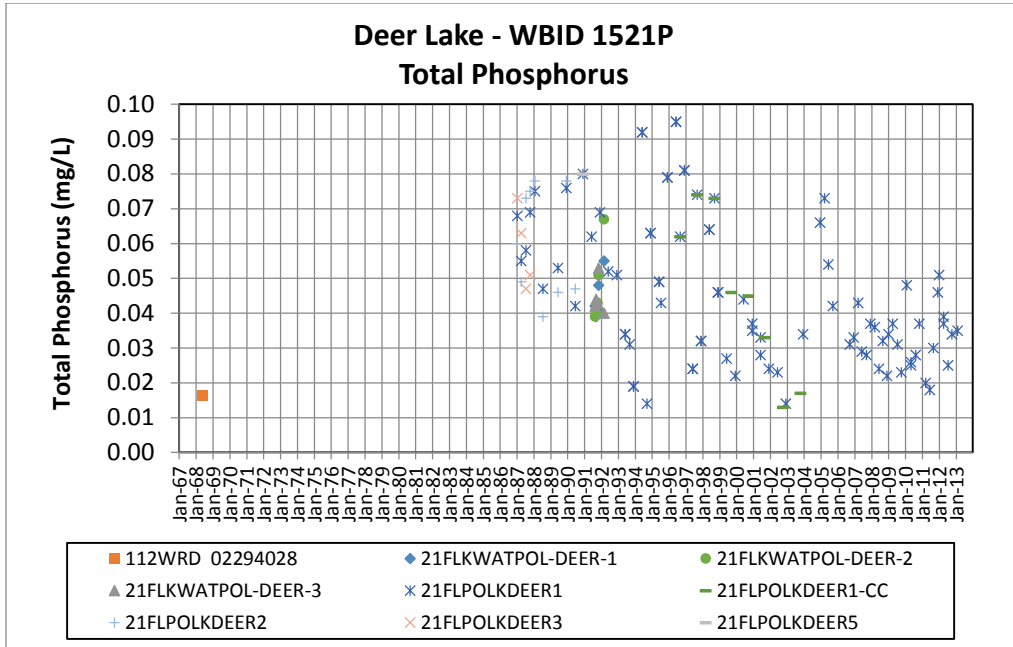
The rule requires the state's water management districts (WMDs) to establish stormwater pollutant load reduction goals (PLRGs) and adopt them as part of a SWIM plan, other watershed plan, or rule. Stormwater PLRGs are a major component of the load allocation part of a TMDL. To date, stormwater PLRGs have been established for Tampa Bay, Lake Thonotosassa, the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, and Lake Apopka.

