2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT

Suwannee River Water Management District

Table of Contents

Project Team

Overall Plan Coordination, Design, and Distribution	Katelyn Potter
Section One: 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and 2022 Annual Work Plan Report	Katelyn Potter
Section Two: Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Priority List	Sean King
Section Three: Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan	Christina Green Steve Schroeder
Section Four: Alternative Water Supply Report	Kristine Eskelin
Section Five: Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program	Emily Ducker
Section Six: Waterbody Grades	Kristine Eskelin
Section Seven: Florida Forever Work Plan	Katelyn Potter
Section Eight: Mitigation Donation Annual Report	Warren Zwanka

For More Information

For further information regarding this report, contact the Office of Communications and Organizational Development at 386.362.1001 or srwmdcommunications@srwmd.org. This report is also available on the District's website at: http://www.MySuwanneeRiver.com/.

ADA Statement

Americans with Disabilities Act**:** The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only). The District's fax number is 386.362.1056

2023-2027 Strategic Plan

Suwannee River Water Management District

Contents

ADA Statement

Americans with Disabilities Act: The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only). The District's fax number is 386.362.1056.

Virginia Johns,
Chair

Governing Board Members

Virginia H. Johns,
Chair

Richard Schwab,
Vice Chair

Charles Keith,
Secretary/Treasurer

Harry Smith

Larry Sessions

Larry Thompson

William Lloyd

Message from the Chair

The Springs Heartland has long been renowned for its unique, breath-taking beauty and abundance of water. For generations, people have flocked to the area to enjoy the bountiful resources that seem infinite. In those days, major water resource challenges were concentrated in areas far away from the Suwannee River Valley. However, today, environmental changes, land use changes, rising temperatures, societal interests, and an ever-growing population, have brought these challenges to our doorstep, increasing the demand for our attention.

The Suwannee River Water Management District's (District) commitment to ensuring an adequate water supply, improving water quality, protecting natural systems, and providing flood protection has grown to meet the increasing challenges, with the help of greater scientific advancements and robust data monitoring.

Through the establishment of the new Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee River minimum flow minimum water levels (MFL), as well as the anticipated Upper Suwannee River MFL, District staff are working through planning, permitting, and projects to ensure the health of our natural systems and protect our water supply.

Expansion of the water quality monitoring network, strategic project prioritization in critical areas, increased project monitoring, and maximizing nutrient load reductions in stormwater systems will help to reduce nitrate levels as we work to achieve numeric nutrient criteria for water quality.

The District will be better able to serve and protect its communities from flooding through hydrologic and wetlands restoration, enhanced flood elevation studies, community education on the importance of land use designations, and increased public awareness and use of flood information tools.

Supporting the mission of the District and accomplishing these goals will rely heavily on the ability of the District to continue to strengthen stakeholder partnerships, maintain institutional knowledge, and reduce risk through information and data management.

Despite the challenges before us, the opportunities to serve the residents of North Florida through protection and restoration of our water resources is ever-present. I am proud to work alongside my fellow Governing Board members and District staff as we work to safeguard the health of our water resources for today and generations to come.

Agency Overview

Vision

Uniting the region in stewardship and awareness using innovative, science-based solutions to protect and restore our water resources.

Mission

To protect and manage water resources using science-based solutions to support natural systems and the needs of the public.

The District is a regional governmental agency responsible for protecting and managing water resources in north-central Florida. The District is one of five water management districts created by the Florida Legislature with the passage of the Water Resources Act in 1972. A governing board consisting of up to nine members, each of whom live in the District, establishes District policies. Governing board members are unpaid volunteers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate for four-year terms.

While the District is the fifth largest of the five water management districts in geographic area, population served, tax base, and agency staff, it holds many of the most unique and valuable natural resources in Florida. The District encompasses 7,640 square miles in north-central Florida. The District includes all of Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties, and parts of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam counties. The District contains over 440 documented springs, including the highest concentration of freshwater springs in Florida, and the highest concentration of first-magnitude springs in the United States. Major rivers in the District include the Suwannee, Santa Fe, Withlacoochee, Aucilla, Alapaha, Ichetucknee, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee, Econfina, Waccasassa, and the Wacissa.

The District is charged by the Legislature with the responsibilities of managing water supply, water quality, flood protection, and natural systems. To meet these responsibilities and its mission, the District has developed goals for the next five years and identified the strategies necessary to accomplish these goals.

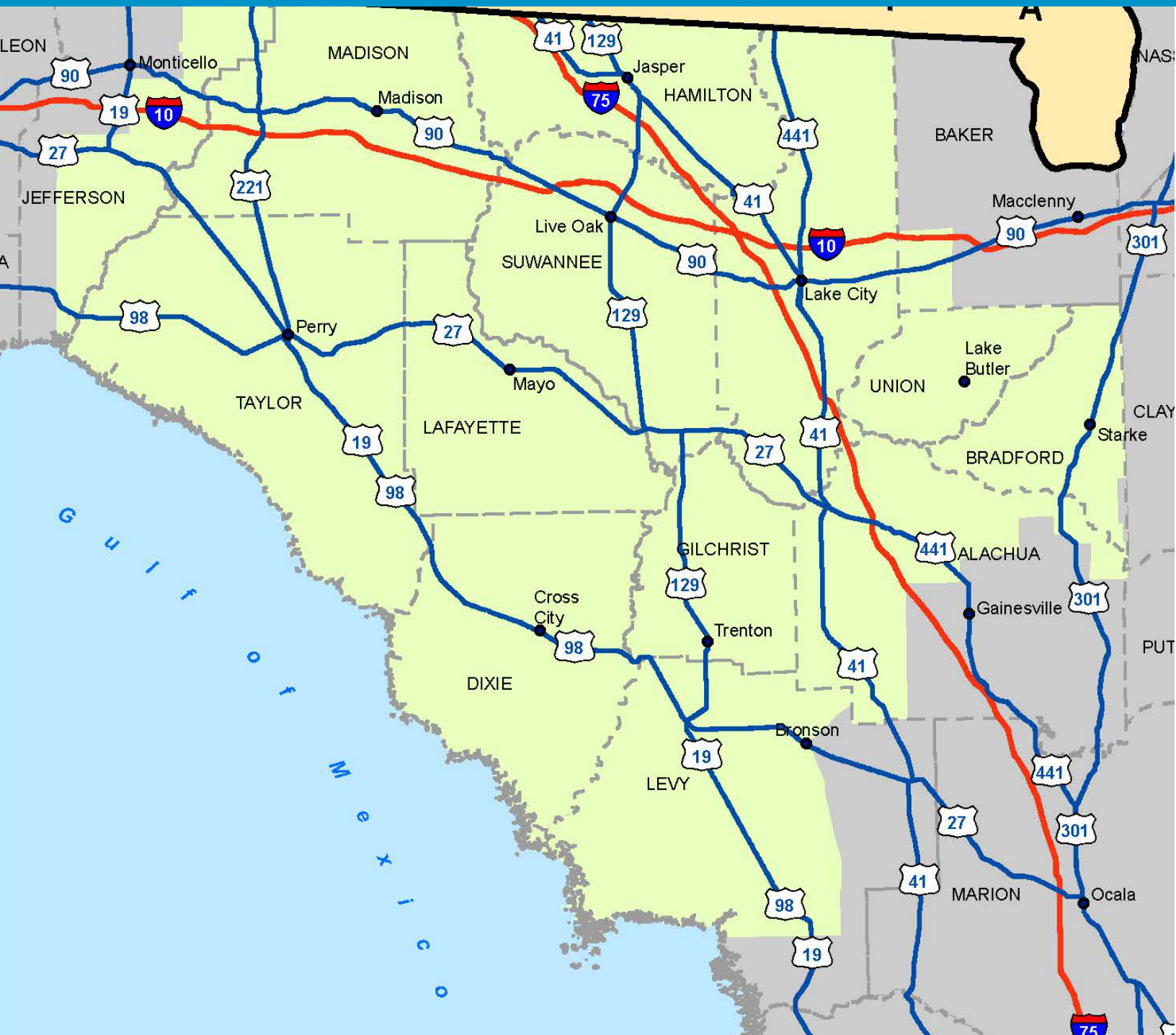
Funding

To carry out the mission and vision of this strategic plan, the District's budget is comprised of several funding sources. With the smallest tax base of the five water management districts, state legislative appropriations and state and federal grants are critical to accomplish our goals and mission. Grants from state and federal agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United State Geological Survey, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), support District programs and projects. Strong partnerships with local governments and stakeholders are also key to identifying funding opportunities. The District continues to work with its local, state, and federal partners to leverage the funding necessary to achieve the goals set out in this strategic plan.

Serving

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Since 1972



Introduction

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District), in accordance with section 373.036(2)(e)(4), Florida Statutes (F. S.), submits an annual strategic plan in lieu of the District Water Management Plan. The strategic plan outlines strategic priorities, goals, strategies, success indicators, funding sources, deliverables, and milestones for District functions. The plan casts a five-year outlook.

Strategic Priorities

WATER QUALITY

WATER SUPPLY

FLOOD PROTECTION

NATURAL SYSTEMS

MISSION SUPPORT

Water Quality

Preserving and Restoring the Foundation of North Florida's Economy

Water quality refers to the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water. Data shows persistent elevated nutrient levels, primarily nitrate, in rivers and springs throughout the District. Nitrate, in some instances, is the limiting nutrient that can cause imbalances in the ecosystem and impact the health of springs, rivers, and estuaries. Increased nutrient loads not only adversely impact the ecological health of rivers and springs but also the health of Gulf estuaries downstream.

The FDEP has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Lower and Middle Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers of 0.35 mg/L of nitrate as nitrogen (N) in basin management action plans (BMAP). FDEP has established numeric nutrient criteria standards for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll a. To meet these targets, nitrate loads from non-point pollution sources need to be reduced anywhere from 30-90 percent on the Suwannee River and associated springs, and 35 percent on the Santa Fe River. To assist the FDEP in achieving these targets, the District partners with state agencies, local governments, landowners, and other stakeholders to implement projects to reduce nutrient loading, including implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs), stormwater treatment, and erosion control and bank restoration. The District actively monitors nitrate concentrations throughout the District in both groundwater and surface water.

GOAL ONE

Support the Reduction of Nitrate Levels

Strategies

1. Expand the monitoring network to include strategic sampling
2. Develop project monitoring strategies to more accurately estimate or measure benefits
3. Implement projects to assist in meeting BMAP nitrate load reduction targets
4. Ensure permit and project authorizations meet statewide water quality criteria for erosion and sediment control
5. Develop rule language requiring nutrient load reductions in stormwater systems

GOAL TWO

Protect Groundwater

Strategies

1. Coordinate permit reviews and projects with FDEP for aquifer recharge
2. Collect and maintain high quality biologic and water quality data
3. Inspect construction of wells for compliance with construction standards

Success Indicators and Milestones for Water Quality

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual and programmatic tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks and strategies. In addition, success will be measured by the percentage of Outstanding Florida Springs that meet the state numeric nutrient criteria and the pounds of nitrate reduced by projects receiving District cost-share.

Water Supply

Ensuring a Sustainable Supply of Water for People and the Environment

The District is responsible for managing water resources to ensure there is an adequate supply to satisfy all existing and projected reasonable and beneficial uses while sustaining water resources and protecting natural systems. In the District, over 90 percent of the water supply demands are met with fresh groundwater, virtually all from the Upper Floridan aquifer system. This region's ability to continue to grow and develop is therefore dependent on sustainably managing a growing demand for groundwater. Coordinated water use permitting, water resource planning, and water resource development projects are key to protecting and managing fresh groundwater supply.

Resource planning efforts include water supply assessments and regional water supply planning. Every five years, the District evaluates current and future water supply needs and water supplies within the District. Water supply assessments help determine whether water supplies will be adequate to satisfy projected demands. Recognizing that water supplies are constrained by demands both within and outside of District boundaries, the District works with regional stakeholders to develop planning and permitting guidelines that help to safeguard water supply across shared regions.

The regulation and monitoring of water use within the District is a critical part of managing the resource. Water use permits protect water resources, ensuring proposed uses are reasonable and beneficial, within the public interest, and do not adversely impact existing legal uses. To ensure proposed uses are reasonable and beneficial, the permit application review includes, among other things, an analysis to prevent environmental harm and ensure consistency with established MFLs and prevention or recovery strategies if warranted.

GOAL

Sustainably Manage District Water Resources

Strategies

1. Develop and update regional water supply assessments and plans
2. Identify and implement feasibility and design studies necessary to evaluate projects
3. Implement proven innovations and conservation for sustainable agriculture
4. Maximize alternative water supply and reuse benefits in permitting and projects
5. Prioritize efforts to achieve 10% or less unaccounted-for water losses for all public supply systems
6. Implement a net benefit approach to water resource impact offsets
7. Engage with public utilities and other stakeholders regarding long-range water supply planning
8. Maintain and enhance existing data-driven processes to assess cumulative withdrawals for the potential of harm to water resources and ability to sustain natural systems

Success Indicators and Milestones for Water Supply

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual and programmatic tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks and strategies. In addition, success will be measured by the amount of estimated water supply demand that can be met with projects identified in District water supply plans; and the year-to-year percentage of impact from groundwater use within the District on the aquifer.

Flood Protection

Capturing Peak Flows of Water to Protect Our Communities and Augment Our Aquifer

The District works with multiple cooperators including the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), local governments, and landowners to implement regional and local flood protection and flood control projects. Such projects assist local governments to manage, maintain, or expand stormwater infrastructure to better capture runoff, increase stormwater storage, and reduce peak discharge rates.

In addition to flood control projects, the District provides information to the public to reduce and mitigate flood risks. The District partners with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update floodplain maps to help the public make informed decisions that reduce risk to life and property. Further, the District is the primary source of current flooding information for other agencies and the public, including real-time river levels and rainfall amounts, so that people can make well-informed decisions about flood protection and property at risk.

Through the environmental resource permitting (ERP) Program, the District ensures that development does not result in flooding. Permit reviews are performed to prevent net loss of the 100-year floodplain or increases in flood levels. Permit evaluations also consider specific storm design conditions and potential impacts to upstream and downstream properties.

Goal One

Reduce and Mitigate Flooding Risks

Strategies

1. Prioritize naturally occurring recharge by increasing water storage through hydrologic restoration
2. Identify and study 100-year flood elevations of unstudied parcels/areas which are prone to flooding
3. Identify unmet flood protection needs and projects of local governments
4. Conduct river inspections for unpermitted activities and structures
5. Increase public and stakeholder awareness of flood protection data, tools, permit requirements, and flood risk
6. Encourage non-structural flood plain management approaches
7. Prioritize preservation of land within 100-year floodplain
8. Coordinate with appropriate governmental entities on data sharing and consistency for flood forecasts

Goal Two

Prepare Communities for Sea Level Rise Impacts

1. Support vulnerability and risk assessment studies for coastal communities threatened by sea level rise (SLR)
2. Identify strategic District conservation easement and land acquisition opportunities
3. Incorporate SLR impacts in Water Supply Plans and coastal MFLs
4. Support interdistrict coordination efforts to address SLR
5. Develop SLR data to assist coastal communities in developing projects and planning

Success Indicators and Milestones for Flood Control

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual and programmatic tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks and strategies. In addition, success will be measured by the percent of acreage of riverine floodplain under protection; funding of at least one flood control project each year; the acres of hydrologic restoration implemented and maintained, recharge benefits; the number of compliance cases addressed, and trainings provided.

Natural Systems

Maintaining the Ecosystem Services Provided by the Natural Resources of the District

District projects, regulations, and land acquisition and management activities protect and restore the overall health of the ecological system. As discussed above, hydrologic restoration projects in the District re-establish and improve natural systems such as wetlands, floodplains, native ecological communities, and aquifer recharge areas, which provide valuable water resource functions including water quality treatment, water supply, flood water conveyance and attenuation, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

The District establishes minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) for priority rivers, springs, and lakes to ensure there is an adequate supply of water to support natural systems. MFLs are established to prevent significant harm to the water resources and ecology of an area resulting from water withdrawals permitted by the District. MFLs define how much water body levels and/or flows may change and still prevent significant harm.

Through land acquisition and conservation easements, the District protects wetlands, floodplains, lakes, rivers, estuaries and related resources. Land management strategies include prescribed fire to restore and enhance habitat and natural communities and, where appropriate, the promotion of sustainable forestry activities. ERP evaluations consider avoidance and minimization of impacts to wetlands and other natural systems. Additionally, permit reviews address erosion and sedimentation control measures, thereby protecting wetlands, Outstanding Florida Waters, and improving water quality to receiving water bodies.

Goal One

Establish Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels for Priority Water Bodies

Strategies

1. Implement the approved MFL priority list
2. Conduct scheduled MFL water body status assessments
3. Maintain the District monitoring network to establish/assess MFLs
4. Evaluate and improve MFL methods and metrics for the evaluation of water resource values
5. Develop recovery and prevention strategies as necessary to protect natural systems

Goal Two

Steward District Lands to Balance the Needs of Natural Resources and People

Strategies

1. Manage District lands to achieve the highest natural resource value possible, leading the region in the quality of public lands
2. Generate sustainable revenue streams while maximizing conservation efforts
3. Implement and support the District Land Management Plan
4. Focus communication and outreach efforts on land management opportunities to maximize exposure and encourage public use
5. Develop operations and maintenance plans for District lands and projects to support the District's core missions

Success Indicators and Milestones for Natural Systems

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual and programmatic tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks and strategies. In addition, success will be measured by the completion of MFLs for all remaining priority water bodies per the District schedule; and the quantity of water (MGD) achieved from conservation and water resource development projects under contract with the District. The success of the District's land acquisition and management goals and strategies will be determined by the number of acres acquired and disposed of; the number of acres acquired by the District that enhance aquifer recharge or flood protection; the number of acres of restored hydrology; and the number of acres of prescribed fire and invasive plant treatment.

Mission Support

Creating a Culture of Excellence, Efficiency, and Passion for the Region's Resources

Investing in and empowering District employees is critical to achieving the goals set out in this strategic plan. As the fifth-largest water management district, District employees often perform multiple tasks, performing the job functions of two or three employees. Engaging employees, providing development opportunities, and leadership support helps to ensure staff have the tools and guidance to achieve District goals. Operational efficiency is also an important focus so employees and District operations can be as effective as possible. Utilization of technology to assist employees to perform their tasks is critical to the quality of service the District is able to provide.

Goal One

Reduce Risks Through the Management of Information and Data

Strategies

1. Implement a District-wide comprehensive data management system including but not limited to hydrologic conditions, water use, water quality, permitting data, flood zones, flood occurrence, land-use changes, land acquisition, surplus properties, projects, and project benefits
2. Collect and manage high-quality data to allow for data-driven, science-based decision making in water resource projects, flood hazard information, and water resource protection
3. Reduce paper and place-bound information access by maximizing technological efficiencies, cloud-based file storage
4. Optimize accessibility in facilities and information
5. Maximize automated and linked systems to share and update information, reducing manual uploads and maintenance, thereby improving efficiency and reducing error

Goal Two

Maintain Institutional Knowledge

Strategies

1. Establish programmatic documentation that captures and identifies necessary steps to complete or implement essential work functions, priority project tasks objectives, and other critical processes to maintain consistent program standards and provide efficient transfer of institutional knowledge
2. Retain employees through succession planning, mentoring, and professional development initiatives

Goal Three

Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships and Partnerships

Strategies

1. Enhance confidence in the District through factual, transparent, and consistent engagements with internal and external stakeholders
2. Increase public awareness of District core missions
3. Educate stakeholders of their role in water resource sustainability

Success Indicators and Milestones for Mission Support

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual and programmatic tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks and strategies. In addition, success will be measured by the number of professional certifications, graduate degrees, and leaderships positions within professional organizations held by its staff; the District's administrative overhead; the percentage of the District's budget utilized for projects that benefit water quality and water quantity; the percentage of the District's budget that is recurring but not funded with recurring revenues; and the percentage of facility repairs identified in the last 10-year facility inspection report that have been addressed.

Critical Wetlands Inventory Analysis

On April 27, 2022, Senate Bill 882 was signed into law which requires water management districts to include a critical wetlands inventory analysis list (CWIA) in its strategic plan. The list must be approved by the Governing Board and consider a list of criteria outlined in 373.036, Florida Statutes. Additionally, prior to inclusion on the list, landowners must be notified and given the option to be removed from the list.

Each governing board, in cooperation with local governments, shall develop a list of critical wetlands to be acquired using funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

- *The governing boards shall consider all of the following criteria in designating a wetland for inclusion on the list:*
- *The ecological value of the wetland, as determined by the physical and biological components of the environmental system.*
- *The effect of the wetland on water quality and flood mitigation.*
- *The ecosystem restoration value of the wetland.*
- *The inherent susceptibility of the wetland to development due to its geographical location or natural aesthetics*

Before adopting or amending its list of critical wetlands, each governing board must notify the owner of any property that the district contemplates including on the list. At any time, an owner who wishes to have his or her property removed from the list must submit by certified mail to the district a letter requesting such removal. The letter must indicate that the owner wishes for his or her property to be removed from the list and must sufficiently identify such property to the governing board. The governing board shall approve a removal request that meets the requirements of this subparagraph at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

To implement the new requirement, the District assigned staff to various roles for the CWIA process. This working group includes staff with substantial wetland backgrounds, GIS program managers, acquisition specialist, environmental project engineers, minimum flows and levels scientists, and communication specialist. This group has been tasked with creating the initial framework for the analysis process and recommending inclusion of some of the known critical wetlands within the confines of this District. Development of the CWIA is ongoing with a draft list expected for Governing Board consideration by summer 2023 and notification to landowners thereafter. A CWIA list is planned for the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan and will be reviewed annually prior to submission in the strategic plan.

,

2022 Annual Update

Suwannee River Water Management District

Contents

ADA Statement

Americans with Disabilities Act: The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only). The District's fax number is 386.362.1056.

Introduction

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District), in accordance with paragraph 373.036(2)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), submits an annual strategic plan and annual work plan report in lieu of the District Water Management Plan. The annual work plan report describes the implementation of the strategic plan for the previous fiscal year.

The strategic priorities and goals set by the strategic plan evaluated in this report, covering Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 2022), are provided below. This report describes District efforts over the past fiscal year to achieve these goals.

Flood Protection

- Reduce and mitigate the risk of flooding
- Encourage non-structural floodplain management approaches

Natural Systems

- Establish minimum flows and minimum water levels for priority water bodies
- Steward District lands to balance the needs of natural resources and people
- Preserve and protect water resources
- Optimize public use of District lands

Water Quality

- Reduce nitrate levels to achieve water quality criteria

Water Supply

- Sustainably manage District water resources

Mission Support

- Reduce risks through the management of information and data
- Maintain institutional knowledge
- Strengthen stakeholder relationships and District partnerships

Flood Protection

Harnessing Peak Flows of Water to Protect Our Communities and Augment Our Aquifer

The District works with multiple cooperators including the United States Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), local governments, and landowners to implement regional and local flood protection and flood control projects. Such projects assist local governments to manage, maintain, or expand stormwater infrastructure to better capture runoff, increase stormwater storage, and reduce peak discharge rates.

