

Tallahassee Residential Fertilizer Survey

**Springs Education Workshop
September 19, 2023**

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TALLAHASSEE**

Overview



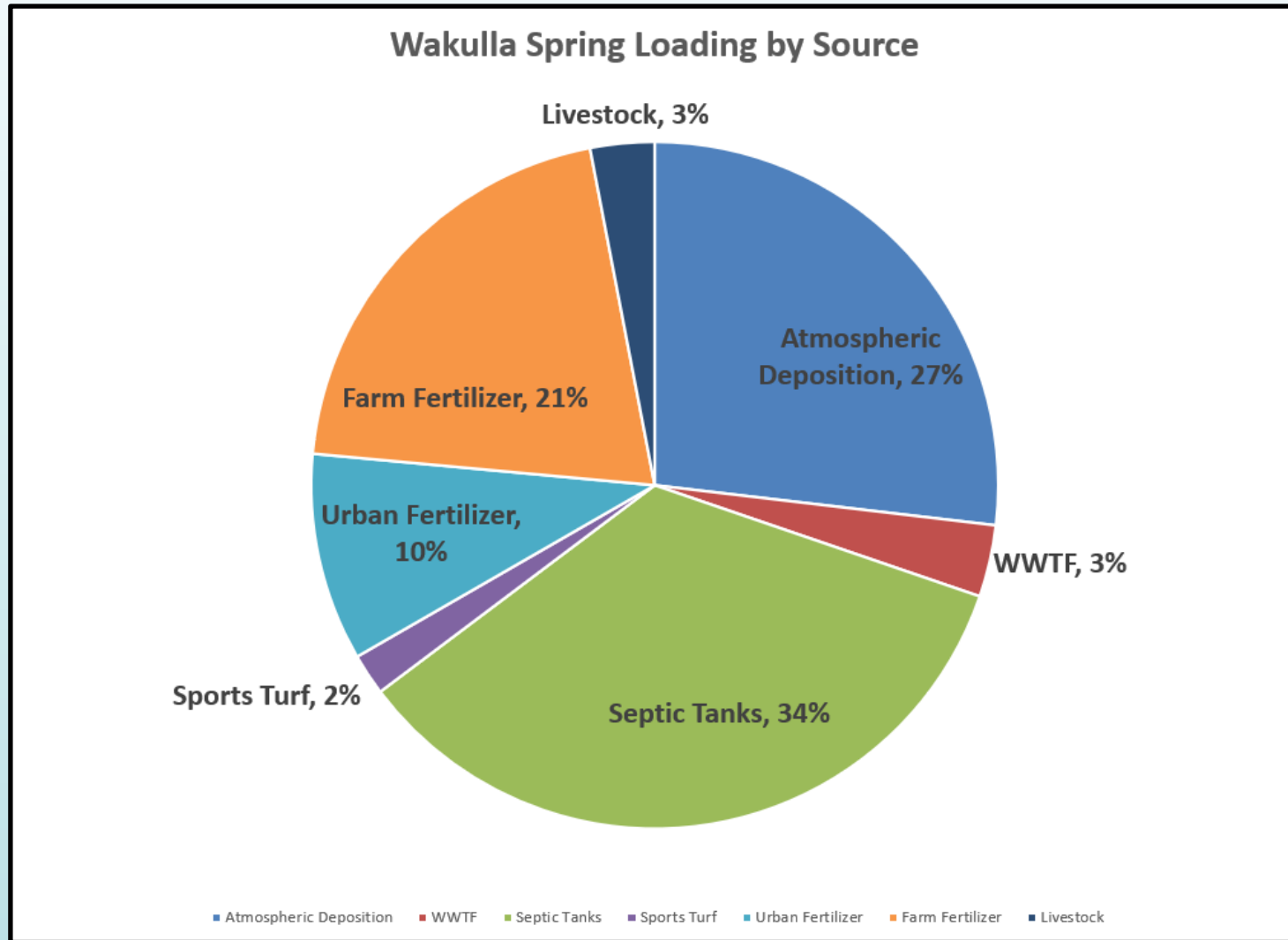
Wakulla Spring

- Impairments: Nitrogen & Biology
- TMDL: 2012 (Nitrogen)
- BMAP: 2015, 2018 (Revised)
- Key Stakeholders: City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Wakulla County

