



# Septic to Sewer Joint Water Policy Committee

December 16, 2019

# Statewide Perspective

- 2.6 Million septic systems in Florida
  - 30% of Florida Population
- Effective for wastewater disposal when sited & functioning properly
  - Effective at removing pathogens
  - Conventional systems not effective at removing nutrients
- In certain areas identified as significant nutrient source to impaired waters

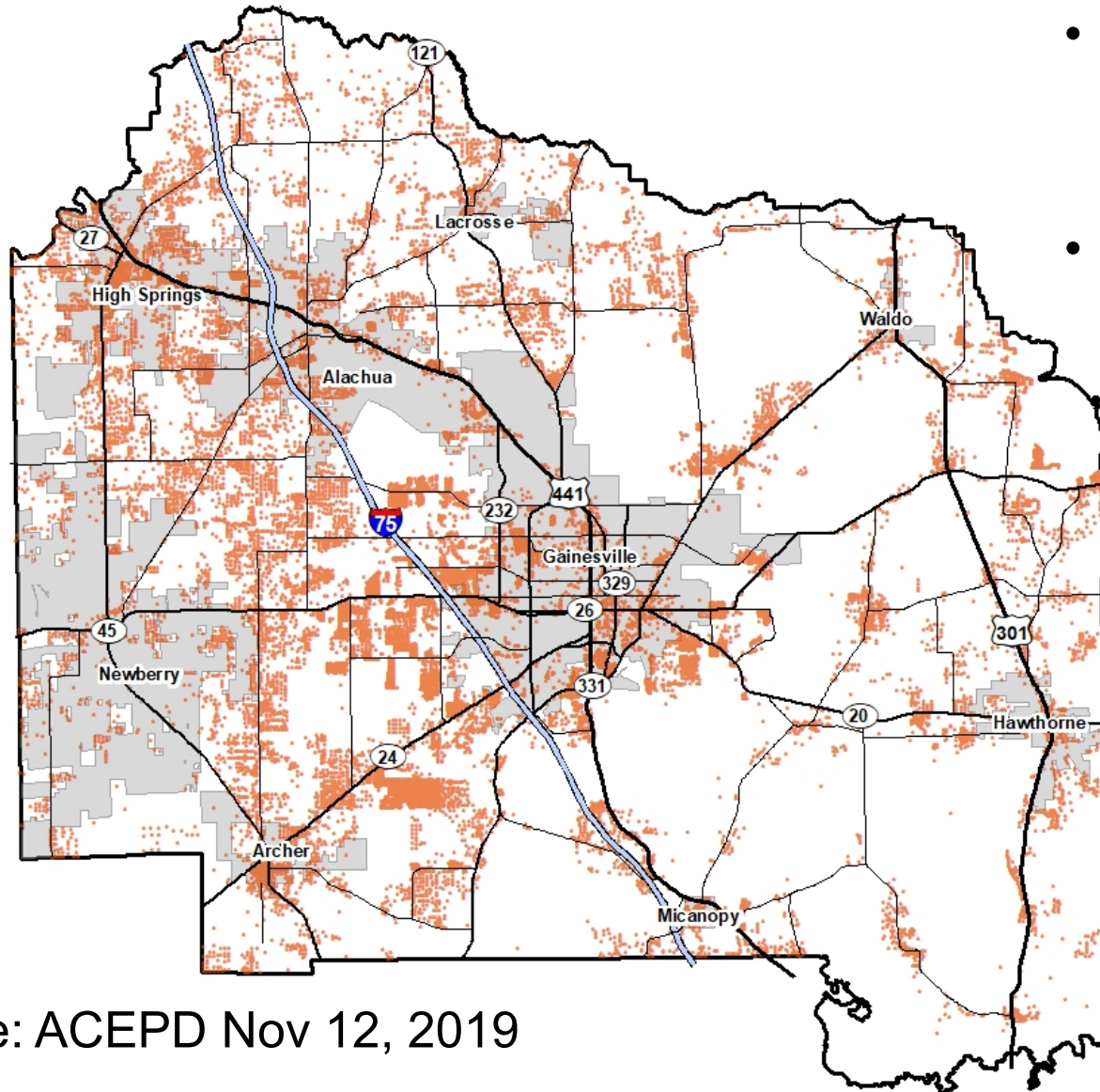
# Florida Springs & Aquifer Protection Act

- “Priority Focus Areas” established for all first magnitude springs
- OSTDS Remediation Plan required for areas where septic systems contribute  $\geq 20\%$  of nutrients
  - Extend sanitary sewer &/or convert to advanced septic systems
  - Up to local government to implement
  - Also being implemented for other impaired waters in addition to springs

