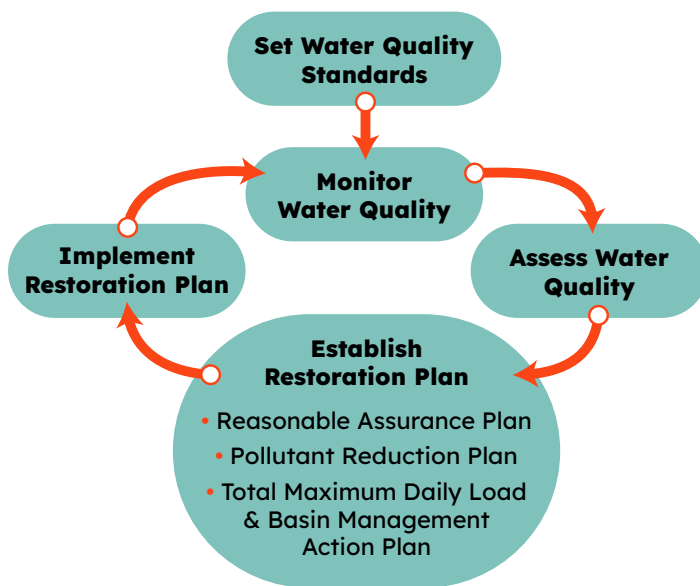


LOCAL IMPAIRMENTS: GUANA RIVER ESTUARY

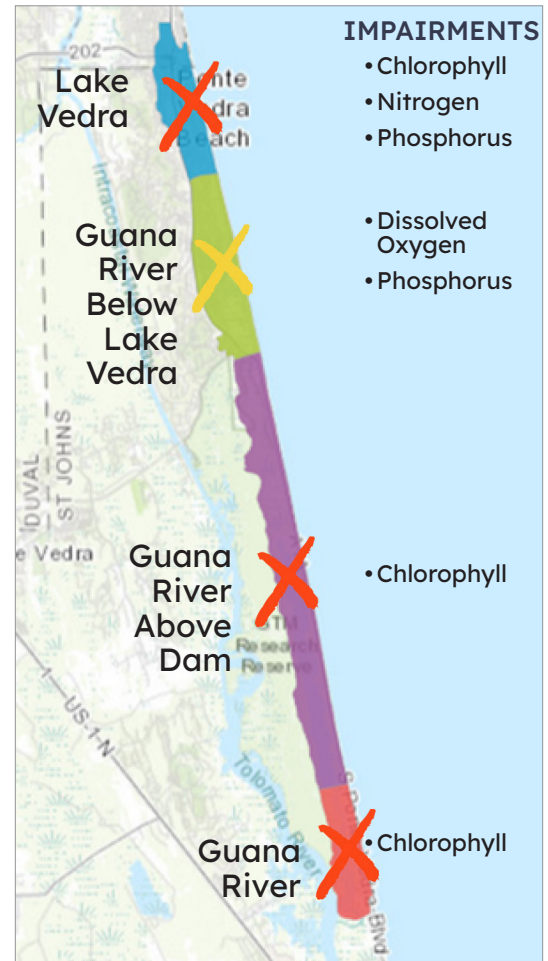
In April 2022, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a water quality assessment pursuant to the Clean Water Act and Florida Impaired Waters Rule. **As a result, three waterbodies within the Guana River Estuary watershed were added to the impaired waterbodies list.**

The goal of the Clean Water Act is to ensure “fishable, swimmable” waters across the United States. To that end, the Clean Water Act requires states to set water quality standards for pollutants and monitor water quality. **When a waterbody fails to meet its quality standards, it is considered “impaired.”**

States are required to restore impaired waterways. There are three types of restoration plans that can be used to restore impaired waterbodies: Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP), Reasonable Assurance Plans (RAP), and Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRP).



● Learn more about the plans on the back.



Three waterbodies within the Guana River Estuary watershed are impaired for chlorophyll-a, nitrogen, and/or phosphorus.

X impaired | X possible impairment, more data needed

NEXT STEPS FOR THE GUANA RIVER ESTUARY

- Set water quality standards
- Monitor water quality
- Assess water quality
- Establish restoration plan
- Implement restoration










TYPES OF RESTORATION PLANS

There are several ways to restore an impaired waterbody, each with its own pros and cons. The most common is a basin action management plan (BMAP), created by DEP. DEP must start by establishing a total maximum daily load (TMDL). The BMAP follows from the TMDL.

- **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** Maximum amount of a given pollutant that a surface water can handle to be healthy. A TMDL is a “pollutant diet”.
- **Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP):** A set of site-specific strategies to reduce or eliminate pollutant loadings and restore a specific waterbody to a healthy condition. A BMAP is a “pollutant diet plan.”

Instead of developing a TMDL and BMAP, community members may propose an alternative restoration plan (ARP).

ARPs offer some benefits over TMDLs and BMAPs. Establishing an ARP is a locally-driven process, so there is community input regarding how data is analyzed and what projects are included. Additionally, an ARP often can be developed and adopted much faster than a TMDL and BMAP.

	Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)	Alternative Restoration Plans (ARP)	
		Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP)	Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP)
Cost to develop plan			
Time to develop plan			
Restoration Strategies	State mandated	Locally driven	Locally driven
Responsible for Implementation	Local government	Local government	Local government
Eligibility for Financial Support for projects (i.e., grants, loans)			

HOW YOU CAN HELP



- View impairments in your area (<https://bit.ly/FLImpairedWaters>)
- Review approved Reasonable Assurance Plan (<https://bit.ly/FDEPRAP>)
- Review approved Pollutant Reduction Plan (<https://bit.ly/FDEPPRP>)

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- » Learn more: <https://floridadep.gov/DEAR>
- » Get involved locally by contacting: collaboration@gtmnerr.org

