

# Using the Water Management Information System (WMIS) Resource Data Search System

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What types of data are available?

The [Resource Data Search](#) component of WMIS contains different types of scientific data, including hydrologic (ground- and surface-water levels), atmospheric (rainfall and evapotranspiration), and water-quality (i.e. nutrients, pesticides, organics, metals) data. The data available from WMIS represent District-collected values only; data collected by other agencies should be retrieved from their respective sources.

### 2. How do I find a data collection site in a specific area?

There are several ways to retrieve information about sites and data in a specific area. The most direct method is probably using the new mapping capabilities of WMIS. To access these tools, click on the [Location](#) tab and click the [Map Selection](#) button. On the new map window, zoom to your area of interest using the map tools. Placing your mouse over a tool will display the tool's function:



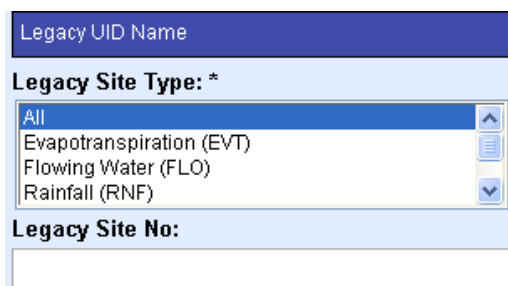
Select the sites for which you would like data by using the second tool from the right on the bar above. Once your sites are highlighted on the map, click the "[<< Send to Search](#)" link at the upper-right of the map frame. You will be returned to the starting screen, where you should now scroll down (if necessary) and click the [Search](#) button to return a list of the sites you selected from the map.

In addition to (or, in lieu of) using the map interface, you may select any combination of site criteria on one or more tabs. It is important to narrow down your selection at least somewhat; if you make no choices on the tab and click [Search](#), you will get every site for which the District has ever collected any type of data, which may make any subsequent data downloads very cumbersome.

Click the [Reset](#) button at the bottom of the screen to clear your site selections.

### 3. Can I still retrieve site information and data using the old (legacy) UIDSITE number?

Yes, you can still use the legacy site number, although sites created in 2008 will not have these identifiers (all sites, new and old, have a new identifier assigned to them called the SITE\_ID, unique to one and only one data collection site). If you have the legacy site number, choose the applicable Legacy Site Type in that field on the General tab and then enter the Legacy Site number in the field below:



Click [Search](#) to find your site.

Once you are familiar with the new site IDs, you may create a comma-separated text file (.txt) of this information and search on these site numbers in one operation. This is especially useful if you want to retrieve information about the same sites on an ongoing basis. To do this, create and save the text file on your computer. Then, on the General tab, in the upper-left of the screen, click the [Upload Site List](#) button, navigate to the text file on your computer, and upload the file. You will then see the list of site numbers you specified displayed in the District Site ID box. You may also type site IDs directly into this box, separated by commas. Again, click [Search](#) to complete the operation.

#### 4. How do I determine what data are collected for a specific site?

Once a list of sites appears on the Results tab, according to your selection criteria, you should click on the plus-sign next to the site name to see what types of data have been collected for that site, including the measuring units, and beginning and ending date of data collection. Parameters are shown in alphabetical order.

<input type="checkbox"/> View Details	20084	ROMP TR 21-3 6-IN SURF	Well			
<input type="checkbox"/> View Details	20085	ROMP TR 21-3 AVPK	Well			
			<b>Data Type</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>POR Begin</b>	<b>POR End</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> View Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Download Data		Alkalinity (Total)	mg/L	01/21/1997	12/01/2006
<input type="checkbox"/> View Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Download Data		Bromide (Dissolved)	mg/L	01/21/1997	02/03/1999
<input type="checkbox"/> View Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Download Data		Calcium (Dissolved)	mg/L	01/21/1997	12/21/2005

#### 5. How do I view data?

To view actual data values for a particular parameter, click on the [View Data](#) link in the expanded list. A new screen will appear, presenting you with a basic chart of the data for the selected site and parameter. You will see the *last year* of available data on the chart, as indicated in the beginning and ending date-range boxes on this page. You may adjust the date range at any time. However, if you select too much data, they may not display properly on the chart. If you have trouble viewing the parameter you select, try adjusting the display option between bar and line, then [Refresh](#) the view.

To preview the data, click on the [Preview Daily Aggregate Data](#) tab. Choose a year of data to preview. Data Status will be shown as either Approved (checked and verified by staff) or Provisional (not yet reviewed and subject to revision). Click "[<< Back to Search Results](#)" to return to the Results tab. Click [Reset](#) to clear your selection.

#### 6. How do I download data?

There are two ways to download data. You may set a date range on the chart page for the selected parameter, [Refresh](#) the chart, and click the [Export Aggregate Data](#) button. Then, save the file to your computer, or open it. Depending on which program you have set up to open comma-separated value (.csv) files, the file (depending on number of records downloaded) may not load completely, as some software programs have a limitation in terms of how many records a file may have. In this case, you should use the [Save](#) option, and then open the file later in another program that will allow a large number of records.

If you want to download data without first previewing them, you can go directly to the [Download Data](#) link on the Results tab for your parameter of choice. On the resulting page, choose the year (or ALL YEARS) for which you want to download data, and click the button for the output format of your choice (.csv or .xls). Then, [Save](#) or [Open](#) the data file. Click the "[Back to Search Results](#)" link at the upper-right of the screen to return to your Results list. To begin a new search, click the [Reset](#) button, choose new search criteria, and click the [Search](#) button.

#### 7. Where can I find data from other agencies?

Other public agencies may have more information on these or additional data-collection sites throughout the District and the State of Florida. Depending on the type of data you are seeking, the following sources might be helpful:

United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Information System:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/nwis>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/default.htm>

The Water Atlas Program: <http://www.wateratlas.usf.edu/>

National Weather Service (NWS): <http://www.weather.gov/climate/>

Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN): <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**8. What do the codes mean in the QUALITY\_CODE column in relation to the data values?**

The codes in the QUALITY\_CODE (far right) column explain the condition of the data. For example, if you see no value for a particular date, and there is a "151" in the QUALITY\_CODE column, you will know that the value was missing for that date. The following list explains what each of these codes means:

<b>QUALITY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Good continuous records
2	Good quality edited data
79	Fewer than 24 values in daily aggregate
80	Accumulated
83	Verification Value
84	Could not locate site
85	Canker Alert - No site access
86	Site destroyed
87	Weeds too high to read gauge
88	No access to site
89	Gauge missing
90	Less than
91	Greater than
95	Estimated
96	Override
97	Surveyed
98	Below staff gauge
140	Data not yet checked
151	Data missing
153	Above staff gauge
154	Out of service

**8. How can I get more help on this?**

Assistance with WMIS Resource Data Search is available during normal business hours (8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) by contacting the Help Desk at (352) 796-7211 (or toll-free in Florida at 1-800-423-1476), extension 4008. You may also e-mail us with questions using the link at the bottom of the WMIS Resource Data Search page.