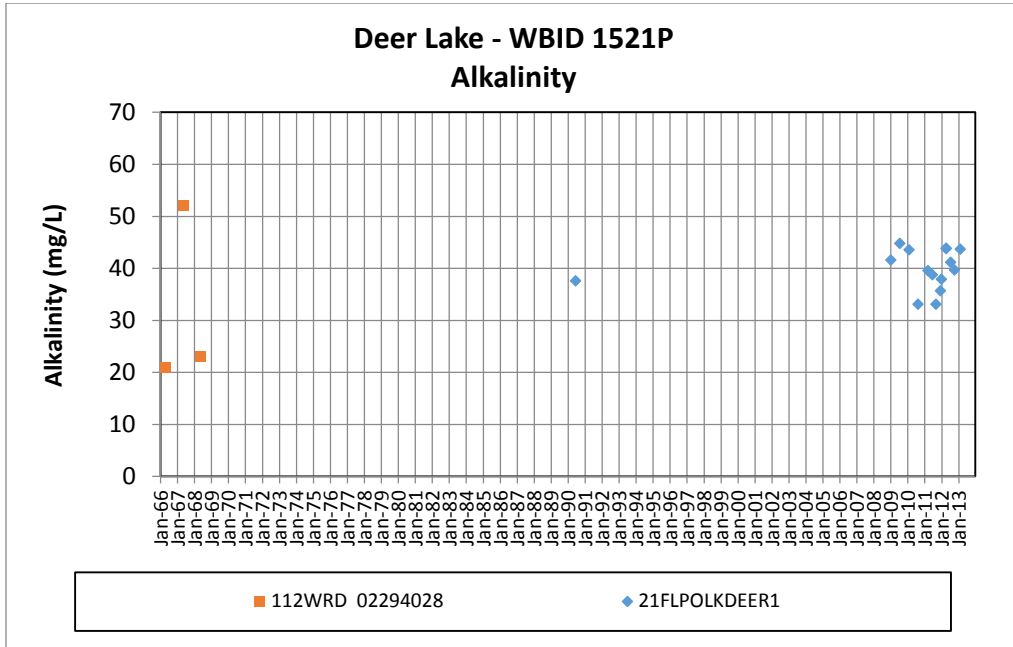
In 1987, the U.S. Congress established Section 402(p) as part of the federal Clean Water Act Reauthorization. This section of the law amended the scope of the federal NPDES stormwater permitting program to designate certain stormwater discharges as "point sources" of pollution. These stormwater discharges include certain discharges that are associated with industrial activities designated by specific Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes, construction sites disturbing five or more acres of land, and master drainage systems of local governments with a population above 100,000, which are better known as municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). However, because the master drainage systems of most local governments in Florida are interconnected, the EPA has implemented Phase 1 of the MS4 permitting program on a countywide basis, which brings in all cities (incorporated areas), Chapter 298 urban water control districts, and the Florida Department of Transportation throughout the fifteen counties meeting the population criteria.

An important difference between the federal and state stormwater permitting programs is that the federal program covers both new and existing discharges, while the state program focuses on new discharges. Additionally, Phase 2 of the NPDES Program will expand the need for these permits to construction sites between one and five acres, and to local governments with as few as 10,000 people. These revised rules require that these additional activities obtain permits by 2003. While these urban stormwater discharges are now technically referred to as "point sources" for the purpose of regulation, they are still diffuse sources of pollution that cannot be easily collected and treated by a central treatment facility similar to other point sources of pollution, such as domestic and industrial wastewater discharges. The Department recently accepted delegation from the EPA for the stormwater part of the NPDES Program. It should be noted that most MS4 permits issued in Florida include a re-opener clause that allows permit revisions to implement TMDLs once they are formally adopted by rule.

Appendix B: Graphs of Surface Water Quality Results







Appendix C: Deer Lake Phytoplankton Results – Collected July 9, 2013

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Taxon Name	(# counted)	(# per mL)	Phylum (%)
Bacillariophyta	Bacillariophyta	Bacillariophyta	Bacillariophyta	Bacillariophyta	Bacillariophyta	5	1,741	1.6
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Oocystaceae	Oocystis	Oocystis	1	348	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Volvocales	Chlamydomonadaceae	Chlamydomonas	Chlamydomonas	2	697	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Chlorococcaceae	Chlorococcum	Chlorococcum humicola	2	697	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Scenedesmaceae	Scenedesmus	Scenedesmus bijuga	2	697	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Scenedesmaceae	Scenedesmus	Scenedesmus dimorphus	2	697	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Oocystaceae	Ankistrodesmus	Ankistrodesmus falcatus	3	1,045	
Chlorophycota	Chlorophyceae	Chlorococcales	Oocystaceae	Chlorella	Chlorella	6	2,090	5.9
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Merismopediaceae	Aphanocapsa	Aphanocapsa elachista	1	348	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Phormidiaceae	Planktothrix	Planktothrix agardhii	1	348	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Pseudanabaena	Pseudanabaena limnetica	1	348	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Synechococcaceae	Cyanobium	Cyanobium parvum	2	697	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Microcystaceae	Microcystis	Microcystis firma	2	697	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Microcystaceae	Microcystis	Microcystis wesenbergii	3	1,045	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Planktolyngbya	Planktolyngbya microspira	4	1,393	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Pseudanabaena	Pseudanabaena biceps	4	1,393	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Limnothrix	Limnothrix mirabilis	5	1,741	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Planktolyngbya	Planktolyngbya limnetica	5	1,741	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Synechococcaceae	Rhabdogloea	Rhabdogloea	24	8,359	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Chroococcales	Chroococcaceae	Synechocystis	Synechocystis	58	20,201	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Oscillatoriales	Pseudanabaenaceae	Jaaginema	Jaaginema gracile	68	23,684	
Cyanophycota	Cyanophyceae	Nostocales	Nostocaceae	Cylindrospermopsis	Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii	100	34,830	91.1
Pyrrophytophyta	Dinophyceae	Peridinales	Peridiniaceae	Peridinium	Peridinium	1	348	
Pyrrophytophyta	Dinophyceae	Peridinales	Glenodiniaceae	Glenodinium	Glenodinium	3	1,045	1.3
					Total	305	106,230	100