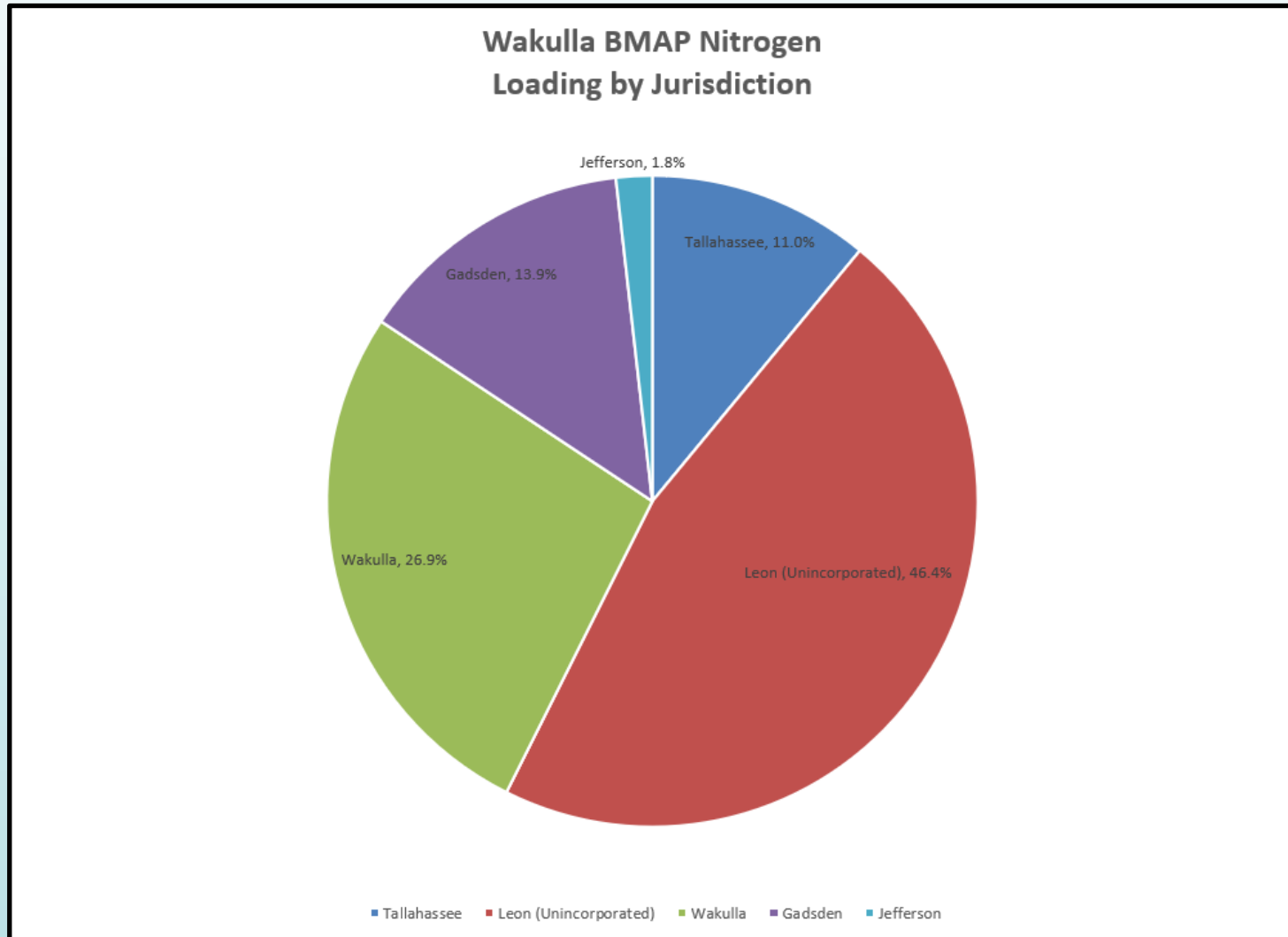


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