

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Water for Nature ...Water for People



Strategic Plan 2008-2017

Water for Nature ...Water for People



Louis Shiver

A Message from the Chairman

Reflecting upon our past accomplishments and looking toward the future, we know that it is only through partnerships that we will be able to fulfill the mission and goals of our strategic plan.

The District believes in the importance of partnerships. In 2007, we delivered the message to 17 Chambers of Commerce that we want to partner with the business community in managing water resources. The response was quite positive.

We support the work of the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) by providing funding and technical assistance to develop agricultural waste best management practices. At its inception in 1998, the SRP had 24 member agencies and organizations. Today it has 61.

The SRP is a model for The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP), which is just taking shape in early 2008. The purpose of TIP is to provide a channel through which financial, scientific, human and political resources can coordinate their efforts to protect and promote the scenic Ichetucknee River and its springs, so vital to the area's environment and economy. TIP will include a wide range of local governments, civic clubs and citizen organizations, with the District serving on its executive committee and providing funding and staff support.

Droughts, floods, and water supply issues also have created partnership opportunities.


In response to a severe two-year drought, the District in January 2008 issued its first ever mandatory water-use restrictions. Yet, true to our philosophy of working through partnerships, we met with municipalities, businesses, industries and agricultural interests to determine the best, fairest and most equitable ways to administer the restrictions.

To address flood concerns, we partnered with the City of Live Oak to create the first stormwater utility within the District. We're now partnering to establish one for Lake City.

In response to the region's growing need for alternative water supplies, we are establishing water reuse programs with partnering communities and individuals.

We continue to work with federal, state and local partners to acquire and manage lands for resource protection and public use activities, including the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail.

Many other activities for meeting the water management needs of the region are described in this plan. As always, we invite you to partner with us for a better future.



Louis Shiver
Chair
Mayo
At Large

John Paul "J.P." Maultsby
Vice-Chair
Madison
At Large

Georgia C. Jones
Secretary/Treasurer
Lake City
At Large

Kelby Andrews
Chiefland
Lower Suwannee Basin

Donald R. Curtis, Jr.
Coastal River Basin

Dr. C. Linden Davidson
Lamont
Aucilla River Basin

David Flagg
Gainesville
Santa Fe, Waccasassa Basins

Oliver J. "O.J." Lake
Lake City
Upper Suwannee Basin

Sylvia J. Tatum
Lawtey
At Large

David Still
Executive Director
Live Oak

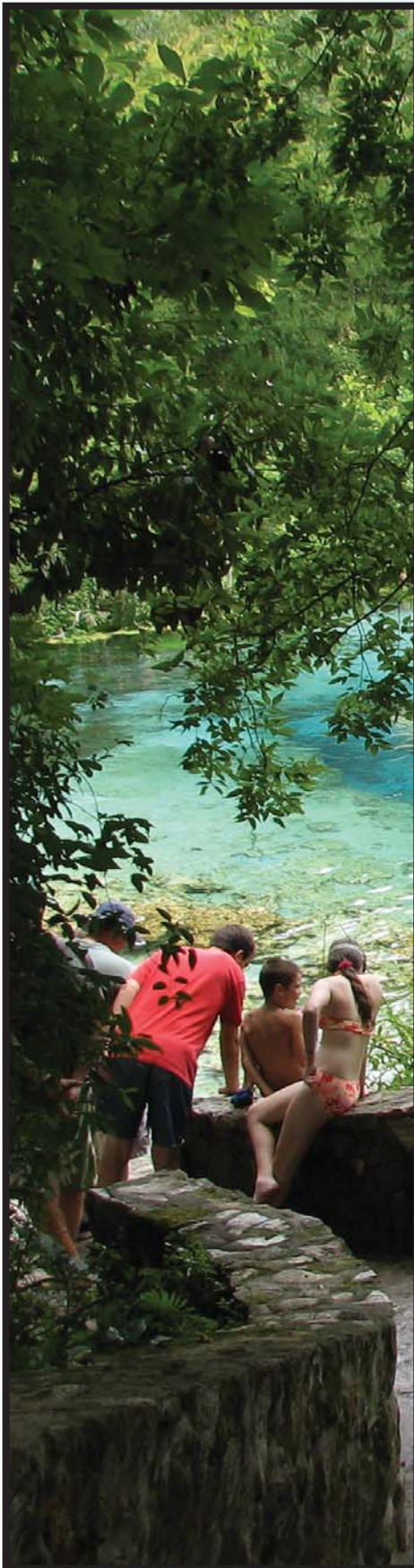


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Front Cover: Ichetucknee Springs State Park

Our Mission

The Suwannee River Water Management District will protect and manage water resources to support natural systems and the needs of the public.

Our Values

Teamwork: Working together to meet the needs of the organization, the public, and the natural resources.

Respect: Dealing fairly, embracing diversity, and considering the opinions of others.

Integrity: Being honest always, maintaining public trust, and being good stewards.

Professionalism: Displaying courtesy, respect and expertise in all that we do.

Public Service: Providing prompt, courteous and reliable responses to our customers.

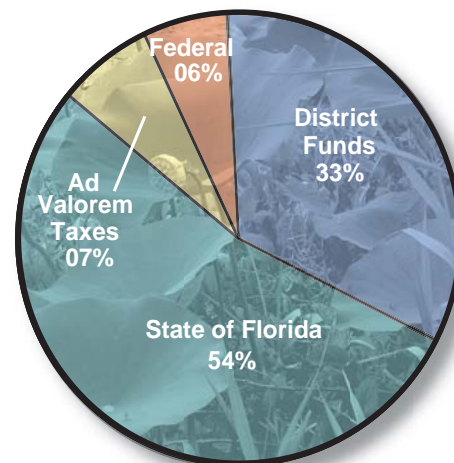
Agency Overview

A Governing Board of nine members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate, sets policy and direction for the District. Board members serve four-year terms. The Board holds meetings and workshops monthly, usually at the headquarters in Live Oak.

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) covers 7,600 square miles with a population of approximately 320,000. The region has the highest concentration of freshwater springs in the state and is highly rural in character.