Appendix D: Water Quality Standards Template Document

Table D-1. Spatial Extent of the Numeric Interpretation of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion: Documentation of location and descriptive information

Waterbody Location Information	Description of Waterbody Location Information
Waterbody Name	Deer Lake
Waterbody Type(s)	Lake
Water Body ID (WBID)	WBID 1521P (See Figure 1)
Description	Deer Lake is located in the City of Winter Haven, Polk County, Florida. The estimated surface area of the lake is 116 acres, and the watershed encompasses 410 acres. The average depth of the lake is 7.5 ft., with a maximum depth of 17.8 ft. The lake is connected to Lake Cannon by a pipe. Lake Cannon is part of the Winter Haven Southern Chain of Lakes. The Southern Chain of Lakes can discharge to the Wahneta Farms Drainage Canal from a structure on the south side of Lake Lulu. The 2010 Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Water Quality Management Plan indicates anecdotal evidence shows that the canal has discharged water from the Southern Chain only three times in the past 25 years. The Wahneta Farms Drainage Canal flows into the Peace Creek Drainage Canal, which along with Saddle Creek, makes up the headwaters of the Peace River.
Specific Location (Latitude/ Longitude or River Miles)	The center of Deer Lake is located at N: 28° 1' 33" / W: -81° 45' 47". The site specific criteria apply as a spatial average for the lake, as defined by WBID 1521P.
Map	The general location of Deer Lake and its watershed are shown in Figure 1, and the land uses of the watershed are shown in Figure 2 (provided at the end of this document). The predominant land use in the watershed is urban use, making up 62 percent of the watershed area. Medium density residential is the largest urban use type covering 31 percent of the basin. Other common urban land uses include commercial and services (9 percent), high density residential (8 percent), and institutional (6 percent). Agricultural land (tree crops) occupy about 5 percent of the land area.
Classification(s)	Class III Freshwater
Basin Name (HUC 8)	Peace River Basin (03100101)

Table D-2. Description of the Numeric Interpretation of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion: Provides specific list of parameters/constituents for which state numeric nutrient criteria are adopted, site specific numeric interpretation are proposed; Provides sufficient detail on magnitude, duration, and frequency to ensure criteria can be used to verify impairment or delisting in the future; Indicates how criteria developed are spatially and temporally representative of the waterbody or critical condition

Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Nutrient Criterion	Parameter Information Related to Numeric Interpretation of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion
<p>Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) Summary: Default Nutrient Watershed Region or Lake Classification (if applicable) and corresponding numeric nutrient criteria</p>	<p>Deer Lake is low color (≤ 40 Platinum Cobalt Units) and high alkalinity (> 20 mg/L CaCO₃), and the default NNC, which are expressed as Annual Geometric Mean (AGM) concentrations not to be exceeded more than once in any three year period, are Chlorophyll a (Chla) of 20 μg/L, total nitrogen (TN) of 1.05 mg/L – 1.91 mg/L, and total phosphorus (TP) of 0.03 mg/L – 0.09 mg/L.</p>
<p>Proposed TN, TP, chlorophyll a, and/or nitrate+nitrite (Magnitude, Duration, and Frequency)</p>	<p>Numeric Interpretations of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion: TN = 1.42 mg/L, expressed as an annual geometric mean lake concentration not to be exceeded in any year.</p> <p>Establishing the frequency as not to be exceeded in any year ensures that the chlorophyll a NNC, which is protective of the designated use, is achieved.</p>
<p>Period of Record Used to Develop the Numeric Interpretations of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion for TN and TP Criteria</p>	<p>The criterion is based on application of an empirical model developed using data from the 1999-2012 period. The primary dataset for this period is the IWR Run 48 database.</p>
<p>Indicate how criteria developed are spatially and temporally representative of the waterbody or critical condition</p> <p>Are the stations used representative of the entire extent of the WBID and where the criteria area apply? In addition, for older TMDLs, an explanation of the representativeness of the data period is needed (e.g., has data or information become available since the TMDL</p>	<p>The water quality results applied in the analysis spanned the 1999 - 2012 period, which included both wet and dry years. The annual average rainfall for 1999-2012 was 48.2 inches/year. The years 2000, 2006, and 2007 were dry years, 2009 to 2011 were average years, and 2002, 2004, and 2005 were wet years.</p> <p>Figure 3 (below) shows the sampling stations in Deer Lake. The Polk County data collected near the center of the lake at station 21FLPOLKDEER1 were used to develop the regression equations relating nutrient concentrations to chlorophyll a levels.</p>

Numeric Interpretation of Narrative Nutrient Criterion	Parameter Information Related to Numeric Interpretation of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion
<p>analysis?). These details are critical to demonstrate why the resulting criteria will be protective as opposed to the otherwise applicable criteria (in cases where a numeric criterion is otherwise in effect unlike this case).</p>	<p>The majority of data were collected at this Polk County monitoring station.</p> <p>Water quality data for variables relevant to TMDL development are presented in graphs in the Appendix of the Deer Lake TMDL report.</p>

Table D-3. Designated Use, Verified Impairment, and Approach to Establish Protective Restoration Targets: Summary of how the designated use(s) are demonstrated to be protected by the criteria; Summarizes the review associated with the more recent data collected since the development of the TMDL, and evaluates the current relevance of assumptions made in the TMDL development (most likely applicable for existing TMDLs that are subsequently submitted as changes to WQS); Contains sufficient data to establish and support the TMDL target concentrations or resulting loads

Designated Use Requirements	Information Related to Designated Use Requirements
History of assessment of designated use support.	<p>Deer Lake was verified as impaired during the Cycle 2 assessment (the verified period was January 1, 2002, to June 30, 2009) due to excessive nutrients, because the Trophic State Index (TSI) threshold of 60 was exceeded using the methodology in the Identification of Impaired Surface Waters Rule (IWR) (Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.). As a result, the lake was included on the Cycle 2 Verified List of impaired waters for the Sarasota Bay-Peace River-Myakka River Basin that was adopted by Secretarial Order on January 15, 2010.</p> <p>Based on an analysis of the data from 2002 to 2012 in IWR Database Run 48, the results indicate that Deer Lake would not attain the default lake NNC for chlorophyll a and TN for low color, high alkalinity lakes, and thus remains impaired for nutrients. An analysis of the TP results indicate that the default lake NNC for TP is attained.</p>
Quantitative indicator(s) of use support	A Chla value of 20 ug/L was selected as the response variable target for use in establishing the nutrient TMDLs. This target is based on information in the Department’s 2012 document titled, <i>Technical Support Document: Development of Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Florida Lakes, Spring Vents and Streams</i> , which demonstrates a Chla threshold of 20 ug/L is protective of designated uses for low color, high alkalinity lakes.
Summarize Approach Used to Develop Criteria and How it Protects Uses	<p>The method utilized to address the nutrient impairment is a regression equation that relates the lake TN concentrations to the annual geometric mean chlorophyll a levels.</p> <p>The criterion is expressed as a maximum annual geometric mean concentration not to be exceeded in any year. Establishing the frequency as not to be exceeded in any year ensures that the chlorophyll a NNC, which is protective of the designated use, is achieved.</p>
Discuss how the TMDL will ensure that nutrient related parameters are attained to demonstrate that the TMDL	The method indicated that the Chla concentration target for the lake will be attained at the TMDL in-lake TN concentration, frequency and duration. The Department notes that there were