In addition to flood control projects, the District provides information to the public to reduce and mitigate flood risks. The District partners with FEMA to update floodplain maps to help the public make informed decisions that reduce risk to life and property. Further, the District is the primary source of current flooding information for other agencies and the public, including real-time river levels and rainfall amounts.

Through the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) and Works of the District program, the District ensures that development does not result in flooding. Permit reviews are performed to prevent net loss of the 100-year floodplain and increases in flood levels. Permit evaluations also consider specific storm design conditions and any associated impacts to upstream and downstream properties.

Goal One

Reduce and Mitigate Flooding Risk

STRATEGIES

- Promote naturally occurring recharge by increasing water storage through hydrologic restoration.
- Identify and study 100-year flood elevations of unstudied parcels/areas which are prone to flooding.
- Identify unmet flood protection needs of local governments.
- Conduct frequent river inspections for unpermitted activities and structures.
- Communicate best available data on flood risk to stakeholders.

Goal Two

Encourage Non-Structural Floodplain Management Approaches

STRATEGIES

- Maximize land acquisition and/or development restrictions of land within 100-year floodplain / Seek opportunities and evaluate all purchases.
- Coordinate with appropriate governmental entities on data sharing and consistency for flood forecasts.
- Increase public awareness of flood protection tools, permit requirements, and flood risk.
- Strategically partner with stakeholders to identify and implement flood projects.
- Coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to develop a consistent message to evaluate flood risk of single-family homes.

Success Indicators and Milestones for Flood Control

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks. In addition, success will be measured by the percentage of riverine floodplain under protection; whether the District's cost-share programs have

funded at least one flood control project each year; funding opportunities identified for local governmental surface water management projects; the acres of hydrologic restoration planned, implemented and maintained, as well as the associated recharge benefits; and the number of compliance cases addressed, and trainings provided.

- The District awarded two projects for flood protection, totaling $1,382,314 across all funding programs. These projects will protect approximately 100 acres.

1. Telford Springs Land Acquisition – This project includes the preservation of a second-magnitude spring and 0.85 miles of shoreline on the Suwannee River within the Suwannee BMAP; approximately 94 acres are in the 100-year floodplain.
2. Haines Street Drainage Improvements – The District initiated an agreement with the City of Live Oak to replace a drainage well serving a 5.75-acre basin, improve water quality, and provide beneficial recharge. This project is in the Suwannee BMAP, the Troy Peacock Lafayette Blue and Falmouth PFA, and the Eastern Water Supply Planning Area.
4. The District completed three projects for flood protection in FY 2022:
1. Telford Springs Land Acquisition – This project includes the preservation of a second-magnitude spring and 0.85 miles of shoreline on the Suwannee River within the Suwannee BMAP; approximately 94 acres are in the 100-year floodplain.
2. Mill Creek Sink Water Quality Improvements* – The project reduces nutrient loading through a created wetland to treat stormwater entering the Mill Creek swallet and sink in the Santa Fe BMAP.
3. Ruth Springs Restoration* – This project includes the removal of accumulated sediment and as well as bank stabilization which benefits this second magnitude spring located on the Suwannee River within the Suwannee BMAP.

- The District has ongoing flood protection and surface water management projects, including Stormwater Runoff Collection in Mayo, Gilchrist NE 2nd Way Park, State Route 247 Regional Pond, and Cross City Flood Management.
- There are 2,735,658 acres within the 100-year floodplain in the District. The District currently has 8.4% (228,844 acres) of the total acreage under ownership or conservation easement.
- The District continues use of its Current River and Lake Levels webpage to maintain flood warning awareness. It is one of the most visited locations on the District webpage. The highest visitation was during the month of March, with 29,475 visits to the site. The highest number of visits per day for the year was 1,665 on March 24, 2022. September 29, 2022, was the year's second highest visitation day with a total of 1,618 visits (Hurricane Ian).
- In FY 2022, there were 306 ERPs and Works of the District permits issued of which 218, or approximately 71%, were within the 100-year floodplain.
- New FEMA flood risk maps are effective for the Waccasassa Basin (Levy County).

Natural Systems

Maintaining the Ecosystem Services Provided by the Natural Resources of the District

District projects, regulations, and land acquisition and management activities protect and restore the

overall health of the ecological system. As discussed above, hydrologic restoration projects in the District re-establish and improve natural systems such as wetlands, floodplains, native ecological communities, and aquifer recharge areas, which provide valuable water resource functions including water quality treatment, water supply, flood water conveyance and attenuation, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

Through land acquisition, the District protects springs, wetlands, floodplains, lakes, rivers, estuaries, and related resources. Land management strategies include prescribed fire to restore and enhance habitat and natural communities and, where appropriate, the promotion of sustainable forestry activities. ERP evaluations consider avoidance and minimization of impacts to wetlands and other natural systems. Additionally, permit review addresses erosion and sedimentation control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs), thereby helping to protecting Outstanding Florida Springs, Outstanding Florida Waters, and other water bodies; and improving protecting water quality to receiving water bodies.

The District establishes Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) for priority rivers, springs, and lakes to ensure there is an adequate supply of water to support natural systems. MFLs are established to prevent significant harm to the water resources and ecology of an area resulting from consumptive water withdrawals permitted by the District. MFLs define how much water body levels and/or flows may change and still prevent significant harm.

Goal One

Establish Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels for Priority Water Bodies

STRATEGIES

- Implement the approved MFL priority list.
- Conduct scheduled MFL water body status assessments.
- Maintain the District monitoring network to establish/assess MFLs.
- Evaluate existing and develop new water resource value criteria; update and refine MFL methods.
- Develop recovery and prevention strategies as necessary to protect natural systems

Goal Two

Steward District Lands to Balance the Needs of Natural Resources and People

STRATEGIES

- Manage District lands to achieve the highest natural resource value possible, leading the region in quality of public lands, while still generating sustainable revenue streams from the properties.
- Implement and support the District Land Management Plan.

Goal Three

Preserve and Protect Water Resources

STRATEGIES

- Document permit mitigation and conservation easements in a GIS format.

Goal Four

Optimize Public Use of District Lands

STRATEGIES

- Optimize maintenance and restoration of District land and resources.
- Focus communication and outreach efforts on land management opportunities to maximize exposure and encourage public use.

Success Indicators and Milestones for Natural Systems

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks. In addition, success will be measured by the completion of MFLs for all remaining priority water bodies per the District schedule, and the quantity of water achieved from conservation and water resource development projects under contract with the District. The success of the District's land acquisition and management goals and strategies will be determined by the number of acres acquired and disposed of; the number of acres that protect Outstanding Florida Springs and Priority Focus Areas (PFAs), the number of acreages that protect or improve water quality; the number of acres acquired by the District that enhance aquifer recharge or flood protection; the number of acres of restored hydrology; and the number of acres of prescribed fire and invasive plant treatment.

* Project has multiple benefits and is listed in each applicable area.

- The District awarded two natural systems restoration projects, totaling $1,779,625 across all funding programs. These projects are estimated to reduce nutrient loading by 8,000 pounds per year and conserve 0.29 million gallons per day.

1. Graham Farmland Acquisition– The project includes land use changes to restore natural habitat and protection for 441 acres and reduce nutrient loading adjacent to the Olustee and Santa Fe Rivers. This project is within the Santa Fe BMAP.
2. Telford Springs Land Acquisition – This project includes the preservation of a second-magnitude spring and 0.85 miles of shoreline on the Suwannee River within the Suwannee BMAP; approximately 94 acres are in the 100-year floodplain.

- The District has four ongoing natural systems restoration projects as of October 2022, including Edwards Bottomlands, Gilchrist NE 2nd Way Park, Starke Bypass Wetland Mitigation, and Santa Fe Springs Acquisition.
- As of November 2022, 326.7 riverine miles have an adopted MFL. Tributaries of major rivers not mentioned in a rule are not included in the total mileage. In addition, 43 springs are protected by MFLs.
- The District completed revisions to MFL evaluations for Lakes Santa Fe, Alto, and Hampton to address public comments.
- The District also completed updates to the Upper and Middle Suwannee River draft MFL evaluations for peer review. FDEP, at the request of the District's Governing Board, agreed to adopt the Upper and Middle Suwannee River and Priority spring MFLs.
- The District continues to work on developing MFLs for all remaining priority water bodies per the District schedule.
- The District advanced updates for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs recovery and prevention strategy in coordination with FDEP and the St. Johns River

Water Management District (SJRWMD).

FOREST RESOURCES

- In FY 2022, the District completed 11 timber sales totaling 1,224 acres and generated $2,794,086 in revenue.
- Final harvests of offsite pine species were conducted on 765 acres. These sites will be reforested with longleaf pines.
- Pine thinning and/or hardwood chipping was conducted on 459 acres to improve forest health and groundcover conditions. Additionally, this will allow the introduction of prescribed fire to work towards the natural community restoration goals.
- Forest inventory data was collected on 150 plots by District staff. The data from these plots is used to quantify the acres that have achieved their natural community goals, provides data for areas that could be or have been improved by silvicultural activities, and identifies volumes and other tree species data for restoration project planning.
- In FY 2022, containerized and bare-root longleaf pine seedlings were planted on 114 acres of sandhill and upland pine natural communities for the purposes of natural community restoration. Bare-root slash pine seedlings were also planted on 50 acres of mesic flatwoods at the Lake Butler Wellfield.
- In FY 2022, the District received $16,000 in grant funding from Alachua Conservation Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund for 114 acres of longleaf pine reforestation on the Adams tract in Lafayette County and the Westwood West tract in Madison County. This work was conducted for the purposes of natural community restoration.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- In FY 2022, prescribed burning was conducted on approximately 9,654 acres of District lands to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives.

MECHANICAL VEGETATION CONTROL

- In FY 2022, approximately 605 acres were roller-chopped, and 1,645 acres were mowed to help facilitate the use of prescribed fire and to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives.
- Approximately 101 miles of ditch edges were mechanically treated on various tracts throughout the District in FY 2022. This work was done to increase the width of areas along road edges to provide better fire break capabilities, facilitate the use of prescribed fire and help protect forest resources from the damaging effects of wildfires.

CHEMICAL VEGETATION CONTROL

- In FY 2022, approximately 527 acres were treated with herbicide to prepare sites for reforestation, to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives and to help facilitate the use of prescribed fire. Approximately 76 miles of ditch edges were also treated with herbicide to control the resprout of woody vegetation from mechanical treatments that occurred in 2021.
- In FY 2022, District contractors treated approximately 45 acres of invasive plant infestations throughout the District.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

- In FY 2022, District staff monitored 164 invasive plant infestations and treated 104 of those infestations (70 acres) with herbicides.

RARE SPECIES

- In FY 2022, District staff monitored 41 known rare plant occurrence points throughout the District. Rare plant species were observed at 27 of these locations. The Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) monitored 37 known rare plant occurrence points on the Steinhatchee Springs and Steinhatchee Falls tracts. Rare plant species were observed at 15 of these locations. FNAI also conducted new rare plant surveys on several tracts throughout the District. 232 new rare plant occurrences were documented at these locations.
- In FY 2022, District staff conducted gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) surveys on 10 tracts throughout the District. This survey work included establishing and surveying 318 transects in areas that were most likely to support this species. Estimated population densities within these survey areas are still being calculated. In FY 2022, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FNAI also conducted gopher tortoise surveys on several tracts located within the Woods Ferry Conservation Area on District lands. Based on their survey work, they estimated these tracts contain 587 tortoises with an estimated population density of 1.5 tortoises/acre.

PUBLIC USE

- The District continues to update information kiosk on District lands. In FY 2022, 10 kiosk panels were updated or added.
- Many District lands contain springs, karst windows, and other geologically significant systems for North Florida. The District issues research special use authorizations (SUAs) for underwater cave system mapping, water testing, and research to private non-profit research firms. The SUAs are for 12 separate tracts of land. The SUAs are re-issued each year to continue the research. This research data is shared with the District at no cost.
- A total of 768 SUAs were issued during FY 2022.

Recreation SUA	Temporary Ingress/Egress	Non-Recreational	Goose Pasture Camping	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail
295	42	21	339	71

-
- Nearly 97% of District fee-titled lands are open to the public for recreation. Lands which are not open to the public include wellfields, spray fields, and water resource development project sites.
- The District cooperated with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and United States Fish and Wildlife Service to provide public hunting opportunities on approximately 106,146 acres.
- The District partnered with Suwannee River Strutters, Jefferson County King of Springs, and Gator Gobblers, all chapters of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation to sponsor women in the outdoors and youth special opportunity hunts. These special opportunity hunts allow additional hunting opportunities on 4,410 acres. Additionally, the 2,030-acre Double Run Creek Tract managed by Camp Blanding is leased for hunting.
- Suwannee Bicycle Association sponsored three bicycle events using District lands in the White Springs area, and one organization sponsored a 36-hour adventure race.

FACILITIES PROJECTS

- Approximately 96 miles of road maintenance was completed on the following tracts: Alapahoochee, Cabbage Creek, Devil's Hammock, Goose Pasture, Holton Creek, Mallory

Swamp, Natural Well Branch, Scanlon, Shelly, Steinhatchee Falls, Steinhatchee Springs, Withlacoochee Hills, and Withlacoochee Quail Farm

- Hydrological improvement projects were completed on 7 District tracts (Shelly, Santa Fe River Ranch, Steinhatchee Springs, Lamont, Devil's Hammock, Hunter Creek, McAlpin Landing, and Natural Well Branch) resulting in 47 Hydrological repair or replacements. The Natural Well Branch Hydrological improvement project was done in cooperation with Four Rivers Land and Timber LLC. where the District provided six culverts and four Rivers provided the labor to repair access to the Natural well Branch Tract via the Meatball Express Road.

District staff cleaned up an old dump site on the Big Pine Tract in Columbia County, FL.

The District completed the Ruth Springs Restoration Project to improve recreational access and decrease bank erosion along the Suwannee River. This location is popular for fishing and nature watching; unfortunately, there had never been a stair system at this location. The access was unsafe, foot traffic and vehicular traffic had caused severe bank erosion. Once all permits were obtained, the District improved the site by installing a set of prefabricated aluminum stairs. Along with stair installation, the surrounding area was shaped to prevent further erosion. Lastly, W-beam barricade was added to the parking area to prevent vehicles from driving to the edge of the riverbank. This project has accomplished the intended goal of improving access and reducing erosion into the river.

Staff completed the planning and permitting for two river access improvement projects on the Mt. Gilead and Cabbage Gove tracts. The two recreation sites located at Mt. Gilead and Cabbage Gove tracts are popular river access points for fishing, swimming, and launching canoes. The planned projects consist of installing concrete steps, constructing soil cement pathways at the Cabbage Gove site, and shaping the grounds at both locations to prevent erosion. The projects are two-fold in purpose. First, reduce riverbank impacts from pedestrian traffic. Second, the newly constructed concrete steps will provide a safer river access for the public.

Water Quality

Preserving and Restoring the Foundation of North Florida's Economy

Water quality refers to the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water. Data shows persistent elevated nutrient levels, primarily nitrate, in rivers and springs throughout the District. Nitrate, in some instances, is the limiting nutrient that can cause imbalances in the ecosystem and impact the health of springs, rivers, and estuaries. Increased nutrient loads not only adversely impact the ecological health of rivers and springs but also the health of Gulf estuaries downstream.

The FDEP has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Lower and Middle Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers of 0.35 mg/L of nitrate as nitrogen (N). To meet this target, nitrate loads from non-point pollution sources need to be reduced anywhere from 30-90 percent on the Suwannee River and associated springs, and 35 percent on the Santa Fe River. To assist the FDEP in achieving these targets, the District partners with state agencies, local governments, landowners, and other stakeholders to implement projects to reduce nutrient loading, including implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs), stormwater treatment, and erosion control and bank restoration. The District actively monitors nitrate concentrations throughout the District in both groundwater and surface water.

Goal One

Reduce Nitrate Levels to Achieve Water Quality Criteria

STRATEGIES

- Consolidate existing research for nutrient sourcing and identify gaps for additional research.
- Expand the monitoring network to include strategic sampling and sampling of non-standard parameters.
- Develop project monitoring strategies to measure benefits accurately.
- Develop a collaborative strategy with stakeholders for project prioritization in BMAP Regions.
- Implement projects to assist in meeting BMAP nitrate load reduction targets.
- Ensure permit and project authorizations meet statewide water quality criteria for erosion and sediment control.
- Develop rule language requiring nutrient load reductions in stormwater systems.

Success Indicators and Milestones for Water Quality

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks. In addition, success will be measured by the percentage of Outstanding Florida Springs that meet the state numeric nutrient criteria; the percentage of enrollment for the FDACS BMPs program; and the pounds of nitrate reduced by projects receiving District cost-share.

* Project has multiple benefits and is listed in each applicable area.

- The District awarded eight water quality projects, including one agricultural cost-share contract, totaling $10.9 million across all funding programs. The non-agricultural projects are estimated to provide a potential reduction of 18,259 pounds of total nitrogen annually.

1. Sustainable Suwannee Nutrient Mitigation Project – The project is a dairy farm pollutant pilot program that supports the Suwannee BMAP.

2. Live Oak Reuse* – This septic to sewer project will reduce nutrient loading and benefit the Suwannee BMAP.

3. Lancaster Correctional Facility Expansion* – This project primarily benefits by the reduction of nutrients entering the groundwater and surface waters that are within the Fanning and Manatee Springs Springshed as identified within the Suwannee River BMAP,

4. Graham Farm Acquisition* - Fee Simple land acquisition of 441 acres to reduce nutrient loading adjacent to Olustee Creek and the Santa Fe River.

5. Lake Santa Fe Enhanced OSTDS*– This project will replace existing septic system at Lake Santa Fe Park in Alachua County with a nutrient reducing treatment system to improve water quality. Use low flow fixtures to conserve water and support the Santa Fe BMAP.

6. North Florida Mega Industrial Park* – This project will retrofit proposed WWTF to meet AWT for future Public Access Reuse (PAR) to reduce groundwater pumping, benefiting the Santa Fe BMAP.

7. Haines Street Drainage Improvements* – Replacement of a Class V injection well with water quality improvements for flood protection and beneficial recharge.

8. Waccasassa Feasibility Study – This study examined a regional assessment for managing potable water and wastewater to reduce groundwater pumping, provide reuse and manage existing wastewater and septic systems to reduce nutrients.

- The District completed four water quality projects in FY 2022.

1. Mill Creek Sink Water Quality Improvements* – The project reduces nutrient loading through a created wetland to treat stormwater entering the Mill Creek swallet and sink in the Santa Fe BMAP.

2. Ruth Springs Restoration* – This project supports the Suwannee BMAP by reducing sediment and providing erosion control to reduce untreated stormwater from entering the spring.

3. Telford Springs Land Acquisition – This project includes the preservation of a second-magnitude spring and 0.85 miles of shoreline on the Suwannee River within the Suwannee BMAP; approximately 94 acres are in the 100-year floodplain.

4. Lake Frances Sediment Control – This project installed a stormwater control structure with a nutrient reducing system to treat stormwater entering Lake Frances.

- The District has ongoing water quality projects including Otter Springs OSTDS, Lake Butler AWT Upgrade, Southern Street Lift Station Replacement, Haines Street Drainage Improvements*, Live Oak Reuse*, Quail Heights (SR247) Regional Pond*, On-Farm BMP and Nutrient Stewardship Program, Fertigation, Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program, Dairy Wastewater Improvements*, Dairy Screen Separators*, Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot*, Precision Agricultural Practices,
- Notably, the District issued 98 new agricultural contracts and continues to manage 125 agricultural contracts in FY 2022 with both water supply and water quality benefits.
- Two of the 14 Outstanding Florida Springs located within the District meet state numeric nutrient criteria based on current available data – Poe Springs and the Wacissa Springs group.
- The District continues to engage the Suwannee River Partnership, which works to overcome water quality challenges in the Suwannee River Valley by pooling resources with sister agencies and cooperating stakeholder groups who have similar goals for water quality throughout the District.
- The District completed its EPA non-point source education 319 grant for the Dive In campaign. All deliverables, including logo/branding, kids' activities, videos, photos, media, website, and Plunge assets were completed and utilized in a traditional and electronic media campaign. This includes more than 2,500 television ads, 732 radio ads, printing advertising, and more than 1.2 million and 1.9 million impressions through web and social media advertising, respectively.
- The District concluded work funded by the FDEP water quality monitoring enhancement grant. In FY 2022, $792,460 of these funds were spent on coastal, springs and groundwater monitoring efforts, and projects associated with water supply, coastal monitoring, and water resource values expansion.

- The District continued work funded by the USDA-NRCS to conduct discharge and water quality monitoring over a three-year period, as part of the NRCS Lower Suwannee River Watershed Nutrient Reduction Restoration Project. To date, $112,403 of these funds have been spent on drafting a water quality monitoring plan, and conducting water quality sampling, lab analysis and spring discharge measurements.
- In FY 2022, the District collected and analyzed 664 water quality samples from within its long-term water quality monitoring network, which includes 78 groundwater and 141 surface water stations. In addition, the District, in partnership with the United States Geological Survey, maintained and collected water quality data from 12 continuous monitoring stations located in Outstanding Florida Springs.

Water Supply

Ensuring a Sustainable Supply of Water for People and the Environment

The District is responsible for managing water resources to ensure there is an adequate supply to satisfy all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses while sustaining water resources and protecting natural systems. In the District, over 90 percent of the water supply demands are met with fresh groundwater, virtually all from the Upper Floridan aquifer system. This region's ability to continue to grow and develop is therefore dependent on sustainably managing a growing demand for groundwater. Coordinated water use permitting, water resource planning, and water resource development projects are key to protecting and managing fresh groundwater supply.

Resource planning efforts include water supply assessments and regional water supply planning. Every five years, the District evaluates current and future water supply needs and water supplies within the District. Water supply assessments help determine whether water supplies will be adequate to satisfy projected demands. Recognizing that water supplies are constrained by demands both within and outside of District boundaries, the District, along with the FDEP and SJRWMD, formed the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership developed a joint regional water supply plan, the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan, which established fresh groundwater alone cannot supply the projected increase in demand over the 20-year planning horizon.

The regulation and monitoring of water use within the District is a critical part of managing the resource. Water Use Permits protect water resources, ensuring proposed uses are reasonable-beneficial, within the public interest, and do not adversely impact existing legal uses. To ensure proposed uses are reasonable- beneficial, the permit application review includes, among other things, an analysis to prevent environmental harm and ensure consistency with established MFLs.

Goal One

Sustainably Manage District Water Resources

STRATEGIES

- Implement projects to reduce groundwater withdrawal impacts to wetlands and other surface waters.
- Implement water resource development and alternative water supply projects to ensure an adequate water supply for all reasonable-beneficial uses.
- Identify and implement comprehensive feasibility and design studies necessary to evaluate projects.

- Research and implement innovations for sustainable agriculture.
- Maximize alternative water supply and reuse benefits.
- Achieve 10% or less water losses for all public supply systems.
- Implement a net resource benefit program.
- Develop a collaborative strategy for assisting public utilities with long-range water supply planning prior to water use permit renewals.
- Maintain and enhance existing data-driven processes to assess cumulative withdrawals for the potential of harm to water resources and ability to sustain natural systems.