# Septic to Sewer Obstacles

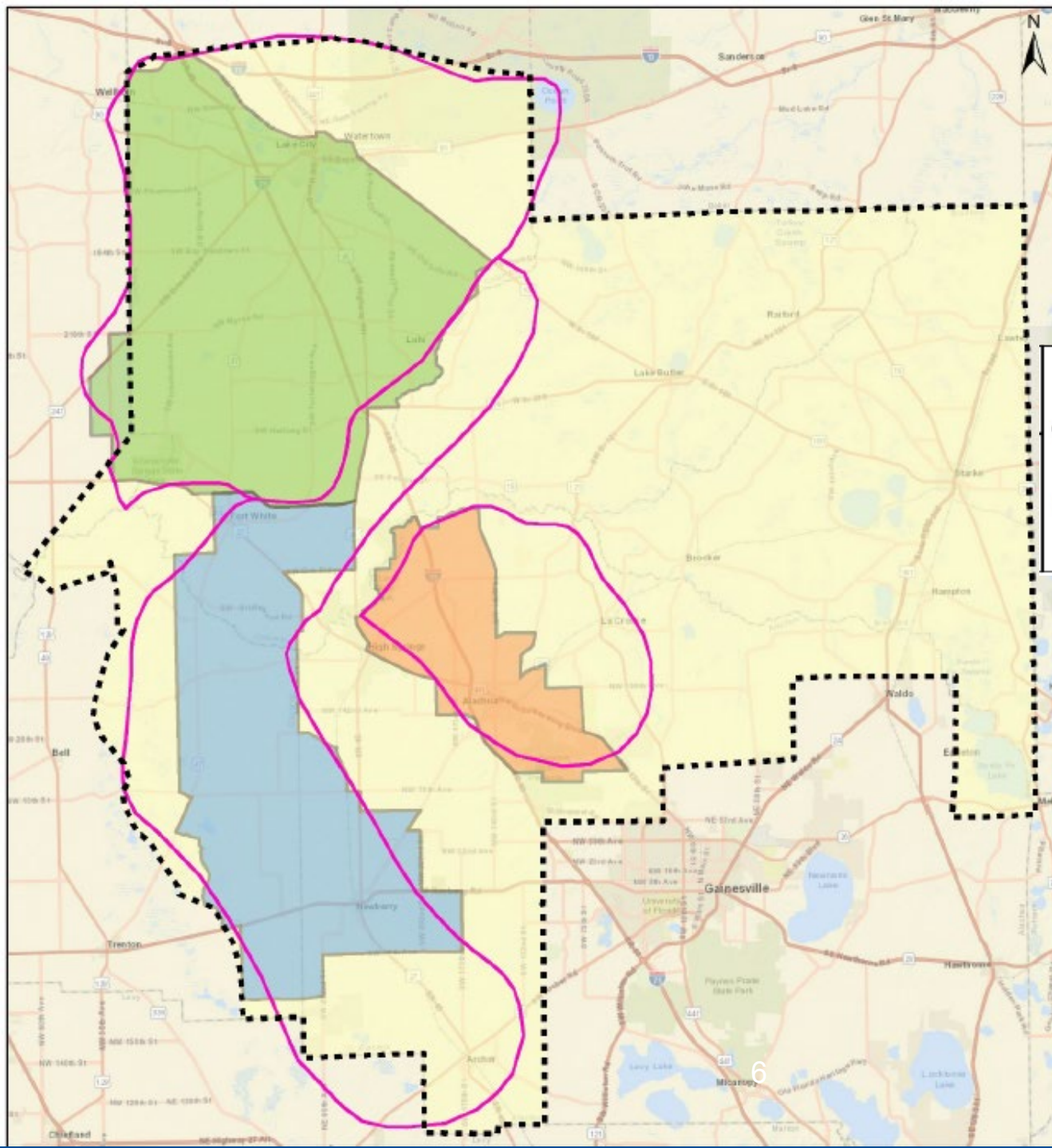
- Cost
  - ~\$20,000 - \$40,000+ per lot typical
- Availability
  - not feasible to extend everywhere
- Homeowner Acceptance
- On-going proliferation of new septics

# Distribution of Septic Tanks in Alachua County



- 26,179 septic tanks countywide.
- Total TN approximately 246,968 lbs-N/yr

Source: ACEPD Nov 12, 2019



# Santa Fe River Basin PFAs and Springsheds

Map prepared by the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration.  
This map is not for legal decision making purposes.  
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Map ID: Santa Fe BMAP PFA Springshed  
Created: 05-11-2018



0 1 2 4 6  
Miles

- Santa Fe BMAP Area
- Springsheds
- Devils Complex PFA
- Horsby PFA
- Ichetucknee PFA

