

Protecting North Florida's Natural Water Resources



Partnership today for a sustainable tomorrow.

Water First North Florida is a comprehensive, sustainable solution to protect the springs and rivers that make our region unique and support long-term water supply and economic growth.

To identify the best path forward, a collaborative effort was launched by the St. Johns River Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, and other key stakeholder organizations, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and local utilities.

The Challenge:

Florida law requires Minimum Flows & Water Levels (MFLs) to be established to protect water bodies from significant harm due to groundwater pumping. A recovery or prevention strategy is necessary if a water body is not meeting or is projected to not meet an MFL.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed MFLs for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers (LSFIR), which are not being met. DEP is developing a recovery and prevention strategy to meet the MFLs while meeting the growing needs of the region.

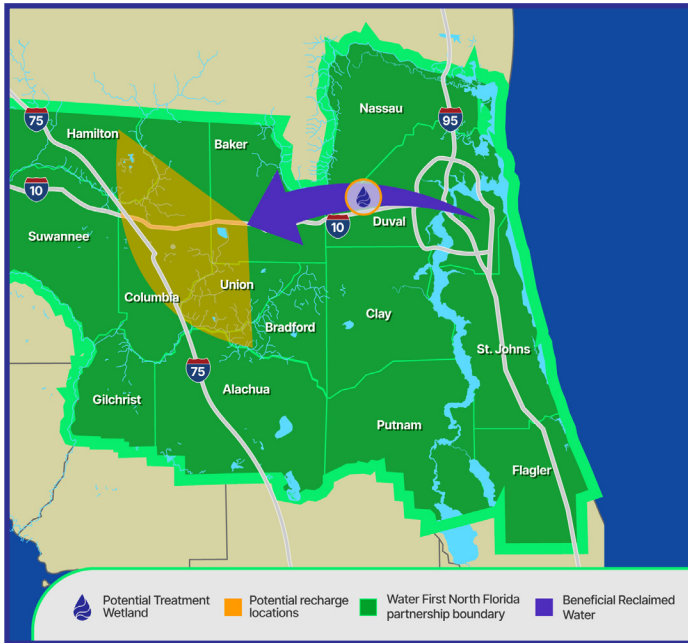
The Solution: Water First North Florida

After evaluating numerous alternatives, the Water First project was identified as the most effective and cost-efficient solution. This project will utilize high-quality reclaimed water and further treat it through a wetland filtration system before recharging it to the Floridan Aquifer. Water First North Florida will provide over 40 million gallons of water per day and work in conjunction with conservation and other efforts to restore the hydrology of the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers and springs.

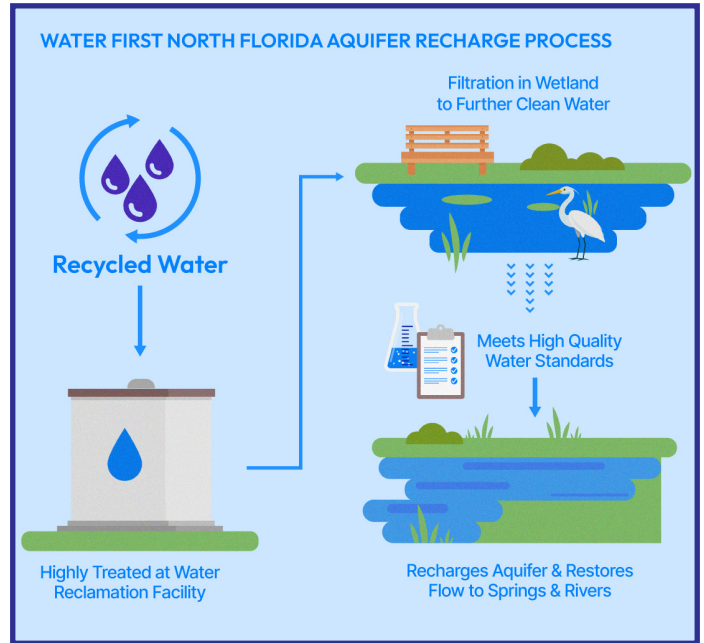
The Water First North Florida aquifer recharge project will benefit our region and our state by:

- Providing the most cost-effective, long-term solution with the greatest environmental benefit.
- Replenishing the aquifer and restoring flows to protect the region's rivers and springs.
- Ensuring a sustainable water supply for the region's current and future needs.
- Supporting agriculture, small businesses, tourism and economic development.
- Restoring wetlands that support wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities that Florida residents and visitors can enjoy.

Where Water First North Florida Will Be Located



How Water First North Florida Will Work



Why Is Water First North Florida the Best Solution?

Other alternatives explored were proven to be more expensive – costing two or three times more than reclaimed water. Engaging in proven water reuse technologies, in conjunction with additional conservation efforts, will protect our springs and rivers and ensure a reliable and affordable water supply to meet the current and growing needs of this region.

By investing in the right solution now, we can secure the future of our water resources and provide the greatest long-term benefit for North Florida.

Visit us at waterfirstnorthfl.com or scan here to learn more:



To learn more about innovative strategies that support water quality, scan here:

