



# 2023-24 Strategic Plan

Northwest Florida Water Management District



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Section 373.036, Florida Statutes, gives water management districts the option of substituting an annual strategic plan in lieu of the District Water Management Plan. The Strategic Water Management Plan (SWMP) describes statutory responsibilities and current priorities of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD or District) over a five-year planning horizon. The plan is complementary to and implemented through the District’s annual budget. The planning horizon is from Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 to 2027-28.

### ***Mission and Responsibilities***

The District’s mission, as established by the Governing Board, is to implement the provisions of Chapter 373, F.S., in a manner that best ensures the continued welfare of the residents and water resources of northwest Florida. Section 373.036, F.S., sets forth four interrelated areas of responsibility (AORs) for water management districts **Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection and Floodplain Management, and Natural Systems.**

Areas of Responsibility and Goals	
<b>Water Supply</b>	Ensure the availability of sufficient water for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and natural systems.
<b>Water Quality</b>	Protect and improve the quality of the District’s water resources.
<b>Flood Protection and Floodplain Management</b>	Maintain natural floodplain functions and minimize harm from flooding.
<b>Natural Systems</b>	Protect and, where needed, restore natural systems.



*American Green Treefrog*



*Choctawhatchee Bay*







## About the Northwest Florida Water Management District

One of five water management districts created by the Florida Water Resources Act of 1972, the District is charged with managing the water resources of the Florida Panhandle. The District works to protect and manage water resources in a sustainable manner to benefit people and natural resources across its 16-county region. The District’s geographic region extends from the St. Marks River watershed in Jefferson County to the Perdido River in Escambia County. A Governing Board, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, provides direction and oversight.

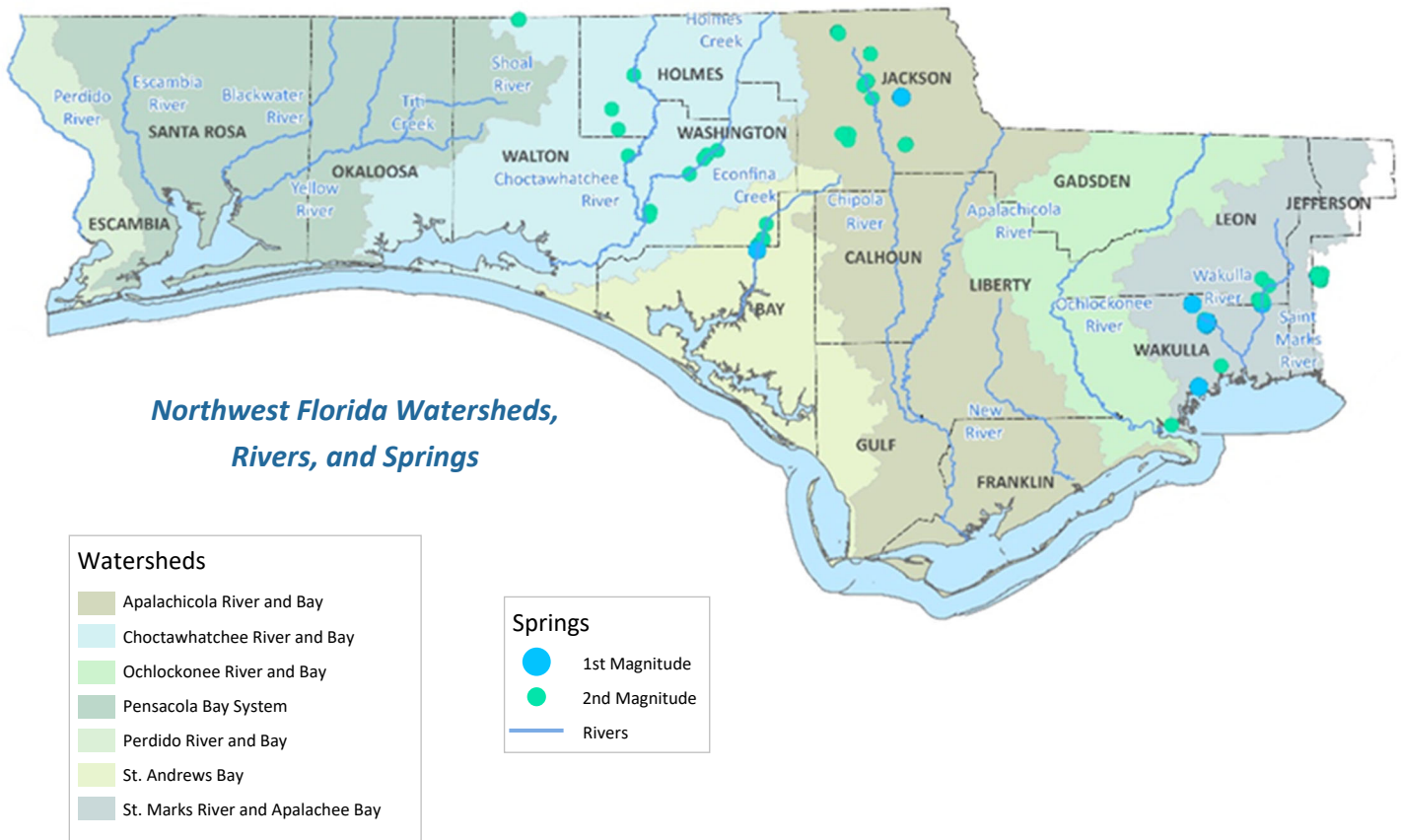


*Live Oak Point Breakwater*



## Regional Characteristics

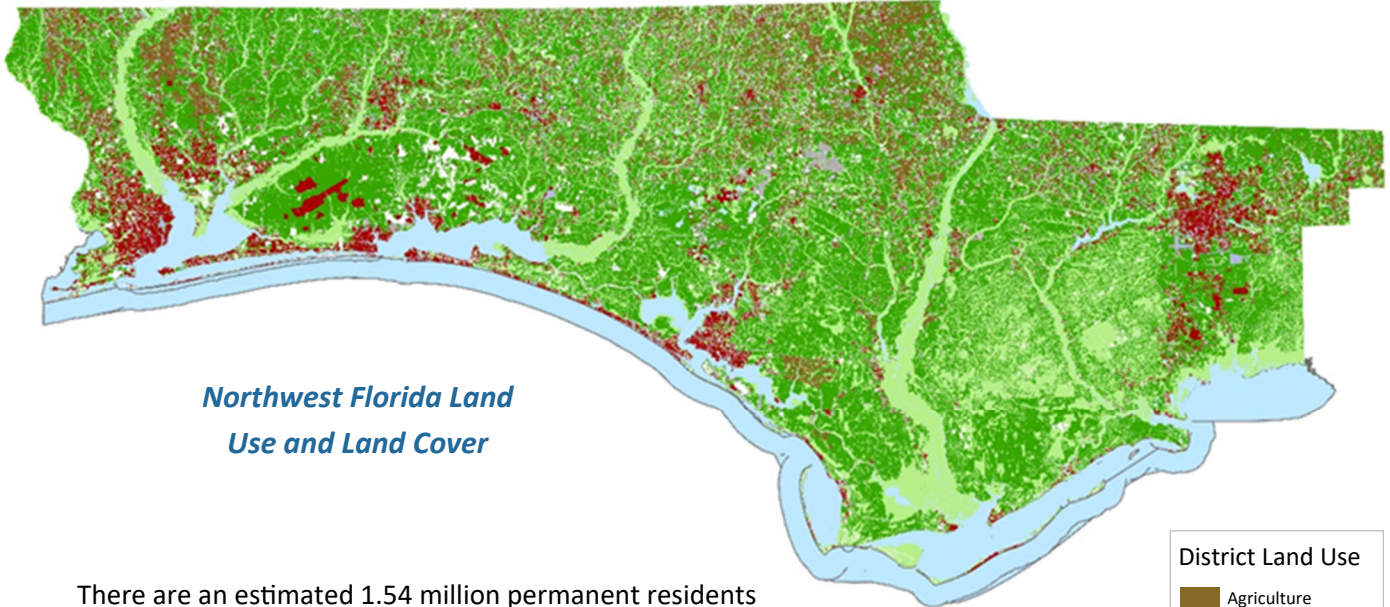
Seven major watersheds span the District, six of which extend into Alabama and Georgia. The Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, and Escambia rivers are three of Florida’s five largest rivers by volume of flow, with the Apalachicola River the state’s largest. The District contains more than 250 springs, including three Outstanding Florida Springs: Wakulla Spring, Jackson Blue Spring, and the Gainer Spring Group.



The Floridan aquifer is the primary source of water supply across most of northwest Florida, and the sand-and-gravel aquifer is the primary source in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Bay County relies primarily on surface water from Deer Point Lake Reservoir. The city of Port St. Joe is served by surface water from the Chipola River via the Gulf County Freshwater Canal.







*Northwest Florida Land Use and Land Cover*

There are an estimated 1.54 million permanent residents in northwest Florida, with most of the population concentrated within Bay, Escambia, Leon, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties. Agricultural lands are concentrated in the northern portions of the District, most prominently within Jackson, Calhoun, and Santa Rosa counties. Public and private forest lands cover much of the region. Among public lands in northwest Florida are military bases, state and national forests, national wildlife refuges, state parks, and District lands.



*Kammer Tract*



Developing a strategic plan requires evaluating the organization’s strengths, opportunities, and challenges to enhance and provide insight toward implementation.

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive water management lands and other public lands that protect water quality, floodplains, water recharge, and ecosystem health and productivity</li> <li>• Partnerships and cooperation with other public and private organizations with complementary functions and authority</li> <li>• Technical capability, efficiency, and a long-term outlook</li> <li>• Ability to leverage external funding</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to acquire floodplain and recharge areas to protect and increase the resilience of water and related resources, as well as affected communities</li> <li>• Potential to develop additional projects to protect and restore sensitive resources, including springs, wetlands, and aquatic habitats</li> <li>• Potential to develop alternative water supply sources and enhance water conservation</li> <li>• Funding sources to protect and restore the Gulf of Mexico and related natural resources</li> <li>• Potential to acquire and apply new technology, data sources, and methods</li> <li>• Potential for significant state and federal resilience funding to contribute resources applicable across all areas of responsibilities</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing demands for potable water for people, business, and agriculture</li> <li>• Widespread nonpoint source pollution</li> <li>• Needs for improved and expanded wastewater treatment infrastructure</li> <li>• Fragmentation of wetlands and other water-related habitats</li> <li>• Long-term risks of saltwater intrusion in aquifers serving coastal communities</li> <li>• Out-of-state water withdrawals contributing to decreased flows, increased coastal salinity, and associated impacts to estuarine ecosystems</li> <li>• Persistent flooding and potentially increasing flooding frequency</li> <li>• Sea-level rise and uncertainty regarding future climate conditions</li> <li>• Gaps in hydrologic, water quality, and water use data</li> <li>• Infrastructure funding constraints on the part of financially disadvantaged small local governments</li> </ul>	

The District consistently leverages strengths and endeavors to capitalize on opportunities through program activities. Challenges are acknowledged in the selection of strategic priorities, related goals, and success indicators, and in the programs and projects chosen for implementation.



## Operational Plans

The SWMP is designed as a functional plan to address the District’s statutorily defined AORs and guide, at a high level, how the agency will carry out major activities over a five-year planning horizon. It is important to recognize that many of these activities are implemented through other plans and programs that directly execute the strategies outlined in the SWMP. Thus, the SWMP reflects an integrated approach to the major water resource challenges facing the District.

Operational Documents		
Plan	Purpose (Primary Statute)	Horizon
<b>Strategic Water Management Plan</b>	<i>Establish strategic priorities for at least a future five-year period; Districtwide plan for water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems (373.036,</i>	<i>Five years; updated annually</i>
<b>Incorporated within the SWMP:</b>		
<b>Regional Water Supply Plans</b>	Identify water sources, demands, and alternative water supply sources (373.709, F.S.)	20 years; updated every five years
<b>Water Supply Assessment</b>	Estimates and projections of Districtwide water demand and source assessments (373.036, F.S.)	20 years; updated every five years
<b>Florida Forever Land Acquisition Work Plan</b>	Districtwide land acquisition plan (373.199, F.S.)	Five years; updated annually
<b>Florida Forever Capital Improvements Plan</b>	Short-range plan for implementation of approved capital improvement projects (373.199, F.S.)	Five years; updated annually
<b>NFWFMD-FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner Risk MAP Business Plan</b>	Risk MAP, flood mapping and related activities plan for the District (373.036, F.S.)	Five years; updated annually
<b>Regional Mitigation Plan</b>	Districtwide wetland mitigation (373.4137, F.S.; 33 U.S.C. 1344); also incorporates the In-Lieu Fee Program and Instrument and the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank	Updated annually
<b>SWIM Priority List</b>	Prioritize watersheds and waterbodies for SWIM plan development (373.453, F.S.)	Updated annually
<b>SWIM Plans (multiple)</b>	Watershed protection, management, and restoration (373.451-459, F.S.)	Updated annually
<b>Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Priority List</b>	Priority list for development of MFLs (373.042, F.S.)	Updated annually
<b>Annual Regulatory Plan</b>	Compliance with statutory requirements and schedule for rulemaking, where applicable (120.74, F.S.)	Updated annually





## ***Annual Progress Review and Plan Update***

In implementing a strategic plan, water management districts are required to include an Annual Work Plan Report, as an addendum, within the Consolidated Annual Report, released each year by March 1. The Annual Work Plan Report is described in Section 4. The Strategic Plan is updated based on these results and in consideration of emerging issues and the District's annual budget.

## ***Financial Resources***

The state constitution and statutory millage rate cap for NWFWMD is 0.05, significantly less than the ad valorem taxing authority of the other four water management districts. The District's FY 2023-24 ad valorem tax millage rate, as set by the Governing Board, is 0.0234 of a mill. To meet its areas of responsibility, the District must rely on its limited reserve funding, annual legislative appropriations to support operational costs, and other sources of funding, when available. These include:

### ***State Funding – For priorities that include, for example:***

- Water quality improvement, including spring restoration and protection, stormwater, wastewater, and innovative technology
- Resiliency and adaptation to sea level rise and flooding
- Acquisition, management, and restoration of District-owned lands
- Alternative water supply development
- Minimum flows and minimum water levels
- Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP)
- Hurricane recovery
- Research and data collection
- Regional wetland mitigation, including functional wetland restoration and protection

### ***Federal Funding – To augment state and District funding to accomplish priority projects and programs, including:***

- Flood hazard and risk mapping, assessments, and planning
- Nonpoint source and agricultural best management practices projects

### ***Cooperative Funding – Project funding from:***

- Local governments
- Utilities
- Non-government organizations
- Other partners to leverage state, District, and federal resources



The District’s strategic priorities for FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28, consistent with the District’s mission and AORs, are outlined below.

Strategic Priorities for Fiscal Years 2024-2028	
<b>Watershed Protection and Restoration</b>	
<b>Water Quality Protection and Improvement:</b>	Work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), local and regional cooperators, and other state and federal agencies and stakeholders to identify, secure funding for, and implement regionally significant water quality improvement projects.
<b>Flood Protection and Regional Resilience Enhancement:</b>	Enhance flood protection and support regional resilience efforts, including through land acquisition; the Risk MAP program; developing resources, data, and projects to respond to sea level rise and compound flooding; and environmental resource permitting.
<b>Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels</b>	
<b>Priority MFLs:</b>	Continue data collection and modeling in support of technical assessments for two Outstanding Florida Springs, Jackson Blue Spring and the Gainer Spring Group; two second magnitude springs, the Sylvan Spring Group and the Williford Spring Group; and the Floridan aquifer in coastal Bay County.
<b>Water Supply</b>	
<b>Water Supply Development:</b>	Support development of alternative water supplies and assist underserved communities in implementing traditional water supply development projects. Support water conservation.
<b>Water Supply Planning:</b>	Update water demand projections and a comprehensive assessment of water sources. Develop or update regional water supply plans for regions identified by the water supply assessment.
<b>Water Resource Development:</b>	Develop updated alternative water supply and regional water resource management strategies to proactively ensure the sustainability and resilience of northwest Florida communities and natural systems.
<b>Regulatory Services:</b>	Continue to regulate ground and surface waters to protect water resources, existing permitted users, and public health and welfare.

Each priority is further described below with goals, strategies, success indicators, funding sources, deliverables, and milestones.





## Watershed Protection and Restoration

As a planning framework, watershed management encompasses all four of the District’s statutory areas of responsibility: Water Quality, Water Supply, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems. The District integrates efforts to improve water quality with those intended more broadly to protect and restore watershed resources, including floodplains, wetlands, springs, and aquatic and riparian habitats. Priorities include, but are not limited to, urban stormwater retrofit projects, agricultural best management practices, septic-to-sewer and distributed wastewater projects, land acquisition and management, reforestation, streambank restoration, wetland mitigation, hydrologic data collection and analysis, and environmental resource permitting. The District works closely with public and private stakeholders to develop and implement cooperative projects of regional significance.

✓	Water Supply
✓	Water Quality
✓	Flood Protection
✓	Natural Systems

### Water Quality Protection and Improvement

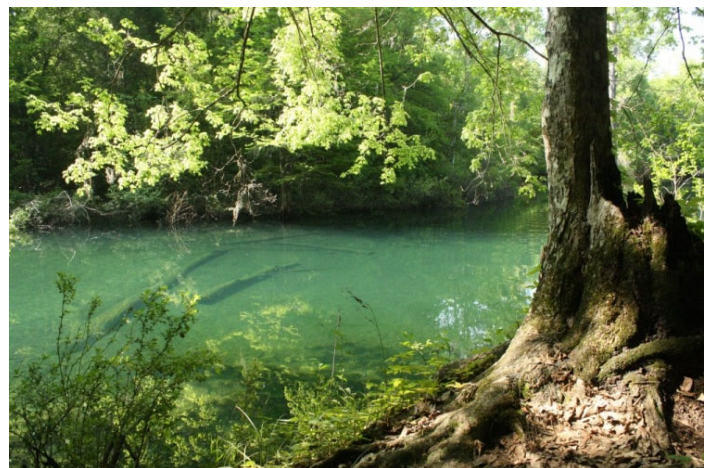
**Land Acquisition and Management** The District has acquired more than 225,000 acres of land to protect water quality, habitats, and floodplain functions across northwest Florida’s watersheds. District lands also provide a resource for public access and recreation. Current planned acquisitions are focused on protecting northwest Florida’s springs and spring-fed rivers and streams. Ongoing restoration and management activities include prescribed fire, planting native trees and understory, erosion control, improving site access, and managing and maintaining public access sites and roads.

**Precision Agriculture Systems and Solutions (Jackson Blue Spring and Chipola River springs)** Cost-share program to help producers conserve water and improve water quality. This program is conducted in concert with the Northwest Florida Mobile Irrigation Laboratory.

**Jackson County Septic-to-Sewer Projects (Jackson Blue Spring)** Extension of central sewer to the Indian Springs neighborhood and along Blue Spring Road adjacent to Merritts Mill Pond and within the Tara Estates neighborhood, all within the Jackson Blue Spring Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area.

**Magnolia Gardens and Wakulla Gardens Sewer System Expansions (Wakulla Spring)** Multi-phased projects in cooperation with Wakulla County to extend central sewer and connect homes on septic systems to the Wakulla County Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) plant.

**Septic-to-Sewer in Wakulla BMAP (Wakulla Spring)** Connection of properties on septic tanks to central sewer within the Wakulla Springs Priority Focus Area 1, implemented in cooperation with the city of Tallahassee.



Jackson Blue Spring



**Cypress Spring Restoration and Management** Project activities include shoreline stabilization and public access improvements at a second magnitude spring in Washington County. A conservation easement has previously been acquired.

**Lighthouse Estates Septic to Sewer** The city of Carrabelle will continue efforts to connect residences to central sewer in the Lighthouse Estates community proximate to Carrabelle Beach and St. George Sound.

**Assessment of St. Joseph Bay, East Bay, the Intracoastal Waterway, and Lake Wimico** The District will continue data collection and analysis to evaluate freshwater flows and water quality from the Intracoastal Waterway and Gulf County Canal that flow into St. Joseph Bay.

**Port St. Joe Stormwater Improvements** The city of Port St. Joe will retrofit stormwater facilities to improve the quality of water discharging to St. Joseph Bay and improve flood protection. As part of this effort, the city developed a stormwater master plan.

**Apalachicola River and Bay** The District will continue intergovernmental and stakeholder cooperation, technical assistance, water quality improvement projects, and supporting initiatives to restore and protect the Apalachicola River watershed.

**Hydrologic Data Services** Data collection and management includes stage, precipitation, flow, and water quality monitoring to serve multiple areas of responsibility and strategic priorities and programs, including MFLs and springs protection.

**Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP)** The ERP program provides for review of applications and issuance and enforcement of permits authorizing activities in, on, or over wetlands and surface waters, integrating stormwater management and wetland protection therein. Implementation of the program improves and protects multiple watershed and wetland functions including the preservation of water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood protection, shoreline stability, and aquifer recharge.



*St. Joseph Bay*





## ***Flood Protection and Regional Resilience Enhancement***

### **Resilience Planning, Implementation, and**

**Technical Assistance** The District will work with local governments and regional agencies, DEP, and other agencies and stakeholders to support coordinated efforts to enhance resilience to flooding and sea level rise. District efforts will include coordination with the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to address data gaps as needed to increase the District's overall capacity to support state, regional, and local efforts.

### **Stream Debris Assessment**

The District will conduct detailed surveys, complete assessments, and develop restoration plans to address stream debris and flooding within several streams in the central region of northwest Florida. The assessments will quantify concentrations of woody debris and other obstructions and incorporate hydrologic modeling to identify areas at a higher risk of flooding. This work will address streams impacted by multiple tropical events from 2018-2022.

