

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Alafia River Watershed Management Plan**

### **What is the Alafia River Watershed Management Plan?**

To ensure consistency with state and regional watershed management efforts, the Alafia River Watershed Management Plan addresses three primary topic areas: (1) flood abatement/protection, (2) water quality enhancement, and (3) natural systems protection, enhancement, restoration, and creation.

### **What is a BMAP?**

A Basin Management Action Plan, or BMAP, is a water quality restoration plan that identifies strategies and projects to reduce sources of pollution to a waterway.

### **What is the purpose of a watershed management plan?**

The primary purpose of a watershed management plan is to guide watershed coordinators, resource managers, policy makers, and community organizations to restore and protect the quality of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands in a given watershed.

### **What is the primary goal of watershed management?**

The main aim of watershed management is to conserve the soil, plant, and water resources of a catchment while benefiting humanity. All environmental, social, and economic concerns are combined to treat watersheds in an integrated manner.

### **What kind of water is the Alafia River?**

blackwater river

Although fed by numerous springs, the Alafia is considered a blackwater river because its waters are filled with tannins, leaf detritus and other organic materials.

### **What are the problems with watershed management?**

Watershed problems can generally be categorized as follows: i) Physiographical problems (e.g., steep slopes, heavy rains, excessive runoff, problem soils, etc.) ii) Resources use problems (e.g., shifting cultivation, forest destruction, fire, overgrazing, uncontrolled mining, poor road construction, etc.)

**What is the biggest threat to watersheds?**

Runoff and pollution

Stormwater runoff from nonpoint source pollution is one of the most significant threats to aquatic ecosystems in the United States.

**What two chemical factors can affect water quality?**

Temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids, conductivity, suspended sediment, nutrients, metals, hydrocarbons, and industrial chemicals are the main indicators that can determine water quality.

**What are the signs of good water quality?**

The six main indicators of water quality are dissolved oxygen, turbidity, bioindicators, nitrates, pH scale, and water temperature. What is the most important water quality test? The most important water quality test is bacteria. Bacteria can have very negative effects on human health and the food we eat.