



Elevenmile Creek Sub-Basin Work Plan

Northwest Florida Watersheds Partnership Program

The **Northwest Florida Watersheds Partnership Program (Program)** is a collaborative, multi-party initiative to proactively address critical water resource issues within priority sub-basins of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (District). The program is being implemented in coordination with local and county governments, regional entities, and other interested parties to maximize effectiveness.

Elevenmile Creek

The Elevenmile Creek sub-basin was selected as the priority sub-basin within the Perdido Bay watershed. This work plan describes the sub-basin, the critical water resource issues, and strategies and proposed projects that can be implemented to address these issues.

This sub-basin encompasses 30,986-acres in northwest Pensacola reaching from Cantonment to Perdido Bay in the Beulah area. Elevenmile Creek is approximately 13 miles long and the sub-basin has an elevation ranging from 189 feet above to -1 foot below sea level. The watershed's predominately rural communities are rapidly urbanizing due to commercial developments such as a large Navy Federal Credit Union complex housing an estimated 10,000 employees, expansion of the roads to accommodate increased traffic, and the numerous commercial and residential developments completed and under construction to meet housing and shopping demands. The population had increased to 39,077 based on the 2020 census, and is estimated to grow another 15 percent by 2045. The latest land use estimates show that 54 percent of the watershed is now developed with Urban and Built-up making up 46 percent and Transportation and Utilities at 8 percent.



Current Issues and Challenges

Rapid urbanization of the watershed and the resultant loss of floodplains, riparian buffers and upland habitat have impacted the quality of life, ecosystems, and the resilience of the communities within the watershed. Specific issues needing attention include frequent flooding, water quality impairments, impacts to surface waters from industrial sources and development, and increased protection for groundwater. Some of the greatest challenges leading to these issues include the rate of development, insufficient stormwater treatment and storage, loss of open space, and the wastewater treatment issues including both onsite septic treatment systems and central wastewater infrastructure.

Water quality impairments include:

- **Elevenmile Creek:** Dissolved Oxygen, Biological Oxygen Demand, Nutrients/Unionized Ammonia, and Fecal Coliform
- **Tenmile Creek:** Fecal Coliform

Strategies and Solutions

Successful restoration and protection of the Elevenmile Creek sub-basin will involve restoring creek channels and floodplains, improving the quality and size of riparian buffers, addressing the sources of water quality impairments, improving the protection and conservation of water supply resources, improving coordination among restoration partners, and increasing monitoring activities to track and evaluate progress.



Elevenmile Creek with Navy Federal Credit Union Complex and Residential Developments

Proposed Projects and Funding Needs

Addressing critical water resource issues will require a multi-year effort. Future projects, in addition to those identified within this work plan, will likely be needed to fully address water resource issues and challenges within the Elevenmile Creek sub-basin. Currently proposed projects are detailed in the sub-basin work plan. Many projects provide multiple water resource benefits. As of January 2026, **nine** projects have been proposed, at an estimated total cost of **\$23.85 million**. The current funding need is estimated at **\$22.7 million**. Project types include:

- Potable water transmission system improvements
- Floodplain expansion and restoration
- Stormwater system expansion and treatment improvements
- Living shoreline assistance and education



Elevenmile Creek Flowing Into Perdido Bay

For more information please visit: <https://nwfwater.com/water-resources/surface-water-improvement-and-management/>