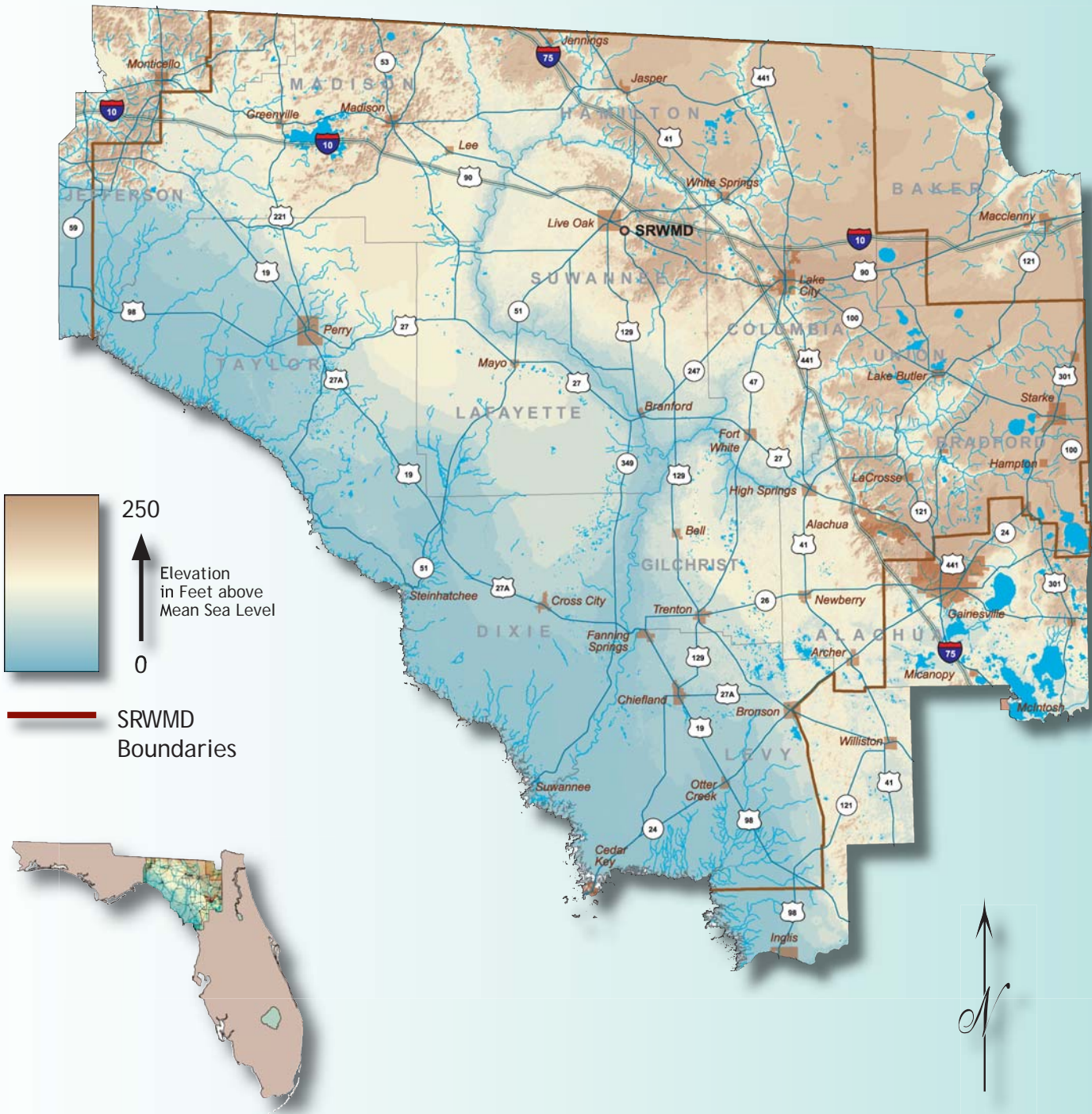
Most of the region's residential growth is in unincorporated rural areas. The Interstate 75 corridor from Lake City to Gainesville is experiencing rapid development, and is projected to contain much of the future development. Total population growth by 2050 is projected to increase to about 750,000 residents.

SRWMD's budget is derived from a combination of local property tax revenues, state grants and federal funds. Locally-generated tax revenues are 7% of the District's total budget—indicative of the lowest tax base of any Florida water management district.



SRWMD
FY2008
Revenue
Sources

District Map



District Strategic Priorities

The District is charged with water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems responsibilities under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.). These responsibilities are implemented through the District's management programs.

The District Strategic Plan, in combination with the Annual Budget and Work Plan ensures that regulatory and management priorities are accomplished.

The following ten Strategic Priorities guide the District's activities for 2008 - 2017. The strategic priorities are implemented through nine major program areas.

Plan for Future Water Supply

The Water Protection and Sustainability Program established by the Legislature provides guidance and critical funding for protecting natural systems and developing alternative water supply and reuse. The District focus is on projects that offset groundwater withdrawals while balancing the needs of our communities and natural systems.

Alternative water supply cost-share funding will be made available to communities and other water users that have specific needs and who have provided assurances that projects will be implemented.

The District is committed to establishing Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) that will prevent significant harm for the water bodies listed on the MFL priority list. Close coordination with the state of Georgia will be required on interstate water bodies.

Facilitate Community-Based Water Supply and Flood Protection Initiatives

The District provides funding for well head protection, including wellfield acquisition, that helps assure the availability and quality of future public water supplies.

Cooperative funding for flood protection and stormwater management projects assists communities throughout the District in reducing flooding and improving water quality.

Federal funds administered by the District have made Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate map modernization possible for the counties and cities of the District. These maps provide data for local development regulations and help communities avoid development activities in floodprone areas. The District's efforts are to ensure accessible and accurate floodplain data is readily available to communities.

Acquire Land to Protect Floodplains, Wetlands, and Other Natural Areas

The District owns 158,000 acres of land and has conservation easements over an additional 117,000 acres. These lands provide many benefits including floodwater storage and conveyance, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Over 351 river front miles of river are under protection.

Achieve Excellence in Managing District Lands

Lands acquired by the District are managed for many uses, including water resource benefits, fish and wildlife habitat, public use and recreation, and timber production. The Excellence in Land Management Program is a means for establishing and maintaining high standards in land management. At times, restoration projects are warranted on District lands. An excellent example is the 30,000-acre Mallory Swamp, a large disturbed wetland which has been undergoing successful restoration for several years.

Restore Altered Wetlands, Springs, and Streams

Historic drainage alterations and the increasing impacts of development prior to District rules have created environmental impacts in some areas of the District. Most impacts can be successfully remedied with proper intergovernmental cooperation, engineering, and implementation.

Improve Water Management through Resource Monitoring and Reporting

The vital signs of the District's natural systems are monitored through an extensive system of water quality and quantity data networks. The information collected is used in the development of MFLs, regulatory programs, land management, and flood protection.

Support Partnerships to Improve Water Quality

Elevated nutrients in the Suwannee River, springs and groundwater led to the 1999 creation of the Suwannee River Partnership, a group of public and private interests working to implement voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce nutrient levels.

In 2008 the Ichetucknee Partnership was formed as a locally led organization to focus on the implementation of voluntary, incentive based solutions to protect water quality and quantity in the springshed of the Ichetucknee River and its springs.

The District, as a member of both Partnerships, provides funding and technical assistance, collects data, and provides cost-share funds to implement Best Management Practices in cooperation with other agencies.

Protect, Restore, and Promote Excellence in the Management of Springs

Springs are among the most visible and prized natural and recreational resources. Public agencies at all levels own and manage the region's famous springs, and these valuable natural resources need protection and proper management.

Setting and achieving a high standard for protecting and managing our publicly-owned springs requires a high degree of cooperation and coordination. The District can help ensure that our springs are clean and healthy now and in the future by providing technical and funding assistance to local governments to upgrade the quality of spring management.