### **Land Acquisition and Management**

District lands include extensive floodplains along the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Escambia, Yellow, Perdido, Blackwater and other rivers and streams. Tidal wetlands are also protected on the Pensacola, Perdido, and Choctawhatchee estuaries. These lands maintain floodplain functions and protect natural systems, water quality, property, and public safety, as well as providing for public access and recreation. Substantial upland acreage owned by the District provides protective buffers.

### **Flood Hazard Mapping, Assessment, and Planning**

The District continues to work in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on administering FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program. This includes collaboration with state and local agencies to deliver detailed data to foster informed risk management decisions through the development of digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs). Preliminary DFIRMs and final effective DFIRMs are issued according to planned milestones.

### **Flood and Floodplain Data**

The District maintains an online Flood Information Portal parcel-level mapping tool and provides technical expertise and public access to high-resolution Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data and maps.

### **Environmental Resource Permitting**

Among the important functions of the ERP program is the protection of property, resources, and residents from potential flood damage through the regulation and management of stormwater and wetlands. Also included in ERP is permitting for dam design, construction, repair, modification, and maintenance.



## ***Other Supporting Programs and Initiatives***

### **Regional Wetland Mitigation**

In accordance with section 373.4137, F.S., the District assists the Florida Department of Transportation in developing wetland mitigation for transportation infrastructure development in areas where private mitigation banks are unable to provide appropriate credits. In the process, wetland resources and functions are protected and restored on a watershed scale. Activities include an In-Lieu Fee Program, the Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank, and individually permitted projects.

### **Critical Wetlands**

Section 373.036, F.S., directs the water management districts, in cooperation with local governments, to identify critical wetlands to be acquired using funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The four statutory criteria to be considered are (1) ecological value, (2) effects on water quality and flood mitigation, (3) ecosystem restoration value, and (4) susceptibility to development. The section requires water management districts to incorporate the list of critical wetlands within the District Water Management Plan or Annual Strategic Plan.

For FY 2023-24, a screening analysis was conducted to identify specific properties that could be considered critical wetlands, as defined by the statutory criteria. The results of this analysis is provided at <https://nfwwater.com/data-publications/reports-plans/>. Priorities for land acquisition consideration, including critical wetlands, will continue to be incorporated within the Florida Forever Land Acquisition Work Plan, published annually with the District's Consolidated Annual Report.



***Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank***





## Watershed Protection and Restoration Criteria

### Success Indicators

- Project accomplishment (percent complete)
- Pollutant load reduction (pounds per year)
- Trends in nitrate concentrations
- Total area and floodplain area protected through land acquisition (acres)
- Area restored (acres)
- Percent of the District with updated DFIRMs meeting FEMA standards and criteria
- Balance of released mitigation credits

### Funding Sources

- State Legislative Appropriations
- General Fund Reserves
- Land Acquisition Trust Fund
- FDOT Mitigation Funding
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Natural Resources Damages Act
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Deliverables

- Project completion reports
- Annual Regional Wetland Mitigation Plan and Mitigation Monitoring Reports
- Risk MAP regulatory and non-regulatory products according to discovery report for each HUC 8 watershed within the District
- Land Management Plans
- Florida Forever Work Plan Annual Report

### Milestones

- City of Tallahassee Septic Connections within Wakulla BMAP (2024)
- Preliminary DFIRMs for the Apalachee Bay-St. Marks, Pea, and Lower Choctawhatchee Watersheds (2024)
- DFIRM completion incorporating coastal remapping studies for Bay and Escambia counties (2024)
- Lighthouse Estates Septic to Sewer (2024)
- Farmer to Farmer Algae Abatement Demonstration (2024)
- Live Oak Point Living Shorelines (2024)
- Magnolia Gardens and Wakulla Gardens Septic to Sewer Projects (2024)
- Port St. Joe Stormwater Improvements (2025)
- St. Joseph Bay Assessment (2025)
- Stream Debris Assessment (2025)
- Blue Spring Road, Indian Springs, and Tara Estates Sewer Extensions (2028)



## Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels

The District’s MFL program is a major component of the overall effort to ensure the long-term protection and sustainability of regionally significant water resources. A minimum flow or minimum water level is the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area. The MFL program complements other efforts, including water use permitting, water supply assessments, regional water supply planning, and watershed management. Strategic approaches include data collection, groundwater and surface water modeling, technical assessments, and rule development.

