

# PFS 21-16 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project

---

*PFS21 Protect Florida Springs Grants 2021*

## ***Alachua County Environmental Protection Department***

---

Gregory Owen  
408 W University Ave  
Suite 106  
Gainesville, FL 32601

gowen@alachuacounty.us  
O: 352-264-6800

## ***Gregory Owen***

---

408 W University Ave  
Suite 106  
Gainesville, FL 32601

gowen@alachuacounty.us  
O: 352-264-6833

# FollowUp Form

---

## *Terms & Conditions*

The Board of Directors of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. (Foundation) is pleased to inform you that your Protect Florida Springs (PFS) tag grant request listed above has been approved for funding. Grant funds will become available January 1, 2021. This agreement details the responsibilities of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida and your organization ("Grantee"), and the terms and conditions of the 2021 Wildlife Foundation of Florida Grant that has been awarded to your organization.

Please note that the Foundation requires this agreement to be signed and submitted before any grant funds will be released.

### Project Title

PFS 21-16 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project

### Amount Awarded

\$14,000.00

### Grant ID:

PFS 21-16

1. The project is limited to expenditures for goods or services as indicated in the proposal budget submitted in your Grant Application which is hereby incorporated into this Grant Agreement.

2. As project manager, it is your responsibility to contract for such goods and/or services that you require within scope of the Project Budget. Invoices must be sufficiently itemized so as to permit audit of charges incurred. Invoices submitted for payment must be signed by the project manager and submitted in a timely fashion. All vendors paid by the Foundation pursuant to this grant award must provide a completed W-9 to the Foundation at the time of the vendor's first invoice submission. Submit payments to the Foundation Grant Administrator, Anita Forester, either by email to [aforester@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:aforester@wildlifeflorida.org) or by ground delivery to:

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Post Office Box 11010  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

3. Your grant number (Grant ID) MUST appear on all correspondence and paperwork related to this grant. Grantee may not and cannot pledge the Foundation's credit or make the Foundation a guarantor of any payment or surety for any contract, debt, obligation, lien, or any form of indebtedness.

4. Equipment purchased with grant funds becomes the property of your organization and must be labeled with tags "Donated by the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc." where appropriate. Grantee is not permitted to act as a reseller of equipment purchased with grant funds.

5. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt [Federal ID # 59-3277808] [State of Florida Consumer's Certificate of Exemption # 85-8012624063C-7]. Copies of appropriate documentation are available upon request.

6. Changes in the scope of work to the original Foundation-approved grant project/program must be requested in writing through the Foundation grant administrator for consideration. You may not assign this agreement or the grant award to another person or organization. This agreement and the rights created by it are intended for the sole benefit of the Grantee, and no third party including any vendor recipients of grant award funds, have any rights under this Agreement. No third party may rely upon this Agreement or the rights and representations created by it for any purpose.

7. As the grantee, you have authority to shift grant funds within your approved budget up to five percent (5%) of your total grant award. You may not shift funds to create a new budget item. You may only shift funds to an item or items that already exist in the approved application. Requests for approval for fund shifts of more than five percent (5%) of the grant award total must be in writing to the Foundation COO, Will Bradford, [wbradford@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:wbradford@wildlifeflorida.org). Approvals of fund shifts in excess of five percent are at the sole discretion of the Foundation.

8. Each project is allowed a window of twelve months for completion. Your grant will become effective on January 1, 2021. Your expiration date is **December 31, 2021**.

9. The Foundation may contact you approximately six months after your project begins to gauge the progress and discuss any success or obstacles you may be encountering. In the event Grantee elects to terminate or abandon the Project before its completion, the Foundation reserves the right to obtain a refund from Grantee of grant award funds expended on the Project.

10. If you are not able to complete your project within the stated time frame, you may request a one-time-only extension of six months. The Foundation reserves the right to approve or deny any request for extension. If an extension is granted, no further extensions will be allowed. Before an extension is granted, the Foundation will require a progress report on the project.

11. The Foundation requires submission of a *final report* within three calendar months of project completion. All grantees are required to submit report through the Foundation's online grant management reporting tool. An auto reminder will be emailed with the log-in page as the deadline approaches. Reporting can be completed sooner by simply logging into the grant management system at your convenience.

12. The Foundation maintains an interactive, web-based map of all its active projects. This is intended as a positive public relations tool to showcase our grantees and their projects. To that end, the Foundation will request information on specific project locations, web links, photographs, video clips, etc. Providing this information is a condition of acceptance of this grant.