Success Indicators and Milestones for Water Supply

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual tasks contained within the aforementioned goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks. In addition, success will be measured by the amount of estimated water supply demand that can be met with projects identified in District water supply plans; the year-to-year percentage of impact of groundwater use within the District on the aquifer.

- * Project has both water quality and water supply benefits.
- The District awarded approximately $11.8 million for nine projects, plus six agriculture cost-share programs to increase water supply across all funding programs. These projects will conserve or reclaim an estimated 0.5 mgd across all funding programs.

1. University Oaks Phase IV - Extend and replace the water main to reduce water loss by 0.015 mgd. This project supports the Waccasassa MFL.

2. Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 2 – This project will construct water main loops and isolation valves in Hampton's water supply to reduce water loss caused by flushing and water main breaks. It benefits the Lower Santa Fee and Ichetucknee Rivers Recovery Strategy.

3. Live Oak Reuse* – This septic to sewer project will reduce nutrient loading and benefit the Suwannee BMAP. The use of reclaimed water will offset groundwater pumping.

4. Rembert Property Conservation Easement* – Acquisition of 718 acres for conservation to reduce nutrient loading, support the Santa Fe BMAP and land use changes to reduce groundwater pumping. This project is contracted directly between FDEP and Alachua County.

5. Lancaster Correctional Facility Expansion* – This project primarily benefits by the reduction of nutrients entering the groundwater and surface waters that are within the Fanning and Manatee Springs Springshed as identified within the Suwannee River BMAP, Reclaimed water will be made available to offset groundwater uses and/or for recharge.

6. Graham Farm Acquisition* - Fee Simple land acquisition of 441 acres to reduce nutrient loading adjacent to Olustee Creek and the Santa Fe River. Changes in land use will eliminate groundwater pumping by abandoning an existing well.

7. Lake Santa Fe Enhanced OSTDS* – This project will replace existing septic system at Lake Santa Fe Park in Alachua County with a nutrient reducing treatment system to improve water quality. Use low flow fixtures to conserve water and support the Santa Fe BMAP.

8. North Florida Mega Industrial Park* – This project will retrofit proposed WWTF to meet AWT for future Public Access Reuse (PAR) to reduce groundwater pumping, benefiting the Santa Fe BMAP.

9. Haines Street Drainage Improvements* - Replacement of the drainage well will provide recharge to the aquifer.

- The District completed four water supply projects in FY 2022:

1. Ft. White Water Main Loop – This project involved water conservation and reduction of groundwater pumping by looping of water main lines to reduce flushing, It supported the Santa Fe BMAP.

2. University Oaks Phase IIIa - This project is for the construction of the remaining 2,200 LF of 6" watermain serving 14 customers, benefiting reduced water loss and the Waccasassa MFL.

3. TCWSD Public Supply Efficiencies – This project installed four master meters to detect system losses and leaks in the water system. Identifying leaks quickly reduces groundwater pumping and treatment.

4. Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 1 – Installation of loops in the water main reduce flushing losses and therefore groundwater pumping and treatment.

- The District has ongoing water supply projects, including Dairy Wastewater Improvements*, Dairy Screen Separators*, Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot*, Precision Agricultural Practices*, District Cost-Share, Soil Moisture Probes, Alternative Water Supply Pivot retrofits, Potable Water Improvements Maple Street, High Springs Water Interconnect, Starke Public Supply Efficiencies,
- Notably, the District issued 98 new agricultural contracts and continues to manage 125 agricultural contracts in FY 2022 with both water supply and water quality benefits.
- The District continues to secure funding for water resource development projects listed in or supporting the North Florida Regional Water Supply Initiative and North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. These projects have targeted the Suwannee and Santa Fe basins in this District and Region 1 of SJRWMD.
- The District is coordinating with SJRWMD to update the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan with a planning horizon through 2045.
- District-wide water use estimates and projections have been updated and have gone through two rounds of stakeholder review. The District is coordinating with SJRWMD to analyze water resource constraints.
- The District conducted water conservation education and public outreach to local communities and stakeholders through online education, presentations, civic engagement, tours, and demonstrations.
- The District continues to work through the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership and with FDEP and other water management districts on regional concerns through planning, project implementation, and model implementation.
- As of November 14, 2022, the District monitored 95.55% of existing active wells with an agricultural water use permit monitoring condition. These wells were monitored either by electric consumption or telemetry. Active wells with a monitoring condition make up ~74% of total agricultural water use allocations in the District (237.5 mgd/~319.8 mgd). The

remaining 26% of agricultural water use allocations will require the addition of a monitoring condition as a permit modification or permit renewal takes place.

As of November 14, 2022, the District is monitoring 1,519 (228.0 MGD) of a total 1,596 active permitted wells (237.5 MGD). The remaining 71 active wells not yet monitored are scheduled for site visits to determine the type of monitoring that will be implemented. An additional 297 proposed wells have yet to be drilled.

The District offers three options for monitoring: electric provided by the power company, telemetry on diesel systems, and self-reporting. To date, farmer electric agreements from cooperatives are in effect on 766 (144.1 MGD) monitoring points. The District currently employs telemetry on 263 (46.3 MGD) diesel-powered systems. There are currently 5 (0.75 MGD) self-monitored points.

Additionally, there are currently 485 (36.7 MGD) sites for which monitoring is currently not feasible. Staff visit these sites each year to reevaluate the feasibility of monitoring.

Agricultural flow measurements have been collected at 393 sites by either HDS staff or an assigned contractor. An additional 1057 flow data points were sourced from the Mobile Irrigation Labs (MIL), covering 835 unique well points.

- The District monitored 47 surface water sites, 255 groundwater sites, 47 rain gauges in its monitoring network.

Mission Support

Creating a Culture of Excellence, Efficiency, and Passion for the Region's Resources

Investing in and empowering District employees is critical to achieving the goals set out in this strategic plan. As the smallest water management district, District employees often wear multiple hats, and each employee performs a diversity of job functions. Engaging employees, providing development opportunities, and leadership support will ensure staff has the tools and guidance to achieve District goals. Operational efficiency is also an important focus so employees and District operations can be as effective as possible.

Goal One

Reduce Risks Through the Management of Information and Data

STRATEGIES

- Implement a District-wide comprehensive data management system including, but not limited to, hydrologic conditions, water use, water quality, permitting data, flood zones, flood occurrence, land use changes, land acquisition, surplus properties, projects, and project benefits.
- Collect and manage high quality data to allow for data-driven, science-based decision making in water resource projects, flood hazard information, and water resource protection.
- Reduce paper and place-bound information access by maximizing cloud-based file storage and automated authorization.
- Optimize accessibility in facilities and information.

Goal Two

Maintain Institutional Knowledge

STRATEGY

- Establish programmatic documentation that captures and identifies necessary steps to complete or implement essential work functions, priority project tasks objectives, and other critical processes to maintain consistent program standards and provide efficient transfer of institutional knowledge
- Retain employees through succession planning, mentoring, and professional development initiatives

Goal Three

Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships and District Partnerships

STRATEGIES

- Build trust in District messages, staff, and science through factual, transparent, consistent, and standardized engagements with internal and external stakeholders.
- Increase public awareness of District functions in planning, projects, and permitting.
- Sustain water resources through education of challenges and maximization of project opportunities.
- Engage and educate stakeholders who are critical to water resource sustainability.

Success Indicators and Milestones for Mission Support

The District will measure progress toward the completion of individual tasks contained within the above goals and strategies by tracking the completion of the planning, funding, construction, or implementation phases of the tasks. In addition, success will be measured by the number of professional certifications, graduate degrees, and leaderships positions within professional organizations held by its staff; the District's administrative overhead; the percentage of the District's budget utilized for projects that benefit water quality and water quantity; the percentage of the District's budget that is recurring but not funded with recurring revenues; the percentage of facility repairs identified in the last 10-year facility inspection report that have been addressed; and the number of educational activities and Suwannee River Partnership meetings held in the last year.

Professional Development

- District houses 15 professionally licensed staff and 40 professional certifications.
- Collectively, staff hold four associate degrees, 28 undergraduate degrees, 17 graduate degrees and three doctoral degrees.
- Six staff are working toward master's degree programs and two staff are working toward an associate degree using the District's tuition reimbursement program. Twenty staff are members of professional development organizations.
- District leadership provided two sessions of human resources and supervisory compliance training.
- The District has provided training on public records recognition, retention and production and maintains an updated video on the subject for new employees to view during orientation. Incumbent staff are able to review the video as well to remain informed on the subject.

Finance

- The District's administrative overhead for FY 2022 was 6.98%. The FY 2023 Adopted Budget

administrative overhead is 2.88%.

- Based on the FY 2022 Adopted Budget, approximately 75.4% of the budget was allocated for water quality, water supply, and natural systems projects.
- Assuming appropriations and District revenues remain at current levels, the District's recurring budget is projected to be funded by recurring dollars and fund balance.

Facilities

- The District completed a survey of the HVAC systems and identified systems by age, service area and remaining life expectancy. In FY 2022, the District continued to implement an HVAC upgrade plan with priority focus being on critical systems relating to information technology (IT) and records storage. In 2022 the District replaced the HVAC system for the Executive Wing and Board room.
- The District is continuing to update facilities to meet ADA compliance, improve interior structures, correct exterior roofing issues, and improving air quality with annual duct cleaning.
- In FY 2021, the District entered into a contract with a consultant for the preliminary evaluation and planning of extensive exterior renovation of the entire District Headquarters facility; to include as built drawings and a complete LiDAR based rendition of the interior and exterior of the facility. This deliverable has been received and is being utilized by staff and contractors (with limited access) to develop contracts and proposed facilities projects.
- In FY 2022, the District completed renovations to the Kirby building, and relocated specific personnel offices and storage to that building from the Lab building. The District has received contractor estimates for options relating to the existing lab facility and will conduct an RFP for the renovation during FY 2022, contingent on funds being available. District staff are exploring options for an immediate solution to the need for an operating lab facility on site.
- Several sections of sidewalk were repaired to address heaving issues reported in the 2016 building inspection report. Two areas related to water runoff were addressed to alleviate flooding issues in the back parking lot and in the front breezeway/between wings in the main building.

IT/GIS

The IT Department implemented a Disaster Recovery as a Service (DraaS) solution that allows an organization to back up its data and information technology (IT) infrastructure in a third-party cloud computing environment and provide all the disaster recovery orchestration through a software as a service (SaaS) solution to regain access and functionality to IT infrastructure after a disaster. As of July 2022, all mission critical virtual machines have been replicated to DRaaS providers datacenter.

The District IT Department enhanced user account security by implementing multifactor authentication on all district employee user accounts. This just adds another layer of security for account protection.

In partnership with other water management districts, FDEM, FDEP and the USGS completed the acquisition and quality control of new LIDAR data covering not only the SRWMD but the entire Florida peninsular.

Working with partners at FDEP and FDACS, the District acquired updated GIS data for landcover/land use, and agricultural irrigation lands.

Communications, Outreach and Customer Service

- The District worked on eight campaigns in FY 2022. New and notable efforts are listed below.
- The District expanded its Permit to Protect campaign with the development and completion of eight informational graphics for common permitting questions, a timeline of expected permitting activity, and a logic tree for permit authority.
- District staff continued the ongoing Institutional Knowledge project which captures historical and institutional information from separating employees. Staff are interviewed and recorded, providing archived audio of important District information.
- The District developed and implemented its new District Lands Web Map to allow for a dynamic, responsive user experience for District lands. The site was completed in Summer 2022.
- The District developed four new feature stories that highlight partnerships with agriculture producers and developers have with the District. These will be published in FY 2023.
- Working with offices of MFLs and Water Supply Planning, the District developed information the relationship of MFLs and water supply planning, two MFL infographics, and one water supply planning infographic to better educate the public on the roles of these offices in the overall mission of the District.
- Working with the Office of MFLs, the District updated photography for priority springs that will be utilized in MFL outreach in the coming year.
- The District disseminated 48 press releases in FY 2022, highlighting District activities.
- Produced three advertorials, highlighting the roles of Permitting, MFLs, and Water Supply Planning, which ran in Family Magazine and Currents Magazine.
- For social media, a total of 607 posts were made. Facebook remains a primary outreach tool for our communities and social media engagement. Communications staff look to continue to grow its engagement in FY 23.
- Facebook – A total of 202 posts. The top performing post featured before and after photos of Suwannee Springs, showing how much the river had risen over the course of two weeks due to storms. Its reach was 66,165 with 1866 likes, 320 comments, and 240 shares. Facebook also saw a nearly 300 percent increase in reach from the previous fiscal year.
- Instagram – A total of 141 posts. The top performing post was boosted and featured information about Well Wellness. Its reach was 13,408 with 603 likes, 15 comments, and 64 shares.
- Twitter – A total of 264 tweets were sent. The top performing tweet highlighted the Governing Board funding approval for springs restoration projects. It garnered 1,052 impressions.
- District staff participated in 20 outreach engagements including tours, speaking engagements, outreach meetings, demonstrations, and school activities.
- Regulatory staff provided District stakeholders outstanding customer service in the timely issuance of WUPs and ERPs by meeting or exceeding stretch goals for permit process time, applications in house, cost to process permits, and permit-to-staff ratio 88% of the time in FY 2022, while continuing to experience a significant increase in ERP applications.

Emergency Response

The District issued Emergency Order 2022-01 in response to Hurricane Ian on September 27, 2022.

The Order expired on October 4, 2022.

Legislative and Community Affairs

District staff met with county economic development departments, community redevelopment agencies, chambers of commerce, etc. to discuss their role in water conservation and how the District is available to them as a resource.

Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Priority List and Schedule

Suwannee River Water Management District

Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Priority List and Schedule

FY 2021-2022 Accomplishments

- Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs MFL Recovery and Prevention Strategy updates were advanced in coordination with the St Johns River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- Upper and Middle Suwannee River MFL evaluations were updated in preparation for peer review.
- Lakes Hampton, Santa Fe and Alto MFL evaluations were initially completed and presented to the public. Revisions to the MFL evaluations were made to address public comments.

Technical work continues for the water bodies in the table below. Technical work includes data collection and analysis activities, MFL evaluations, peer reviews of MFL evaluations, MFL status assessments, and District responses to peer review and stakeholder comments:

Current progress of MFLs in development:

Waterbody Name or System Name	Current Status
Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs	MFL re-evaluation completed; Updated Recovery and Prevention Strategy in progress
Upper Suwannee River and Priority Springs	MFL evaluation updates completed for river gages; MFL evaluations in progress for priority springs
Middle Suwannee River and Priority Springs	MFL evaluation updates completed for river gages; MFL evaluations in progress for priority springs
Lake Hampton	MFL evaluation updates completed; Rule adoption pending
Lake Santa Fe	MFL evaluation updates completed; Rule adoption pending
Lake Alto	MFL evaluation updates initially completed; Additional data collection in progress
Cherry Lake	MFL evaluation updates in progress
Withlacoochee River and Priority Springs	Data collection in progress
Alapaha River	Data collection in progress
Waccasassa River and Levy Blue Spring	Data collection partially completed; Hydrologic modeling pending

Changes to the Priority List and Schedule from 2021 to 2022

- The Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs MFLs have been rescheduled for 2023 to allow for continued development of the updated Recovery and Prevention Strategy in coordination with the St Johns River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection.
- The Cherry Lake MFLs have been rescheduled for 2023 to allow for incorporation of new water use estimates and their impacts. The new water use impacts have been incorporated and the MFL evaluation is scheduled for completion by the end of 2022. Peer review is anticipated in 2023.
- The Upper and Middle Suwannee River and associated Outstanding Florida Springs MFLs have been rescheduled for 2023 to incorporate additional data collection and analysis into the MFL evaluations in coordination with the St Johns River Water Management District and the Department of Environmental Protection. Peer review is anticipated in 2023.
- The Middle Suwannee River Priority Springs MFLs (excluding the Outstanding Florida Springs) have been rescheduled for 2024 to incorporate additional data collection and analysis into the MFL evaluations. Telford Spring was added the priority list and will be part of these MFL evaluations because it was purchased by the District and is considered a second magnitude spring within state owned lands purchased for conservation purposes.
- The Upper Suwannee River Priority Springs MFLs with minimal data availability have been rescheduled for 2024 for further development of MFL evaluations. The Upper Suwannee River Priority Springs MFLs with more data availability have been rescheduled for 2025 to allow for development of MFL evaluations specific to each spring.
- The Madison Blue Spring MFLs have been rescheduled to 2024 to allow for additional data collection and MFL evaluation.
- The Withlacoochee River and Priority Springs (excluding Madison Blue Spring) and the Alapaha River MFLs have been rescheduled for 2025 to allow for additional data collection and MFL evaluation. Withlacoochee River near Lee has been added as a second compliance gage to better represent conditions for the downstream portion of the river.
- The Waccasassa River and Levy Blue Spring MFL re-evaluations have been rescheduled for 2025 to allow for additional data collection and MFL evaluation.
- Lake Alto was removed from the priority list because District staff determined that additional data is necessary for MFL evaluation.
- Lake Palestine and Ocean Pond were removed from the priority list because District staff determined that they are unlikely to experience adverse impacts from withdrawals and did not warrant inclusion as a priority waterbody at this time.
- Waterbodies with adopted MFLs that are not scheduled for re-evaluation in the current planning horizon are not shown in the 2022 Priority List and Schedule.

2022 Priority List and Schedule

Suwannee River Water Management District Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels to be adopted in 2022

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
New	Lake Hampton	Lake Hampton	Lake	Bradford	Yes	Under evaluation	29.8644	-81.8386	-
New	Lake Santa Fe	Lake Santa Fe	Lake	Alachua	Yes	Under evaluation	29.7450	-81.9014	-

Suwannee River Water Management District Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels to be adopted in 2023

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
Re-Evaluation	Santa Fe River near Fort White	Lower Santa Fe	River	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.8486	-82.7153	Rule Adopted
New	Santa Fe River at US HWY 441 near High Springs	Lower Santa Fe	River	Alachua	Yes	Yes	29.8525	-82.6086	-
Re-Evaluation	Columbia (Col101974)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 2)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.8340	-82.6767	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Columbia Spring (OFS)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.8541	-82.6120	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Devils Ear Spring (OFS)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.8353	-82.6966	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Hornsby Spring (OFS)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Alachua	Yes	Yes	29.8504	-82.5932	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	July Spring	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.8362	-82.6964	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Poe Spring (OFS)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 2)	Alachua	Yes	Yes	29.8257	-82.6490	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Rum Island Spring	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 2)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.8335	-82.6798	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Santa Fe River Rise	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Alachua	Yes	Yes	29.8739	-82.5916	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Siphon Creek Rise	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.8562	-82.7331	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Treehouse Spring (OFS)	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 1)	Alachua	Yes	Yes	29.8549	-82.6029	Rule Adopted
New	Gilchrist Blue Spring	Lower Santa Fe	Spring (Mag. 2)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.8299	-82.6829	-
Re-Evaluation	Ichetucknee River at Hwy27 near Hildreth	Ichetucknee	River	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.9525	-82.7861	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Blue Hole Spring (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.9805	-82.7584	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Devils Eye Spring (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.8352	-82.6966	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Grassy Hole Spring (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 3)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.9678	-82.7597	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Ichetucknee Head Spring (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	29.9842	-82.7619	Rule Adopted

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
Re-Evaluation	Mill Pond Springs (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.9667	-82.7600	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Mission Springs (OFS Group)	Ichetucknee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Columbia	Yes	Yes	29.9762	-82.7579	Rule Adopted
New	Suwannee River at White Springs	Upper Suwannee	River	Columbia	Yes	Yes	30.3256	-82.7383	-
New	Suwannee River at Suwannee Springs	Upper Suwannee	River	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3928	-82.9333	-
New	Suwannee River at Ellaville	Middle Suwannee	River	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3844	-82.8281	--
New	Suwannee River at Branford	Middle Suwannee	River	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	29.9556	-82.9278	
New*	Falmouth Spring (OFS)	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3612	-83.1350	Emergency rule*
New*	Lafayette Blue Spring (OFS)	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Lafayette	Yes	Yes	30.1258	-83.2261	Emergency rule*
New*	Peacock Springs Group (OFS)	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.1232	-83.1332	Emergency rule*
New*	Troy Spring (OFS)	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Lafayette	Yes	Yes	30.0060	-82.9975	Emergency rule*
New	Cherry Lake	Cherry Lake	Lake	Madison	Yes	Under evaluation	30.6183	-82.5778	-

* Emergency MFL rule 40BER 17-01 effective July 1, 2017.

Suwannee River Water Management District Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels to be adopted in 2024

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
New	Allen Mill Pond Springs	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Lafayette	Yes	Yes	30.1628	-83.2431	-
New	Anderson Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3534	-83.1897	-
New	Bell Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 3)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.5974	-82.9412	-
New	Bonnet Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.1243	-83.1382	-
New	Branford Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	29.9549	-82.9284	-
New	Charles Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.1674	-83.2304	-
New	Guaranto Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Dixie	Yes	Yes	29.7798	-82.9400	-
New	Hart Springs	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.6750	-82.9512	-
New	Lime Sink Rise	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3878	-83.1611	-

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
New	Little River Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	29.9969	-82.9663	-
New	Otter Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.6448	-82.9428	-
New	Pothole Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Dixie	Yes	Yes	29.8107	-82.9359	-
New	Rock Bluff Springs	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Gilchrist	Yes	Yes	29.7991	-82.9186	-
New	Rock Sink Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Dixie	Yes	Yes	29.7279	-82.9493	-
New	Royal Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 3)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.0837	-83.0748	-
New	Ruth Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Lafayette	Yes	Yes	29.9958	-82.9768	-
New	Suwanacoochee Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Madison	Yes	Yes	30.3867	-83.1718	-
New	Telford Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.1070	-83.1657	-
New	Turtle Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Lafayette	Yes	Yes	29.8474	-82.8903	-
New	Lime Spring	Middle Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3912	-83.1687	-
New	Blue Sink Spring (Suwannee)	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3357	-82.8084	-
New	Hamilton Unnamed Spring (Ham1023971)	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Hamilton	Yes	Yes	30.3861	-82.9064	-
New	Blue Spring at Boys Ranch	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.4223	-83.0138	-
New	Stevenson Spring	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.4171	-83.1530	-
New	Seven Sisters Spring	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Hamilton	Yes	Yes	30.4177	-83.1553	-
Re-Evaluation	Madison Blue Spring (OFS)	Withlacoochee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Madison	Yes	Under evaluation	30.4804	-83.2444	Rule Adopted

Suwannee River Water Management District Minimum Flows and Minimum Levels to be adopted in 2026

New or Re-Evaluation	Waterbody Name or Compliance Point	System Name	Waterbody Type	County(s)	Voluntary Peer Review to be Completed?	Cross-Boundary Impacts from Adjacent WMD?	Latitude	Longitude	Rulemaking Status
New	Alapaha River Rise	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Hamilton	Yes	Yes	30.4394	-83.0893	-
New	Holton Creek Rise	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 1)	Hamilton	Yes	Yes	30.4379	-83.0576	-
New	Suwannee Springs	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Suwannee	Yes	Yes	30.3945	-82.9345	-
New	White Sulphur Springs	Upper Suwannee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Hamilton	Yes	Yes	30.3300	-82.7608	-
New	Alapaha River near Jennings	Alapaha	River	Hamilton	Yes	Under evaluation	30.5981	-82.9267	-
New	Withlacoochee River near Pinetta	Withlacoochee	River	Madison	Yes	Under evaluation	30.5953	-82.7403	-
New	Withlacoochee River near Lee	Withlacoochee	River	Madison	Yes	Under evaluation	30.4104	-83.1801	-
New	Hardee (Rossiter) Spring	Withlacoochee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Hamilton	Yes	Under evaluation	30.5447	-83.2501	-
New	Pot Spring	Withlacoochee	Spring (Mag. 2)	Hamilton	Yes	Under evaluation	30.4708	-83.2344	-
Re-Evaluation	Waccasassa River near Gulf Hammock	Waccasassa	River	Levy	Yes	Under evaluation	29.2038	-82.7689	Rule Adopted
Re-Evaluation	Levy Blue Spring	Waccasassa	Spring (Mag. 3)	Levy	Yes	Under evaluation	29.4507	-82.6990	Rule Adopted

Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan

Suwannee River Water Management District

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

I. Introduction

The Suwannee River Water Management District's (District's) Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is submitted in compliance with the reporting requirements of subsection 373.536(6)(a)3, Florida Statutes (F.S). The format for this report has been developed jointly by the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the water management districts (WMDs). The CIP includes projected revenues and expenditures for capital improvements from Fiscal Years 2023-2027. As directed by subsection 373.536(6)(a)3, F.S., the CIP has been prepared in a manner comparable to the fixed capital outlay format set forth in section 216.043, F.S. Those two programs and their activities and sub-activities are

2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works
2.1 Land Acquisition
2.2 Water Source Development
2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects
2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance
2.2.3 Other Water Source Development Activities
2.3 Surface Water Projects
2.4 Other Cooperative Projects
2.5 Facilities Construction and Major Renovations

3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works
3.1 Land Management
3.2 Works
3.3 Facilities
3.4 Invasive Plant Control
3.5 Other Operation and Maintenance Activities

The activities and sub-activities under program 2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works that include capital improvement projects are 2.1 Land Acquisition.