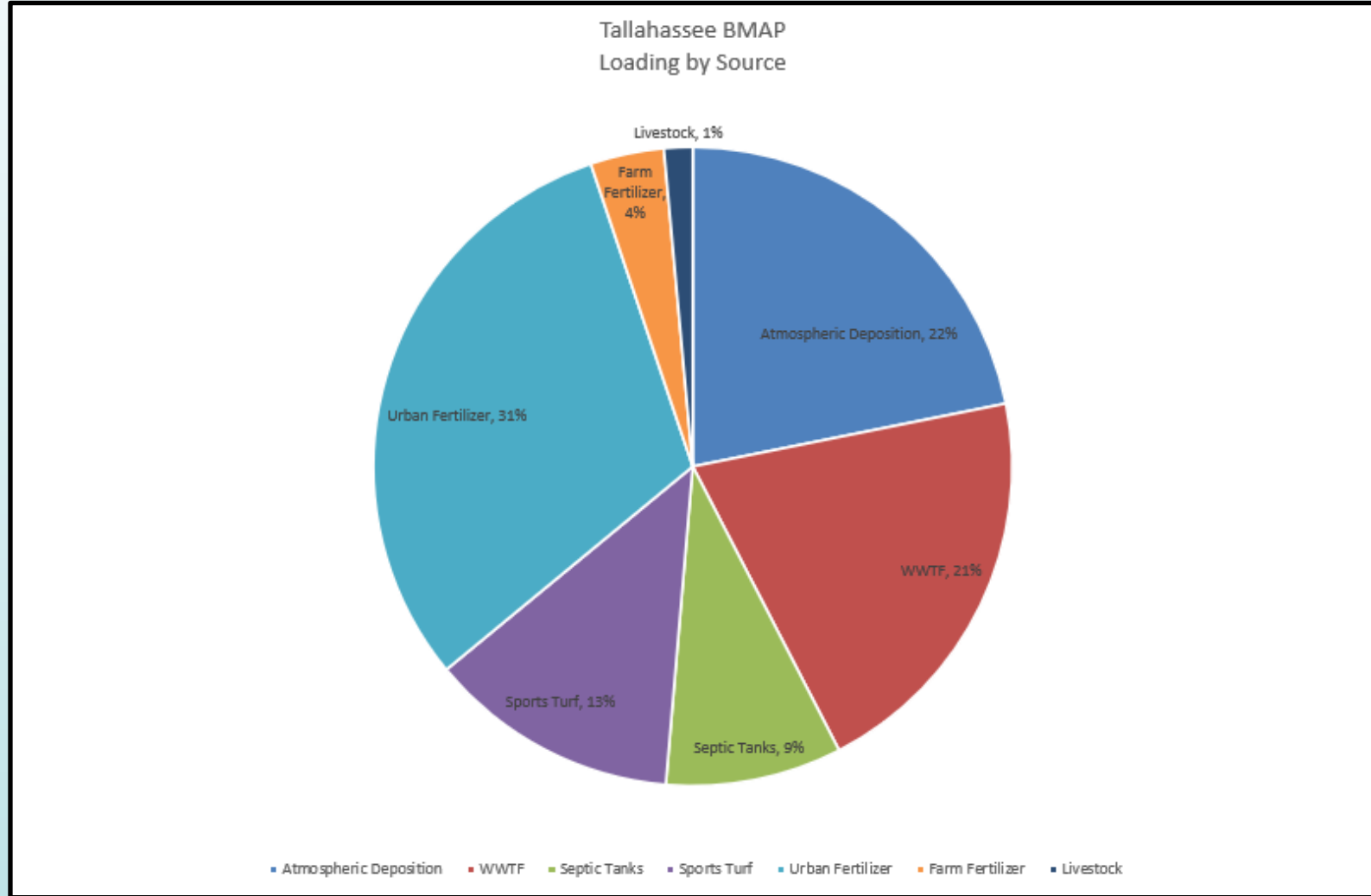
Overview



