

# Septic Systems

## Pine Island Civic Association

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# Agenda

Septic System Contribution to Water Quality

LCU Waste Water Service Area

Collection System and Plant Improvements to Connect Septic Systems

Countywide Wastewater Management Plan

Current Method of Connecting – MSTBU Created by Supportive Neighborhoods

# Septic System Contribution to Water Quality

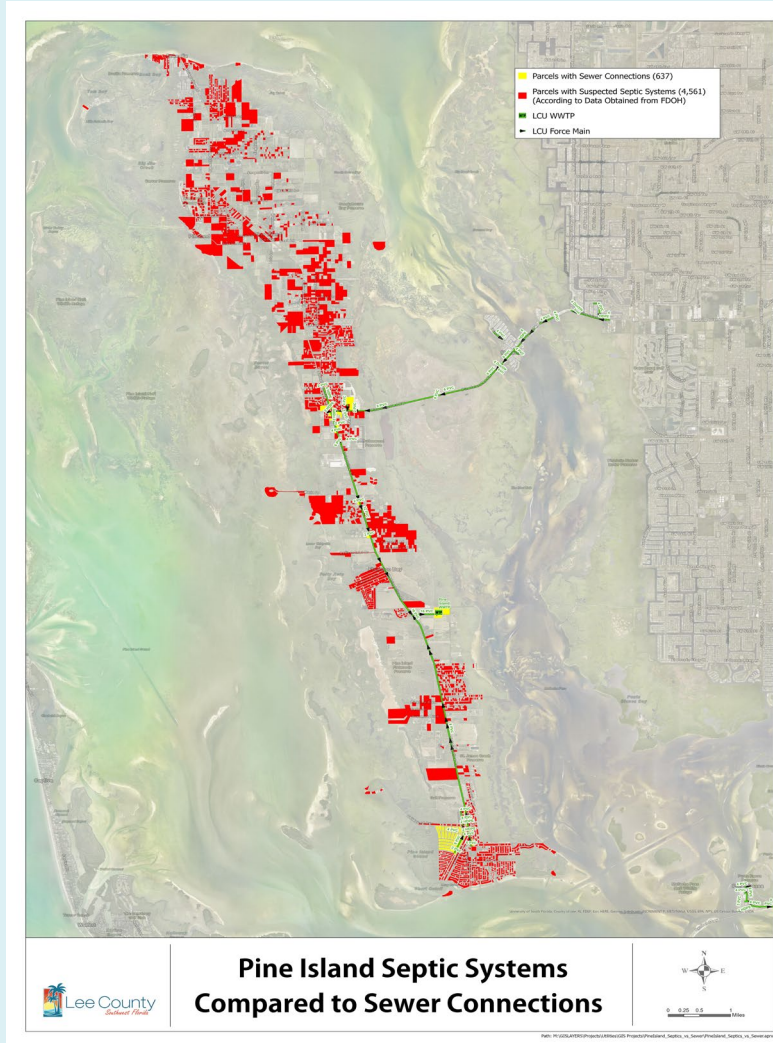
## Lee County Natural Resources Department Water Quality Study

Preliminary results found water quality indicators that are linked to wastewater

### How are Septic Systems affecting surface water?

- Four feet separation from ground surface to water table
- Age of Septic Systems
- Proximity to Surface Water Bodies
- Conventional septic systems do not treat nutrients
- Proper maintenance of system is required

# LCU Waste Water Service Area



## Customers:

- 800 connections to central sewer
- 5,000 estimated septic systems
- 9 private package plants

## Pine Island WRF:

- Plant capacity 0.4 million gallons per day (MGD)
- Plant capacity needed to convert septic systems to central 1 to 1.5 MGD

## FDEP Regulation:

- No known restriction on additional package plants or new septic systems

# Collection System and Plant Improvements to Connect Septic Systems

Based on population projects through 2040, no improvements needed unless septic conversion program implemented

## Improvements With Septic Conversion Program

- Upsize transmission line and lift stations
- Increase plant capacity for approximately \$30-\$37.5M
- Effluent disposal for approximately \$10-\$14M
- Individual site abandon system and connect to central for approximately \$10,000-\$30,000

# Countywide Wastewater Management Plan

Required by Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Plan (BMAP) approved 2020 and requires County submit a 20-year Management Plan to convert septic systems to central

The Clean Waterway Act, Senate Bill 712 focusses on remedial action and improvements to regulations on Septic Systems and Wastewater Infrastructure