The activities under program 3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works that include capital improvement projects are 3.1 Land Management and 3.3 Facilities.

The purpose of the CIP is to project future needs and anticipated future funding requirements to meet those needs. The District uses a pay-as-you-go approach and does not incur bonded debt. The CIP contains only those projects that will be owned and capitalized as fixed assets by the District.

The CIP includes expenditures for basic construction costs (permits, inspections, site development, etc.) and other related capital project costs (land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, etc.). The CIP does not include expenditures for changes in program costs (including salaries and benefits), changes in maintenance costs, or changes in utility costs.

2.0 Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works

This program includes the development and construction of all capital projects (except those contained in Program 3.0), including water resource development projects/water supply development assistance, water control projects, and support and administrative facilities construction; cooperative projects; land acquisition (including Save Our Rivers / Preservation 2000 / Florida Forever / Springs Restoration Grants); and the restoration of lands and water bodies.

2.1 Land Acquisition

This activity includes District acquisition of lands for flood protection; water storage; water management, conservation and protection of water resources; aquifer recharge; and preservation of wetlands, streams and lakes. Funds from the Florida Forever program, Springs Restoration Grants and Military Base Protection Funds are used for land acquisitions.

2.2 Water Source Development
Water resource development projects and regional or local water supply development assistance projects designed to increase the availability of water supplies for consumptive use; also, other water resource development activities not necessarily contained in regional water supply plans but which provide water supply benefits.

2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects
Regional projects designed to create, from traditional or alternative sources, an identifiable, quantifiable supply of water for existing and/or future reasonable-beneficial uses. These projects do not include the construction of facilities for water supply development, as defined in subsection 373.019(21), F.S. Such projects may include the construction, operation, and maintenance of major public works facilities that provide for the augmentation of available surface and ground water supply or that create alternative sources of supply. Water resource development projects are to be identified in water management district regional water supply plans or district water management plans, as applicable, and the water resource development work program.

2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance
This activity includes financial assistance for regional or local water-supply development projects. Such projects may include the construction of facilities included in the term "water supply development" as defined in subsection 373.019(21), F.S.

2.3 Surface Water Projects
Projects that restore or protect surface water quality, related resources, or provide flood protection through the acquisition and improvement of land, construction of public works, and other activities.

3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works
This program includes all operation and maintenance of facilities, flood control and water supply structures, lands, and other works authorized by Chapter 373, F.S

3.1 Land Management
Maintenance, custodial, public-use improvements, and restoration efforts for lands acquired through Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, Florida Forever, or other land acquisition programs.

3.3 Facilities
This activity includes the operation and maintenance of District support and administrative facilities.

II. FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN
Capital improvements involve the District's headquarters facility and lands acquired for water management purposes. District Governing Board policy has historically been to take a nonstructural water management approach where possible. This policy recognizes both the environmental benefits of a nonstructural approach and the fiscal reality of the District's limited funding ability.

This report describes anticipated revenues and expenditures for capital improvements needed to implement District programs to fulfill the requirements of Chapter 373, F.S. Related documents provide additional detail and information as follows:

- The District's Florida Forever Work Plan describes the District's land acquisition and management, water resource development, and restoration efforts.
- The annual Preliminary Budget and Tentative Budget Submission Report provide proposed revenues and expenditures for each fiscal year.

- The Annual Budget, adopted by the Governing Board in September of each year, provides the strategies and budgets of each District program.
- The District's Strategic Plan provides the long-range water resource management issues and strategies for water quality, water supply, flood protection, and natural systems management.
- The District's Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program provides implementation strategies relating to water resource development and water supply development efforts.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2026

2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

2.1 LAND ACQUISITION

REVENUES	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Balance	2,250,000	2,250,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
State Revenue	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-
Total	4,250,000	4,250,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
EXPENDITURES	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**FY 2027**
Total	4,250,000	4,250,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS

3.1 LAND MANAGEMENT

REVENUES	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Balance	130,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Total	130,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
EXPENDITURES	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**FY 2027**
Total	130,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000

3.3 FACILITIES

REVENUES	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund Balance	386,000	386,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

State Revenue		1,000,000			
Total	386,000	386,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
EXPENDITURES	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**	**FY 2027**
Total	386,000	1,386,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS

Activity: 2.1 Land Acquisition

Project Title: Water Management Lands Acquisition

Type: Fee title purchase of lands within the Land Acquisition and Management Plan and/or the 2020 Florida Forever Work Plan.

Physical Location: Activities are conducted at District headquarters near Live Oak, FL. Acquisitions are located within the District boundaries as identified in the 2022 Florida Forever Work Plan.

Square Footage/Physical Description: N/A

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

Historical Background/Need for Project: Land acquisition is a key mechanism for the District to achieve its statutory responsibilities. The District's land acquisition program implements provisions of section 373.139, F.S.

The implementation of this program, along with the cumulative efforts under the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, Florida Forever programs, Springs Restoration Grants and Military Base Protection Funds have resulted in the protection of over 287,088 acres of fee title and conservation easement water resource lands. Approximately 159,974 acres of river floodplains, freshwater springs, headwater wetlands, bottomland hardwood, and buffering upland forests are protected in full-fee ownership. Conservation easements, access easements, and deed restricted from less-than fee purchases have protected nearly 127,114 acres of water resource lands. These lands are managed primarily for nonstructural flood protection including floodwater conveyance, storage, and attenuating floodwaters. Ancillary benefits include water quality and habitat protection, and passive public recreation areas. The District continues to explore potential acquisitions with public and private partners to maximize available funding for conservation acquisitions.

Plan Linkages: Florida Forever Work Plan 2023, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023--2027, FY 2023 Budget, FY 2024 Preliminary Budget, 5-Year Water Resource Development Work Program

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems.

Alternative(s): Planned acquisitions could be deferred to future year(s), but acquisition opportunities may be lost.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): FY 2023 - $4,250,000; FY 2024 - $4,250,000

3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS

Activity: 3.1 Land Management

Project Title: Land Management

Type: Construction, reconstruction, or development of capital improvements and/or facilities necessary for managing water resource lands.

Physical Location: Various locations on District-owned lands.

Square Footage/Physical Description: 159,974 acres

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

Historical Background/Need for Project: Lands acquired for water resource management purposes often require capital improvements associated with hydrologic or other restoration to eliminate or reduce adverse water resource impacts, allow for public use, and for ongoing District land-management activities.

Plan Linkages: Florida Forever Work Plan 2023, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027, FY 2023 Budget, FY 2024 Preliminary Budget

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems

Alternative(s): Land management capital improvements could be deferred to future year(s) or foregone but would result in increased future costs and/or adverse water resource impacts resulting from decreased land management capabilities.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): FY 2023 - $130,000; FY 2024 - $80,000

3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS

Activity: 3.3 Facilities

Project Title: Facility Management

Type: Operation and maintenance of administrative facilities.

Physical Location: District headquarters

Square Footage/Physical Description: 35,000 square feet

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

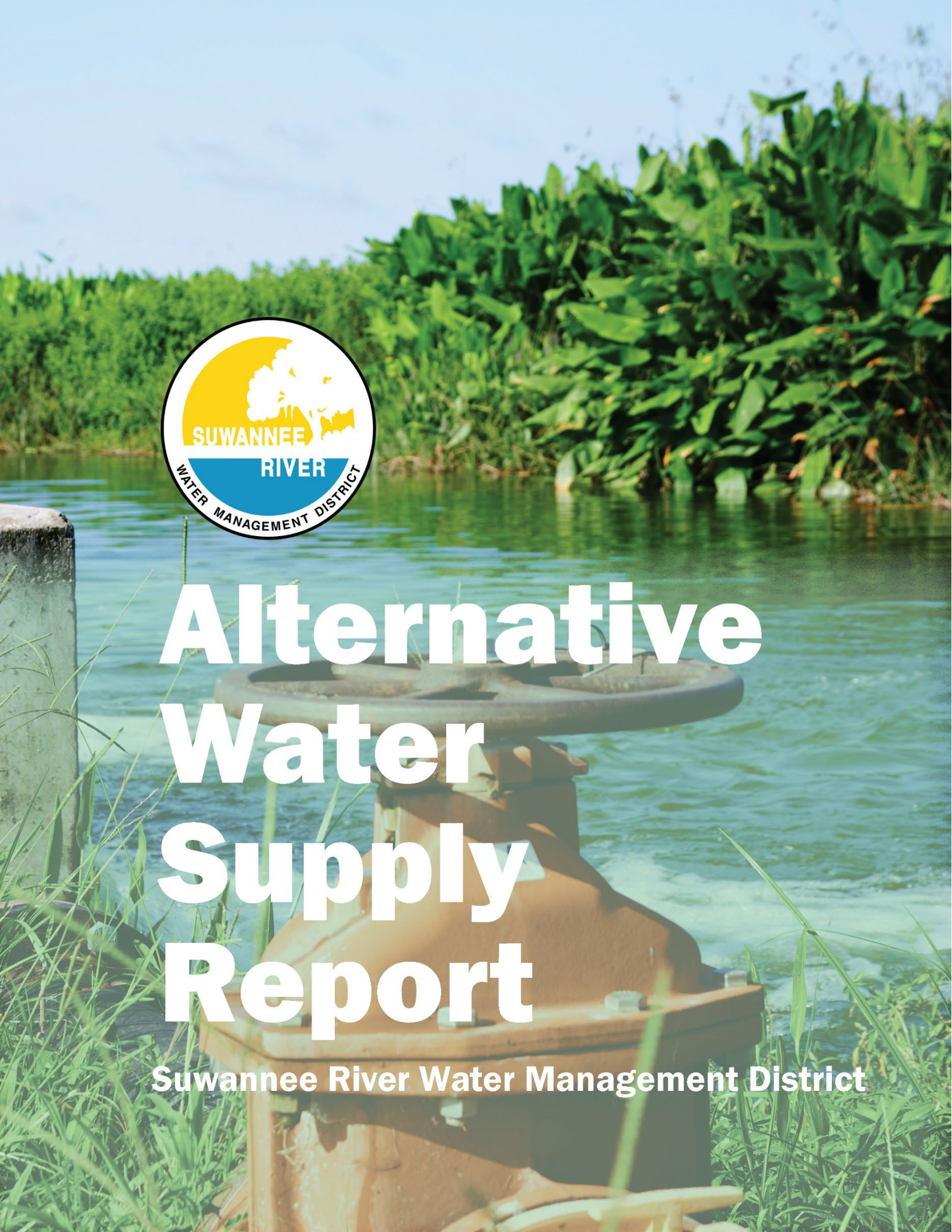
Historical Background/Need for Project: The District facilities consist of a 35,000 square foot headquarter building, a laboratory/storage building, a garage/storage facility, and a parking lot on 12 acres.

Plan Linkages: FY 2023 Budget, FY 2024 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems.

Alternative(s): Facility management improvements could be deferred to future year(s) or foregone but would result in increased future costs and potentially have adverse effects on District operations.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities, outside building, site development, other): FY2023 – $386,000; FY2024 - $1,386,000



Alternative Water Supply Report

Suwannee River Water Management District

Introduction:

In 2005, the Florida Legislature created the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, section 373.707, Florida Statutes (F.S.). As part of this program, the Legislature made State funds available through the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund to water management districts for the development of the alternate water supply and conservation projects. Funds could also be used for water resource development projects if a regional water supply plan had not been completed including, but not limited to, springs protection. Each water management district is required by section 373.707 (8)(n), F.S. to submit an alternative water supply report that provides details on all funded alternative water supply, conservation, and water resource development projects. This Alternative Water Supply Report includes information on funding under the Water Protection and Sustainability Program and the District's continued efforts to protect and enhance water resources. In 2017 the Board adopted the NFRWSP (North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan). The plan includes fourteen counties, of which all or portions of the following are within the SRWMD District – Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union.

Water Protection and Sustainability Program

During the initial four years of the Water Protection and Sustainability program (WPSP), the District received over $21 million dollars from the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund (WPSTF). With this funding, the District formed collaborative partnerships with the cities of Lake City, Live Oak, Monticello, and Alachua to provide funding assistance for establishing reclaimed water programs. These projects are listed in Table 1 and described in the following narrative. Consistent with subsection 373.707(8)(c), Florida Statutes, the District has also used funding from the WPSTF for water resource development projects, consisting of implementing its Minimum Flows and Levels program. Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 funds have been made available for Water Supply Development projects to conserve water and reduce losses.

Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund - Funding Distribution

Fiscal Year	Distribution Amount
2005-2006	$10,000,000
2006-2007	$6,000,000
2007-2008	$5,200,000
2008-2009	$270,000
2019-2020	$100,000
2020-2021	$180,000

District Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Status	Water Produced (mgd)	WPSP Fiscal Year	WPSP Funding	DEP funds	Cooperator match	District funds	Total Project cost
153	City of Alachua Reclaimed Water Program	This project was for the implementation of a 0.4 MGD reuse project to offset groundwater withdrawals. Initial construction was for filtration, disinfection, transmission lines, pumping, controls and storage. Potential offset for 1 to 3 MGD for commercial and residential offset.	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	3	2006-2007	$1,000,000	$0	$250,000	-	$1,250,000
151	City of Lake City Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	This project was for the implementation of a 1 MGD reuse project with expansion capabilities. Initial construction was for water treatment, transmission.	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	1	2005-2006	$3,000,000	$0	$1,735,526	-	$4,735,526
154	City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	Ph 1 expansion is to implement a 1.5 MGD treatment facility. The goal is the offset of 0.8 MGD of groundwater withdrawals.	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	1.5	2005-2006	$2,000,000	$0	$500,000	-	$2,500,000
155	City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1 expansion	Ph 1 expansion is to implement a 1.5 MGD treatment facility. The goal is the offset of 0.8 MGD of groundwater withdrawals.	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	0	2006-2007	$1,000,000	$0	$250,000	-	$1,250,000
152	City of Monticello Reclaimed Water Program	This project was for the implementation of a 0.5 MGD reuse project to offset groundwater withdrawals at the Simpson Nursery. Initial construction was to upgrade the water treatment facility, transmission mains, pumping, storage, supervisory control and data acquisition.	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	0.5	2005-2006	$1,500,000	$500,000	$50,000	-	$2,050,000
331	Ft. White Water Main Loop	A portion of this project has been funded through the WPSP to construct water main loops.	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.0002	2019-2020	$100,000	$29,000	$0	-	$129,000
331	Ft. White Water Main Loop	A portion of this project has been funded through the WPSP to construct water main loops.	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.0002	2020-2021	$16,355	$0	$0	-	$16,355
344	High Springs Interconnect	A portion of this project has been funded through the WPSP to construct water main loops.	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.015	2020-2021	$85,160	$0	$62,000	$100,840	$248,000
345	Potable Water Improvements - Maple St.	A portion of this project has been funded through the WPSP to construct water main loops.	PS and CII Conservation	Active	0.00001	2020-2021	$78,485	$0	$15,224	$0	$93,709

Summary of Continuing Efforts

The District works with its local and state partners to identify, develop and fund alternative water supply, conservation, and water resource development projects. The Districts Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost-share program provides local governments with funding for projects including alternative water supply and water conservation projects. Since the inception of the RIVER program in 2013, the District has partnered with local governments to implement thirty-two alternative water supply projects and water conservation projects with a total estimated benefit of 0.85 MGD.

Through agricultural cost-share programs, the District and FDEP partner with agricultural producers to increase water savings by implementing irrigation retrofits, new water saving technologies, and other water conservation projects. The FDEP has awarded state springs grants for cost share programs for irrigation and nutrient management retrofits for agricultural and dairy operations. The Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) has been instrumental in implementing conservation partnerships with the agricultural community in the Suwannee River Basin. From 2014 through 2022 the estimated benefit at completion will be 28.05 MGD.

The District also invests money into water resource development projects. These projects include aquifer recharge and hydrologic restoration projects. The continuing support for springs protection and restoration from Governor DeSantis, the Florida Legislature, and the FDEP has enabled the District to increase efforts, through partnerships, to protect and enhance water supply and resources throughout the District. From 2014 to 2022, the District with the FDEP and local partners implemented 43 water resource development projects with an estimated benefit of 45 MGD at completion.

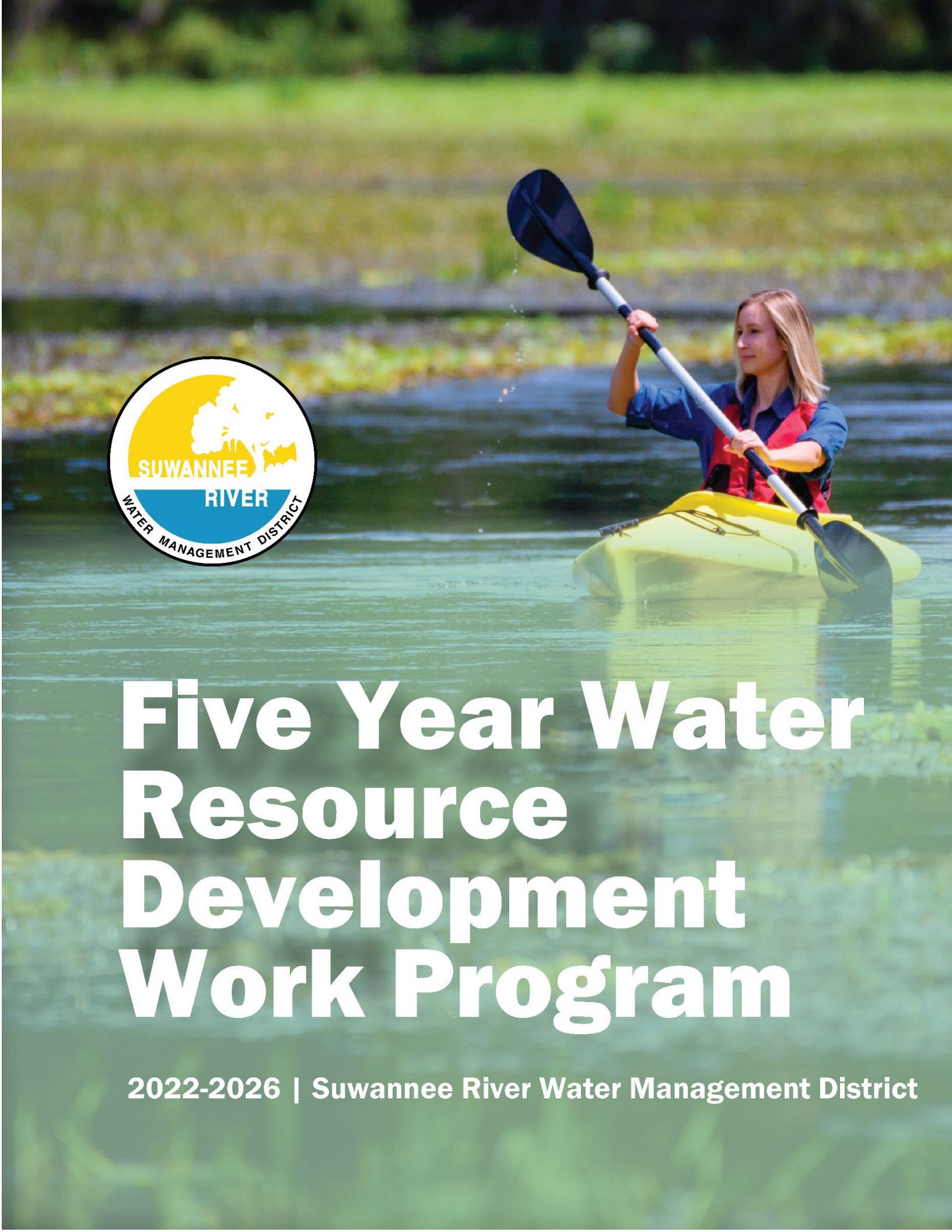
Details on alternative water supply, water conservation, and water resource development projects funded through these various programs is provided in Table 2 and described in the following narratives.