13. Any unspent grant funds remaining as of close of business on **December 31, 2021** will revert to the Foundation or if an extension has been granted, unused grant funds will revert to the Foundation upon the close of business, **June 30, 2022**, except for eligible Project expenditures that have been already incurred by grantee. Those expenditures must be submitted to the Foundation via proper invoice no later than (30) days after that date. Note: If either of the above dates fall on a non-business day, then the next business day will substitute.

14. The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. is providing the financial support for this project and expects recognition on any signage, publicity or printed materials related to the program/project. Note: Reasonable costs incurred to comply with this paragraph (signage printing, etc.) are an allowable grant expense.

a. For projects whose end result is a poster, printed report, video, web site or other such media product, please contact The Foundation's Director of Communications, Michelle Ashton, at [mashton@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:mashton@wildlifeflorida.org) to discuss the best way of acknowledging the Foundation's support.

b. For attribution in scientific or professional articles and presentations, please include the following:

*This research [or project, etc.] was funded with the help of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida via proceeds from the 'Protect Florida Springs' license plate.*

c. If applicable, we will provide you with signage to post at project locations. You are required to send us a photo of the signage posted at the location.

d. In press releases and other media outreach, please include the following paragraph about the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida:

***This project is funded in part by a grant from the nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida (FWFF) via proceeds from the 'Protect Florida Springs' license plate. Since its founding, the Foundation has raised and given away more than \$43 million for conservation, outdoor recreation and youth programs and camps. For more information, please visit [www.wildlifeflorida.org](http://www.wildlifeflorida.org) or call 813-358-8058.***

e. The Foundation will make its logo and the tag logo available for inclusion on any such recognition. The Foundation's logos are trademarks and servicemarks made available to grantee on a limited license basis, subject to the Foundation's instructions for use and publication, and without any grant of title or interest in the same. Grantee will retain all indicia of trademark ownership on all logos and will discontinue use of logos upon instruction from the Foundation.

f. The grantee will provide photographs of the finished product.

g. For projects whose final product does not fit any of the above categories, the Foundation and the Grantee agree to negotiate in good faith to ensure that the Foundation and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida Tag grant program receive appropriate recognition. Please refer any questions on this matter to the Foundation.

h. Grantee is an independent contractor and not an officer, employee agent, joint venture or partner of the Foundation. Grantee has no authority to bind the Foundation and will not represent to others such authority. Grantee remains solely responsible for its acts, conduct, expenses and that of its employees or agents. Grantee also remains solely responsible for the costs of its personnel carrying out the Project, including all applicable employee compensation and benefits, workers compensation insurance, and associated payroll tax withholding. All Project work shall be performed by or under the supervision of Grantee and its personnel or agents, and not by the Foundation. In no instance shall the Foundation be deemed the joint employer of any Grantee personnel, and Grantee will indemnify and hold the Foundation harmless in the event of any such claim.

15. The Foundation further requests 25 copies of any product that is produced in any tangible media of expression, (copyrighted) to be provided with the final project report. Please coordinate with the Foundation's Grant Administrator, Anita Forester. [eforester@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:eforester@wildlifeflorida.org).

16. The Foundation will receive a royalty-free, non-exclusive, perpetual unrestricted license to use and reproduce any and all books, manuals, films, photographs, designs, drawings, inventions, discoveries, or other copyrighted materials developed using Protect Florida Springs Tag funds. This will be for the Foundation's use in promoting its programs, sharing materials with government and non-profit partners, and expanding hunting education and awareness. The Foundation will not sell or otherwise derive financial benefit from such copyright use. The Foundation asks to receive a copy of any copyrighted materials in a standard digital format upon the completion of the grant.

17. The Foundation may request that you provide information, including video or photographs, for the Foundation's publications or web site describing the project and its impact. It may further request that a report on the project be presented to the Foundation Board of Directors.

18. Remaining grant balances are available in the online grant management system or by contacting the Foundation's Grant Administrator, Anita Forester [eforester@wildlifeflorida.org](mailto:eforester@wildlifeflorida.org).

19. Acceptance of a Wildlife Foundation of Florida Tag License Plates grant is considered acceptance of state financial assistance as a subrecipient from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, , **CSFA Number**

76.103.

Entities receiving state financial assistance are required to follow the audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in Section 215.97, Florida Statutes, applicable rules of the Department of Financial Services, rules of the Auditor General, and requirements from the State Projects Compliance Supplement. Subrecipients, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, must permit the independent auditor of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Financial Services, and the Auditor General access to the subrecipient's records and the subrecipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary to comply with Section 215.97, Florida Statutes. All records including original receipts must be kept for a minimum of three years beyond the project end date. We will be periodically reviewing projects and expenditures.

**Acceptance of Terms & Conditions\***

This grant is conditional upon Grantee's acceptance of the terms and conditions set forth herein. By selecting the "I Accept Grant Terms and Conditions" below Grantee agrees to accept and comply with the stated terms and conditions of this grant.

**Authorized Signature\***

The electronic signature on this document of the person authorized to make legal contracts for Grantee will represent Grantee's acceptance of this award and agreement to comply with the stated terms and conditions of this grant. Please signify your agreement to the foregoing terms and conditions by typing in your Name, Title, and Date in the spaces below. You must be an authorized officer of the Grantee duly empowered to make legal contracts for Grantee.

**Title\***

PSF 21-16 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Project

**Date\***

**Additional Requirements**

None

Thank you! We wish you all the best with your project.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq., Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:  
Approved as to Form

*Corbin Hanson*

9FF93D92AF02438...

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alachua County Attorney

## File Attachment Summary

---

### *Applicant File Uploads*

*No files were uploaded*

# PFS 21-16 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project

---

*PFS21 Protect Florida Springs Grants 2021*

## ***Alachua County Environmental Protection Department***

---

Gregory Owen  
408 W University Ave  
Suite 106  
Gainesville, FL 32601

gowen@alachuacounty.us  
O: 352-264-6800

## ***Gregory Owen***

---

408 W University Ave  
Suite 106  
Gainesville, FL 32601

gowen@alachuacounty.us  
O: 352-264-6833

# Application Form

---

## *Project Information*

---

### **Project Title\***

PFS 21-16 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Project

### **Project Summary Statement:\***

The primary goal of this study is to document current conditions of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the spring pools and runs of selected springs on the Lower Santa Fe River (SFR) and to obtain additional information on SAV trends to provide information for future projects and restoration efforts. Funds for this project will pay for the fifth consecutive annual documentation of SAV on the SFR. A qualitative assessment of SAV will be conducted at Hornsby, Treehouse, Poe, Lilly, Rum Island, Gilchrist Blue, Naked, Little Devil's, July, Ginnie, Dogwood, Twin and Sawdust Springs. The surveys will include site assessments with a biologist conducting an SAV inventory of the entire spring run, noting species, location, abundance, and condition. Photo sets will be taken every 50 feet, or to match the fixed photo locations from previous years, and a video of the spring pool and run will be captured in its entirety. In addition to the SAV surveys at the thirteen springs, fixed point transect lines will be revisited and surveyed to provide an additional quantitative analysis of the SAV communities at Gilchrist Blue Springs. Site maps and spreadsheets and narrative reports of each site will be provided in a final report and posted on Alachua County Environmental Protection's (ACEPD) Website. Results from this study will be compared to the four previous surveys and discussed in the 2021 report. Significant events and fluctuations in plant communities have been documented through the Santa Fe River Springs SAV surveys, including the decline of SAV populations after the historic flooding from Hurricane Irma. Surveys in 2017 captured pre-hurricane conditions while subsequent surveys documented the impact and response of plant communities following significant flooding events. Funding for the 2021 SAV survey will provide a five year dataset and help managers and researchers better understand trends in the makeup of SAV plant communities in the Springs of the Santa Fe River.

### **Grant Funds Requested:\***

\$14,000.00

### **Matching Funds:**

\$2,000.00

### **Explanation of Matching Funds:**

Alachua County Environmental Protection will contribute \$2,000 to the cost of water sample analysis.

### **In-Kind Services:**

\$3,000.00

**Explanation if In-kind Services:**

EPD staff will assist with the data collection, will review the draft report, and will manage the grant. This assumes roughly 100 hours of staff time.

**Total Project Cost:\***

\$19,000.00

**Is this a continuation of an existing PFS grant or next phase of work on previous grant?\***

YES

**If YES, please list include the prior Grant ID Number ( e.g. PFS1819-02)**

**Describe your long-term plan, if any, to further diversify your funding base.**

This project would build upon the PFS1819-02, in which \$12,000 in funding was provided from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida and \$5,000 was provided by Alachua County. An additional spring has been added to the list of springs (Sawdust) since the original 2017 survey. Funding constraints in 2020 meant that only a portion of the springs were surveyed for SAV. Funding provided by the PFS grant will allow ACEPD to survey the entire list of springs and Sawdust for 2021 and compare the results over the five year period.