Source: FDEP  
Santa Fe River  
BMAP 2018



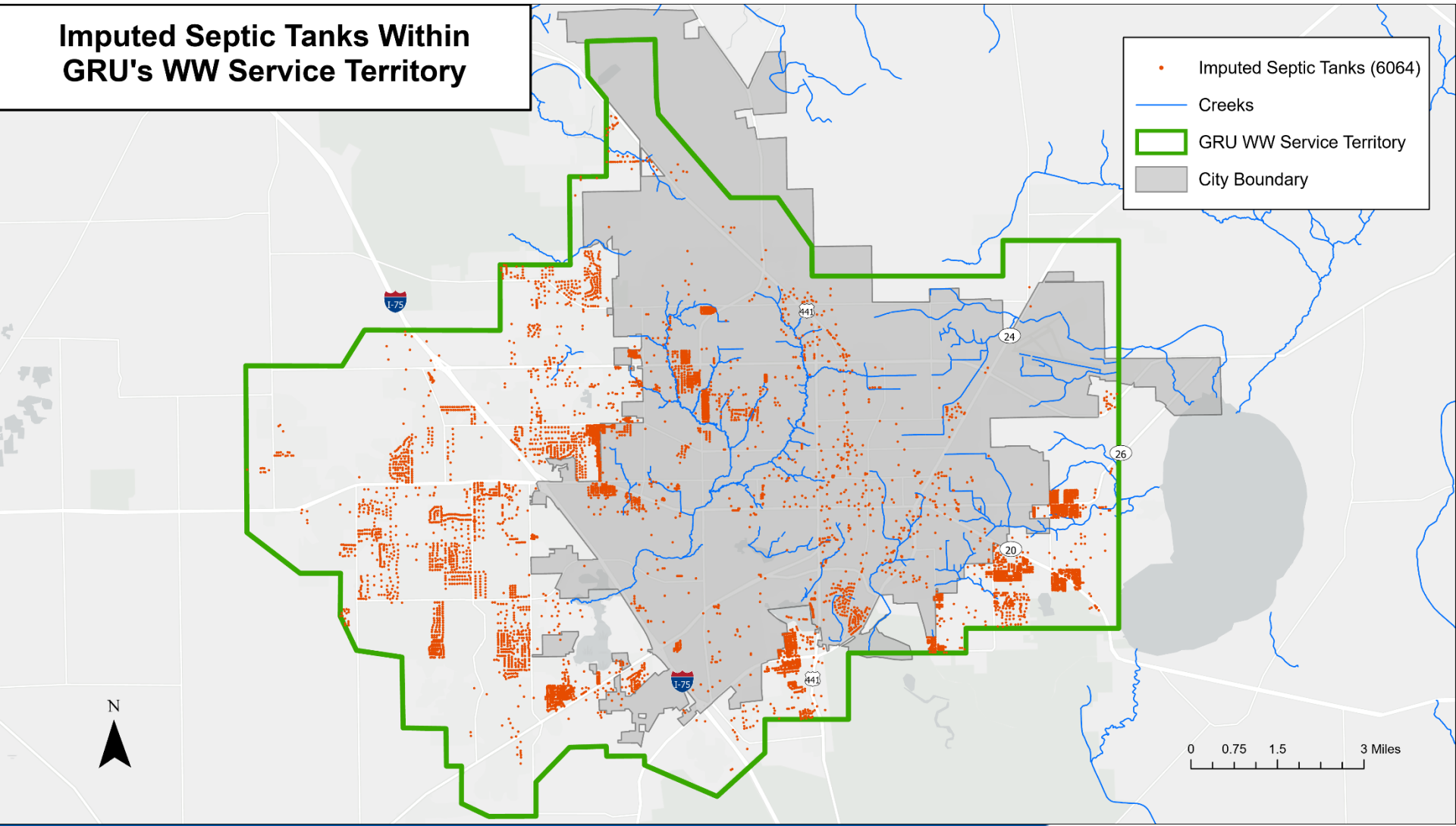
# Potential Septic Tank Locations in GRU WW Service Area

**Imputed Septic Tanks Within  
GRU's WW Service Territory**

- Imputed Septic Tanks (6064)
- Creeks
- GRU WW Service Territory
- City Boundary