Achieve Environmental Protection through Effective Regulatory Programs

District rules provide protection for natural resources and help improve the quality of development. Permits are required for activities that affect water quality, flooding and stormwater management, water supplies, and impacts to water-related natural systems.

An effective regulatory program establishes conditions for avoiding or mitigating impacts to natural resources. The District works with landowners and others to ensure that land uses follow procedures, and implements rules and regulations fairly and efficiently.

Maintain Highly Trained and Service Oriented Employees

The District maintains a motivated, highly trained staff. Retaining experienced individuals and providing them the most up-to-date, efficient tools help ensure outstanding public service.



Water Supply Planning and Management

Goal: Assure a sustainable water supply

The District collaborates with local governments and other partners to help meet the water needs of communities. With the rapidly increasing population growth of recent years, these relationships are more important than ever.

The Water Protection and Sustainability Program provides policy guidance and funding that allows the District to be proactive in meeting future water needs. The District is committed to implementing water supply and protection projects as the legislature continues to provide funds. The District is working with local partners to identify and develop alternative water supplies consistent with legislative directives.

The development of MFLs for rivers, springs and lakes is included under the water supply program. MFL establishment is critical and will help ensure that future demands for water will not cause adverse impacts to water resources and related natural systems.

The development of MFLs is required by Chapter 373.042, F.S., to protect water resources from significant harm. MFLs determine the amount of water needed to sustain the benefits and functions of natural systems from water withdrawals, diversions, or other alterations.

Water Supply Development Strategies

- Coordinate with all users in protecting and managing water supplies
- Provide water supply and facility planning assistance to local governments
- Develop partnerships to implement alternative water supply projects that offset groundwater withdrawals

- Assist local governments with well-field acquisition and protection
- Promote water use conservation through cost-share, public outreach, and technical assistance projects

Minimum Flows and Levels Strategies

The MFL Priority List and the MFL strategic plan guide MFL development and implementation.

The six-step process for MFL establishment is:

- Compile and assess hydrologic, ecologic, and related data
- Analyze and use existing best available information
- Select target criteria
- Select MFLs standards
- Adopt standards through Governing Board action
- Implement MFLs through resource regulation and monitoring



Success Indicators

- Number of local governments assisted in implementing wellfield development and protection plans
- Number of alternative water supply projects implemented
- Number of water conservation measures established
- Amount of groundwater withdrawals offset
- Number of alternative source master plans approved
- Number of regional water supply systems implemented
- Number of waterbodies with recommended MFLs

Program Funding

The Water Supply Program is funded by the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, District funds, local governments and private partners.

Water Supply Planning and Management Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Water Supply Planning		Update District-Wide Water Supply Assessment				
Wellfield Supply Development	Provide Technical Assistance to Communities					
Alternative Water Supply Projects	Develop and Execute Project Agreements with Local Governments					
Minimum Flows and Levels Establishment	Withlacoochee River Upper Suwannee River Lower Santa Fe River and Springs Alapaha River Middle Suwannee River and Springs	Transient Model Development		Econfina River Fenholloway River 4 Lakes Aucilla River Wacissa River and Springs Steinhatchee River	10 Lakes	

Quality Communities

Goal: Assist communities in meeting stormwater management, flood protection and water supply needs

The Governing Board recognizes that water-related infrastructure is vital to quality of life. Developing partnerships is an effective way to solve community water-related challenges. The Quality Communities Program assists communities in developing and implementing water supply, stormwater management, stormwater utility, floodplain mapping and flood protection projects.

By pooling resources and leveraging funds, more can be accomplished for the communities than could be done individually. For example, the District and the City of Live Oak developed a partnership to pool resources and develop the District's first stormwater utility. The stormwater utility will provide funding to implement stormwater management projects.

Quality Communities Strategies

Water Supply

- Acquire wellfields and wellhead protection areas
- Provide grant funding for engineering analyses and feasibility studies that improve stormwater management, flood protection, and water quality

Stormwater Management and Flood Protection

- Create and provide updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs)
- Provide grant funding for engineering analyses and feasibility studies
- Provide cost-share assistance for stormwater management facilities and utilities

- Assist with land acquisition for stormwater management

Wastewater Management

- Provide cost-share funds for wastewater feasibility studies

Springs Protection and Surface Water Restoration Projects

- Provide engineering and technical assistance for hydrologic restoration projects
- Provide financial and technical support for springs protection and restoration projects

Success Indicators

- Number of District communities assisted
- Number of counties with digital flood insurance rate map coverage
- Number of communities with flood protection management
- Number of Florida Forever Resource Development projects completed
- Number of communities with long-term, sustainable water supply
- Number of water conservation projects implemented
- Amount of water conserved

Funding Sources for the Quality Communities Program

The Quality Communities Program is funded by District revenues, state grants and legislative appropriations, federal funds, local revenues, and in-kind contributions.

Quality Communities Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Stormwater Management	Develop New Community Projects					
Stormwater Utilities Development	Complete Utilities with Lake City, Develop New Community Projects					
Flood Map Updates	Complete Madison and Hamilton Counties	Complete Alachua, Bradford, Jefferson and Levy Counties				
Wellfield Acquisition and Development	Develop Priority Ranking	Purchase and Develop Wellfields				
Wastewater Management	Develop Alternative Water Supply Partnerships					
Springs Protection & Surface Water Restoration	Develop Springs Protection Partnerships					

Resource Monitoring

Goal: Monitor and report on the condition of the District's water resources

Effective water management requires accurate information on the condition of water and related natural resources. Collecting and analyzing data from monitoring networks allows the District to understand how natural resources change over time and how to protect their ecological integrity.

The Springs Protection Monitoring Network directly supports District strategies by providing a wide range of data on water quality and quantity. The data is used to identify long-term trends and identify potential management challenges.

The groundwater Trend and Status networks include hundreds of groundwater sampling points, which allow the determination of water quality trends.

Groundwater and surfacewater levels and rainfall networks provide data for water supply planning, water supply development, water conservation management, water use permitting, minimum flows and levels (MFLs) development, and environmental protection and restoration projects. River levels and rainfall data are provided to the National Weather Service for use in flood forecasting. During flood events, the District is a primary source of flooding information for the public.

Associated with data collection efforts are activities for the procurement of laboratory analysis services, quality assurance and quality control, database management and development of data reports and interpretation.

WARN Monitoring Strategies

- Monitor surfacewater and groundwater quality, aquatic biology, surfacewater levels and flows (rivers/streams, springs, and lakes), groundwater levels, and rainfall to determine short-term and long-term changes
- Improve public access to data resources
- Routinely evaluate monitoring data to ensure data quality, assess network status, and make necessary changes

Success Indicators

- Number of data collection points for priority surfacewaters, springs and aquifers
- Updated annual water resources report

Funding Sources for the Springs Protection Monitoring Program

The District's Springs Protection Monitoring Network is funded through the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund.

Resource Monitoring Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Surfacewater Quality, and Biological Monitoring Complete Network Assessment	Annual Monitoring Atlas and Data Report					Complete Network Assessment
Groundwater Quality Monitoring Re-randomize Status Network Complete Network Assessment	Annual Monitoring Atlas and Data Report					Re-randomize Status Network Complete Network Assessment
Surface Water Levels Monitoring Complete and Evaluate Network Automation Pilot Project Complete Network Assessment	Annual Monitoring Atlas and Data Report					Complete Network Assessment
Groundwater Levels Monitoring	Annual Monitoring Atlas and Data Report					

Land Acquisition

Goal: Implement the Florida Forever Work Plan to acquire water management lands

The District has been acquiring water management lands since 1984 under a succession of acquisition programs—Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever. Together, these programs have realized the protection of over 300,000 acres of land in north-central Florida. A District priority is the acquisition of lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Suwannee River, its tributaries, and other rivers. The District now owns 319 miles of riverfront.

Ninety-eight percent of all District lands are open to the public.

Where appropriate, conservation easements and other less-than-fee purchases can provide adequate protection at a lower cost to the public. Management costs are reduced and the property remains on the tax roll because the title is still held by the private owner. Approximately 47 percent of land acquisitions have been achieved using less-than-fee ownership.

The public benefits of the District's acquisition program include nonstructural flood protection, water quality and water recharge protection, open space, passive recreation and access to District lands, habitat for fish and wildlife, and land for water supply protection.

The land acquisition program is strictly voluntary—all land acquisition projects are negotiated with willing sellers at appraised market value. Lands available for sale are evaluated by District staff, reviewed with the Governing Board, and included in the District's land acquisition planning process.

Land Acquisition Strategies

- Protect the 100-year floodplain, headwater wetlands and freshwater spring systems of the District's major rivers
- Preserve natural floodplain function areas on the major river systems in this region
- Assist local governments in the acquisition of lands for wellhead protection
- Continue to use a resource-based selection process to target the most important and sensitive remaining lands available
- Emphasize the use of voluntary sale by willing sellers of large ownerships of reasonably priced resource lands
- Encourage the use of alternative acquisition techniques such as conservation easements as a cost-effective means of protection

Success Indicators

- Acres of land acquired consistent with the District's Florida Forever Plan
- Acres acquired for wellfield protection
- Percentage of Florida Forever goals achieved
- Percentage of Florida Forever acquisition projects acquired versus projects approved

Land Acquisition Funding

Lands are acquired with funds from the Florida Forever Trust Fund, funds from the sale of surplus lands, and revenues generated from activities on District lands (e.g., timber sales).

Land Acquisition Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Suwannee River and Tributaries	Acquire Adams/Alapaha corridor Acquire Otter Springs Acquire River Error Farms	Pursue Acquisitions in the 100-yr Floodplain				
Coastal Rivers	Acquire Kohler CE	Acquire Plum Creek/Waccasassa Corridor				
Wellhead Protection	Acquire Well fields for Worthington Springs and Lawley	Acquire Well fields for Cedar Key and Perry				
Surfacewater Restoration Water Resource Development	Acquire Stormwater Management Areas for Jasper and Live Oak	Acquire Stormwater Management Areas for Lake City and Trenton				

Land Stewardship

Goal: Manage District-owned lands in accordance with the Excellence in Land Management standards and guidelines

Acquiring land for water management purposes is just the beginning of the District's commitment to resource protection. Caring for the public's investment is an ongoing responsibility.

The Excellence in Land Management (ELM) Program encompasses a wide range of responsibilities—water management and nonstructural flood protection, public access and use, habitat management, and hydrologic restoration.

The ELM Program objectives fall in four categories

- (1) Resource Protection - Protect, enhance and/or restore natural and cultural resources
- (2) Public Use - Provide opportunities for high quality, compatible recreation
- (3) Communications - Coordinate with public and private stakeholders
- (4) Fiscal Responsibility - Manage District lands in an efficient manner

Land Management Strategies

- Develop, update, and implement land management plans for all properties
- Provide opportunities for public input and review of management plans
- Guide public use of District lands to the most suitable areas and provide appropriate public use facilities to reduce impacts to land and water resources
- Restore natural hydrology and native vegetation

- Use prescribed fire to restore and enhance habitat and natural communities
- Promote sustainable forestry in appropriate areas to provide alternate sources of revenue for land management
- Engage in cooperative land management programs where feasible to maximize public benefit

Success Indicators

- Increasing scores reported in ELM Program annual reports
- Percent of facilities and recreation sites that meet standards
- Percent of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) indicators that are found to be "in compliance" or "exceeds requirements" by third party auditors
- Percent of natural communities, maintained by fire, that are burned within their natural fire return interval
- Number of acres of non-native invasive plants treated

Funding Sources for Land Management

Land management funds are from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, revenues generated from timber sales and other fees from District lands.

Land Stewardship Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Excellence in Land Management	Develop and Report Performance Trends Conduct External SFI Audit		Implement Facilities Maintenance Standards			Conduct External SFI Audit
Land Management Planning	Populate GIS with Operations Data	Develop Annual Work Plan Using GIS				
Public Use and Recreation	Develop Facility Upgrade Plan Develop RO Ranch Facilities	Upgrade Facilities to Meet Standards	Conduct Public Satisfaction Survey			
Prescribed Fire	Conduct Burns on 10,000 Acres		Conduct Burns on 12,000 Acres			
Suwannee River Wilderness Trail	Complete Dowling Park River Camp Design Fletcher Landing River Camp	Complete Fletcher Landing River Camp Monitor Public Use Impacts	Monitor Public Use Impacts			
Timber Management	Implement Planned Harvests	Reforest 1,500 acres				

Watershed and Springshed Management

Goal: Develop partnerships to address water resource issues through voluntary, cooperative programs and projects

Watershed and springshed management activities focus on developing partnerships for improving water quality, improving agricultural water use efficiency, and protecting springs. Partnerships help the District achieve its mission by bringing landowners, organizations, citizens and agencies together to share in responsibilities and achievements.

The District's Springs Protection Project supports management of springs through technical assistance, cost-share funding, interagency coordination, and outreach and education programs. In what may become a model for other springsheds in the District, funding and staffing support is being provided to the newly formed Ichetucknee Partnership. The Ichetucknee Partnership is based on the development of locally led springshed management activities.

The Suwannee River Partnership brings landowners and agencies together to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient contamination in groundwater, springs and rivers. The Partnership now has 61 member agencies and organizations throughout the District. The District supports the Partnership by assisting in BMP planning, funding and implementation, providing water quality data and in administering outreach and educational programs.

The District works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to improve agricultural water use

efficiency. Irrigation systems are being assessed for water use efficiency and retrofitted with water-saving equipment through cost-sharing agreements with farmers. The District is also cooperating with farmers to collect irrigation water use data.

Watershed/Springshed Management Strategies

- Encourage local springshed management based on locally initiated management projects
- Assist farmers in implementing BMPs to improve the quality of ground and surface waters
- Retrofit irrigation systems to achieve water savings
- Monitor agricultural water use
- Partner with the Florida Springs Initiative for improved springs protection
- Communicate the value of water resources partnerships to the public and landowners

Success Indicators

- Number of springshed-based water management activities
- Number of farms with agreements to implement nutrient-related BMPs
- Number of irrigation systems retrofitted for improved water conservation
- Number of irrigation systems reporting water use

Funding Sources for Watershed and Springshed Management

Funding sources are the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, USDA-NRCS, FDACS, SRWMD, legislative appropriations, and private landowners.

Watershed Management Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011	2013-17
Suwannee River Partnership	Administer Dairy, Poultry, Nursery and Row Crop Cost Share Agreements					
Springs Protection and Management	Coordinate with Local Governments to Improve Protection of Hart, Royal, Charles, Guarnto, Little River, Rum Island, and Poe Springs Provide Funding and Technical Assistance to The Ichetucknee Partnership					
Agricultural Water Use Monitoring	Continue Installation of Water Use Monitoring Equipment	Annual Water Use Report				
Agricultural Water Management and Conservation	Continue to Support Irrigation Efficiency Retrofits					

Restoration

Goal: Restore altered hydrologic systems and natural communities to reduce flooding impacts and protect and improve water quality, water supplies, and natural systems

Lands acquired by the District have often undergone changes and alterations by prior landowners, including hydrologic and vegetative changes. Restoration activities on District owned land help restore those lands to their native condition and ensure the sustainability of water resources benefits.

While focused on District lands, restoration activities and projects are considered in the context of watersheds and hydrologic regimes that extend beyond District ownership, and sometimes include other public and private lands.

Current priorities include completing the Mallory Swamp restoration plan implementation, streambank and hydraulics restoration (which includes ongoing, routine riverbank assessments and inspections as well as specific restoration projects), and natural community restoration (including wetlands mitigation responsibilities and projects and restoration of upland communities).

Regulatory Strategies

- Restore historic and native drainage patterns and hydroperiods of wetlands and floodplains
- Restore Natural Community Restoration Areas through intensive land management activities
- Restore and stabilize streambanks system into permit application review
- Implement basin-specific management standards

Success Indicators

- Acres of wetlands or floodplains improved through hydrologic improvements
- Percent of Natural Community Restoration Areas that meet restoration success criteria
- Number of Streambank Restoration Area projects completed

Funding the Restoration Program

Restoration activities on District lands are funded by the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, revenues from timber sales, federal grants, and Florida Department of Transportation mitigation funds.

Restoration Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Mallory Swamp	Upgrade Hydrologic Structures	→				
	Chop and Burn Flatwoods and Bogs Replant Pines in Mesic Flatwoods					→
Natural Communities	Construct Alligator Creek Sediment Basin					
	Restore Middle Suwannee Sandhills					→
Rivers and Springs	Rehabilitate Streambanks at Ruth Spring Tract, Log Landing, Pott Spring, and Roline	Rehabilitate Stream Banks at Roline				
		Restore Suwannee Spring				

Regulations

Goal: Ensure that District regulations provide effective resource protection and are fairly administered

The District implements Environmental Resources Permitting (ERP), Water Use Permitting (WUP), and Water Well Construction and Contractor Licensing programs as directed by Ch. 373, F.S. Environmental Resources Permitting regulates stormwater discharges generated by development and activities that affect surface waters, wetlands, and related natural systems as authorized in Part IV of Ch. 373, F.S. Water Use Permitting ensures that proposed water uses are reasonable and beneficial, are in the public interest, and will not cause harm to natural systems or existing permitted water uses. Water Well Construction and Contractor Licensing regulations ensure the integrity of groundwater aquifers by establishing standards for well construction, and ensuring that well contractors meet minimum basic qualifications.

Regulatory Strategies

- Clearly communicate regulatory requirements by:
 - Conducting workshops with the regulated community
 - Maintaining a website with online resources
 - Providing a high level of assistance to permittees through the use of pre-application conferences and site visits

- Conduct a timely review and evaluation of permit applications
- Ensure prompt and thorough compliance and enforcement of regulations to reduce violations
- Integrate Geographic Information System into permit application review
- Implement basin-specific management standards and regulations through periodic review and evaluation
- Coordinate programs with other local, state and federal agencies
- Implement the Department of Transportation's Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (DOT ETDM) to streamline transportation projects
- Ensure water uses are sustainable through adoption and implementation of MFLs

Success Indicators

- Percent of complete applications reviewed within statutory deadlines
- Percent of permitted projects with completed as-built certifications
- Implementation of updated ERP surface water manual
- Implementation of updated WUP Rule
- Percent of regulated systems in compliance

Regulatory Program Funding

The District's regulatory programs are funded by state grants, legislative appropriations, interagency revenues, permit fees, and license fees.

Regulations Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Regulatory Compliance Verification	Enhance Inspection and As-Built Program Refine Water Use Compliance					
Database Development	Develop Water Use Data Management System					
Transportation Projects	Implement ETDM			Assess & Renew ETDM Agreement		
ERP Rule Development	Adopt Surface Water Manual in 40B-4					
Water Use Program Development	Complete Amendments to 40B-2 WUP Rule					
Water Well Program	Complete Amendments to 40B-3					
Minimum Flows and Levels Rule Development and Adoption	Waccasassa River	Lower Santa Fe River and Springs Alapaha River and Springs Withlacoochee River and Springs Upper Suwannee River Middle Suwannee River and Springs	Aucilla River and Springs Wacissa River and Springs Steinhatchee River and Springs Econfina River Fenholloway River 4 Lakes	10 Lakes		

Mission Support

Goal: Ensure that District operations and activities support and facilitate fulfillment of the District's mission and statutory responsibilities

The District successfully operates with a small, well-trained workforce that has the tools and knowledge to get the job done. Based on ongoing surveys conducted by the District, the staff typically exceeds external and internal customer expectations. This is an outcome of our commitment to the values of the District and of providing staff with the training and technology needed to operate in an increasingly complex and demanding service environment.

The Governing Board's application of process improvement changes since 2000 has yielded numerous benefits in program and project planning, tracking, and reporting. A structured, team-based program planning and management process provides accountability and process efficiency. All projects are required to have a Project Execution Plan that shows, task by task, how a project will be done. Each project team also uses an action register database to keep programs, projects and activities on schedule and consistent with District priorities.

In addition to specific program deliverables and milestones, there are many recurring support activities. These include:

- Information Technology support, database management, and services
- Daily IT backups and security procedures
- Clearing all invoiced accounts payable within two weeks
- Records automation, filing, and retrieval services

- Comprehensive program budgeting and expenditure tracking services
- Contracts facilitation and tracking
- Staff training and development assistance, support, and tracking
- Budget and work plan development, review, and approval services
- Maintaining and refining project planning and management tools
- Communication and outreach services

Program Strategies

- Update computer technology on a rotating three-year cycle to prevent obsolescence
- Develop and communicate annual work plan priorities through process management
- Implement leadership development for program and project staff
- Closely monitor contract development and execution
- Maintain emergency preparedness and continuity of operation plans
- Provide efficient and timely procurement services, ensuring the highest value for taxpayer dollars spent
- Provide incentive and motivation for District staff's continued excellent performance
- Provide technical Geographic Information System (GIS) development assistance to local governments

Success Indicators

- Annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report certification
- Number of employee training courses and sessions per year (or average hours of training per year per employee)
- Number of communities assisted in applying GIS technology to local management needs

Mission Support Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013-17
Human Resources	Establish an Interactive Data Base for Employee Development Plan	Develop Online Employment Application Process	Implement Enterprise-Wide Position Application Review and Evaluation Process	Develop Inter-District Position Application Review and Evaluation Process		
Information Technology	Fully Implement ArcGIS 9	Fully Implement SDE/GIS Functionality Revise Webpage Structure	Complete GIS Water Information System Provide Portal-Based Access to All District Tabular Data	Develop Inter-District Web-Based Information Exchange Protocols	Fully Integrate Voice, Data, GIS Information Protocols	
	← Provide GIS Technical Assistance →					
Finance	Update Project Workplan and Project Budget Development Process	Automate Workplan Development Process	Provide Portal-Based Access to All Financial Data	Develop and Evaluate Portal-Based Project Evaluation Tools	Evaluate Project Expenditure Projection Tools	Use Expert Systems to Guide Expenditures

Strategic Plan Program Summary by Areas of Responsibility

Programs	Responsibilities			
	Water Supply	Flood Protection	Water Quality	Natural Systems
Water Supply Planning	Provide District-Wide Water Supply Planning, Local Planning Assistance		Ensure Water Supply Protection	Conduct Minimum Flows and Levels Research and Development
Resource Monitoring	Provide Data for Water Supply Planning	Provide Accurate Water Levels, Flows, and Rainfall Data for Flood Forecasting	Identify Status and Trends in Water Quality and Aquatic Biology	Provide Data for Establishing Minimum Flows and Levels
Land Management	Protect Groundwater Supplies and Recharge Functions	Provide Floodwater Storage and Conveyance, Nonstructural Management	Manage Conservation Lands for Water Quality Protection	Conserve, Restore, and Protect Habitat and Natural Hydrologic Regimes
Quality Communities	Secure Wellfields for Future Water Supply Needs	Resolve Flooding Problems, Prevent Future Problems	Restore Impacted Areas and Provide Project Assistance to Improve Water Quality	Provide Open Space and Urban Habitat Areas
Watershed Management	Implement Water Supply Conservation Projects, and Source Protection Projects	Restore and Protect Springs in Riverine Floodplains	Improve Water Quality and Provide Groundwater Recharge Protection	Protect and Restore Springs and Springsheds
Restoration	Restore and Protect Groundwater Recharge Areas	Hydrologic Restoration Reduce Flood Impacts	Improve Water Quality Treatment for Natural Systems	Restore Habitat and Natural Ecological Communities
Mission Support	Supports All Areas of Responsibility by Providing Human Resource, Technical, Financial, Budgeting, and Outreach Services			
Land Acquisition	Acquire Land for Wellfield Protection and Water Supply Production	Acquire Land for Nonstructural Flood Protection Strategy	Prevent Water Quality Degradation	Protect Natural Communities and Provide Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
Regulations	Provide Water Supplies for Reasonable and Beneficial Uses and the Protection of Water Supplies	Environmental Resource Permitting Ensures that Flood Protection Levels of Service are Met	Protect Water Quality from Nonpoint Sources through Environmental Resource Permitting	Environmental Resource Permitting Regulates Activities that Impact Wetlands and Natural Systems

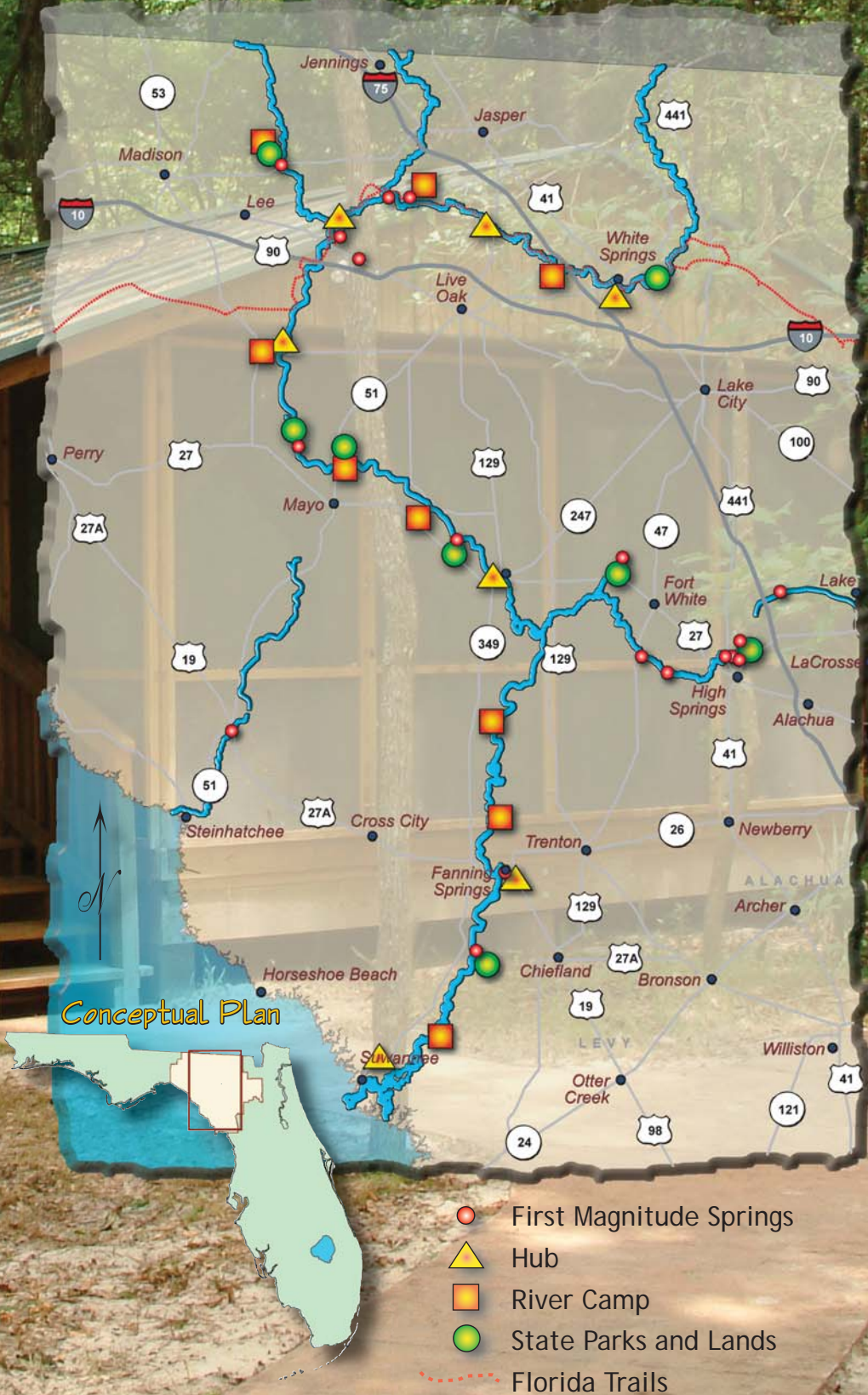
SUWANNEE RIVER WILDERNESS TRAIL



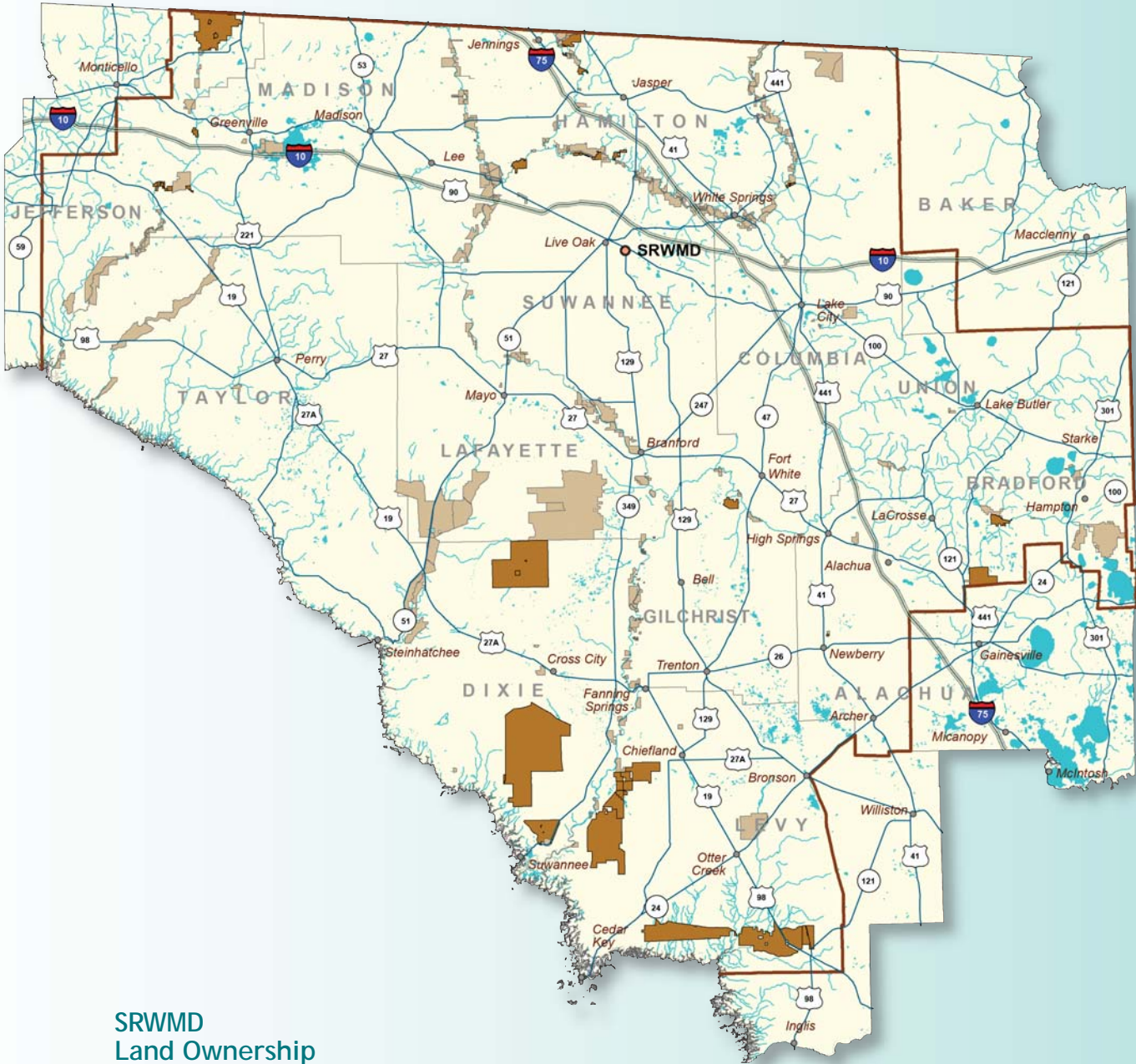
Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is a system of public and private recreation

and visitor facilities focused on paddling the Suwannee River from White Springs to the coastal town of Suwannee. The Wilderness Trail was designed around recreation hubs, for example, state parks and small towns that feature activity centers, visitor services, and proximity to the river. From these hubs, visitors can explore the surrounding areas by canoe, bicycle, horseback or foot.




The District has partnered with Florida State Parks to build comfortable cabins and rustic river camps for overnight stays along the Wilderness Trail. Three river camps have been completed on District lands with one under construction and two in the planning stages. They are accessible only by foot or from the river and offer screened sleeping platforms, restrooms, and pavilions for dining and group activities.



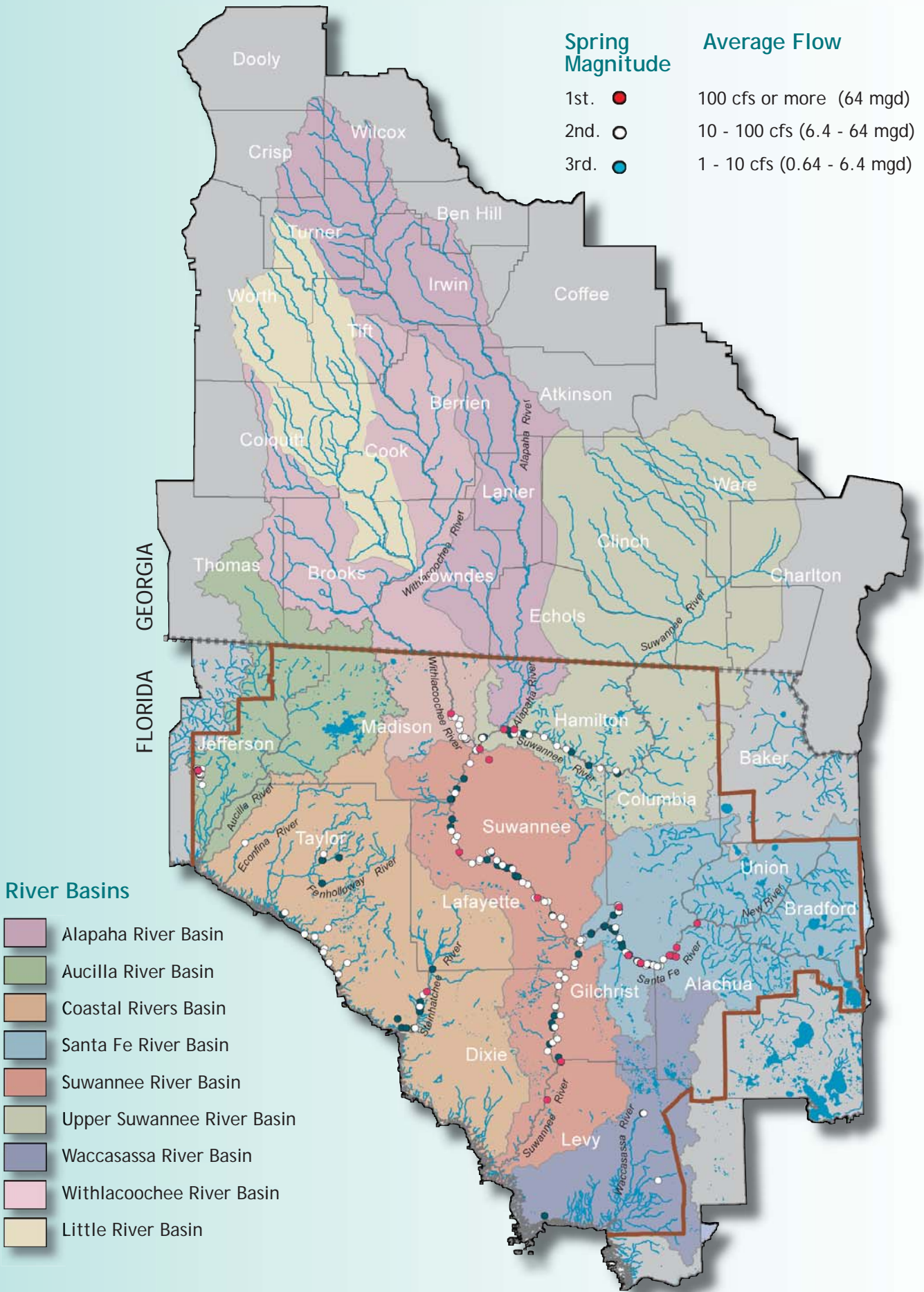
DISTRICT LAND OWNERSHIP



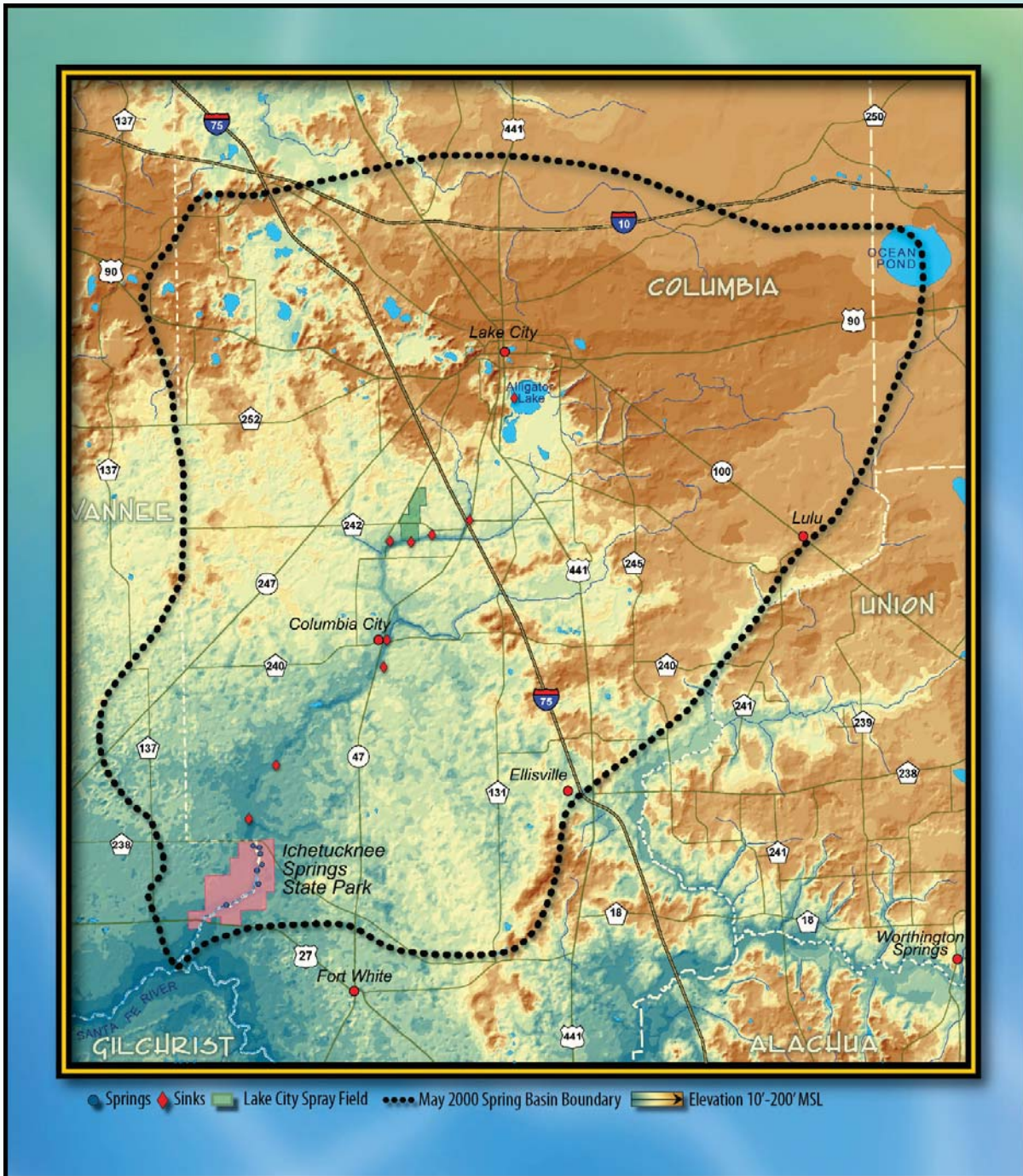
SRWMD Land Ownership

-  SRWMD Conservation Easement
-  SRWMD Lands in Fee Ownership
-  District Boundary

SPRINGS AND RIVER BASINS



THE ICHETUCKNEE PARTNERSHIP



The springs that combine their flows to form the Ichetucknee River lie within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park, one of the crown jewels of Florida's state park system. Attracting more than 200,000 visitors a year, the park generates an estimated \$23 million annually in economic benefits. The park itself encompasses about 3.5 square miles. However, the land area that contributes water to the springs via recharge within the Ichetucknee Springshed is approximately 384 square miles. Over 93% of the springshed lies within Columbia County. The continued

health and viability of the springs and the park are directly tied to the ability of the citizens of Columbia County to step forward, with the assistance of the state, to help preserve the natural and economic value of the springs. The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) - a voluntary, incentive-based initiative based on leadership from the governments and business interests in Columbia County - has been formed to promote that effort. The District is a member of TIP and assists by providing funding and technical expertise.

2008 STRATEGIC PLAN 2017

Water for Nature ...Water for People



mysuwanneeriver.com