

# Lake Apopka Basin Steering Committee

Commissioner Robert Pool - Chairman  
Lake County

Commissioner Bob Freeman - Vice-Chair  
Orange County

Commissioner Robert Sindler - Orange County

Commissioner Bill Arrowsmith - City of Apopka

Mayor Scott Vandergrift - City of Ocoee

Commissioner Theo Graham - City of Winter Garden

Mayor Jon VanderLey - Town of Oakland

Mayor Helen Pearce - Town of Montverde

Mayor Harold Turville - City of Clermont

Report Prepared by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
with assistance from:

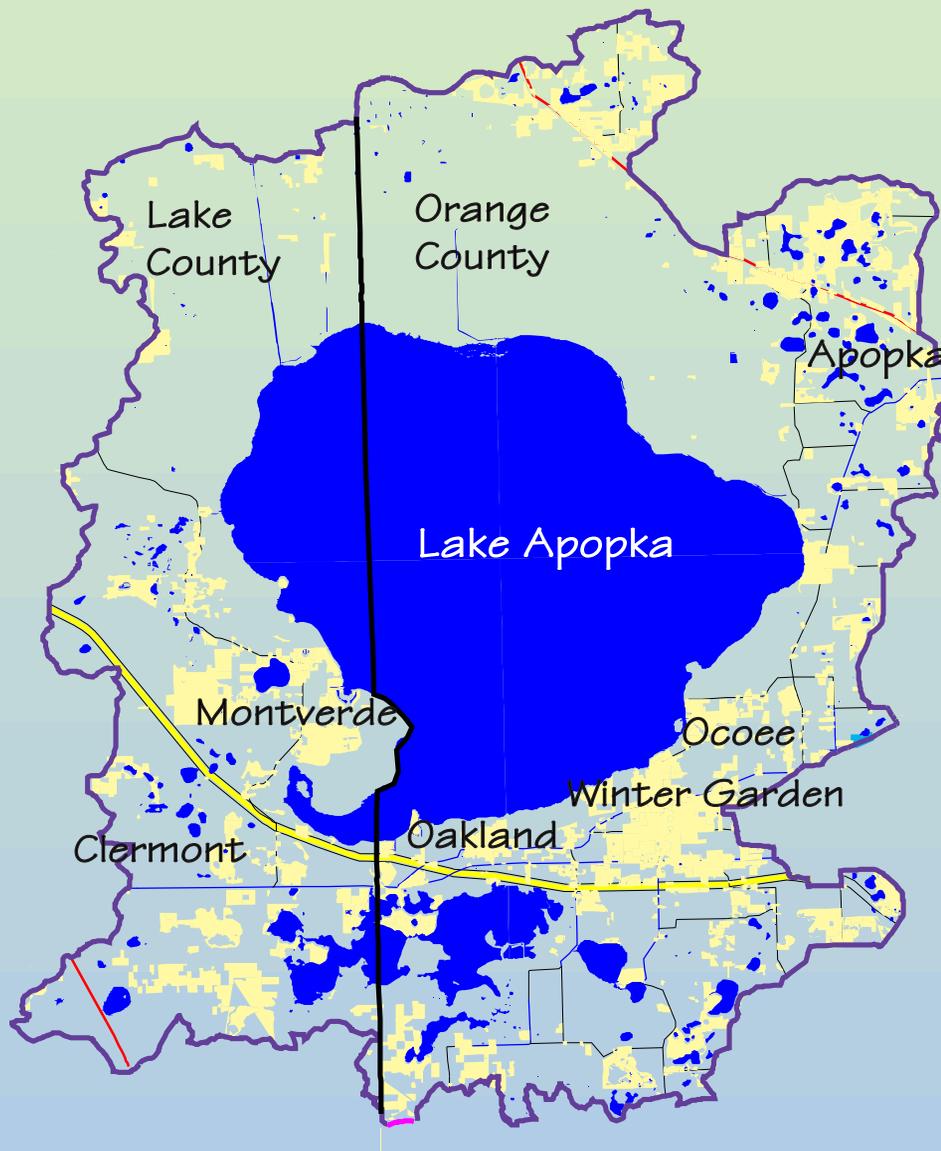
Florida Department of Community Affairs, Friends of Lake Apopka, St. Johns River Water Management District, Orange County Planning Department, Lake County Planning Department, City of Apopka Planning Department, City of Ocoee Planning Department, City of Winter Garden Planning Department, Town of Oakland Town Planner, Town of Montverde Town Planner, City of Clermont Planning Department

The Lake Apopka Basin Planning Initiative was launched in 1999 by the Friends of Lake Apopka to promote regional cooperation. From the start, the Initiative set out to be a catalyst for uniting six cities and two counties into a more cohesive unit capable of addressing growth and development issues in the Lake Apopka basin.

Why do this? Because of the growing conviction that as the Orlando Metropolitan area expands, development in any one of the eight basin jurisdictions has the ability to undermine state, regional and local efforts to restore Lake Apopka. Poorly planned growth, growth that it does not incorporate - as a principal development goal - conservation of the basin's natural resources, can directly affect everyone's use and enjoyment of this truly wonderful regional resource, and the economic benefits it can bring if managed wisely.

In February 2000, each of the basin's jurisdictions appointed elected officials to sit as members of the Lake Apopka Basin Steering Committee, which was established to formalize the Initiative's work and move forward on regional scale initiatives. The willingness of each jurisdiction to participate on the committee reflects their understanding of the lake's importance to their communities' future and a commitment to work collectively towards its long-term health. Two regional agencies, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the St. Johns River Water Management District were asked to provide technical and administrative support.

The Steering Committee's work has focused on examining those natural resources and features in the basin that are important to sustaining the lake's ecological integrity. It also has looked at how these resources and features may be enhanced to capitalize on them socially and economically. The Lake Apopka Basin is unique in having what will be, in the not too distant future, the second largest lake in the state. Although significant urbanization has occurred, much of the basin remains undeveloped, and the communities that developed historically in response to the lake's presence still retain a distinctive character reflective of their past relationships with the lake. Opportunities opened up by the restoration, and by the enlightened recognition on the part of the basin's jurisdictions that taking advantage of those opportunities requires regional collaboration, have the potential to make the Lake Apopka Basin one of the most livable areas in the country. Unlike so many other areas, the best of the past can still be salvaged and melded with a future that has not yet been decided.



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- Shoreline Protection
- Greenways and Trails
- Viewsheds
- Public Access
- Natural Setting

What follows is not a vision for the future. It is not a blueprint or comprehensive plan for the basin. It does not prescribe specific actions for basin jurisdictions to undertake. But it does contain information, in the form of Needs and Opportunities, that identifies where the basin jurisdictions should direct their collective energies and resources. It is intended to set a basin agenda and, in keeping with the Initiative's intent, foster a sense of regionalism that allows for the pursuit of a sustainable future that is beneficial to all the basin's jurisdictions.



*Pictured Above: Steering Committee Members (from left to right), Mayor Helen Pearce, Town of Montverde; Mayor Jon VanderLey, Town of Oakland; Mayor Harold Turville, City of Clermont; Commissioner Bob Pool, Lake County; Commissioner Theo Graham, City of Winter Garden; Commissioner Bob Freeman, Orange County; (not pictured: Commissioner Robert Sindler, Orange County, Commissioner Bill Arrowsmith, City of Apopka; Mayor Scott Vandergrift, City of Ocoee).*

# Introduction