District Project Number	Project Name	WRD or WSD project type	Project Status	Water Produced	Initial FY funded	DEP Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	District Funds	Cooperator match	Total Project Cost	Program
5	2014 Springs Projects: Task 2 WC Through Pivots	Agricultural Conservation	Complete	5.26	FY2014-15	$885,000	$0	$0	$1,235,000	$308,975	$2,428,975	Springs
6	2014 Springs Projects: Task 3 Dairy Lagoon Expansion	Other Non-Traditional Source	Complete	0.3	FY2014-15	$920,000	$0	$0	$0	$300,000	$1,220,000	Springs
7	2015 S0905 Springs Projects: Dairy Screen Separators	Agricultural Conservation	Active	0.32	FY2015-16	$2,120,000	$0	$0	$20,000	$530,000	$2,670,000	Springs
8	2016 Springs Projects: Dairy Wastewater System Improvements	Other Non-Traditional Source	Active	0.14	FY2016-17	$1,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$300,000	$1,800,000	Springs
228	Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management	Agricultural Conservation	Active	3.03	FY2019-20	$1,878,736	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	$2,378,736	Springs
157	Agriculture Water Conservation (2013 Ag Cost Share Funds)	Agricultural Conservation	Complete	5.2	FY2012-13	$0	$0	$0	$1,200,550	$308,975	$1,509,525	District
300	AWS Pivot Retrofits	Agricultural Conservation	Active	1.1	FY2019-20	$1,200,400	$0	$0	$0	$55,600	$1,256,000	AWS
230	Bee Haven Bay WRD	Surface Water Storage (e.g., reservoirs)	Complete	0.7	FY2019-20	$370,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$370,000	Springs
240	Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	Groundwater Recharge	Active	3	FY2019-20	$2,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000,000	Springs
15	Brooks Sink Phase 1	Groundwater Recharge	Complete	0.12	FY2013-14	$0	$0	$0	$35,000	$0	$35,000	Florida Forever
136	Cedar Key WSD Reuse project	Distribution/Transmission Capacity	Complete	0.18	FY2007-08	$0	$0	$0	$25,000	$8,333	$33,333	Florida Forever
153	City of Alachua Reclaimed Water Program	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	3	FY2006-07	$1,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$250,000	$1,250,000	WPSP
151	City of Lake City Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	1	FY2005-06	$2,980,354	$0	$0	$0	$1,735,526	$4,715,880	WPSP
154	City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	1.5	FY2005-06	$2,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	$2,500,000	WPSP
152	City of Monticello Reclaimed Water Program	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	0.5	FY2005-06	$1,500,000	$500,000	$0	$0	$50,000	$2,050,000	WPSP
28	Cow Pond Drainage Basin Aquifer Recharge - see Dixie Co MBAR No 291	Groundwater Recharge	Complete	1.69	FY2016-17	$313,382	$0	$0	$50,000	$0	$363,382	Springs
291	Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Groundwater Recharge	Active	1.1	FY2019-20	$2,993,000	$0	$0	$0	$150,000	$3,143,000	Springs
124	Eagle Lake	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	2	FY2014-15	$3,070,000	$0	$0	$300,000	$230,000	$3,600,000	Springs
331	Ft. White Water Main Loop	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.0002	FY2019-20	$145,355	$0	$0	$0	$0	$145,355	AWS
2093	Graham Farm Acquisition WSA06	Other Project Type	Active	0.28994	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$900,000	$0	$781,700	$1,681,700	AWS
293	Groundwater Recharge Wetland	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system)	Active	1.5	FY2019-20	$1,500,000	$0	$4,600,000	$0	$6,100,000	$12,200,000	AWS

District Project Number	Project Name	WRD or WSD project type	Project Status	Water Produced	Initial FY funded	DEP Funds	Other State Funds	Federal Funds	District Funds	Cooperator match	Total Project Cost	Program
2444	Haines Street Drainage Improvements	Groundwater Recharge	Active	0.02	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$0	$247,314	$54,410	$301,724	River
255	Hamilton County Aquifer Recharge Replacement Wells and Water Quality Improvement	Groundwater Recharge	Active	2	FY2019-20	$0	$0	$0	$700,000	$0	$700,000	District
276	Hampton Water Main Loop	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.000547	FY2019-20	$200,516	$0	$0	$0	$18,250	$218,766	AWS
354	Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 2	PS and CII Conservation	Active	0.003	FY2021-22	$263,800	$0	$0	$0	$0	$263,800	AWS
344	High Springs Water System Interconnect	PS and CII Conservation	Active	0.015	FY2020-21	$85,160	$0	$0	$100,840	$62,000	$248,000	WPSP
53	Hilltop to Alliance Wastewater Project	Other Non-Traditional Source	Complete	0.34	FY2014-15	$0	$0	$0	$181,000	$210,991	$391,991	District
58	Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement (ISQWIP)	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system)	Complete	1.19	FY2013-14	$3,900,000	$0	$0	$283,815	$100,000	$4,283,815	Springs
2090	Lancaster Correctional Facility expansion	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system)	Active	0.028	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$2,900,000	$0	$0	$2,900,000	Federal WW
1729	Live Oak Reuse	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Active	0.01	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$3,240,000	$0	$0	$3,240,000	Federal WW
78	Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge	Groundwater Recharge	Active	2	FY2013-14	$1,548,000	$0	$0	$277,000	$30,000	$1,855,000	Springs
2101	North Florida Mega Industrial Park	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Active	0.25	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$2,960,000	$0	$60,000	$3,020,000	Federal WW
83	Oakmont Reclaimed Water Main Extension (Ph 2)	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	0.05	FY2015-16	$0	$0	$0	$113,143	$113,143	$226,286	River
345	Potable Water Improvements - Maple St.	PS and CII Conservation	Active	0.00001	FY2020-21	$78,485	$0	$0	$0	$15,224	$93,709	WPSP
89	Precision Agricultural Practices	Agricultural Conservation	Active	2	FY2017-18	$5,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$1,250,000	$6,250,000	Springs
303	Public Supply Efficiency Improvements	PS and CII Conservation	Active	1.4	FY2019-20	$1,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,000,000	AWS
103	Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Agricultural Conservation	Active	5.1	FY2016-17	$5,000,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,000,000	Springs
105	Suwannee Country Club Reuse Connection	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	Complete	0.1	FY2014-15	$0	$0	$0	$119,520	$4,893	$124,413	River
123	Suwannee Valley Ag Extension Center Surface Water	Surface Water	Complete	0.05	FY2013-14	$0	$0	$0	$40,200	$80,400	$120,600	Other
1811	TCWSD Public Supply Efficiencies	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.002	FY2020-21	$0	$0	$0	$100,000	$0	$100,000	River
284	University Oaks Phase III a	PS and CII Conservation	Complete	0.0183	FY2019-20	$95,124	$0	$0	$0	$7,610	$102,734	AWS
282	University Oaks Phase IV	PS and CII Conservation	Active	0.015	FY2021-22	$0	$0	$0	$311,670	$5,000	$316,670	River
111	Upper Suwannee River Regional Aquifer Recharge	Groundwater Recharge	Complete	1	FY2017-18	$2,500,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,500,000	Springs

District Project Number	Project Name	Description
5	2014 Springs Projects: Task 2 WC Through Pivots	Retrofit center pivots to increase spray efficiency
6	2014 Springs Projects: Task 3 Dairy Lagoon Expansion	Increase pond storage to better manage wastewater & irrigation
7	2015 S0905 Springs Projects: Dairy Screen Separators	Dairy Screens and irrigation retrofits (Improved Nutrient Application in Dairy operations)
8	2016 Springs Projects: Dairy Wastewater System Improvements	Use of new technology to improve wastewater systems to reduce nutrient impacts and reduce ground water usage.
228	Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management	Incentivize silviculture and rural land conservation to reduce groundwater pumping and nitrogen loading in the Santa Fe and Suwannee River Basin Management Action Plan areas.
157	Agriculture Water Conservation (2013 Ag Cost Share Funds)	Assess and implement water conservation BMPs as part of agricultural cost-share program. The cost and savings are the total for the following counties: Alachua, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, and Suwannee.
300	AWS Pivot Retrofits	Retrofit pivot systems with a need determined by a mobile irrigation lab evaluation in existing and proposed water resource planning areas.
230	Bee Haven Bay WRD	Construction of an alternative discharge line from Eagle Lake Phase I to provide additional reuse capacity to the mining operations. This alternative water supply reduces the reliance on fresh groundwater from the UFA.
240	Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	The Project will take place in Bradford County and enhance opportunities for aquifer recharge for the silvicultural lands and areas with surplus surface waters.
15	Brooks Sink Phase 1	Restore natural hydrologic connection to Brooks sink
136	Cedar Key WSD Reuse project	WWTP improvements and extension of reclaimed water lines.
153	City of Alachua Reclaimed Water Program	This project was for the implementation of a 0.4 MGD reuse project to offset groundwater withdrawals. Initial construction was to for filtration, disinfection, transmission lines, pumping, controls and storage.
151	City of Lake City Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	The City operated a 3 MGD wastewater treatment with a restricted access sprayfield for disposal. This project was for a 1 MGD reuse project with expansion capabilities. Initial construction was for water treatment, transmission.
154	City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program Ph 1	The City operated a 1.25 MGD wastewater treatment facility. Ph 1 expansion is to implement a 1.5 MGD treatment facility. The goal is the offset of 0.8 MGD of groundwater withdrawals.
152	City of Monticello Reclaimed Water Program	This project was for the implementation of a 0.5 MGD reuse project to offset groundwater withdrawals at the Simpson Nursery.
28	Cow Pond Drainage Basin Aquifer Recharge - see Dixie Co MBAR No 291	The project will restore approximately 300 acres of sand ponds and rehydrate approximately 1,750 acres of wetlands while recharging approximately 1.69 million gallons per day of water
291	Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Design and construct a wetland restoration system to re-establish natural drainage patterns using culverts and flashboards. Project will funnel excess surface water to new and existing recharge features. Consolidation of LP61039 and LP6103B funds and benefits.
124	Eagle Lake	Public Private partnership to reduce groundwater withdrawals
331	Ft. White Water Main Loop	Water conservation and reduction of groundwater pumping by looping of water main lines to reduce flushing,
2093	Graham Farm Acquisition WSA06	Fee Simple land acquisition of 441 acres to reduce nutrient loading adjacent to Olustee Creek and the Santa Fe River
293	Groundwater Recharge Wetland	GRU proposes to construct a groundwater recharge wetland using reclaimed water from the Kanapaha Water Reclamation facility. Estimated 3-5 MGD water recharge at completion.
2444	Haines Street Drainage Improvements	Replacement of Class V injection well with stormwater management facility for flood relief and beneficial recharge.

District Project Number	Project Name	Description
255	Hamilton County Aquifer Recharge Replacement Wells and Water Quality Improvement	This project concept is to replace two 12-inch drainage wells to provide aquifer recharge and flood protection in the Alapaha Basin.
276	Hampton Water Main Loop	Loop water mains to improve water conservation, remove dead ends to improve water quality and reduce flushing. Install isolation valves to aid in line break repairs.
354	Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 2	Loop water mains to improve water conservation, remove dead ends to improve water quality and reduce flushing. Install isolation valves to aid in line break repairs.
344	High Springs Water System Interconnect	Loop water main in the River Run neighborhood to reduce flushing and conserve water in the WRCA
53	Hilltop to Alliance Wastewater Project	Wastewater pipeline connecting Hilltop Dairy to Alliance Dairy for wastewater reuse
58	Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement (ISQWIP)	Convert existing sprayfield to treatment wetland. TN reduction based on 3 year average of monitored levels at inflow and downstream treatment cells. 88% reduction of TN and 98% reduction of Nitrate.
2090	Lancaster Correctional Facility expansion	Extend a force main from Lancaster Correctional to Fanning's WWTF to reduce nutrients and provide recharge. Phase VII of Fanning.
1729	Live Oak Reuse	Construct extensions to the Live Oak wastewater collection infrastructure which will provide additional reuse.
78	Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge	Hydrologic restoration activities on the property to rehydrate roughly 1,500 acres of ponds, 4,000 acres of wetlands and recharge the aquifer up to an estimated 10 million gallons per day.
2101	North Florida Mega Industrial Park	Retrofit proposed WWTF to meet AWT for future Public Access Reuse (PAR)
83	Oakmont Reclaimed Water Main Extension (Ph 2)	Installing of additional reclaimed water mains.
345	Potable Water Improvements - Maple St.	Replace aged water line to reduce water leaks
89	Precision Agricultural Practices	The project will provide cost-share funds to producers to implement precision management technology. Priority will be given to producers within both the BMAP and Florida Outstanding Springs areas.
303	Public Supply Efficiency Improvements	Infrastructure and conservation improvements to reduce water loss based on water audit information or conservation measures.
103	Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Pilot program for agricultural operations, landowners, counties and cities, private companies, and other entities within specific geographical areas to submit proposals to reduce water use, improve water quality and remove nutrients
105	Suwannee Country Club Reuse Connection	Connect the Suwannee County Club golf course to the City of Live Oak reuse line; install pump station.
123	Suwannee Valley Ag Extension Center Surface Water	Partnership with UF IFAS for variable rate irrigation using surface water
1811	TCWSD Public Supply Efficiencies	The project proposes to install 4 neighborhood master meters to monitor for system losses and identify leaks within the TCWSD water system.
284	University Oaks Phase III a	This project is for the construction of the remaining 2,200 LF of 6" watermain serving 14 customers. This will continue to reduce the water loss experienced throughout the University Oaks Water System.
282	University Oaks Phase IV	Phase IV will consist of the design, permitting, and construction of approximately 5,250 LF of 6" watermain to provide service to 33 customers .This will continue to reduce the water loss experienced throughout the University Oaks Water System.



Five Year Water Resource Development Work Program

2022-2026 | Suwannee River Water Management District

Introduction

Water Management Districts are required by section 373.709, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to evaluate their water resources to ensure that existing sources of water are adequate to supply water for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and to sustain the water resources and related natural systems for a 20-year planning period. A Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) is developed when a District determines that there are not enough traditional water supplies to provide water for all existing and future reasonable/beneficial uses and to sustain water resources and related natural systems for the planning period. RWSPs include a technical analysis of the current and future demands, evaluation of available water sources, and identification of water resource development and water supply development project options that could be used to meet future water demands.

The District is also required to prepare a Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program (Work Program) as a part of its annual budget reporting process, pursuant to subsection 373.536(6)(a)4., F.S. The Work Program must describe the District's implementation strategy relating to its water resource development and water supply development (including alternative water supply development) components over the next five years. Further, the Work Program must:

- Address all the elements of the water resource development component in the District's approved RWSPs, as well as the water supply projects proposed for District funding and assistance
- Identify both anticipated available District funding and additional funding needs for the second through fifth years of the funding plan
- Identify projects in the Work Program which will provide water
- Explain how each water resource and water supply project will produce additional water available for consumptive uses
- Estimate the quantity of water to be produced by each project
- Provide an assessment of the contribution of the District's RWSPs in supporting the implementation of minimum flows and minimum water levels and water reservations; and
- Ensure sufficient water is available to timely meet the water supply needs of existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses for a 1-in-10-year drought event and to avoid the adverse effects of competition for water supplies.

This Work Program covers the period from Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 through FY 2026-2027 and is consistent with the planning strategies of the District's North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan, (NFRWSP), a regional water supply plan produced and implemented jointly between this District and the SJRWMD (see Figure 1). The NFRWSP was approved by both Districts in 2017 and covers the 2015-2035 planning horizon. The planning region includes all of Hamilton, Columbia, Baker, Suwannee, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Putnam, and Alachua Counties, as well as the remaining counties in Region 1 of the SJRWMD. Work began in early 2020 to update the NFRWSP. For additional information about the NFRWSP, please see the Water Supply Plan located on the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership website.

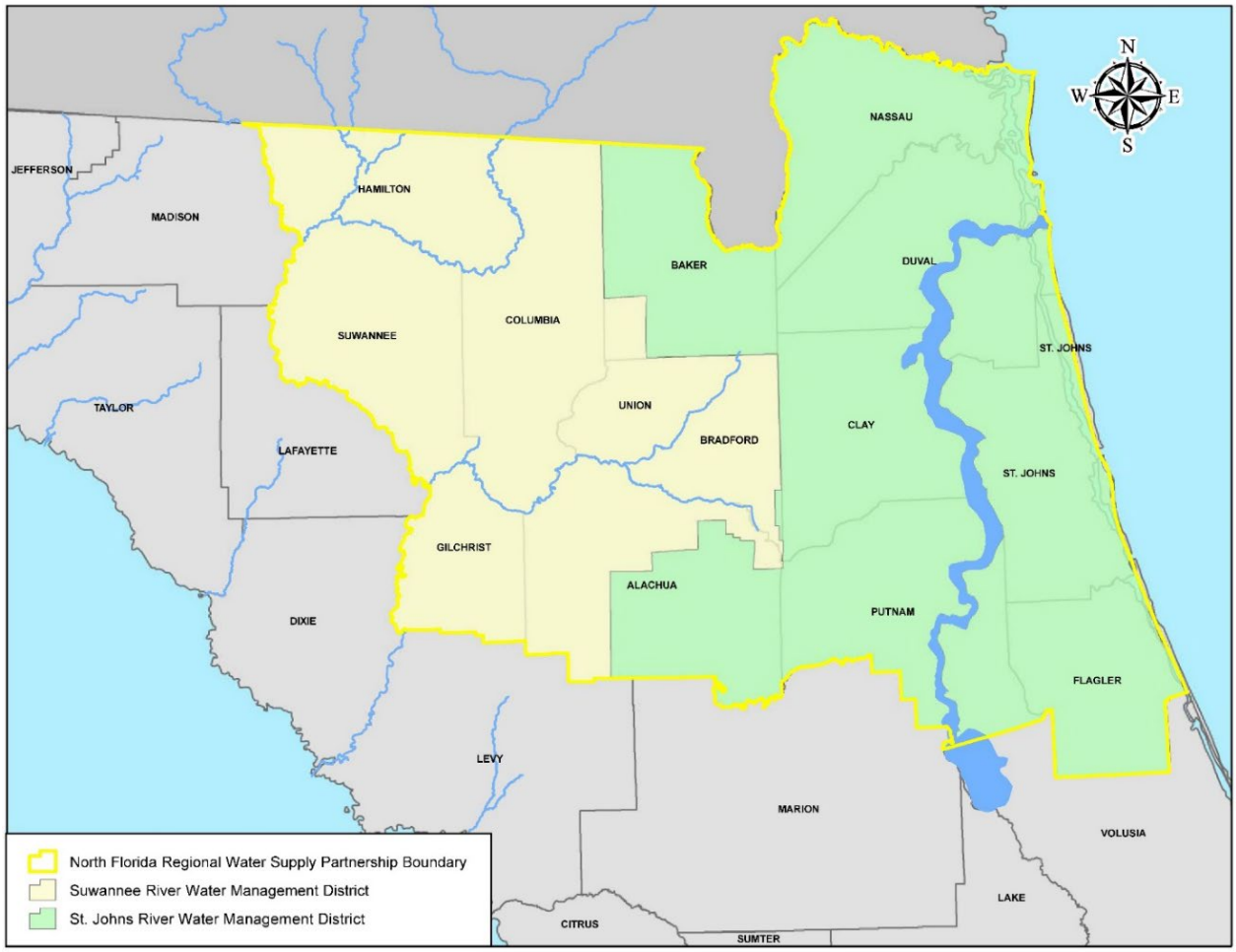


Figure 1: North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan Partnership Area

Work Program Summary

The projects listed in the Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program demonstrate progress in implementing projects which are listed in the NFRWSP and projects which support the NFRWSP's objectives. Implementation of projects listed in the NFRWSP supports the recovery strategy for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Priority Springs (LSFI). The District believes that this work program is adequate to further the recovery of LSFI, to ensure water is available to timely meet the water supply needs of existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses for a 1-in-10 year drought event and to avoid the adverse effects of competition for water supplies based on the District's established minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs).

Over the next five years, the District will continue to implement projects and support regional water management programs, including water supply planning, water resource data collection and monitoring, and establishment of MFLs to ensure the availability of adequate water supplies for all reasonable-beneficial uses and to maintain the function of natural systems. This work program illustrates the contributions of the District in support of MFLs. Establishment of MFLs will proceed according to the District's MFL Priority List. The most current version of the District's MFL priority list, and an overview of the District's MFL program is available on the District's Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels page of the website.

In total, this Work Program outlines projects that, upon completion, would make available 28.3 million gallons per day (mgd) of water, including reuse and non-reuse water across the District. These projects are detailed in Appendix A. These benefits are associated with approximately $25,356,830 budgeted for FY 2022-2023. The proposed funding for projects identified in the 5-year Work Program is approximately $43,414,315 through FY 2026-27. The District also funds Water Resource Development Activities that are regional in nature and are primarily the responsibility of the District. These activities are described in Table 1 and 2. They are also associated with approximately $6,377,619 budgeted in FY 2022-2023.

In addition, these projects set forth a commitment to develop projects associated with implementation of MFLs. The projects benefitting MFLs are anticipated to make available 28.3 mgd of reuse and non-reuse water upon completion. Of that, up to 10.4 mgd of reuse and non-reuse water will benefit MFLs in recovery.

Water Resource and Water Supply Development Project Funding

The District funds projects that support water resource development and water supply development. Water resource development components are those that involve the "formulation and implementation of regional water resource management strategies, including the collection and evaluation of surface water and groundwater data; structural and nonstructural programs to protect and manage water resources; the development of regional water resource implementation programs; the construction, operation, and maintenance of major public works facilities to provide for flood control, surface and underground water storage, and groundwater recharge augmentation; and related technical assistance to local governments, government-owned and privately owned water utilities, and self-suppliers to the extent assistance to self-suppliers promotes the policies as set forth in section 373.016, F.S."[1] Water supply development components are those that involve "planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of public or private facilities for water collection, production, treatment, transmission, or distribution for sale, resale, or end use."[2] A list of all projects meeting these statutory definitions is provided in Appendix A. The District provides funding assistance to public supply, agriculture, and other water use permittees, including industrial and commercial users, for projects that are consistent with the District's RWSP and meet the District's directive and procedures pertaining to cost-share funding.

Water Resource Development Activity Funding

The District also funds Water Resource Development Activities that are regional in nature and are therefore primarily the responsibility of the District. These Water Resource Development Activities are listed in Table 1 below; and the projected expenditures for these ongoing programs are listed in Table 2. The District has identified the need for additional Regional Water Supply Planning. These planning efforts will be ongoing for FY 2022-2023 through 2026-2027 and are reflected in the projected expenditures in Table 2.

[1] Section 373.019(24), F.S.
[2] Section 373.019(26), F.S.

Table 1: District water resource development activities and descriptions

Water Resource Development Activity	Activity Description
Water Supply Planning (1.1.1)	Long-term planning to assess and quantify existing and reasonably anticipated water supply needs and sources, and to maximize the beneficial use of those sources, for humans and natural systems. This includes water supply assessments developed pursuant to section 373.036, F.S., and regional water supply plans developed pursuant to section 373.709 F.S.
Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFL, 1.1.2)	The establishment of minimum surface and ground water levels and surface water flow conditions required to protect water resources from significant harm, as determined by the district governing board.
Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Monitoring (1.2)	Activities that support district water management planning, restoration, and preservation efforts, including water quality monitoring, data collection and evaluation, and research. Data collection and analysis activities are a critical part of the water resource development component implemented by the District. This activity supports the District's MFL program.
Water Resource Development Projects (2.2.1)	Regional projects designed to create, from traditional or alternative sources, an identifiable, quantifiable supply of water for existing and/or future reasonable-beneficial uses. These projects do not include the construction of facilities for water supply development, as defined in section 373.019(21), F.S. Such projects may include the construction, operation, and maintenance of major public works facilities that provide for the augmentation of available surface and ground water supply or that create alternative sources of supply. Water resource development projects are to be identified in water management district regional water supply plans or district water management plans, as applicable.
Water Supply Development Assistance (2.2.2)	Financial assistance for regional or local water supply development projects. Such projects may include the construction of facilities included in the term "water supply development" as defined in section 373.019(26), F.S.
Other Cooperative Projects (2.4)	Any non-water source development cooperative effort under this program area between a water management district and another organization. This activity includes the District's Agricultural Conservation Cost-Share Program.

Table 2: Fiscal year 2022-2023 through Fiscal Year 2026-2027 projected expenditures (including salaries, benefits, and operating expenses) for ongoing water resource development activities. This table does not include items listed in Appendix A or B of this work program. Except as noted below, the table estimates future year expenditures based on recurring expenses.