**Has the organization received a PFS Grant before? (other than previously mentioned)\***

YES

**If YES, please explain: When and for what? Please include Grant ID Number (s).**

PFS20-02 Nitrate Concentrations in Groundwater of the Santa Fe River Basin and Outreach. Monitoring and education project.

PFS1819-02 Santa Fe River Springs Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Project. Restoration project.

PFS1819-05 Hornsby Springs Dissolved Oxygen and Faunal Study. Restoration and research project.

PFS1819-11- Inspiring Behavior Change through Exploring the Santa Fe River and Springs. Education through recreation.

PFS1819-14 Santa Fe River and Springs Signage Project. This project included signage at popular river/spring access points and restrooms within State Parks.

PFS1617-05 Springs Protection Outreach Campaign. This project included creation of a television commercial and the purchase of media time for various water conservation messages.

PFS1516-06 Agriculture and Springs Protection High School Curriculum, Field Trip, and Educator Short Course.

PFS1415-01 Springs Protection Landscaping Behavior Campaign. This project made it possible to create the MyYardOurWater webpage that is still very active on the County website.

PFS1415-03 Springs Protection Education Model. This grant made it possible to create a mobile model for teaching the public about springs, springsheds, landscaping choices, stormwater, wetlands, and more. Staff still brings this models to events around the region.

PFS1314-04 Economic Impact of Springs in the Santa Fe Basin. This project funded an economic study of the recreational value of springs in the Santa Fe region.

PFS1213-01 Springs Protection Stakeholder Research Phase II- This grant funded the development of the MyYardOurWater logo and several campaign elements and ideas.

PFS1112-02 Springs Protection Stakeholder Research. This project included focus groups to learn about how homeowners perceive our springs and their landscaping choices.

## Organization's Expertise:\*

**List experience, strengths, and competencies in springs conservation, research, and education.**

- ACEPD is made up of a diverse team of professionals that includes several experienced research scientists. Additionally, we often partner with or contract with the faculty at the University of Florida. The department conducts water quality monitoring of surface water, groundwater, and wastewater treatment plants in the region, thus is very aware of current issues. Staff has implemented various restoration projects for springs and stormwater systems.
- ACEPD staff is uniquely qualified to complete the SAV surveys with current members who have participated in each of the previous year's surveys and report preparations.
- ACEPD hosts quarterly Springs Protection Forums where government agencies, professionals, researchers, and the general public discuss local springs protection issues and solutions. Through this forum, professional conferences, and statewide meetings staff stays current with springs issues and solutions and leads the way for other local governments.
- Previous Springs Tag Grants awarded to ACEPD have all been successfully implemented within budget.

## Project Outcomes:\*

**Explain how the project will advance further conservation of Florida springs.**

The goal of this project is to document the current condition of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) at selected springs (pools and associated spring runs) on the Santa Fe River and compare the findings to past surveys completed by ACEPD. A paper published in Science, 2016, by Hensley and Cohen, suggests that spring reversals may play a key component in determining the spring health. Given the aftermath of extreme hydrologic conditions after Hurricane Irma, it is critically important to document the condition of the SAV and the associated responses. The findings from the survey not only give us the current conditions at Hornsby, Treehouse, Poe, Lilly, Rum Island, Gilchrist Blue, Naked, Little Devil's, July, Ginnie, Dogwood, Twin Springs, and Sawdust Springs, but will serve as an indicator to how similar springs in the area may respond and recover from flooding events. The results and discussion to how each spring has fared compared to earlier baseline work is essential in understanding future conservation needs of Florida springs. Some locations that are found to be healthy may be recognized as reference locations for conservation managers, while other springs that show a decline in SAV may indicate areas for future restoration needs.

## Results:\*

**Describe how the results will be measured. Are the results measurable, quantifiable, and qualitative?**

The success of the project will be measured by the completion of SAV data collection and reporting activities and the outreach conducted to inform the public and other agencies of the project findings. The results will be shared with other agencies (e.g. FWC, FDEP, and water management districts), presented and discussed at a Santa Fe River Springs Protection Forum meeting, and the final report discussing the findings and comparisons to previous surveys will be posted on the Alachua County's website.

## Expected Outcomes applicable to other springs; Plan for disseminating results:\*

This project will be applicable to other springs and can contribute to a detailed record of SAV plant occurrences, composition, as well as supporting photos and videos. Methods used in this project could be replicated at other springs across the state for comparisons. Staff participate in multiple stakeholder groups

(Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum, FDEP Springs BMAP Outreach meetings, etc.) and will share the results of this project during various meetings and events.

