

Water Clarity in the Rainbow River

Florida springs have some of the clearest water on earth. Clear water is essential to maintaining submerged aquatic vegetation — an important part of a healthy spring system. Water clarity in Rainbow River is best near the headsprings where visibility can be more than 225 feet. Downstream, water clarity decreases, which occurs in most rivers.

What causes water clarity to change?

The amount of groundwater discharging from the Rainbow Springs Group affects the river's velocity — the speed at which water flows. The river's velocity slows downstream reducing water clarity. Increased nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can also reduce water clarity.

How can you help?

A spring is only as healthy as its springshed — the area of land that contributes water to a spring. The Rainbow Springs springshed covers several hundred square miles and extends into three counties. Your actions within the springshed affect the water flowing from the spring.

Follow these tips:

- Conserve water
- Always dispose of grass clippings, litter and pet waste properly
- Never dump anything down a storm drain
- Use fertilizer sparingly
- Have septic tanks inspected every two to three years
- Plant a buffer zone between the lawn and shoreline

WaterMatters.org/Springs



Rainbow Springs Springshed

LEVY MARION CITRUS

Ocala

Rainbow River

Legend: Rainbow Springs Springshed (Yellow), Headspring (Red Star)

Rainbow River - Upper

Rainbow River - Middle

Rainbow River - Lower

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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