Lake Ida (WBID 3262A)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) completed a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the Boynton Inlet in June of 2018. The purpose of this Watershed Management Plan was to identify and evaluate various nutrient load reduction strategies (effectiveness and costs), to reduce nutrient loading to the Boynton Inlet and offshore reefs and to meet TMDL reduction goals. NOAA’s Boynton Inlet Study incorporated both SFWMD C-15 and C-16 Basins (approximately 150 square mile area). One of the sub-watersheds included in this plan is Lake Ida. With the assistance of local stakeholders, the Boynton Inlet WMP included development of a land based nutrient pollutant loading model, a water budget assessment, stakeholder meetings, site visits, data sharing, best management practices to achieve load reduction goals, and a management tool to evaluate BMP implementation scenarios. For the benefit of the MS4 stakeholders, the WMP provided pollutant loading estimates for Lake Ida, stakeholder consensus on the Lake Ida contributing area and each MS4’s contribution (area and pollutant load), review of current fertilizer ordinances, and potential BMPs to meet TMDL goals. The MS4 represent approximately 15% of the contributing area and 20% of the pollutant loading. Reduction of fertilizer usage appears to be the most potentially effective and cost effective best management strategy.