Lee County Utilities will have a finalized Countywide Wastewater (Septic) Management Plan by the end of 2022

- Prioritize the greatest impact to improve surface water quality to the County
- Identify grant and other funding sources to support septic conversions
- Present final plan to the BOCC for review and for policy direction

# Current Method of Connecting – MSTBU Created at Neighborhood Request

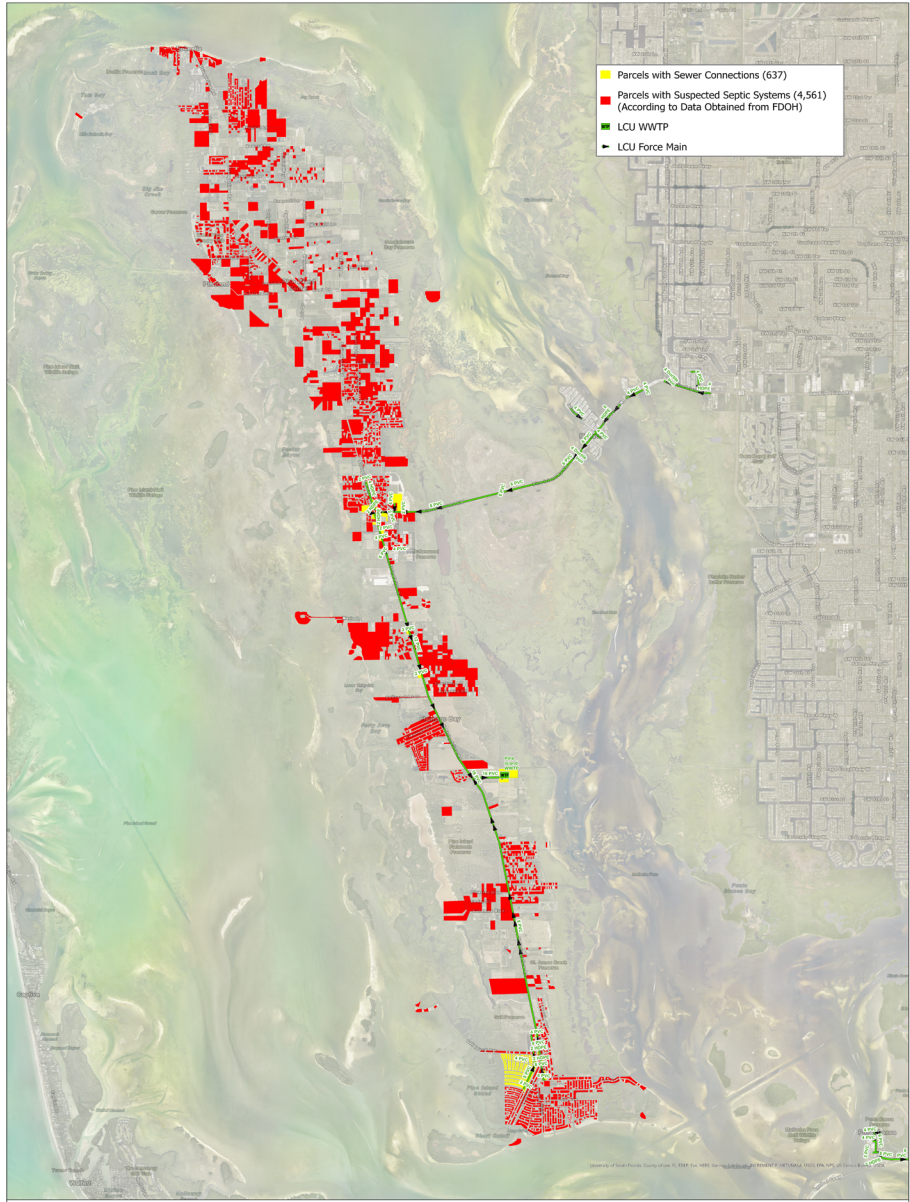
Current funding mechanism neighborhoods request MSTBU

*[Leegov.com/budget/mstbu](http://leegov.com/budget/mstbu)*

Captiva Island working on study to connect to Sanibel central sewer system.

- Study initiated prior to requirement of County to prepare a Management Plan
- Currently no appropriate funds for other studies until Management Plan completed and approved by FDEP and BoCC
- Planning Panel considering creating a taxing unit or voluntary MSTBU





## Pine Island Septic Systems Compared to Sewer Connections



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles