



FRIENDS OF LAKE JACKSON

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FRIENDS OF LAKE JACKSON, INC.
A Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation and
Citizens' Action Group

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Purpose Statement

Lake Jackson is the principal recreational lake in Leon County. It is both a natural treasure and a significant economic resource. It is estimated that this lake is contributing \$10 million per year to the local economy and supports at least 90 jobs.

The lake has an area of 6 to 7 square miles. The area of land that feeds the lake is a watershed of 43 square miles. The lake and its watershed make up a closed basin without an outlet stream.

Lake Jackson has been designated by the State of Florida as an Outstanding Florida Water and also as a State Aquatic Preserve. It provides important habitat for many species, including bald eagles, ospreys, hawks, owls, ducks, great blue herons, red-headed and pileated woodpeckers, white ibis, wood storks, foxes, raccoons, alligators, turtles, bream, and trophy bass.

But the lake is in trouble. All of the waters that fall within the watershed carry whatever the runoff picks up. The watershed runoff roughly balances evaporation and percolation through the lake bed, but pollutants are left to concentrate in the lake and on the bottom. There is clear evidence that nutrients are building up in the aquatic plants, algae, and sediments of the lake. The balances of the lake are shifting from their natural conditions, contributing to major changes in the populations of plants and fishes, as well as degradation to the water quality.

Friends of Lake Jackson, Inc., has been formed to organize the efforts of informed and concerned citizens who share a desire to protect Lake Jackson from further adverse effects. This group plans to work with local, state, and federal governmental officials to arrest the further decline of this key piece of our natural heritage.

The corporation's founding members have elected a Board of Directors (presently 11); and the Board, in turn, has elected officers. The founding membership has approved the Articles of Incorporation. The Board has approved By-Laws for the Corporation.

There will be substantial costs for pursuing the objectives of the corporation (primarily and initially for the dissemination of information to members).

We encourage you to become a voting member of this group. Dues are only \$15.00 per person per year. If you can afford more, please contribute generously. The corporation also seeks to employ your talents in pursuing these goals.

If you agree with our purposes, as stated in the Articles, but cannot become a voting member, with the payment of the annual dues, you may still wish to join us as a non-voting member. Under these conditions, you would periodically receive pertinent information with suggested action. The purposes of the corporation, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, are repeated below.

PURPOSES: The purposes of this corporation are:

- a) to preserve, maintain, and enhance the waters of Lake Jackson, in Leon County, Florida, an Outstanding Florida Water, and a Florida Aquatic Preserve;
- b) to preserve and enhance the ecological features in the Lake Jackson Basin in a manner consistent with preserving and improving the water quality in Lake Jackson;
- c) to promote the dissemination of information to persons using the Lake Jackson Basin with a goal of encouraging that those activities that occur in the Basin do so in a manner consistent with preserving and improving the water quality in Lake Jackson;
- d) to provide a forum for the owners and users of properties, both public and private, within the Lake Jackson Basin, to establish positions and make those positions known to public officials with reference to any governmental projects, activities, and functions which affect or may affect the Lake Jackson Basin;
- e) to promote sound planning, zoning, land, water, and air uses in the Lake Jackson Basin;
- f) to protect the value, beauty, natural surroundings, and aesthetic appeal of all assets within the Lake Jackson Basin;
- g) to advocate before governmental bodies politic for programs, decisions, and activities that will promote and enhance the objectives of this corporation;
- h) to preserve Lake Jackson, an Outstanding Florida Water, for the future in such condition that it can continue to be used and enjoyed by the public, consistent with the ecological health of Lake Jackson;
- i) to enter into contracts related to these corporate purposes with governmental agencies or any other persons or corporations, and to seek funding for pursuing these corporate purposes and for related public projects;
- j) to coordinate the activities of this corporation with other groups and entities with goals and objectives similar to those of this corporation, or any of them;
- k) to promote the health, safety, and general well-being of members of the corporation; and
- l) to do all things necessary to accomplish the objectives enumerated above.