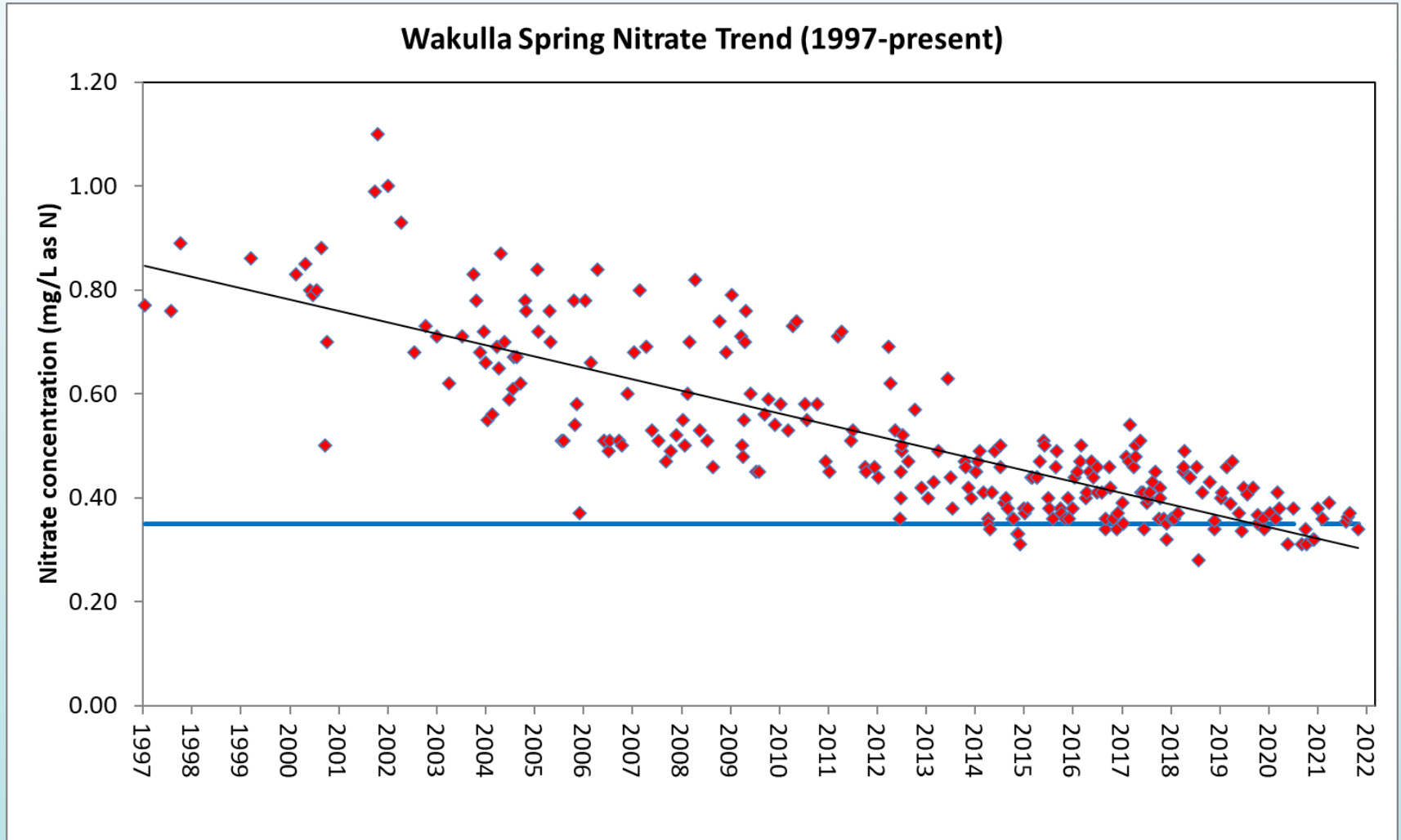
Overview



Overview



Overview



Public Education Efforts



2023 Survey

Background & Methodology

- Telephone & Online
- 10 Questions
- Utilized City utility customer database
- Dataset was prescreened to exclude non-residential property, apartment complexes, etc.
- Goal to capture data from residents who have a lawn to maintain (Do you fertilize? How many times per year do you apply?)
- Statistically valid results for each major drainage basin & inside/outside of the Wakulla BMAP priority focus area
- 1,695 surveys completed
- Max error: $\pm 2.4\%$ at 95% confidence level

2023 Survey

Findings

- 50% of residents are familiar with the TAPP program
- 57% of respondents are age 55 or older
- The TAPP program is more familiar within the priority focus area (57%)
- **35% of residents say fertilizer is applied to their lawns**
- 46% of residents who apply fertilizer do it themselves
- **43% of residents say fertilizer is applied twice a year.**
Overall, fertilizer is applied 1.88 times per year on average.
- 86% of respondents who say fertilizer is applied to their lawn say the fertilizer label is easy to follow.

Survey Comparison

Wekiva (2009)

- 84% of residents say fertilizer is applied to their lawns
- 2.88 average number of annual applications (by residents)

Tallahassee (2016)

- 32% of residents say fertilizer is applied to their lawns
- --- average number of annual applications.

Tallahassee (2023)

- 35% of residents say fertilizer is applied to their lawns
- 1.88 average number of annual applications.

Survey Use

- **Demonstrate and Understand Effectiveness of Public Education Program**
- **Ordinance Revisions/Reinforcement**
- **Estimate Community Loading from Fertilizer**
- **Regulatory – TMDL, BMAP, etc.**

Questions

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