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles



# Local Water Quality Efforts

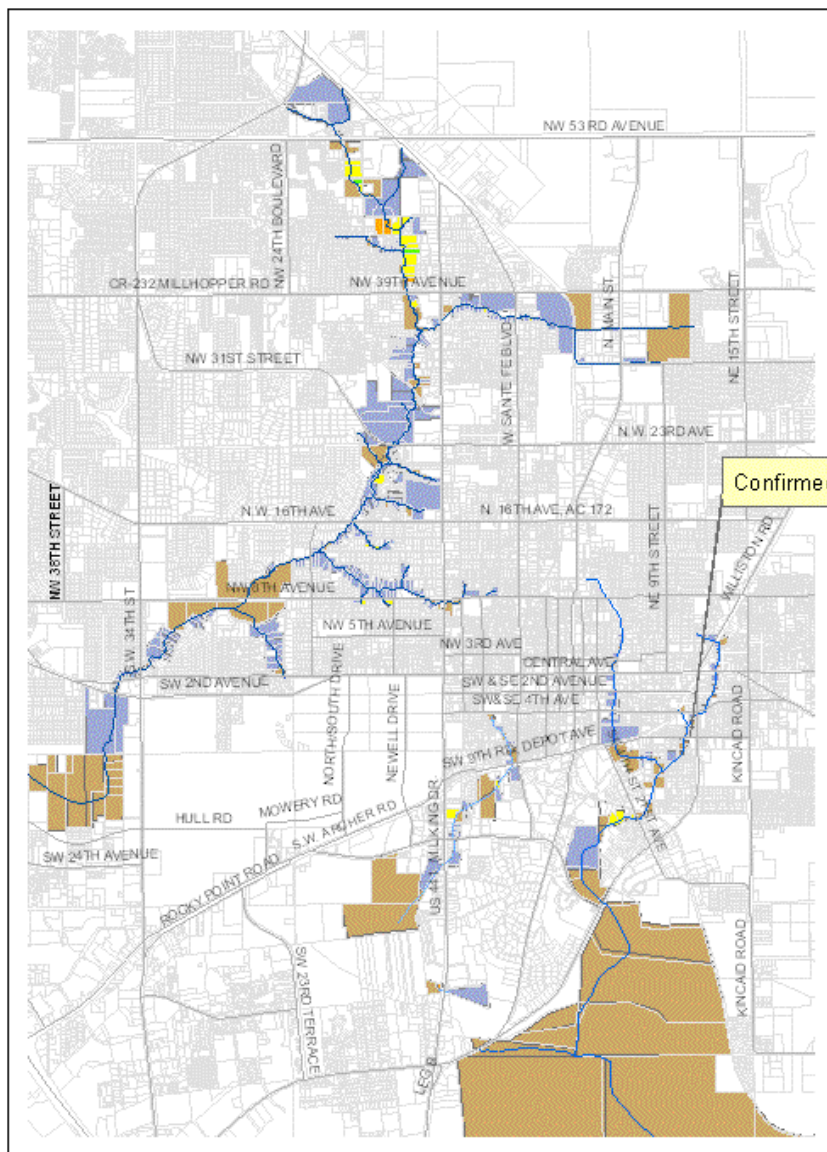
- Santa Fe River & Springs
- Orange Creek Basin Lakes
  - Newnans Lake
  - Alachua Sink
  - Others
- Urban Creeks
  - Impaired for fecal coliform
  - Targeted use of septic sewer can help



# Targeted Septic to Sewer

- Dept of Health Identified properties with potential to impact creeks
- ConnectFree Applicants
- On-going DOH/ACEPD/City efforts to identify & address failing septics
- Additional study to identify additional areas to target







## OSTDS Located Near Gainesville's Urban Creeks

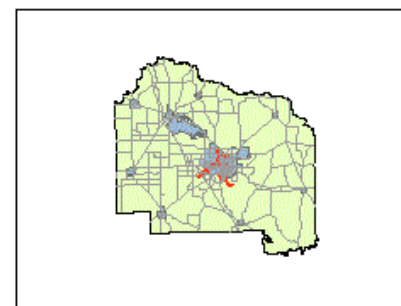


### Legend

- Creek\_Tumblin  
— Creek\_SweetwaterBranch  
— Creek\_Hogtown

## Potential for Impact

-  Confirmed  
 Significant  
 Minor  
 No Access  
 Sewer  
 Vacant/Unimpro



# Funding

- **ConnectFree**
  - Limited available funds
  - Prioritization
- **State** (via St. Johns Water Management District)
  - Up to 33% of construction cost
- **Federal EPA**
  - Up to 60% of costs on homeowners' properties
- **City Legislative Request**
  - \$250k w/ \$250k local match (\$500k total)
  - Targeted to low income, vulnerable areas

# Fox Grove/Featherwood Neighborhoods

- Developed in 1980s
- 54 lots total
- Ridgeview Creek runs through Featherwood
- Resident concerns - future drainfield replacements & potential creek impacts
- Total cost \$1.5 - \$2.5 Million
  - \$30k - \$46k/lot
  - w/ grant funding, Homeowner cost \$10k-\$20k/lot

# Summary

- Septic to sewer an important tool for improving water quality
- Obstacles – cost, availability, homeowner acceptance
- Targeted Septic to Sewer can help with Gainesville urban creeks bacteriological impairment