✓	Water Supply
✓	Water Quality
	Flood Protection
✓	Natural Systems

### Priority MFLs

To date, minimum flows have been adopted by rule for the St. Marks River Rise (2019) and the Wakulla and Sally Ward Spring System (2021).

The technical assessment for the Coastal Florida Aquifer in Region II (Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties) was completed in August 2022, concluding that minimum aquifer levels were not needed.

### Technical assessments in progress include:

- Gainer Spring Group, a first magnitude Outstanding Florida Spring (OFS), and second-magnitude Sylvan and Williford Spring Groups, scheduled for completion during 2024; and
- Jackson Blue Spring, a first magnitude OFS, scheduled for completion during 2025.

The MFL program is implemented according to the MFL priority list and schedule which is updated annually and available online at <https://nfwwater.com/water-resources/minimum-flows-minimum-water-levels/>.

### Supporting Initiatives

**Hydrologic Modeling** The District will continue to develop and refine regional groundwater flow and transport models, estuarine hydrodynamic models, instream habitat models, and surface water models to support MFLs, water supply planning, and water resource evaluations.

**Data Collection** Efforts will continue to conduct discharge measurements, stream channel surveys, surface water levels, groundwater levels, and instream habitat attributes to support MFL technical assessments.

**Cooperative Monitoring Activities** The District will continue monitoring groundwater, surface water, and rainfall, continuing cooperative agreements with:

- DEP to monitor water quality in District aquifers, streams, and lakes;
- Bay County, Leon County, and the city of Tallahassee to monitor surface water levels and rainfall for reservoir supply, stormwater management, and flood warning; and
- USGS to collect hydrologic data on the Apalachicola River, Yellow River, Telogia Creek, Merritts Mill Pond, Chipola River, Wakulla River, St. Marks River, Juniper Creek, and the Spring Creek Spring Group.





## Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels Criteria

### Success Indicators

- MFL technical assessment accomplishment (percent complete per the approved schedule)
- Waterbodies meeting their adopted MFLs (number and percentage)
- Trends in spring flows
- Established minimum flows for Outstanding Florida Springs and other priority springs

### Funding Sources

- General Fund Reserves
- State Legislative Appropriations

### Deliverables

- Complete MFL technical assessments and rule adoption according to the approved MFL Priority List and Schedule
- Spring discharge data

### Milestones

- Technical Assessment for Gainer, Sylvan, and Williford springs groups (2024)
- Technical Assessment for Jackson Blue Spring (2025)
- Technical Assessment for the Coastal Floridan Aquifer in Bay County (2026)



*Gainer Spring*

## Water Supply

The District addresses this strategic priority through water supply and water resource development projects in cooperation with northwest Florida communities, as well as data collection and analyses, resource planning, and regulatory services. Additionally, the District conducts an annual alternative water supply development grant program in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

✓	Water Supply
✓	Water Quality
	Flood Protection
✓	Natural Systems

### **Water Supply (AWS) Development**

**North Bay Wastewater Reuse** Bay County will construct pipeline extensions to reuse application sites, including a future sports complex, FDOT medians, the Bay County Emergency Operations Center, Gulf Coast Community College, and a Sector Plan development area.

**South Santa Rosa Reuse Initiative** This initiative provides for a comprehensive multi-stakeholder effort on the part of Santa Rosa County, the Holley-Navarre Water System, the city of Gulf Breeze, and Eglin AFB with the goal of eliminating wastewater effluent discharges and increasing the beneficial reuse of reclaimed water in southern portions of the county.

**Pace Water System Reuse Storage and Pump Station** Pace Water System will construct a two million gallon ground storage tank and a booster pump station. Completion of the project will make approximately 1.0 million gallons per day of public access reclaimed water available.

**Water Supply Development Grants** The District will continue to provide grant funding to help local governments and utilities replace aging infrastructure, improve distribution systems, evaluate and develop alternative water supplies, and address local drinking water quality issues.

**Water Conservation** Through the annual alternative water supply grant program, the District provides cost-share grants to implement water conservation projects with quantifiable water savings. Among other types of projects, this may include helping rural communities install modern water meters to improve potable water management and conservation.

### **Water Supply Planning**

**Water Use Data** The District will continue to collect, analyze, and report on water use data for water supply assessments, regional water supply plans, MFL technical assessments, and for use by partner agencies.

**Districtwide Water Supply Assessment (WSA)** A Districtwide evaluation of existing and future water demands, and an assessment of the sustainability and sufficiency of water supply sources will continue. Water supply assessments are updated on a five-year basis and provide the technical data and analytical tools for regional water supply planning (RWSP). The next WSA update is planned to be completed by the end of 2023.





