

Land Management Restoration Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016)

- The Williford Spring restoration project that was completed in 2015 remained closed to the public until July 26, 2016, when the District held a grand opening celebration. Costing more than \$2.1 million, this project involved sediment removal, restoring spring shoreline areas, providing stabilized access to the spring, and recreation improvements including a new parking area, boardwalks, interpretive trails, pavilions, and a canoe tie-up dock that will help prevent future impacts by voluntarily asking the public to refrain from paddling canoes into the spring area. Public response to the project has been very positive.
- One of three cooperative projects to restore the eroding shorelines and address stormwater impacts along Holmes Creek was completed. The remaining two projects, i.e. Live Oak and Hightower Springs landings, are scheduled for completion by the end of FY 2016-2017. These projects are being constructed by Washington County with funding assistance from the District.
- After site stabilization and a landscape plant grow-in period, the Devil's Hole swallet in Washington County was opened to the public as a day use recreation area and reservable campsite within the Econfina Creek WMA.
- The streambank restoration project was completed at Walsingham Park in Washington County. This cooperative project, implemented by USFWS and District staff with funding from FFWCC, utilized geotextile bags to stabilize the eroding shoreline. The restored shoreline was landscaped with native vegetation and several tons of rip-rap rock was removed from the creek.
- Seed for District groundcover projects was collected from District land on the Econfina Creek WMA. The District continues to research, refine, and establish new habitat restoration techniques that increase species diversity and ecosystem health.
- The District completed hand planting of 1,198 acres of disturbed longleaf pine habitat. These habitat restoration activities enhance groundwater recharge, improve wetland functions, and offset wetland losses caused by FDOT projects. This project involved the planting of 830,598 longleaf pine tubelings within two WMAs.