

The latest addition to an endless list of reasons to remove the Kirkpatrick Dam, draw down the Rodman Reservoir and free the Ocklawaha River stems from public safety. A recently released safety report says the dam is at risk of breaching with resulting flooding imperiling more than 500 homes and risking loss of life.

[\\$1.6 million are necessary for immediate repairs](#), much more to make the useless structure continually viable.

The Rodman Dam was built as part of The Cross Florida Barge Canal that never came to fruition. It was built 50 years ago and still stands, though it's never served its intended purpose.

LINK: <https://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/local/safety-report-rodman-dam-poses-high-hazard-surrounding-homes-16m-immediate-repairs-needed/Y4MJTYPRDCU3FIB5UNVZZUY4Q/>

Florida has been ranked #1... for [most polluted lakes](#) in the United States.

Florida's fouled water is a weekly item on this newsletter and stems from: AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF (too much fertilizer, pesticide and livestock waste running untreated into water sources), OVERDEVELOPMENT (parking lots, homes, shopping centers, roads and other impervious services which impede natural water absorption and send filthy water full of oil, coolant, trash, gasoline, etc. into water sources), LEAKING SEPTIC TANKS, INDUSTRIAL WASTE runoff like phosphorus mining, timber operations, paper mills, HOMEOWNERS using too much fertilizer and pesticides on their yards which are too heavily dependent upon turf grass instead of native plants, trees and more natural features.

LINK: <https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2022-03-18/florida-tops-list-for-the-most-polluted-lakes-in-the-u-s-study-finds>

If you're hoping for the state Department of Environmental Protection to do anything substantive about it, [you've come to the wrong state](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/03/24/deps-language-for-protecting-florida-springs-copies-what-doesnt-work/>

What can you do to improve the state's water quality? No fertilizers or pesticides on your lawn and replace grass with native plants. The local Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's annual native plant sale is coming up April 9. [More information](#).

Swallow-tailed kites have returned to southwest Florida which means they'll be showing up in northeast Florida soon. [A look at this magnificent bird](#).

LINK: https://www.news-press.com/story/tech/science/environment/2022/03/23/majestic-swallow-tailed-kites-back-southwest-florida-breeding-season/7125140001/?utm_source=news-press-Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=list_article_headline&utm_content=1026NP-E-NLETTER65

How Royal Palm State Park became [Everglades National Park](#).

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-90-may-mann-jennings-how-royal-palm-state-park-became-everglades-natl-park-201414138>