Designated Use Requirements	Information Related to Designated Use Requirements
<p>will not negatively impact other water quality criteria. These parameters must be analyzed with the appropriate frequency and duration. If compliance with 47(a) is not indicated within the TMDL, it should be clear that further reductions may be required in the future.</p>	<p>no impairments for nutrient related parameters (such as DO or unionized ammonia). The proposed reductions in nutrient inputs will result in further improvements in water quality.</p>

Table D-4. Documentation of the Means to Attain and Maintain WQS of Downstream Waters

Downstream Waters Protection and Monitoring Requirements	Information Related to Downstream Waters Protection and Monitoring Requirements
<p>Identification of Downstream Waters: List receiving waters and identify technical justification for concluding downstream waters are protected.</p>	<p>Deer Lake is connected to Lake Cannon, which is part of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, by a 24 inch pipe that discharges into Lake Cannon when the lake is at higher water levels. Lake Cannon is also hydrologically connected to Lakes Howard, Idylwild, and Mirror via constructed navigable canals and to Lake Blue via a constructed canal and a gated structure that discharges only when seasonal high waters exceed lake operational levels. The TN annual geometric means for all these lakes do not attain the applicable default lake TN NNC for low color, high alkalinity lakes. Lakes Cannon, Howard, Idylwild, Mirror and Blue are part of the Winter Haven Southern Chain of Lakes. Deer Lake is not part of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes system.</p> <p>Regression analysis indicates that there is not a significant relationship between the current TN annual geometric means in Deer Lake and Lake Cannon. There is, however, a significant positive relationship between Lake Idylwild and Lake Cannon TN annual geometric means ($r^2 = 0.63$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting between-lake influences in the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.</p> <p>An analysis of the Lake Cannon TP results indicate that the default lake NNC for TP is attained, as is the case for Deer Lake.</p> <p>The reduction in nutrient concentrations prescribed in the TMDL is not expected to cause nutrient impairments downstream and will actually result in water quality improvements to downstream waters.</p>
<p>Provide summary of existing monitoring and assessment related to implementation of rule 62-302.531(4) and trends tests within Chapter 62-303, F.A.C.</p>	<p>Polk County conducts routine monitoring of Lake Cannon approximately four times per year. Future monitoring results from waters downstream of Deer Lake, and from Deer Lake itself, will be used to assess the effect of the established site specific numeric interpretation of the narrative nutrient criterion on the lake.</p>

Table D-5. Documentation to Demonstrate Administrative Requirements Are Met

Administrative Requirements	Information for Administrative Requirements
Notice and comment notifications	<p>A public workshop was conducted by the Department on March 26, 2014 in Bartow, Florida to obtain comments on the draft nutrient TMDLs for four lakes in the Peace River Basin, including Deer Lake. The workshop notice indicated that these nutrient TMDLs, if adopted, constitute site specific numeric interpretations of the narrative nutrient criterion set forth in paragraph 62-302.530(47)(b), F.A.C., that would replace the otherwise applicable numeric nutrient criteria in subsection 62-302.531(2) for these particular waters, upon paragraph 62-302.531(2)(a), F.A.C., becoming effective.</p> <p>No formal public comments were received at the workshop. In addition, a 30 day comment period was provided to allow opportunity for the general public to submit written comments to the Department. No formal comments were received related to the establishment of the TMDLs as the site specific interpretation of the narrative nutrient criteria or on the TMDLs themselves.</p>
Hearing requirements and adoption format used; Responsiveness summary	<p>The Notice of Proposed Rule for this TMDL was published in the Florida Administrative Register on November 26, 2014. No requests for a hearing were received during the 21-day challenge period. The rule for this TMDL, subsection 62-304.625(16), F.A.C., became effective on February 19, 2015.</p>
Official submittal to EPA for review and GC Certification	