Regional Water Activity	Fiscal Year 2022-2023	Fiscal Year 2023-2024	Fiscal Year 2024-2025	Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Fiscal Year 2026-2027	Total
Water Supply Planning (1.1.1)	$688,435	$688,435	$688,435	$688,435	$688,435	$3,442,175
Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFL, 1.1.2)	$2,096,709	$2,096,709	$2,096,709	$2,096,709	$2,096,709	$10,483,545
Research, Data Collection, Analysis and Monitoring (1.2)	$2,863,203	$2,863,203	$2,863,203	$2,863,203	$2,863,203	$14,316,015
Water Resource Development Projects (2.2.1)	$396,303	$396,303	$396,303	$396,303	$396,303	$1,981,515
Water Supply Development Assistance (2.2.2)	$88,303	$88,303	$88,303	$88,303	$88,303	$441,515
Other Cooperative Projects (2.4)	$244,666	$244,666	$244,666	$244,666	$244,666	$1,223,330
Total	$6,377,619	$6,377,619	$6,377,619	$6,377,619	$6,377,619	$31,888,095

Basin Management Action Plan Appendix

Basin Management Action Plans are the “blueprint” for restoring impaired waters by reducing pollutant loadings to meet the allowable loadings established in a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended section 373.036, F.S., to require the identification of all specific projects that implement a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) or a recovery or prevention strategy in the Work Program. The District’s Work Program has historically identified water resource development projects that support MFL recovery and prevention but has not included specific descriptions of projects primarily intended to implement BMAPs. Consistent with section 373.036, F.S., and in a manner that has been coordinated with DEP and all five water management Districts, the District makes available as part of this Work Program a five-year funding outlook for projects specifically identified in an adopted BMAP in Appendix B.

.

Appendix A

DEP ID	Type	District Project Number	Project Name	Short Description	Project Status	Project End Date	RWSP Region Supported	Primary MFL Supported	Water Available upon Completion (MGD)	Reuse upon Completion (MGD)	FY2022-23	Total Project Cost
SRWS00031C	Agricultural Conservation	7	2015 S0905 Springs Projects: Dairy Screen Separators 06-2586-7-2400-06-06	Retrofit 18 screens and irrigation systems (Improved Nutrient Application in Dairy operations) with 9 local producers.	Underway	12/31/2024	SR NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	0.32	0.00	$200,000	$2,670,000
SRWS00018B	Other Non-Traditional Source	8	2016 Springs Projects LP6103C: Dairy Wastewater System Improvements 06-2586-7-2400-06-05	Contract with local producers throughout SRWMD to implement new technology to improve wastewater systems, reduce nutrient impacts, and reduce ground water usage.	Underway	12/30/2024	SR NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	0.14	0.00	$300,000	$1,800,000
SRWS00074A	Agricultural Conservation	33	District Cost-Share - Other Cooperative Projects Ag Cost Share 51-2586-7-2400-06-07	Implement conservation water conservation and nutrient reduction cost-share projects to reduce groundwater pumping and nutrient loads.	Underway	9/30/2026	SR District-wide	Middle Suwannee River	6.00	0.00	$1,500,000	$8,750,000
OT00145A	Flood Control Works	52	Hill Dam Breach analysis and permanent breach design (aka County Club Rd)	Evaluate options for an existing dam in Lake City to provide a permanent beach design.	Underway	12/1/2022	-	-	0.00	0.00	$165,000	$82,500
SRWS00032A	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system restoration)	82	Oakmont GRU Phase II (Recharge Wetland)	Construct a recharge wetland in western Alachua County at the Oakmont subdivision, treating both reclaimed water and stormwater.	RWSP or RPS Option Only	-	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	0.00	0.00	$180,000	$260,000
SRWS00058A	Agricultural Conservation	89	Precision Agricultural Practices 06-2586-7-2400-18-01 LP6013K	Implement precision management technology through cost-share programs with priority given to producers within both the BMAP and Outstanding Florida Springs areas.	Underway	6/30/2024	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	2.00	0.00	$1,000,000	$6,250,000
OT00141B	Flood Control Works	97	Starke Bypass Wetland Mitigation $4 M	Provide mitigation offsets for the Starke truck bypass route to mitigate construction wetland impacts.	Underway	9/1/2029	SR NFRWSP	-	0.00	0.00	$250,000	$2,980,000
SRWQ00152A	Agricultural Conservation	102	Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Advanced Technology 06-2586-7-2400-06-02 LP6103D	Implement a pilot program for agricultural operations in Basin Management Action Plan areas to improve water quality by removing and reducing nutrients.	Underway	12/31/2024	SR District-wide	-	0.00	0.00	$300,000	$1,234,625
SRWS00082A	Agricultural Conservation	103	Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Implement a pilot program for agricultural operations, landowners, counties and cities, private companies, and other entities to submit proposals to reduce water use and improve water quality by reducing and removing nutrients.	Underway	6/30/2026	SR District-wide	Lower Suwannee River	5.10	0.00	$300,000	$5,000,000

DEP ID	Type	District Project Number	Project Name	Short Description	Project Status	Project End Date	RWSP Region Supported	Primary MFL Supported	Water Available upon Completion (MGD)	Reuse upon Completion (MGD)	FY2022-23	Total Project Cost
SRWS00084A	Groundwater Recharge	111	Upper Suwannee River Regional Aquifer Recharge	Install up to four recharge wells in the Upper Suwannee River basin in locations where wetlands were historically ditched and drained into the river to capture water during high flow conditions that occur after large rainfall.	Underway	6/30/2023	SR NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	1.00	0.00	$750,000	$2,500,000
SRWS00126A	Other Project Type	210	Springs Projects 2400 (See actual projects)	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Spring Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	-	$1,000,000	$4,580,000
OT00162A	Surface Water	211	RIVER Cost Share 2300 Budget	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative RIVER Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	-	$100,000	$100,000
SRWS00127A	Surface Water	212	Springs Projects 2300 (see actual projects) Surface Water Projects TBD	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Spring Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	-	$4,100,000	$1,000,000
SRWS00128A	Other Project Type	213	Springs Projects 2201 (see actual projects)	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Spring Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR NFRWSP	-	-	-	$2,000,000	$1,000,000
OT00163A	Other Project Type	214	RIVER Cost Share 2400 Budget	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative RIVER Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	-	$300,000	$300,000
SRWS00108B	Agricultural Conservation	228	Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management	Incentivize silviculture and rural land conservation to reduce groundwater pumping and nitrogen loading in the Santa Fe and Suwannee River Basin Management Action Plan areas.	Underway	9/30/2025	SR NFRWSP	Ichetucknee Springs	3.03	0.00	$750,000	$2,378,736
SRWS00145A	Groundwater Recharge	240	Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	Enhance opportunities for aquifer recharge for silvicultural lands and areas with surplus surface waters, and replace two drainage wells near Lake Sampson will also be pursued as an opportunity for additional recharge in Bradford County.	Underway	1/31/2026	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe River	3.00	0.00	$1,250,000	$2,000,000
-	Other Project Type	251	Water Resource Development Projects TBD (Regional Projects)	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR NFRWSP	-	0.00	0.00	$200,000	$200,000
SRWS00155A	PS and CII Conservation	253	RIVER Cost Share 2202 Budget	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative RIVER Grants Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	0.00	0.00	$400,000	$400,000
SRWS00147A	Groundwater Recharge	255	Hamilton County Aquifer Recharge Replacement Wells and Water Quality Improvement	Replace two 12-inch drainage wells to provide aquifer recharge and flood protection in the Alapaha Basin.	Underway	6/30/2024	SR District outside NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	2.00	0.00	$500,000	$700,000

DEP ID	Type	District Project Number	Project Name	Short Description	Project Status	Project End Date	RWSP Region Supported	Primary MFL Supported	Water Available upon Completion (MGD)	Reuse upon Completion (MGD)	FY2022-23	Total Project Cost
SRWQ00160A	Other Project Type	256	Acquisition DEP Grants - Springs Restoration	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative Springs Grants for fiscal year land acquisition pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	0.00	$2,000,000	$2,200,000
0T00165A	Data Collection and Evaluation	258	Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge	Hydrologic Restoration using RESTORE funding to protect the Lower Suwannee National Refuge.	Complete	6/30/2022	SR District outside NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	-	0.00	$200,000	$289,291
-	Other Project Type	259	Special Projects WRD	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative Water Resource Development Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	0.00	$200,000	$100,000
-	PS and CII Conservation	282	University Oaks Phase IV	Design, permitting, and construction of approximately 5,250 LF of 6" watermain to replace deteriorated existing infrastructure and conserve water.	Underway	12/30/2023	SR District outside NFRWSP	Waccasassa River	0.02	0.00	$311,670	$316,670
-	Stormwater	287	Cross City Flood Management	Stormwater improvements to increase flood protection in the vicinity of Ruth Raines Middle School.	Underway	4/30/2023	SR District outside NFRWSP	-	0.00	0.00	$240,000	$446,665
SRWS00142A	Groundwater Recharge	291	Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Design and construct a wetland restoration system in Dixie County to re-establish natural drainage patterns and funnel excess surface water to new and existing recharge features.	Underway	12/31/2024	SR District outside NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	1.10	0.00	$1,500,000	$3,143,000
SRWS00129B	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system restoration)	293	Groundwater Recharge Wetland	Construct a groundwater recharge wetland using reclaimed water from the Kanapaha Water Reclamation facility.	Underway	6/30/2024	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	1.50	0.00	$6,100,000	$3,000,000
SRWS00141A	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	296	Lake Butler AWT Upgrade Ph 1 and Ph 2	Completing a feasibility study, design, and permitting for construction of an advanced water treatment facility, storage surge tank, and wetland that will ultimately be used to construct a new 1.0 MGD facility for City of Lake Butler.	Underway	6/30/2025	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe River	0.00	0.00	$2,500,000	$3,400,000
SRWS00031E	Agricultural Conservation	300	AWS Pivot Retrofits WS002 03-2586-7-2201-37-00	Retrofit pivot systems with a need determined by a mobile irrigation lab evaluation in existing and proposed water resource planning areas.	Underway	6/30/2022	SR District-wide	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	1.10	0.00	$500,000	$1,256,000
SRWS00140A	PS and CII Conservation	303	Public Supply Efficiency Improvements	Implement infrastructure and conservation improvements in SRWMD to reduce water loss based on water audit information.	Underway	6/30/2023	SR District-wide	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	1.40	0.00	$500,000	$1,000,000

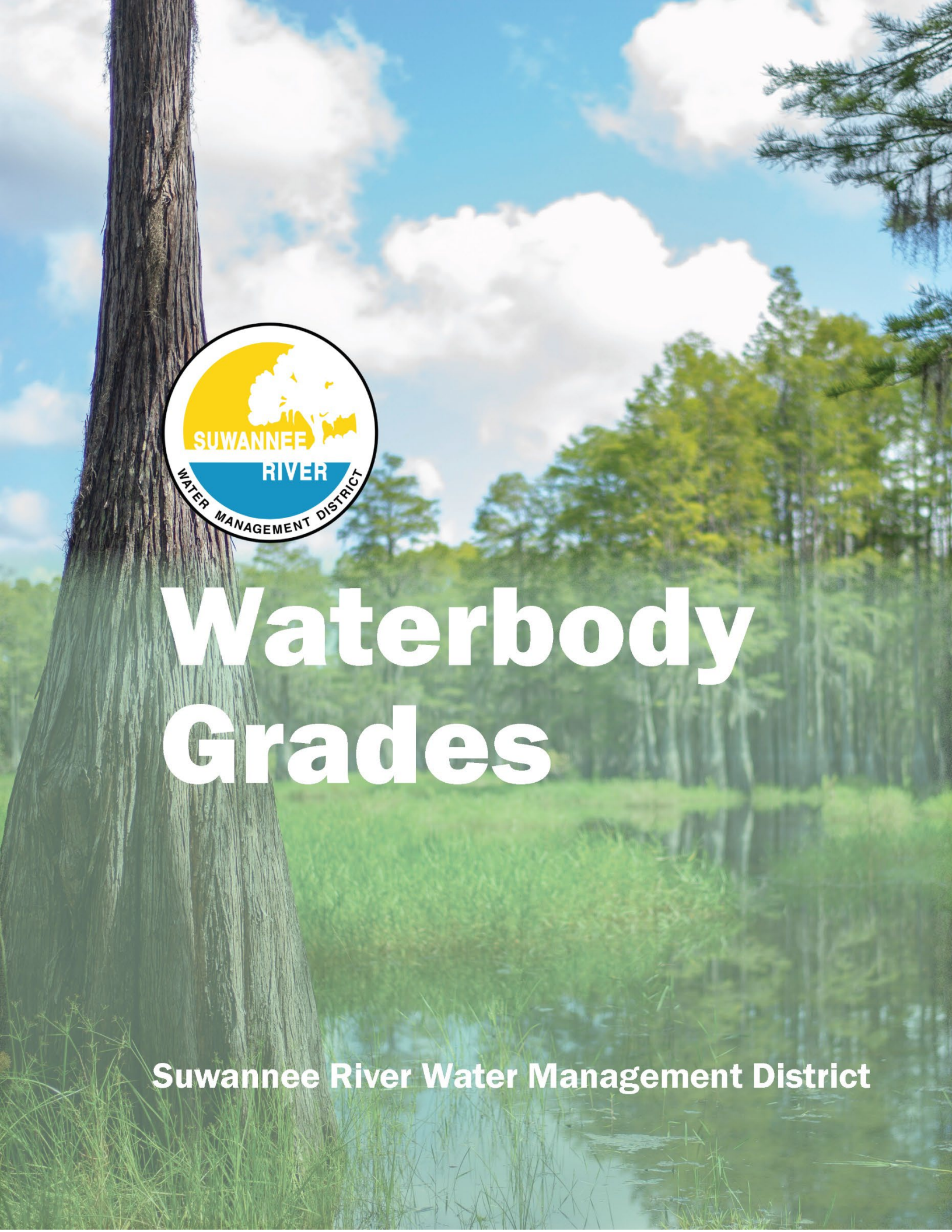
DEP ID	Type	District Project Number	Project Name	Short Description	Project Status	Project End Date	RWSP Region Supported	Primary MFL Supported	Water Available upon Completion (MGD)	Reuse upon Completion (MGD)	FY2022-23	Total Project Cost
SRWS00156A	Data Collection and Evaluation	304	Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Studies	Conduct AWTF analysis and feasibility studies including treatment wetlands and reclaimed water alternatives.	Underway	6/30/2024	SR District-wide	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee	-	0.00	$600,000	$700,000
-	Data Collection and Evaluation	311	Mallory Swamp	Conduct data collection and model existing surface water structures in Mallory Swamp tract to develop a management plan	Underway	12/31/2024	SR District outside NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	-	0.00	$50,000	$295,947
-	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	314	AWS Grants - 2201 TBD	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Alternative Water Supply Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR NFRWSP	-	-	0.00	$1,236,200	$1,350,000
-	Surface Water	315	Special Projects 2300	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Water Resource development and Alternative Water Supply Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	0.00	$200,000	$400,000
-	Surface Water	317	Surface Water (Innovative Technology)TBD Suwannee River Basin Project	Conduct a hydrologic study of the Suwannee River Basin to develop management plans.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	Middle Suwannee River	-	0.00	$200,000	$500,000
-	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system restoration)	318	AWS Grants - 2300 TBD	PLACEHOLDER - Cumulative Alternative Water Supply Projects for fiscal year pending approval of funding.	Underway	10/1/2024	SR District-wide	-	-	0.00	$1,000,000	$1,500,000
-	Data Collection and Evaluation	339	Ag Team Activities/District Cost Share - SRP Shared Positions	PLACEHOLDER -Cumulative budget to provide for shared positions.	Underway	10/1/2024	-	-	-	0.00	$212,000	$217,000
-	PS and CII Conservation	344	High Springs Water System Interconnect	Extend water main to conserve water in a WRCA	Underway	12/1/2022	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	0.02	0.00	$135,160	$248,000
-	PS and CII Conservation	345	Potable Water Improvements - Maple St.	Replace aged water line to reduce water leaks	Underway	9/30/2024	SR District outside NFRWSP	Middle Suwannee River	0.00	0.00	$78,485	$93,709
-	PS and CII Conservation	354	Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 2	Construct water main loops and isolation valves in Hampton's water supply to reduce water loss caused by flushing and water main breaks.	Underway	9/30/2023	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	0.00	0.00	$263,800	$263,800
SRWQ00007A	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	1729	Live Oak Reuse	Construct extensions to the Live Oak wastewater collection infrastructure and remove septics tanks which will provide additional reuse and reduce nutrient impacts.	Underway	11/30/2024	SR NFRWSP	Middle Suwannee River	0.00	0.01	$3,000,000	$3,240,000

DEP ID	Type	District Project Number	Project Name	Short Description	Project Status	Project End Date	RWSP Region Supported	Primary MFL Supported	Water Available upon Completion (MGD)	Reuse upon Completion (MGD)	FY2022-23	Total Project Cost
-	Stormwater	1878	Stormwater Runoff Collection in Mayo	Construct a stormwater pond to reduce flooding impacts and overflow into the sanitary sewer system.	Underway	3/28/2023	SR District outside NFRWSP	-	-	0.00	$112,000	$112,000
-	Reclaimed Water (for groundwater recharge or natural system restoration)	2090	Lancaster Correctional Facility expansion	Extend a force main from Lancaster Correctional to Fanning's WWTF to reduce nutrients and provide recharge.	Design	12/30/2026	SR District outside NFRWSP	Lower Suwannee River	0.00	0.03	$2,900,000	$2,900,000
-	Other Project Type	2093	Graham Farm Acquisition WSA06	Fee Simple land acquisition of 441 acres to reduce nutrient loading adjacent to Olustee Creek and the Santa Fe River	Underway	9/30/2024	SR NFRWSP	Lower Santa Fe River	0.29	0.00	$900,000	$1,681,700
-	Reclaimed Water (for potable offset)	2101	North Florida Mega Industrial Park	Retrofit proposed WWTF to meet AWT for future Public Access Reuse (PAR) to reduce groundwater pumping.	Design	12/30/2026	SR NFRWSP	Ichetucknee River	0.00	0.25	$2,960,000	$13,220,000

Appendix B Basin Management Action Plan

DEP Project ID	BMAP	Lead Entity	Project Name	Project Description	District Project Number	Project Status	TN Reduction (lbs/yr)	Total State Funding	Total District Funding	Lead Entity Match	Project Total
5450	WACI	SRWMD	Fertigation	Fertigating allows the producer to split up the application of fertilizer needed to grow a crop over the entire length of a growing season.	4	Underway	4115	$7,500	$0.00	$2,500.00	$10,000.00
6037	SUWA	SRWMD	Advanced Nutrient Management Through Center Pivots	Fertigation system installation and center pivot retrofits.	4	Underway	46856	$907,500	$0.00	$302,500.00	$1,210,000.00
2101	SAFE	SRWMD	Improved Nutrient Application Practices in Dairy Operations - Phase 2	To date, 9 agreements with dairies to install screen separators to reduce wastewater solids. 1 agreement with a dairy in the Santa Fe Basin. DEP has allocated $2,120,000 for districtwide program. Load reduction to land estimate of 1,485 lb-N/yr. to date	7	Underway	200	$309,600	$0.00	$1,094,528.30	$1,404,128.30
5449	WACI	SRWMD	Dairy Screen Separators	Connect two pivots to the Jeffco Dairy's wastewater system and retrofit three irrigation systems to low-pressure drop nozzle sprinklers. The project will offset groundwater use with a lower quality water source and allow for better use of nutrients.	7	Complete	1418	$46,520	$0.00	$15,506.59	$62,026.35
6038	SUWA	SRWMD	Improved Nutrient Application Practices in Dairy Operations - Phase 2	To date, nine agreements with dairies to install screen separators to reduce wastewater solids.	7	Underway	40520	$1,372,715	$0.00	$626,925.22	$1,999,639.82
2102	SAFE	SRWMD	Dairy Wastewater System Improvement	Cost-share projects with dairies to invest in advanced treatment technologies (bioreactors), additional wastewater storage, and advanced manure solid separation. Canceled because project location was determined to be outside the basin.	8	Underway	0	$0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
6039	SUWA	SRWMD	Dairy Wastewater System Improvement	Cost-share projects with dairies to invest in advanced treatment technologies (bioreactors), additional wastewater storage, and advanced manure solid separation.	8	Underway	4265	$874,747	$0.00	$368,868.21	$1,243,615.41
2099	SAFE	GRU	Oakmont Recharge Wetland	Construct a recharge wetland in an existing stormwater retention basin that will reduce nutrients while recharging aquifer. Canceled in 2019. Scope has changed - GRU looking into feasibility of new project for a large, constructed infiltrating wetland.	82	Planned	0	$180,000	$0.00	$80,000.00	$260,000.00
2107	SAFE	SRWMD	Precision Agricultural Practices	Provide cost-share funds to agricultural producers to implement precision nutrient and irrigation management technology. Districtwide program benefits split between Santa Fe and Suwannee BMAPs. Load reduction to land estimate of 312,500 lb-N/yr.	89	Underway	56250	$248,473	$0.00	$43,033.83	$291,507.23
4565	SAFE	SRWMD	Precision Ag 2	Provide cost share funds to agricultural producers within the PFA and BMAP to reduce nutrients and conserve water. See 2107	89	Cancelled	0	$0	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
5452	WACI	SRWMD	Precision Ag	Implementation of soil type mapping, soil and tissue sampling, and aerial imagery to reduce fertilizer and lime application on two farms.	89	Underway	3276	$35,301	$0.00	$14,783.74	$50,084.97
6044	SUWA	SRWMD	Precision Agricultural Practices	Provide cost-share funds to agricultural producers within the BMAP area to implement precision nutrient and irrigation management technology.	89	Underway	0	$992,852	$0.00	$178,498.97	$1,171,351.02

DEP Project ID	BMAP	Lead Entity	Project Name	Project Description	District Project Number	Project Status	TN Reduction (lbs/yr)	Total State Funding	Total District Funding	Lead Entity Match	Project Total
6042	SUWA	SRWMD	Sustainable Suwannee Springs Agriculture Pilot Program - Advanced Water Quality Improvement Technologies	Agriculture operators, landowners, local governments, private companies, other entities may submit proposals for advanced technologies that can cost-effectively reduce nitrogen in groundwater that contributes to spring flow.	102	Underway	0	$999,998	$0.00	$234,626.75	$1,234,625.00
2103	SAFE	SRWMD	Sustainable Suwannee Springs Agriculture Pilot Program - Low Input Agriculture	Operators submit proposals for less intensive cropping, changing the type, or changing fallow or native landscape land use for a certain amount of time or a permanent conservation easement. Load reduction to land estimate of 187,500 lb-N/yr.	103	Underway	33750	$349,750	$0.00	$0.00	$349,750.00
6041	SUWA	SRWMD	Sustainable Suwannee Springs Agriculture Pilot Program - Low Input Agriculture	Agriculture operators are invited to submit proposals to transition to less intensive cropping systems, type of cropping system, or land use to fallow or native landscape for a certain amount of time or a permanent conservation easement. One project liste	103	Underway	0	$985,383	$0.00	$0.00	$985,383.01
4566	SAFE	SRWMD	Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management	Incentivize silviculture and rural land conservation to reduce groundwater pumping and nitrogen loading in the Middle Suwannee springshed and Ichetucknee River.	228	Underway	0	$1,878,736	$0.00	$500,000.00	$2,378,736.00
6018	SUWA	City of Madison	Lake Frances Sediment Control	This project will improve the quality of stormwater discharged to Lake Frances from Priest Street, a 15.32-acre watershed.	271	Complete	0	$0	$92,920.00	$7,351.00	$100,271.00
5460	SAFE	SRWMD	Gwen Lake Phase 2	Installation of a drop structure behind the Parkview Baptist Church stormwater pond, regrade the conveyance, install stabilization to slow the water velocity and reduce the erosion and sedimentation contributing to the infill of Gwen Lake.	272	Planned	0	$0	$220,000.00	$75,000.00	$295,000.00
5472	SAFE	SRWMD	Gilchrist NE 2nd Way Park	Stormwater improvements and bank stabilization.	273	Underway	0	$167,974	$143,970.00	$4,500.00	$316,444.00
6021	SUWA	Dixie County	Lower Suwannee River Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge	Restore ~500 acres of sand ponds and rehydrate ~1,250 acres of wetlands by re-establishing natural flow and an aquifer recharge well. Conserving ~3.26 mgd in water supporting water supply and spring flow of Fanning Springs and the Lower Suwannee River.	74	Completed	0	$587,404	$143,000.00	$0.00	$730,404.49
6046	SUWA	SRWMD	Middle Suwannee River Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project, Phase II (Mallory Swamp)	Phase II is over 6,000 acres and will rehydrate natural systems along and adjacent to the southeastern margin of Mallory Swamp; increasing available surface water for wetland hydration and groundwater recharge, which will enhance springs restoration.	291	Underway	0	$2,993,000	$0.00	$150,000.00	$3,143,000.00
5475	SAFE	SRWMD	Lake Butler AWT Upgrade Phases 1-3	Advanced wastewater treatment facility and created wetland to be constructed in three phases.	296	Underway	2988	$3,400,000	$0.00	$0.00	$3,400,000.00
5798	SAFE	SRWMD	Wastewater Feasibility Studies	Conduct analysis for using reclaimed water including treatment wetlands.	304	Underway	0	$700,000	$0.00	$0.00	$700,000.00
6017	SUWA	City of Live Oak	2nd St. and Evelyn Ave. Wastewater System Extensions, Phase 1	Extend the City's wastewater collection system to serve approximately 30 homes.	1729	Underway	319	$3,240,000	$0.00	$0.00	$3,240,000.00
6011	SUWA	Nature Coast Regional Water Authority	Lancaster Prison/ Alliance Dairy/ City of Fanning Springs Wastewater Treatment Improvements and Aquifer Recharge	Convey wastewater from Lancaster Prison and Alliance Dairy (both facilities are secondary treatment) to City's advanced WWTF for treatment and recharge wetlands.	2090	Planned	0	$2,900,000	$0.00	$0.00	$2,900,000.00



Waterbody Grades

Suwannee River Water Management District

Introduction

Section 373.036(7)(b)9., F.S., provides that the Consolidated Annual Report shall contain a "grade for each watershed, water body, or water segment in which a project listed under subparagraph 8. is located representing the level of impairment and violations of adopted minimum flow or minimum water levels. The grading system must reflect the severity of the impairment of the watershed, water body, or water segment."

