

THE GROVE LAND RESERVOIR

Securing Land to Prevent Drinking Water Shortages and Restore the Environment

The Grove Land Reservoir and Storm Water Treatment Area Project presents a unique opportunity to preserve land in the historic Upper St. Johns River and restore water to support the environment and prevent drinking water shortages.

FLORIDA'S PROJECTED WATER SHORTAGE



By 2030, Florida's demand for fresh water is estimated to increase by about 28% compared to 2005 levels, and traditional sources of ground water will be unable to meet this new demand.



The St. Johns River currently provides drinking water for communities in Central Florida and along the East Coast of Florida. Water diverted from estuary discharge will offset current and future use, and reduce the burden on the Floridian Aquifer, which will help restore groundwater flow to springs.

ABOUT THE PROPOSED GROVE LAND RESERVOIR:

The land for the proposed Grove Land Reservoir is uniquely located in the historic Upper St. Johns River basin. The land currently stores water to prevent discharges to coastal estuaries. No other large parcel of land in the river's headwaters is located adjacent to canals that can move water either north and south or east and west.

- The project is intended to capture polluted water that is currently discharged into the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, harming the ecosystems.
- The water will be cleaned to meet strict pollution standards and released to the St. Johns River, relieving drinking water supply shortages in Central Florida and along the East Coast.
- Much of the water currently discharged through the C-25, C-24 and C-23 canals historically flowed to the St. Johns River. The Florida Turnpike and drainage canals now divert the water to the coast, where it pollutes the Indian River Lagoon.
- The Central Florida Water Initiative identified this site as a priority project to augment Central Florida and coastal communities' water supply. More than a decade ago, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection began funding the design of the reservoir according to state requirements, and planning is nearly complete.
- In addition to being a uniquely valuable site for water restoration, the site is adjacent to the Florida Wildlife Corridor and provides a critically important turnpike underpass for wildlife, including endangered species.

FUNDED BY THE LEGISLATURE



\$400 MILLION

The 2024 Florida Legislature appropriated \$400 million to acquire and continue planning the Grove Land Reservoir and Storm Water Treatment Area (HB 5001 Section 170). The FY24-25 General Appropriations Act will be reviewed and approved by the Governor.



PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

With public ownership of the land, Florida agencies reporting to the Governor will hold authority for all future decisions about the purpose of the land, as well as the construction and implementation of the project.



THE APPROPRIATION

The appropriation goes to the St. Johns River Water Management District to purchase land at appraised value. In addition to purchasing land, the appropriation will fund design and construction of the storage and treatment project.



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Although the current landowner has applied for permits to build the reservoir, when St. Johns River Water Management District buys the land, those permits will be withdrawn, and the District will be fully in charge of reservoir design and construction.