Figure 1. Location of the Deer Lake Watershed in North Central Polk County, Florida

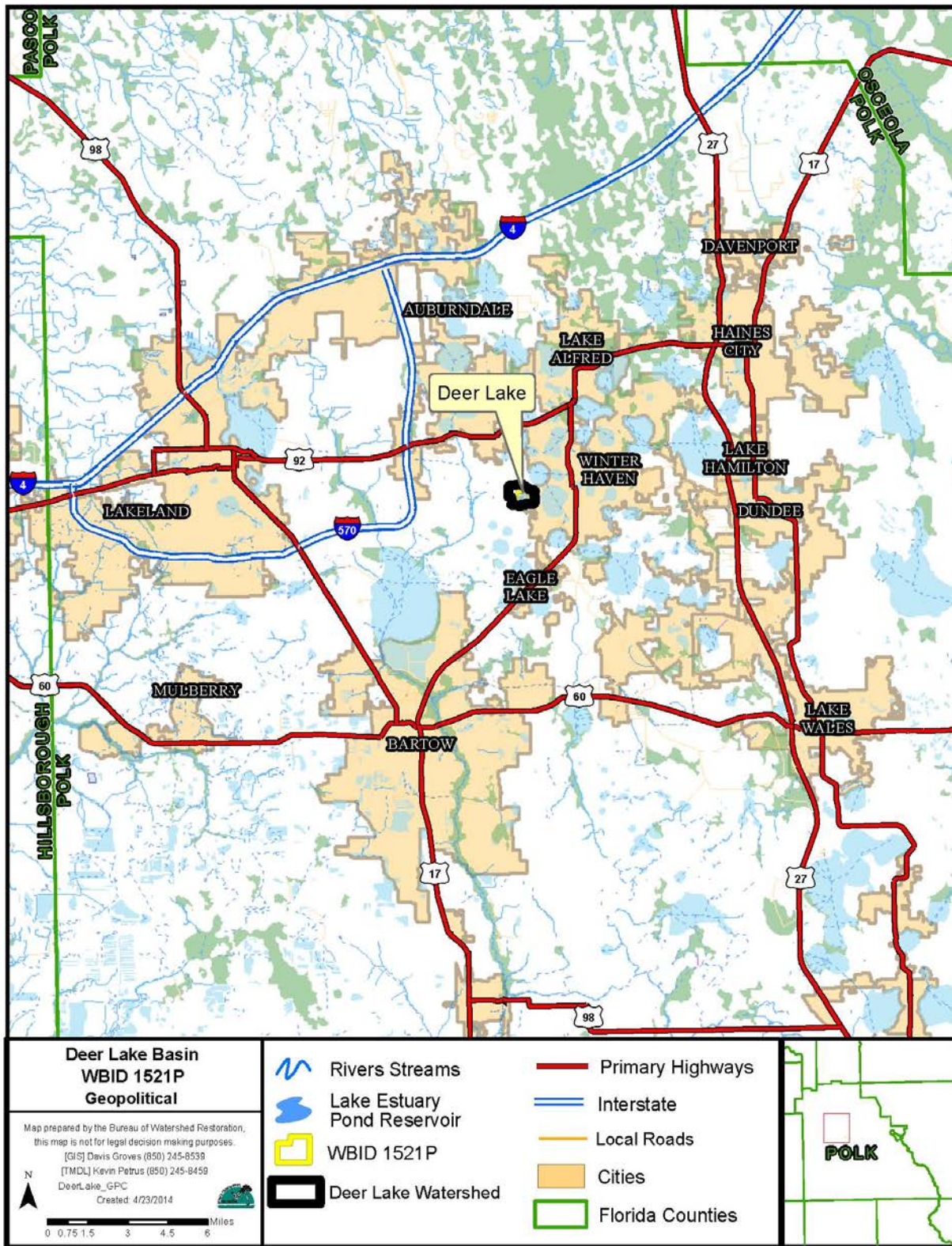