Table 1 lists the projects contained within the Five-year Water Resource Development Work Plan, the watershed, water body, or water segment the project impacts, and a grade for two items: 1) the water quality level of impairment and 2) the level of violation of a minimum flow or minimum water level.

Level of Impairment Grade

The Level of Impairment grade is represented as follows:

Impaired—High: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is impaired for one or more parameters other than mercury and based on a consideration of other factors, including the number of impairments, the presence of Outstanding Florida Waters, the proximity to ongoing or planned restoration activities, the ecological priority of the water for endangered and threatened species, environmental justice concerns, the amount of anthropogenic land use, and local aquifer vulnerability.

Impaired: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is impaired for one or more parameters other than mercury.

Not impaired: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is not impaired for any parameters other than mercury.

The FDEP provided the impairment grades based upon Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) based Water Body IDs (WBIDs). Projects that impact a specific WBID were identified in Table 1 for that WBID. As an example, a project that replaced disposal of treated wastewater in a spray field or Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) with beneficial use of reclaimed water utilized the impairment grade associated with the WBID where the spray field or RIB were originally located. It is important to note that projects contained within a Water Resource Development Work Program are focused on water use/conservation with the exception of the projects contained in Appendix B – District Projects for Implementing Basin Management Action Plans.

The Level of Violation of Adopted MFL is represented as follows:

The waterbody was evaluated based on the relative magnitude of the MFL violation and rated as close, moderately close, or not close to meeting the MFL. In evaluating this element, the Districts considered the magnitude of the variance from the MFL, the magnitude of the ecological impact, the timeframe for recovery, and the timeframe for completion of the projects.

The waterbody was also evaluated based on the regional significance of the water body and rated as Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 with Tier 1 being the highest rating for regional significance and Tier 3 being the lowest rating. In evaluating this element, the Districts considered the waterbody's size and geographical extent, ecological importance, recreational uses, navigation, threatened/endangered species, wildlife utilization, aesthetics, and historical and archeological significance.

Meeting: This grade is assigned for any MFL that was determined to be meeting its MFL at the time of its adoption or during its last status evaluation.

Level 0: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is meeting the MFL but is projected to not meet the MFL within 20 years (that is, the waterbody is in prevention).

Level I: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated as a Tier 3 or Tier 2 for regional significance; or the waterbody is moderately close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 3 for regional significance

Level II: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 1 for regional significance; or the waterbody is moderately close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 2 for regional significance; or the waterbody is not close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 3 for regional significance.

Level III: This grade is assigned if the waterbody is moderately close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 1 for regional significance; or the waterbody is not close to meeting the MFL and the waterbody is rated a Tier 2 or Tier 1 for regional significance

.

Project Name	Primary MFL Supported	Quantity Grade	Waterbody Benefited	WBID	Quality Grade
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Lower Suwannee River	3422;3422A	Impaired - High
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Middle Suwannee	3483	Impaired
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Middle Suwannee	3438;3480;3495;3636	Not Impaired
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Santa Fe River	3649	Not Impaired
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Upper Suwannee	3336	Not Impaired
Springs Projects: Task 1 Fertigation	-	-	Withlacoochee River	3315	Impaired
Dairy Screen Separators	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3469	Not Impaired
Dairy Wastewater System Improvements	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Dairy Wastewater System Improvements	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Suwannee River (Lower Segment)	3422	Impaired - High
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Alapaha River	3324	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Aucilla	Meeting	Aucilla River	3417	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3422;3422A	Impaired - High
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3662;3668;3679;3687;3693;3704;3710;3713;3726	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3483;3568	Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3438;3469;3509;3543;3561;3624;3643	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Waccasassa River	Meeting	Orange Creek	2692	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Other Coastal	3698;3702	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Waccasassa River	Meeting	Rainbow River	2765	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3531	Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3506;3605A;3605C	Impaired - High
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3504A;3516;3570;3605E;3613;3617;3620;3625;3627;3649;3665;3678A	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Upper Suwannee	3341	Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Upper Suwannee	3336;3388;3465	Not Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Waccasassa River	Meeting	Waccasassa River	3699;3747	Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Waccasassa River	Meeting	Waccasassa River	1317;3675;3719;3731	Not Impaired

Project Name	Primary MFL Supported	Quantity Grade	Waterbody Benefited	WBID	Quality Grade
District Ag Cost-Share	Madison Blue Spring	Meeting	Withlacoochee River	3315;3366	Impaired
District Ag Cost-Share	Madison Blue Spring	Meeting	Withlacoochee River	3322	Not Impaired
County Club Rd	Ichetucknee River	Level III	Alligator Lake Outlet, Alligator Lake	3516	Not Impaired
Oakmont GRU Phase II (Recharge Wetland)	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	UFA, Orange Creek	2692	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Alapaha River	3324	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Aucilla	Meeting	Aucilla River	3311;3317;	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3422;3422A	Impaired - High
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3704	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	-	-	Middle Suwannee	3483	Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3624;3643	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3506;3605A	Impaired - High
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3613;3617;3620	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Upper Suwannee	3336	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	-	-	Waccasassa River	3675	Not Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Madison Blue Spring	Meeting	Withlacoochee River	3315;3366	Impaired
Precision Agricultural Practices	Madison Blue Spring	Meeting	Withlacoochee River	3321	Impaired - High
Starke Bypass Wetland Mitigation	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Alligator Creek	3598C	Not Impaired
Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Advanced Technology	-	-	Santa Fe River	3605A	Impaired - High
Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Alligator Lake Outlet, Alligator Lake	3516	Not Impaired
Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Sustainable Suwannee Ag Pilot Program - Low Input	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3520	Not Impaired
Upper Suwannee River Regional Aquifer Recharge	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management	Ichetucknee Springs	Level III	Ichetucknee River	3519	Not Impaired
Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	Lower Santa Fe River	Level III	Santa Fe River	3593	Not Impaired
Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	Lower Santa Fe River	Level III	Santa Fe River	3598	Not Impaired

Project Name	Primary MFL Supported	Quantity Grade	Waterbody Benefited	WBID	Quality Grade
Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement & Recharge Project	Lower Santa Fe River	Level III	Santa Fe River	3598D	Not Impaired
Hamilton County Aquifer Recharge Replacement Wells and Water Quality Improvement	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	UFA, Tiger Creek	3358	Not Impaired
Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3422A	Impaired - High
Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3726	Not Impaired
Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3732	Not Impaired
Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Waccasassa River	3729A	Impaired
Lake Frances Sediment Control	-	-	Lake Frances	3366A	Impaired
Gwen Lake Phase 2	-	-	Lake Lona Drain	3486	Not Impaired
Gilchrist NE 2nd Way Park	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3605B	Impaired - High
University Oaks Phase IV	Waccasassa River	Meeting	UFA, Unnamed Slough	3712	Not Impaired
Cross City Flood Management	-	-	Airport Canal, Fishbone Creek	3686	Not Impaired
Cross City Flood Management	-	-	Airport Canal, Fishbone Creek	3691	Not Impaired
Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3668	Not Impaired
Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee	3684	Not Impaired
Dixie County Multiple Basin Aquifer Recharge (MBAR)	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Suwannee River (Lower Segment)	3422	Impaired - High
Groundwater Recharge Wetland	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	UFA, Orange Creek	2692	Not Impaired
Lake Butler AWT Upgrade Ph 1 and Ph 2	Lower Santa Fe River	Level III	Five Mile Creek, Santa Fe	3578	Impaired
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Aucilla	Meeting	Aucilla	3317	Not Impaired
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Lower Suwannee River	3422A	Impaired - High
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3568	Impaired
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3605A	Impaired - High
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Upper Suwannee	3341	Impaired
AWS Pivot Retrofits	Madison Blue Spring	Meeting	Withlacoochee River	3315	Impaired
Public Supply Efficiency Improvements	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3615	Not Impaired
Public Supply Efficiency Improvements	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3633	Not Impaired

Project Name	Primary MFL Supported	Quantity Grade	Waterbody Benefited	WBID	Quality Grade
Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Studies	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee	Level III	UFA, Santa Fe River	3570	Not Impaired
Mallory Swamp	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Mallory Swamp, Suwannee River	3684	Not Impaired
High Springs Water System Interconnect	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	Santa Fe River	3605C	Impaired - High
Potable Water Improvements - Maple St.	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Tenmile Hollow	3438	Not Impaired
Hampton Water Main Loop Phase 2	Lower Santa Fe Ichetucknee Rivers	Level III	UFA, Hampton Ditch	3633	Not Impaired
Live Oak Reuse	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Tenmile Hollow	3438	Not Impaired
Stormwater Runoff Collection in Mayo	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Middle Suwannee	3422B	Impaired - High
Lancaster Correctional Facility expansion	Lower Suwannee River	Meeting	Fanning Spring	3422A	Impaired - High
Graham Farm Acquisition	Lower Santa Fe River	Level III	Olustee Creek	3504A	Not Impaired
North Florida Mega Industrial Park	Ichetucknee River	Level III	Santa Fe River	3513	Not Impaired

2023 Florida Forever Work Plan

Suwannee River Water Management District

Contents

ADA Statement

Americans with Disabilities Act: The District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District at 386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (Florida only). The District's fax number is 386.362.1056.

Introduction

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is required by section 373.199(7), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to update the Florida Forever Work Plan annually. This annual update is presented as a separate chapter in the Consolidated Annual Report pursuant to section 373.036(7), F.S.

The Florida Forever Act also provides funding opportunities for land acquisition projects and water resource development and restoration projects. Florida Forever funding must be used to achieve the following goals, as set out in section 259.105, F.S.:

Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects.
Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels.
Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state.
Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state.
Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities.
Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites.
Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources.
Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas.

The Florida Forever Work Plan annual update presents projects the District has identified as eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and reports on District land acquisition and management activities. Table 1 lists Florida Forever expenditures for each fiscal year (FY). Table 2 outlines projected expenditures for the next five years.

Table 1. Actual Florida Forever Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Fee Acquisition Expenditures	Fee Acres Acquired	Conservation Easement Expenditures	Conservation Easement Acres Acquired	Water Resource Development	Restoration
2000-2001	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001-2002	$4,117,869	30,477	$5,643,127	12,960	-	-
2002-2003	$1,158,661	564	$3,382,632	5,026	-	-
2003-2004	$3,565,225	1,761	$1,517,048	2,023	-	-
2004-2005	$3,792,645	2,661	-	-	-	-
2005-2006	$648,440	123	-	-	-	-
2006-2007	$13,082,288	4246	-	-	-	-
2007-2008	$4,041,930	493	$6,379,514	3,294	-	$210,510
2008-2009	$10,965,200	2,171	-	-	-	-
2009-2010	$494,000	84	$1,789,725	786	$23,500	$309,080
2010-2011	$5,426,437	1,201	$1,557,593	682	$400,000	-
2011-2012	-	-	$250,710	167	-	-
2012-2013	-	-	-	-	$20,825	-
2013-2014	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014-2015	$628,145	85	$707,850	35	$97,918	-
2015-2016	$7,160	-	-	-	$26,398	-
2016-2017	$20,073	-	-	-	-	-
2017-2018	$1,760,918	329	$8,045	199	-	-
2018-2019	$12,828	5.41	$1,795	-	-	-
2019-2020	-	9.8 [3]	$25,000	-	-	-
2020-2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021-2022	-	-	$66,779	313	-	-
Total	$49,721,819	44,210	$21,329,818	25,485	$568,641	$519,590

Table 2. Projected Florida Forever Expenditures

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Conservation Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-
Water Resource Development and Restoration Projects	-	-	-	-	-
Total Projected	-	-	-	-	-

Water Resource Development

The District is responsible for managing water resources to ensure there is an adequate supply to satisfy all existing and projected reasonable and beneficial uses while sustaining water resources and protecting natural systems. Potential water resource development projects eligible for Florida Forever funding are detailed below. As the District continues to work with its various partners to further develop these projects, the District will look to leverage multiple funding sources including Florida Forever funding.

Upper Suwannee River Basin Water Storage and Aquifer Recharge Projects

Columbia and Hamilton Counties

These projects propose the identification of areas within the Upper Suwannee River Basin where surface water storage and aquifer recharge can be implemented to attenuate flooding, maintain baseflows in surface streams, and restore the Floridan aquifer system. In some areas, it may be feasible to use surface water as an alternative water supply to reduce reliance on groundwater. The District is looking for suitable public and private lands to site water storage and recharge wells within these counties. The project cost is being determined.

UPPER SUWANNEE RIVER REGIONAL AQUIFER RECHARGE

This project will evaluate and potentially enhance the quantity and quality of aquifer recharge through the installation of recharge wells in the Upper Suwannee River Basin, adjacent to existing reclaimed wetlands. The number and size of wells to be constructed would be determined by the analyses of water quality and water supply conducted in the study phase. The estimated capital cost is $2,500,000.

HAMILTON COUNTY AQUIFER RECHARGE

This project will evaluate and enhance the quantity and quality of aquifer recharge in Hamilton County. This project includes the replacement of two, 12-inch drainage wells to provide aquifer recharge and flood protection in the Alapaha Basin. The wells would allow up to two million gallons per day (MGD) of aquifer recharge to the upper Floridan aquifer (UFA). Positive flows into the wells will provide a benefit to springs along the Upper Suwannee River. The project cost is estimated at $700,000.

Suwannee County

PILGRIM'S PRIDE WASTEWATER REUSE FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT

This project is located in western Suwannee County and is to investigate, and potentially implement, the reuse of the wastewater stream from the Pilgrim's Pride poultry processing facility along U.S.

Highway 90 near Falmouth Spring. Reuse of the wastewater eliminates a permitted discharge into the Suwannee River and provides an alternate source of up to 1.5 MGD of groundwater to a potential user(s) currently using Floridan aquifer water, thereby helping maintain base flows to nearby springs as well as to the Suwannee River. The project is to assess reuse potential within at least a five-mile radius from the facility, and includes local agricultural irrigation, dairy pasture irrigation, and a sawmill as possible end-users. The project cost has not been determined.

Lower Santa Fe Basin Recovery and Recharge Projects

The District, together with state and local partners, is evaluating the feasibility of constructing and/or modifying stormwater storage ponds to capture and retain high flows during large rain events such that stored stormwater can be used for alternative water supply or for recharge through percolation, recharge wells or sinkholes. The project cost and benefits have not been determined.

Upper Santa Fe Basin Flood Mitigation and Aquifer Recharge Projects

Alachua and Bradford Counties

These projects propose the identification of areas within the Upper Santa Fe Basin where surface water storage and aquifer recharge can be implemented to attenuate flooding, maintain baseflows in surface streams, and restore the Floridan aquifer system. The District is looking for suitable public and private lands to site water storage and recharge wells.

WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

The District continues to recognize potential projects to enhance natural resources on over 5,390 acres in eastern Alachua and over 2,575 acres in eastern Bradford County. The water resource development area project includes District-owned land adjacent to the Florida National Guard's (Guard) Camp Blanding. The purchase was funded by a grant from the Guard through the Department of Defense (DOD) as part of a program designed to secure buffers around military installations. This project provides an opportunity for natural resource enhancement and restoration (particularly wetlands), flood protection, potential aquifer recharge to the UFA, and to augment flows to the Upper Santa Fe River. Aquifer recharge associated with this project will have regional cross-boundary benefits for stressed water resources in both the District and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) due to its proximity to the Keystone Heights potentiometric high, which is a regional recharge area for the UFA. The project cost and benefits have not been determined.

BROOKS SINK PHASE 2

Brooks Sink, located in Bradford County, is known as one of the largest cover collapse sink holes in Florida and directly connects to the UFA. In the 1960s, previous landowners excavated a series of ditches to drain the wetlands and divert the natural flow of water away from Brooks Sink. In 2015, the District, partnering with Rayonier Operating Company, LLC, completed the first phase of the Brooks Sink Project, which involved installing a flashboard riser in the main ditch to divert the water back to the sinkhole. The first phase has resulted in 244.2 million gallons of recharge from March 1, 2015 through February 2021. Phase 2 proposes to include an additional 1,020 acres, for a total project area of 2,020 acres, on which flows would be redirected to the natural sink for additional recharge. Phase 2 is in the conceptual design phase and the project cost is being determined...

LAKE SAMPSON DRAINAGE WELLS

This project proposes to replace an abandoned drainage well to provide aquifer recharge and flood protection in the Lake Sampson Basin. Flow into the well(s) will be monitored with telemetry using a flume and water level instrumentation. Positive flows into the well will provide a benefit to springs in

the Lower Santa Fe River Basin as well as to related Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs) set for the river, which are currently in recovery. The District is reviewing this as part of the Bradford County Silviculture Enhancement and Recharge project. The project cost is estimated to be $1,200,000.

LAKE SAMPSON, LAKE ROWELL, AND CROSBY LAKE

This project is being reviewed for the potential to store and treat floodwaters. It is also a potential site for aquifer recharge using treated wastewater. The project is currently in a feasibility status. The project cost and benefits have not been determined.

Outstanding Springs and Priority Focus Area Projects

Sustainable Suwannee – Forestry Cost-Share Pilot Project

This cost-share project would benefit springs by encouraging land uses that use less water and reduce potential nutrient inputs into surface or groundwaters. Three Outstanding Florida Springs - Ichetucknee, Madison Blue, and Troy Springs, as well as Primary or Priority Focus Areas (PFAs) within those respective springsheds will be addressed for potential opportunities. Approximately 3,000 acres may be enrolled.

Accelerating Suwannee River Restoration and Silviculture Management

This cost-share project will incentivize silviculture and land conservation to reduce groundwater pumping and nitrogen loading with preference given to the PFAs throughout the Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins.

Dispersed Water Storage Initiative

Several decades ago, industrial landowners excavated ditches to drain land for commercial purposes, including pine tree production. This draining had detrimental impacts to the environment including: increased risk of downstream flooding due to an increase in peak stormwater discharge; loss of natural wetland systems and reduced aquifer discharge due to lowering the water table and shortening the wetland hydro-period; and adverse impacts to the fishery resources due to an increase in freshwater discharge to estuaries.

This project will enhance water resources and restore natural systems by dispersing water over wetland areas. To expand this concept, the District plans to partner with private landowners to gain additional water resource benefits. The District will establish project budgets as individual projects are identified and developed.

Drainage Well Replacement/Rehabilitation and Enhancement of Natural Recharge Features

The District's karst landscape is characterized by frequent interaction between groundwater and surface water through sinkholes and other natural recharge features that promote rapid recharge to the Floridan aquifer. In the past, local governments used this phenomena to their advantage by accelerating rainfall drainage and reducing flooding impacts using drainage wells. Over time, most of the wells have fallen into disrepair or have been plugged entirely. Drainage well replacement and rehabilitation projects would accelerate aquifer recharge and provide increased flood protection, while incorporating modern flow conveyances to provide a greater level of control and implement water quality improvements. The District has identified existing and/or abandoned drainage wells within the Northern Highland geographic region for replacement/rehabilitation. In addition, the

District will identify natural recharge features that may provide recharge projects on an opportunistic basis.

Engineering for Regional Water Resource Development

Preliminary engineering feasibility and scope-identification analyses are typically required to leverage regional water resource development projects to derive enhanced benefits related to water supply or water quality improvement goals. Within the District, the vast majority of municipalities and counties are economically distressed and are not fiscally able to implement this type of effort. This project would serve to identify and define 'shovel-ready' projects that can be initiated upon securing of other funding avenues.

Conservation and Alternative Water Supply Projects

Develop and implement alternative water supplies throughout the Suwannee River Basin to offset groundwater demands and enhance water supply. Projects include pivot retrofits for reducing groundwater pumping, upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities to Advanced Treatment (AWT) for reuse, public supply efficiency improvements, feasibility studies targeting Wastewater Treatment Faculties in PFA and basin management action plan (BMAP) areas, construction of AWT facilities as determined by the feasibility studies, and groundwater recharge wetlands.

Aquifer Recharge Projects

Develop and implement aquifer recharge projects throughout the Suwannee River Basin to offset groundwater demands and enhance water supply. The source could be surface, stormwater, or reclaimed water from an AWT facility.