**Regional Water Supply Planning** Where existing sources of water are not adequate, RWSPs develop programs and projects in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders to meet water supply needs and to sustain water resources and related natural systems over a 20-year planning period. The Region II (Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties) RWSP update was approved by the District’s Governing Board in 2020.

### **Water Resource Development**

The District will continue to conduct regional-scale projects that support the availability of water supplies to meet long-term water supply needs and the needs of natural systems. Examples include planning for water reuse and conservation, data collection, source modeling and evaluation, and development and refinement of groundwater and transient flow models. Hydrogeologic evaluations may include well construction and aquifer performance testing to determine groundwater availability.

### **Regulatory Services**

**Water Use Permitting** Regulation of ground and surface waters prevents impacts to spring systems, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and ground and surface water resources. Reservations of water have been established by rule for the Apalachicola and Chipola rivers.

**Well Permitting Program** The wells program reviews, issues, and enforces permits for the construction, repair, modification, and abandonment of wells, and it administers and enforces the licensing of water well contractors. This program protects public health and resource sustainability, while also serving the regulated community.

## Water Supply Criteria

### Success Indicators

- Water supply made available (volume in million gallons per day [mgd] and trend)
- Public water supply demands met (volume [mgd] and percentage)
- Public supply per capita water use (gallons per capita per day [gpcd] and trend)
- Project accomplishment (percent complete)

### Funding Sources

- General Fund Reserves
- State Alternative Water Supply funding
- Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund
- State legislative appropriations
- Ad valorem

### Deliverables

- Water use data
- Districtwide water supply assessment updates
- RWSP updates
- Project completion reports

### Milestones

- Districtwide Water Supply Assessment Update (2023)
- Region II Regional Water Supply Plan Update (2024)
- North Bay Reuse Project (2024)
- Pace Water System Reclaimed Water Project (2025)
- South Santa Rosa Reuse Initiative, Phases I-IV (2031)



## ***Annual Work Plan Report***

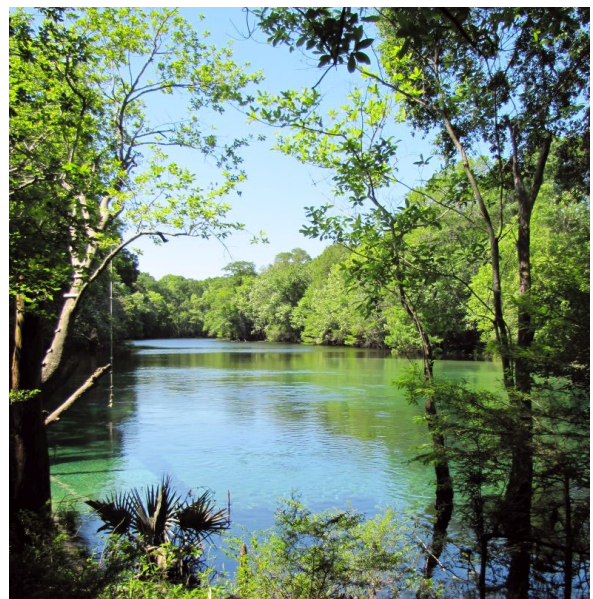
As required by section 373.036, F.S., the strategic water management plan includes an annual work plan report on the implementation of the plan for the previous fiscal year. This annual report details activities and accomplishments; evaluation of indicators, milestones, and deliverables; and project costs and timelines. The Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) due by March 1 of each year incorporates this work plan report. The CAR is submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Director of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

The evaluation of indicators serves several purposes. Beyond providing an assessment of program implementation, identification and evaluation of indicators helps to further an understanding of resource conditions and to clarify objectives and intended results. Evaluating measures and indicators provides internal and external feedback for ascertaining whether a given project or program is achieving intended results and whether the underlying strategy is appropriate or should be revised.

## ***Additional Periodic Reporting***

Each of the state's water management districts completes and submits monitoring data and reports to DEP, the legislature, and other agencies and stakeholders, including:

- Annual and quarterly metrics on permitting process efficiencies, water supply, natural systems, and mission support;
- Environmental Resource Permitting Annual Wetlands Report;
- Regional Water Supply Planning Annual Report;
- Annual In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Report;
- Statewide Water Projects List; and
- Florida Statewide Annual Report on Total Maximum Daily Loads, BMAPs, MFLs, and Recovery or Prevention Strategies.



*Cypress Spring*





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