Figure 2. Deer Lake Watershed Land Use

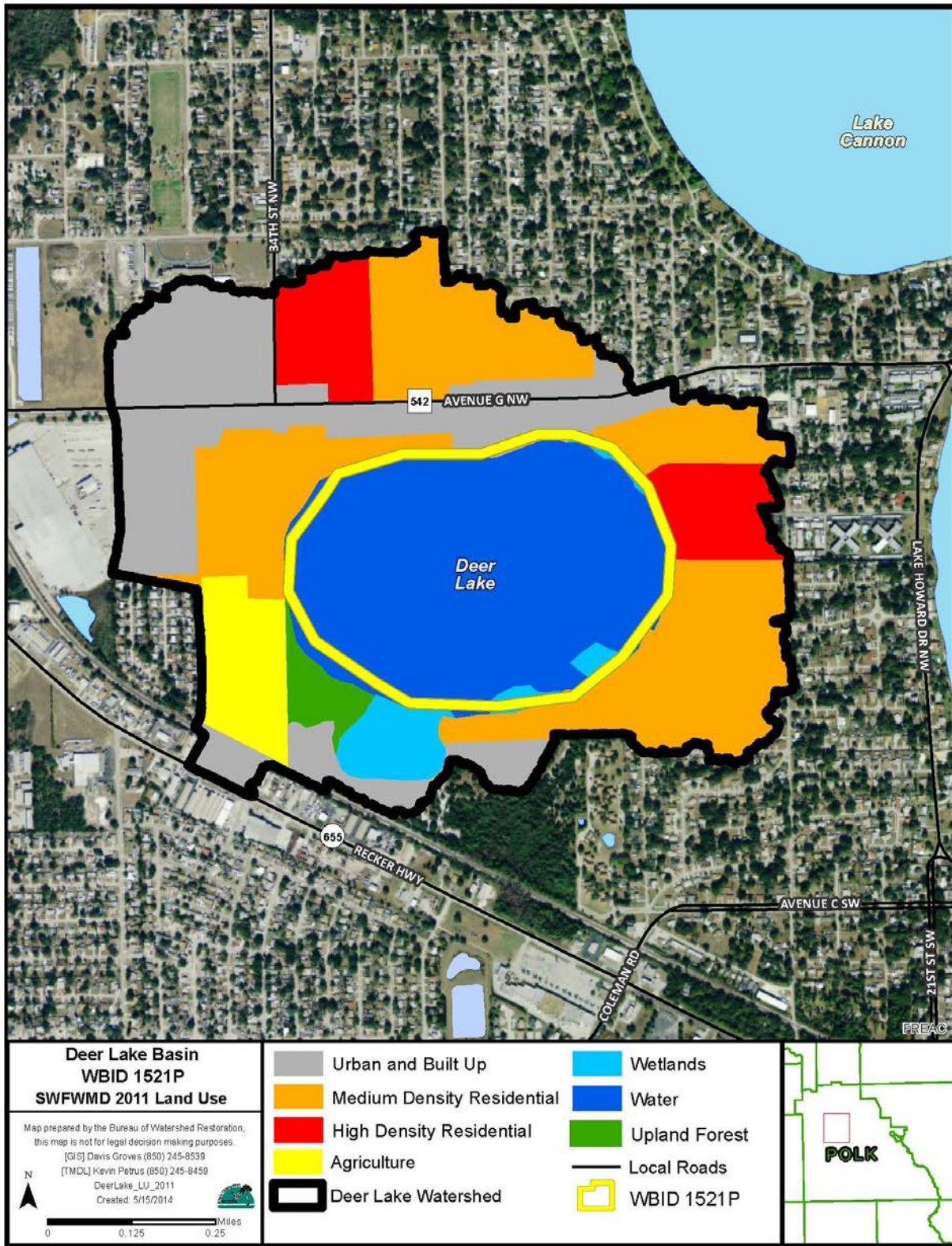


Figure 3. Deer Lake Sampling Stations

