

# Stop the Sand Mine

A sand mine next to our neighborhoods has the potential to affect property values and tourism and it could have a detrimental impact on the Crystal River springs and the Florida Manatees that call the area home. Citrus County is known for its natural beauty and outdoor activities, it relies heavily on tourism which contributes significantly to local revenue. Environmental degradation from sand mining could deter tourists, reducing revenue for local business and the broader economy. A decline in tourism could lead to lost income for hotels, restaurants, and recreational services, potentially costing the county millions annually. Please let's encourage our Citrus County Board to look more closely at the requested land use change.

Currently there is a request that has been submitted to Citrus County "to change approximately 322.8 acres from (AGR) Agricultural, to EXT, Extractive, for a new sand mine at 3856 N Brookshire Pt in Crystal River." **Meeting Please Attend Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 5:01PM 100 N Apopka Ave Room 100 Inverness, FL 34450**

It is the water and our beautiful Springs that drive the economy in this area. We are extremely worried about damage to the aquifer and the springs.

Potential damages include,

1. Groundwater depletion, mining could lower water levels, affecting local wells and springs.
2. Contamination; Sediments of chemicals from mining or fertilizers used from the tree farm that was on this property, might enter the aquifer, polluting the water. Dewatering can stir up naturally occurring contaminants like arsenic or heavy metals or introduce oxygen, altering the groundwater chemistry.
3. Sinkhole formation; Removing sand over limestone could destabilize the ground adding to sinkhole risk. See the many sinkholes in Crystal River.
4. Altered groundwater flow; changes could impact ecosystems and water availability. This could alter water quality, potentially harming aquatic life, including manatees and affecting tourism.
5. Saltwater intrusion; Lowering the water table might allow saltwater to mix with fresh water especially in coastal areas like Citrus County.
6. The Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research
7. EDR) released a June 2024 report projecting a water supply shortage as early as 2025, expected to increase in severity through 2040, driven by rapid population growth and limited aquifer recharge. (Florida Water Shortage)

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