

includes rural, suburban, and urban land uses which diversifies the source of pollution(b). Fortunately, Lowndes County possesses many resources that can be use to achieve the goal (c, d). This includes ordinances and partners to assist with testing, analysis, and reporting. Tables 4 and 5 in the Nine Element Plan show existing management measures (pages 9-10) and additional management measures needed for implementation of the plan (11-13). According to the plan, “potential evaluation methods for the above measures include:

- Physical water quality monitoring
- Chemical water quality monitoring
- Biological life measurements
- Photographic or visual evidence, before and after photos
- Documentation of site BMPs installed
- Pollutant loading measurements
- Stakeholder surveys, evaluate knowledge or change in behavior
- Focus groups, to determine effectiveness of project activities (13).”

The writers of the plan aspire to begin working towards their goals in calendar year 2026 Table 6 (pages 13-17) outlines the implementation schedule which highlights annual activities as well as activities beginning in 2026, and continuing through 2027, 2028, and 2029 (f, g).

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Lowndes County, and the City of Valdosta collaborated to develop this plan in order to mitigate DO levels, E. coli levels, and gain funding to accurately determine the DNA being found at Cat Creek (h). While the plan lists a myriad of recommendations, the monitoring strategies serve as the most actionable (i):

1. Weekly water testing at locations mentioned (includes monitoring after big rain events)
2. Periodic DNA and PFAS sampling, especially after big rain events.