Restoration Projects

The District, together with state and local partners, has devoted significant funding to projects that focus on restoring water quality and quantity to protect natural systems, especially springs, rivers, and wetlands. Descriptions of water resource restoration projects identified as eligible for Florida Forever funding are provided below. The District continues to work with its state and local partners to identify additional project needs. As projects are developed, the District will look to leverage various funding sources including Florida Forever.

San Pedro Bay, Mallory Swamp, and Waccasassa Flats

HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION

The District contains extensive 'pocosin swamps' that were historically ditched and drained to reduce groundwater saturation of the pocosin soils to allow more intensive plantings of pine species. The largest of these swamps are known as San Pedro Bay in Madison, Taylor, and Lafayette counties, Mallory Swamp in Lafayette and Dixie counties, and the Waccasassa Flats in central Gilchrist County. While successful in increasing plantation densities, derivative impacts included declines in the UFA underlying the swamps, periodic drying of sand-bottom lakes at the perimeter of the swamps, and increased suspended solids in the canals and riverine systems leading to the Gulf of Mexico.

The goal of future projects in these critical areas is to restore natural hydrology and thereby improve wetland conditions and enhance aquifer recharge at the swamp perimeters to aid in perimeter lake level recovery, as well as, to provide increased springflows to major river systems. These hydrologic restoration projects will also reduce the discharge of suspended solids through the extensive remaining canal networks to natural receiving water bodies and eventually the Gulf of Mexico.

Hydrologic restoration projects in these areas can be accomplished through the acquisition of large conservation easements within the swamp boundaries and along man-made drainage features to permit construction of and perpetual maintenance access for control structures (culverts, ditch blocks, controlled gates), recharge wells and related conveyances, and other restoration activities. An estimated minimum practicable project size would be 4,000 acres, with an estimate cost of $4.0 million. Total acreage within the three swamps is more than 600,000 acres. Currently, 59,697 acres are conserved in these regions - 52,428 acres in fee simple and 6,269 acres in conservation easements.

Lafayette County

MIDDLE SUWANNEE RIVER AND SPRINGS RESTORATION PROJECT: PHASE II

The proposed Phase II of the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project is anticipated to be a private-public partnership between a timber company and the District. The Phase II property is adjacent to Mallory Swamp and adjacent to the existing boundary of the Middle Suwannee Project. The Phase II property is in excess of 6,000 acres, and the District is investigating conservation easement acquisition opportunities to optimize the water resources development potential of the Middle Suwannee Project. Phase II will rehydrate natural systems along and adjacent to the southeastern margin of Mallory Swamp; thereby, increasing available surface water for wetland hydration and groundwater recharge, which will enhance springs restoration. The District's approach includes re-establishment of natural drainage patterns by modifying and constructing hydraulic structures (such as culverts and flashboard risers) adjacent to Mallory Swamp, and using natural recharge features and potentially one or more aquifer recharge wells at strategic locations. Phase II is in the initial stages of investigation with potential benefits being determined. The project cost and benefits are being determined.

District-wide

SPRING WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY RESTORATION

Since 2012, the District's Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) program has contributed over $8.8 million along with state contributions over $12.1 million for projects generating water quantity and quality improvements, which focus on springs protection and restoration activities. These projects increase springflow, improve erosion and sediment control, reduce nutrient (Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorous, Suspended Solids) loading, improve recreational opportunities, support economic growth and development within our communities, and provide natural systems restoration and protection. Projects focused on springs restoration may include: construction of stormwater management systems, parking lot paving, bank repair and stabilization, sediment and debris removal from spring boils/pool/run, construction of distinct access entrance points to protect bank (i.e. steps, ramp, diving platform, canoe launch, etc.), invasive vegetation removal, and/or native aquatic plant installation. These types of springs restoration projects cost approximately $100,000 – $300,000 depending on scope.

WASTEWATER SEPTIC TO SEWER UPGRADES

Efforts to reduce wastewater pollution may include the elimination of small wastewater package plants and septic tanks that have low levels of treatment and redirect the wastewater to larger regional plants with higher treatment levels. Eliminating septic tanks and package plants can be accomplished by installing service connections to existing sanitary sewer collection systems which directly connect to regional wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). Costs vary greatly depending on the existence of a collection system and the capacity of the WWTP. If the plant can handle the additional wastewater and the collection system is close by, the scope simply involves pumping out the wastewater, crushing the septic tank, and adding a sanitary sewer service connection line. If

grinder pumps are needed, project costs will increase. The District will continue to work with local governments to develop wastewater infrastructure upgrades and septic to sewer conversion projects. Project costs will be determined as individual projects are identified.

STORMWATER TREATMENT

Agricultural and urban runoff has been identified as significant sources of nutrient, bacterial, and potential toxic contaminant pollution. The goal of stormwater treatment projects is to collect and treat stormwater runoff before it is discharged to surface waters and groundwater. This can be accomplished using hydrodynamic separators or screening devices as a pretreatment method and then using best management practices such as retention and detention systems to filter and/or dilute storm waters. Benefits include preventing trash, debris, suspended solids, oils, and other pollutants from entering surface waters and groundwater, reducing flow rates to match predevelopment rates, reducing erosion, reducing nutrient loading, and maximizing storage capacity and property usage. Stormwater treatment projects cost vary depending on type of treatment and if land is needed. Project costs average approximately $50,000 per acre of impervious area for treatment.

Land Acquisition and Land Management

Land acquisition and management activities protect water resources and the overall ecological health of communities within the District. The Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, federal, District and Florida Forever programs have preserved approximately 289,343 acres to protect the region's river systems and groundwater resources. The following table summarizes fee and less than fee acres owned by the District as of December 2022.

*Table 3. Protected Lands by River Basins**

Basin	Fee Acres	Less Than Fee Acres	Potential Acquisition Project Acres
Alapaha	2,875	1,544	8,422
Aucilla/Wacissa	15,750	12,033	38,963
Coastal River/Econfina/Steinhatchee	49,954	52,666	42,654
Santa Fe/Ichetucknee	15,428	8,458	62,598
Suwannee	65,940	28,833	39,808
Waccasassa	5,266	24,159	12,934
Withlacoochee	6,421	16	15,007
Total	161,634	127,709	220,386

*Acreage updated to reflect best data available via GIS and land database

Land Acquisition Planning

The District's land acquisition efforts focus on areas for springs protection and to support potential water resource development projects. Water resource development project areas are located in two broad zones:

- Areas of high recharge adjacent to the Cody Escarpment: These areas provide the highest

potential for identifying and/or locating natural recharge features in the vicinity of possible upgradient recharge water sources, with the intent of minimizing eventual water resource development project transmission and treatment costs.

- Areas of potentiometric high groundwater: These areas constitute the greatest relative benefit with respect to the duration of time that recharged or otherwise retained waters remain in the UFA, as well as maximizing groundwater gradients in springsheds.

The land acquisition program is strictly voluntary — all land acquisition projects are negotiated with willing sellers within the constraints of appraised market value. Lands offered for sale are evaluated by District staff and contractors, who then make recommendations to the Governing Board Lands Committee for review and approval to send the proposed acquisition to the full Governing Board for consideration. The following objectives guide the District's evaluation of potential acquisition areas:

- Preserving floodplain to maintain storage capacity, attenuate floodwaters, and mitigate flood risk;
- Protecting groundwater quality by maintaining low intensity land uses;
- Preserving natural buffers along water bodies where adjacent uses have a high potential to degrade surface water quality;
- Preserving and protecting springs and surrounding areas to protect and improve surface and groundwater; and
- Increasing recharge to the UFA via water resource development projects restoring natural hydrology in headwater swamps and increasing water retention for recharge enhancement.

Approved Land Acquisition Projects

The Governing Board has directed staff to use a watershed approach to conduct detailed assessments of potential acquisitions and water resource development projects within the Aucilla, Coastal Rivers, Lower Suwannee, and Waccasassa River basins. This allows staff to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities and leverage District resources on potential projects with RESTORE funds and other funding sources. The Governing Board also approved District staff to work with local partners to identify potential acquisition and water resource development projects in the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee basins that benefit the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Springs MFLs and the Santa Fe BMAP. If benefits for acquisition are identified, staff will make a recommendation to the Lands Committee for review and then forward to the Governing Board for consideration.

Table 4. Acquisition Projects Approved for Detailed Assessment

Seller	Project	Acres	County
Waldo Tree Farms	Fee Acquisition	44.5	Alachua
Pflieger	Riverbend Estates (exchange for District Surplus property	1.1	Dixie
Camp and Abel	Camp and Abel	366	Hamilton

Florida Department of Transportation	Quail Heights	40.63	Columbia
Lasky	Lasky	351.74	Gilchrist

Table 5. Acquisitions Closed in FY 2022 & Early FY 2023

Seller	Acres	County	Date	Transaction	Funding Source
Alachua Conservation Trust (Telford Springs)	94	Suwannee	7.29.22	Fee Acquisition	Springs Grant/Save our Rivers
Harpo Holdings	313	Gilchrist	9.30.22	Conservation Easement	Save Our Rivers/Florida Forever
McB-Pinehatchee/R.O. Ranch Exchange	2950/1277	Lafayette	10.07.22	Fee Exchange	Save Our Rivers
Alachua Conservation Trust	282	Columbia	10.17.22	Conservation Easement	Save Our Rivers/Surplus Funds

Surplus Lands

The District reviews its land holdings to identify any areas that may not be critical for floodplain management, aquifer recharge, and the protection of surface waters, wetlands, and springs. Such lands are declared surplus and either sold or exchanged on the private market or conveyed to other units of government. The proceeds of any sales and exchanges are dedicated to the acquisition of lands with higher water resource and conservation values. Table 6 lists lands declared no longer needed for conservation and to be surplused during FY 2022. Table 7 lists lands surplused in FY 2022.

Table 6. Lands Approved for Surplus FY 2022

Tract	Acres	County	Acquired Date	Funding
Branford Bend	50	Suwannee	06.30.2004	Florida Forever
Country Club Road	80	Columbia	07.01.2015	Enforcement Action
Forest Woodlands	11	Gilchrist	10.11.1996	Save Our Rivers
Santa Fe Oasis	1	Gilchrist	04.28.1998	Save Our Rivers
Suwannee Run Shores	1.175	Dixie	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers
Three Rivers Estates	1	Columbia	12.30.1997	Save Our Rivers
Turtle Spring Surplus Tract	32	Lafayette	05.13.2015	Florida Forever
Newberry Wellfield	58.66	Alachua	1.11.2000	P-2000

Table 7. Surplus Lands and Easement Activity FY 2022

Surplus/Easement Parcels	Acres	County	Disposition Date	Transaction	Proceeds
Double Run Creek	107	Bradford	09.12.2022	Conveyance to SJRWMD*	None
R.O. Ranch	1,277	Lafayette	10.7.2022	Exchange	None

*Deed recording from the original 2015 acquisition which included 107 acres within SJRWMD that was to be conveyed to the neighboring district.

Land Management

The April 2022 Land Management Review Team (LMRT) meeting and field tour was in the Upper Suwannee River basin (Madison and Hamilton counties). The reviews focused on activities conducted during FY 2021. The areas of the review included water resources, natural resource management, public use, and facilities in representative areas. The LMRT participants were asked to score the District on it's ten management strategies from the District Land Management Plan (DLMP) and two core statuary requirements using the following scores:

0 – not meeting the strategies of the DLMP;

1 – meeting the strategies of the DLMP; and

2 – meeting and exceeding the strategies outlined in the DLMP.

For the activities conducted in FY 2021 the scores ranged from a low of 1.47 for Water Resources management to the highest scores of 1.76 for the management of Ground Cover Resources, Forest Resources, Rare Species Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources, Public Use, and Fiscal Responsibility. Water resource management obtained a 1.62. The overall average score of the ten management strategies was 1.69. The scores for "managed for purposes acquired" was 1.76 and the score for "in accordance with Management Plan" was 1.71; these scores are required statutorily.

The participants' scores indicate substantial acceptance with the programmatic achievement of the management strategies set by the Governing Board and Florida Statutes. Overall, the participants approve the planning and methods used by District staff in managing the District's fee titled lands in FY 2021.

The Annual Land Management Report addresses social and economic management goals and management activities which are key components of the land management program and include resource protection, public use, communications and fiscal responsibility.

The following summarizes significant natural community resource projects during FY 2022. Once completed, a complete listing of activities and accomplishments will be found in the FY 2022 Annual Land Management Report and will be made available on the District's website.

Natural Resource Management

FOREST RESOURCES

In FY 2022, the District completed eleven timber sales totaling 1,224 acres.

Final harvests of offsite pine species were conducted on 765 acres. These sites will be reforested with longleaf pines.

Pine thinning and/or hardwood chipping was conducted on 459 acres to improve forest health and groundcover conditions. Additionally, this will allow the introduction of prescribed fire to work towards the natural community restoration goals.

Forest inventory data was collected on 150 plots by District staff. The data from these plots is used to quantify the acres that have achieved their natural community goals, provides data for areas that could be or have been improved by silvicultural activities, and identifies volumes and other tree species data for restoration project planning.

In FY 2022, containerized and bare-root longleaf pine seedlings were planted on 114 acres of sandhill and upland pine natural communities for the purposes of natural community restoration. Bare-root slash pine seedlings were also planted on 50 acres of mesic flatwoods at the Lake Butler Wellfield.

In FY 2022, the District received $16,000 in grant funding from Alachua Conservation Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund for 114 acres of longleaf pine reforestation on the Adams tract in Lafayette County and the Westwood West tract in Madison County. This work was conducted for the purposes of natural community restoration.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

In FY 2022, prescribed burning was conducted on approximately 9,654 acres of District lands to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives.

MECHANICAL VEGETATION CONTROL

In FY 2022, approximately 605 acres were roller-chopped, and 1,645 acres were mowed to help facilitate the use of prescribed fire and to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives.

Approximately 101 miles of ditch edges were mechanically treated on various tracts throughout the District in FY 2022. This work was done to increase the width of areas along road edges to provide better fire break capabilities, facilitate the use of prescribed fire and help protect forest resources from the damaging effects of wildfires.

CHEMICAL VEGETATION CONTROL

In FY 2022, approximately 527 acres were treated with herbicide to prepare sites for reforestation, to help meet natural community restoration/management objectives and to help facilitate the use of prescribed fire. Approximately 76 miles of ditch edges were also treated with herbicide to control the resprout of woody vegetation from mechanical treatments that occurred in 2021.

In FY 2022, District contractors treated approximately 45 acres of invasive plant infestations throughout the District.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

In FY 2022, District staff monitored 164 invasive plant infestations and treated 104 of those infestations (70 acres) with herbicides.

RARE SPECIES

In FY 2022, District staff monitored 41 known rare plant occurrence points throughout the District. Rare plant species were observed at 27 of these locations. The Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI)

monitored 37 known rare plant occurrence points on the Steinhatchee Springs and Steinhatchee Falls tracts. Rare plant species were observed at 15 of these locations. FNAI also conducted new rare plant surveys on several tracts throughout the District. 232 new rare plant occurrences were documented at these locations.

In FY 2022, District staff conducted gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) surveys on 10 tracts throughout the District. This survey work included establishing and surveying 318 transects in areas that were most likely to support this species. Estimated population densities within these survey areas are still being calculated. In FY 2022, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FNAI also conducted gopher tortoise surveys on several tracts located within the Woods Ferry Conservation Area on District lands. Based on their survey work, they estimated these tracts contain 587 tortoises with an estimated population density of 1.5 tortoises/acre.

PUBLIC USE

The District continues to update information kiosk on District lands. In FY 2022, 10 kiosk panels were updated or added.

Many District lands contain springs, karst windows, and other geologically significant systems for North Florida. The District issues research special use authorizations (SUAs) for underwater cave system mapping, water testing, and research to private non-profit research firms. The SUAs are for 12 separate tracts of land. The SUAs are re-issued each year to continue the research. This research data is shared with the District at no cost.

A total of 768 SUAs were issued during FY 2022.

Recreation SUA	Temporary Ingress/Egress	Non-Recreational	Goose Pasture Camping	Mallory Swamp ATV Trail
295	42	21	339	71

Nearly 97% of District fee-titled lands are open to the public for recreation. Lands which are not open to the public include wellfields, spray fields, and water resource development project sites.

The District cooperated with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and United States Fish and Wildlife Service to provide public hunting opportunities on approximately 106,146 acres.

The District partnered with Suwannee River Strutters, Jefferson County King of Springs, and Gator Gobblers, all chapters of the National Wildlife Turkey Federation to sponsor women in the outdoors and youth special opportunity hunts. These special opportunity hunts allow additional hunting opportunities on 4,410 acres. Additionally, the 2,030-acre Double Run Creek Tract managed by Camp Blanding is leased for hunting.

Suwannee Bicycle Association sponsored three bicycle events using District lands in the White Springs area, and one organization sponsored a 36-hour adventure race.

FACILITIES PROJECTS

Approximately 96 miles of road maintenance was completed on the following tracts: Alapahoochee, Cabbage Creek, Devil's Hammock, Goose Pasture, Holton Creek, Mallory Swamp, Natural Well Branch, Scanlon, Shelly, Steinhatchee Falls, Steinhatchee Springs, Withlacoochee Hills, and

Withlacoochee Quail Farm

Hydrological improvement projects were completed on 7 District tracts (Shelly, Santa Fe River Ranch, Steinhatchee Springs, Lamont, Devil's Hammock, Hunter Creek, McAlpin Landing, and Natural Well Branch) resulting in 47 Hydrological repair or replacements. The Natural Well Branch Hydrological improvement project was done in cooperation with Four Rivers Land and Timber LLC. where the District provided six culverts and four Rivers provided the labor to repair access to the Natural well Branch Tract via the Meatball Express Road.

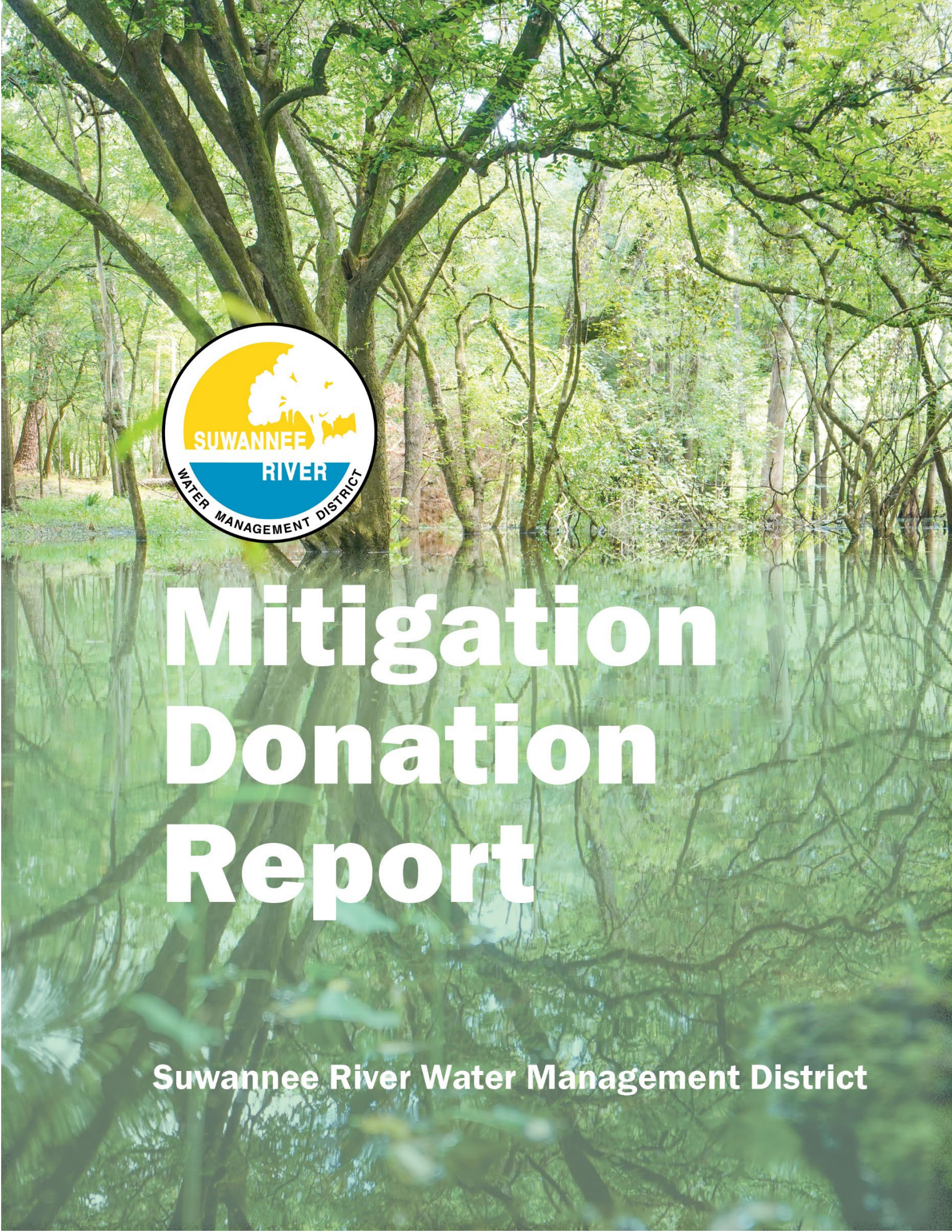
District staff cleaned up an old dump site on the Big Pine Tract in Columbia County, FL.

The District completed the Ruth Springs River Access Project to improve recreational access and decrease bank erosion along the Suwannee River. This location is popular for fishing and nature watching; unfortunately, there had never been a stair system at this location. The access was unsafe, foot traffic and vehicular traffic had caused severe bank erosion. Once all permits were obtained, the District improved the site by installing a set of prefabricated aluminum stairs. Along with stair installation, the surrounding area was shaped to prevent further erosion. Lastly, W-beam barricade was added to the parking area to prevent vehicles from driving to the edge of the riverbank. This project has accomplished the intended goal of improving access and reducing erosion into the river.

Staff completed the planning and permitting for two river access improvement projects on the Mt. Gilead and Cabbage Gove tracts. The two recreation sites located at Mt. Gilead and Cabbage Gove tracts are popular river access points for fishing, swimming, and launching canoes. The planned projects consist of installing concrete steps, constructing soil cement pathways at the Cabbage Gove site, and shaping the grounds at both locations to prevent erosion. The projects are two-fold in purpose. First, reduce riverbank impacts from pedestrian traffic. Second, the newly constructed concrete steps will provide a safer river access for the public.

Florida Forever Plan Map

View the interactive 2023 Florida Forever Plan map online at https://srwmd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=55ce0e0a99434b0c840d5150cba41cae..



Mitigation Donation Report

Suwannee River Water Management District

Executive Summary

Subsection 373.414(1)(b)2, Florida Statutes (F.S.) requires that "…each water management district shall report by March 1 of each year, as part of the consolidated annual report required by s. 373.036(7), all cash donations accepted under subparagraph 1 during the preceding water management District fiscal year for wetland mitigation purposes." The statute also requires the report to include a description of the endorsed mitigation projects and, except for projects governed by s.373.4135(6), address success criteria, project implementation status and time frame, monitoring, long-term management, provisions for preservation, and full cost accounting.

Cash Donations Received in FY 2022

No cash donations were received for wetland mitigation purposes in FY 2022.