

The Area | In Brief

APOPKA

Dye drop links Blue Sink to Rock Springs

Environmentalists have found a connection between the water that seeps into the Apopka Blue Sink and Rock Springs, a recreation area one mile away in northwest Orange County.

It took from three hours to seven days for a nontoxic dye released in the sink to travel to the mouth of the springs, said Bob Giguere, a documentary filmmaker and diver who planned the experiment. The dye, however, did not appear in Sulphur Springs, midway between the two, leaving questions about how water travels through the earth's underground system of rivers in the area.

The find bolsters arguments that the area between the two spots as well as the soil in nearby areas that contributes water to the springs should be protected from dense development.

"The soil is like a filter," Giguere said. "Much of what you put into the ground goes into the springshed."

More tests will be needed to define just how fast the water travels and identify other sensitive sources of spring water.



ORLANDO SENTINEL

passes part of downtown. Alarmed that about 25 percent of city buildings identified in the early 1990s as historically significant have since been demolished or altered drastically, commissioners decided to try to preserve what remains.

Owners will have to leave historic details such as the type and pitch of the roof. Rules encourage owners to retain original windows, doors, porches and balconies. If not, the replacements should look similar. The new rules go into effect 90 days from Tuesday.