Marion County is home to Silver Springs, one of the world's largest and most famous artesian springs, along with Rainbow Springs and Silver Glen. Our natural springs, lakes and rivers make Marion County a beautifully unique place to live, work and play. Because we use this same water for drinking and other daily activities, we all play a role in keeping our water clean. The Run for the Springs 5K celebrates our community while raising awareness about steps that individuals and businesses can take to protect our water resources. Proceeds from the 5K are returned to Marion County residents and businesses in the form of grants for projects that benefit the health of the springs.

Run for the Springs Grant Program

The Marion County Office of the County Engineer (OCE) provides a program to award grants to any unincorporated Marion County resident or business that utilizes a septic system to handle onsite treatment and storage of sewage. The purpose of the grant is to assist owners of such systems with routine maintenance pump-out and inspection costs, as well as relief from permit fees.

There are two (2) types of grants:

- Routine Maintenance Pump-Out and Inspection Reimbursement
- Repair Permit Reimbursement

Applicants are asked to please fill out the enclosed grant application and submit the completed form to:

Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Stormwater Program
412 S.E. 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471

a. **Septic System Routine Maintenance Pump-Out and Inspection Grant** - Reimbursement of up to **80%** of total cost will be provided to home or business owners that have their septic system pumped out and inspected by a septic service professional.

b. **Septic System Permit Reimbursement for Repair** - Reimbursement of up to **$250** each towards the cost of the permit required for repair to the septic system. A copy of the permit must be provided.

c. **Eligibility** – Applicant must be an unincorporated Marion County resident or business. Applicants can apply on behalf of a home or business that they own. Grants are available for work occurring after October 1, 2021. There is a limit of two (2) per year per applicant (one home location; one business location). Each location is eligible every four (4) years. **Application must be submitted and approved prior to work being performed**. Work done prior to grant approval is not eligible and will not be approved.

d. **Responsibilities** – Applicant is responsible for keeping and submitting **all** paperwork as proof of payment and expenditure of funds in accordance with the grant and prior to reimbursement. Work must be completed by a licensed septic service professional.

e. **Application Submittal and Grant Awarding** – Grant applications may be submitted at any time. Applications are reviewed and awarded on an ongoing basis. Grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are expended; therefore, applicants are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. Applications may be submitted by email, fax or mailed to the address shown at the bottom of the application form.

Upon grant approval, a letter will be sent to the address indicated on the application paperwork. Applicants will have **90 days from the date listed on the letter** to have the work performed and to submit:

1. A receipt showing payment for the service
2. A photograph (either digital or print) of the service being performed.

Upon receipt and approval, the County will issue a check, typically in 2-4 weeks.

For any questions or more information about these grants, email Stormwater@marionfl.org or call 352-671-8686.

Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Run for the Springs Grant
Application

General Instructions: Complete the below information. The applicant's name must be written on the submitted application and every page of any supporting documents.

1. Applicant Name (print clearly): _____

2. Address: _____

   _____

3. Phone#: Cell _____ Home _____

4. Email _____

5. Please choose grant type(s):

   ☐ Routine Maintenance Pump-Out and Inspection Reimbursement (up to 80% of cost)

   ☐ Repair Permit Reimbursement (up to $250)

I, the undersigned, declare that I am the owner or responsible agent for the property in which Run for the Springs Grant funds are being applied for. I understand that this application must be submitted, and approval given by the County, before work can be performed. I understand that I will be required to submit proof of payment for all work, along with a photograph of the work being performed, before reimbursement will be made. I understand that I have 90 days from the date of approval to complete any work or I forfeit any claim to reimbursement. I have read, understand, and agree to the attached terms and conditions of this program.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Deadline:

Grants will be awarded on an ongoing basis until all Run for the Springs Grant funds have been expended. Applicants can find out if grant funds are still available through phone or email to the below contact information.

Send to:
Marion County Office of the County Engineer
Stormwater Division
412 S.E. 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471
(352) 671-8686

Email applications or questions to:
Stormwater@marionfl.org