### Does this project have the potential to change minds and behaviors to benefit springs?\*

This project is important in documenting the current conditions of the Springs on the Santa Fe River. The data collected for this project will be beneficial to future efforts in determining recreational guidelines for protecting springs. Findings from the surveys will help inform resource managers in making decisions regarding the vulnerability and use impacts to springs. If it is shown that certain locations closed to the public, specifically recent 2020 closures at portions of Gilchrist Blue Springs, have greater recovery and diverse plant communities, it could play an important role in communicating and understanding recreational impacts to SAV communities, as well as guide future management decisions.

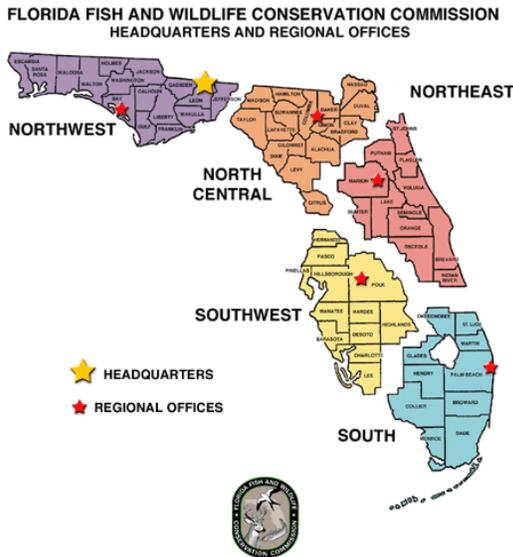
### Possibilities:\*

Does the project or its anticipated results have the potential to attract new funding, partners or on-the-ground conservation agreements?

The project has already opened up potential funding and partnerships between the County, private stakeholders, and other government agencies. The most recent survey was conducted with help from the Gilchrist County Blue Springs State Park staff, as well as coordination from local organizations like the Santa Fe River Turtles Research Group. Partners for the 2021 SAV survey include the Florida Parks Service, Camp Kulaqua, Ginnie Springs, and the Santa Fe River Turtles Research Group. In sharing results at stakeholder groups, interest may be generated by additional funding partners.

### Geographic Area Served\*

Please select the region(s) of Florida your project will impact. More than one area can be checked.



North Central

## Why are grant funds necessary?\*

While Alachua County dedicates staff and funds to implementing activities documenting the conditions of current springs, budget for investigative work is limited. This grant will allow implementation of a fifth annual assessment of SAV in springs of the Santa Fe River Basin and will assist with understanding changes in plant communities on the Santa Fe River Springs. Grant funds help offset costs and demonstrate the need and broad support for our efforts. Additionally, grant funds allow the survey to include important springs outside of Alachua County.

## Project time-frame:\*

**A project time-frame usually includes an intended start and finish date and lists all project related milestones, activities and deliverables.**

- January- March 2021- secure a contractor for assistance with the SAV surveys
- April 2021- May 2021 – complete SAV surveys on 13 springs.
- Fall 2021- Prepare draft report.
- March 2022- Submit final project report

## Cooperating Partners:

his project does not have formal partners, but past partners and future potential partners include Florida Park Service, Camp Kulaqua, Ginnie Springs, and the Santa Fe River Turtle Research Group.

## *Financial Information*

---

**Please include budget details of how the grant award will be spent.**

### Salaries & Benefits:

\$0.00

### Salaries and Benefits Details:

**Please give an itemized list.**

### Contracted Services:

\$14,000.00

### Contracted Services Details:

**Please give an itemized list.**

An environmental consulting firm will be contracted to assist with the SAV surveys and report preparation.

### Facilities & Equipment:

\$0.00

### Facility and Equipment Details:

Please give an itemized list.

### Consumable Supplies:

Such as food, office supplies, single-use items etc...:

\$0.00

### Consumable Supplies Details:

Please give itemized list.

### Other Expenses:

\$0.00

### Other Expenses Details:

Please give itemized list.

### Grant Funds Requested:\*

Note: Total grant award spending must equal funds requested.

\$14,000.00

## *File Uploads*

---

Please share any additional links and/or upload documents/photos to further support the Foundation's understanding of your project.

### Optional File Upload 1

Overview Map.jpg

### Optional File Upload 2

### Optional File Upload 3

### Optional File Upload 4

### Optional Link 1

### Optional Link 2

## File Attachment Summary

---

### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Overview Map.jpg

