

February 2026

# FY2025

## Water Conservation Summary Report



Southwest Florida  
*Water Management District*





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# I. Executive Summary

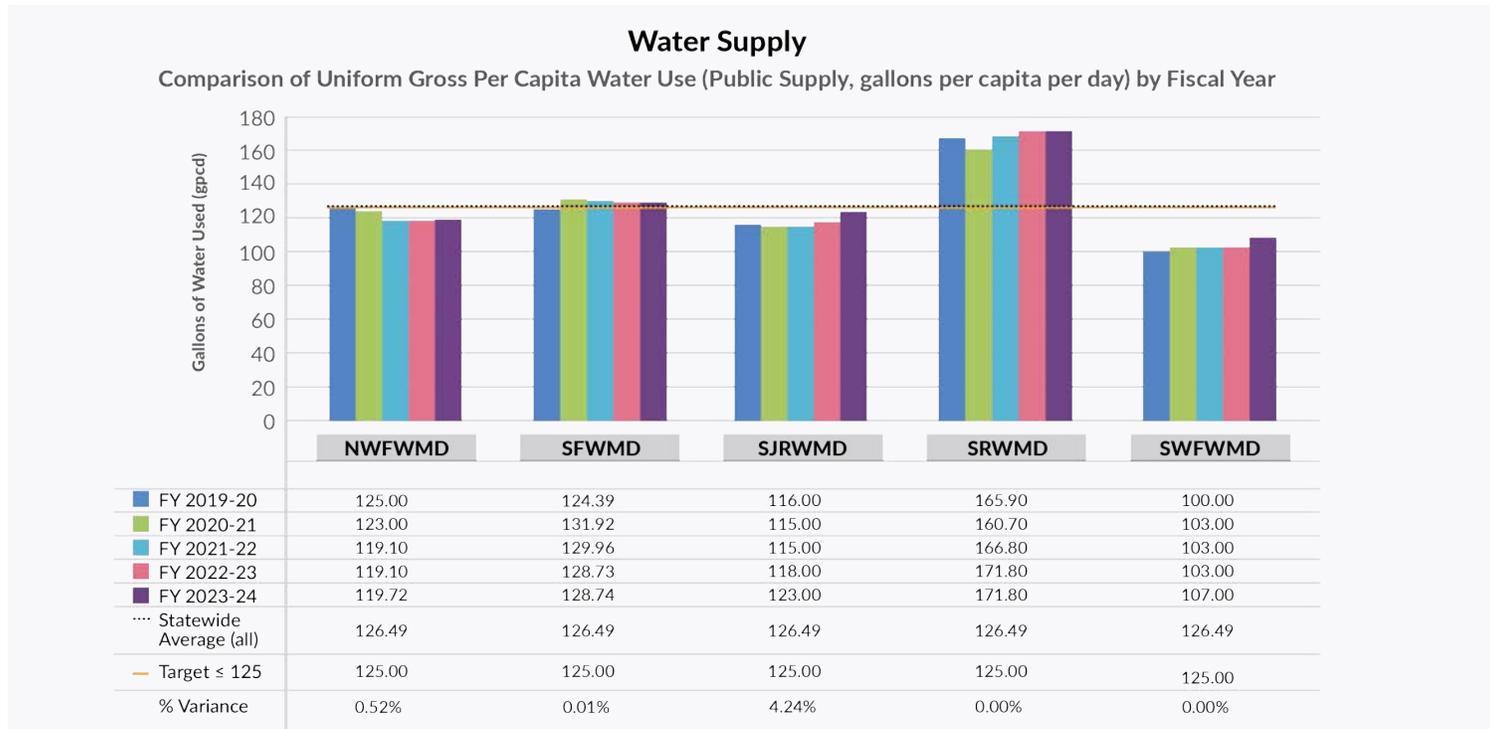
Water conservation is a key component of the District’s mission to ensure the public’s water needs are met and is one of the 12 Strategic Initiatives outlined in the District’s 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. Within the Conservation Strategic Initiative, the District’s goal is to enhance efficiencies in all water-use sectors to ensure beneficial use.

Water use data provides evidence of the District’s continued commitment to water conservation. The District is a leader in conservation and has regularly ranked as the lowest public supply per capita rate in the state (see Figure 1). While the population in the District has grown 146% over a 42-year period from 1982–2024, total water use has decreased by 22.5% due to increased conservation and the development of alternative water supplies. Conservation is generally one of the most cost-effective tools of water supply planning for population growth, allowing the development of more expensive traditional or alternative water supply projects to be deferred.

This report summarizes the District’s water conservation efforts, including annual accomplishments and measurable water savings, for Fiscal Year 2025 (October 2024–September 2025). Information on reclaimed water or source substitution can be found in the District’s Annual Reuse Report.

The following report covers conservation efforts throughout the District, including cost-share funding, technical assistance, the Water Conservation Initiative, education and outreach, research and regulation.

**Figure 1. Comparison of Uniform Gross Per Capita Water Use by Fiscal Year (Source: Water Management District Performance Metrics for the fourth quarter of FY2023-24 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection)**



- NFWWMD** = Northwest Florida Water Management District
- SFWMD** = South Florida Water Management District
- SJRWMD** = St. Johns River Water Management District
- SRWMD** = Suwannee River Water Management District
- SWFWMD** = Southwest Florida Water Management District

## II. Cooperative Funding Initiative

The Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) is a key program for building partnerships with external stakeholders, including local governments and regional water supply authorities. The CFI generally covers 50% of the costs of projects that help create sustainable water resources, enhance conservation efforts, improve water quality, restore natural systems and provide flood protection.

The District has provided CFI funding assistance since 1988, with the first water conservation program funded in 1991. Conservation projects are generally more cost-effective in comparison to other types of CFI projects related to water supply. The District's Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency (WISE) program, discussed later in this report, also supports smaller conservation projects.

Common indoor conservation programs include toilet rebates for converting to high-efficiency models and conservation kits that include low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Common outdoor water conservation programs include irrigation system evaluations, landscape and irrigation enhancements and irrigation smart controllers. Additional program types eligible for CFI funding are line looping, advanced metering analytics, Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> builder rebates, golf course irrigation enhancements and industrial/commercial-related water efficiency improvements.

No new CFI conservation projects were approved for funding in FY2025.



*Outdoor water conservation programs traditionally funded through CFI include irrigation system evaluations, landscape and irrigation enhancements and irrigation smart controllers.*

# III. Agricultural Programs

## Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Program

The Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program is an agricultural cost-share reimbursement program that reduces groundwater withdrawals from the upper Floridan aquifer through conservation and alternative water supply best management practices (BMPs). The program is designed to serve as an incentive to the agricultural community to conserve groundwater use and promote resource sustainability. FARMS reimbursement can amount to 50–75% of total project costs for eligible BMPs.

FARMS is a public/private partnership developed by the District and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). FARMS includes both conservation and alternative water supply projects. Within FARMS is also the Mini-FARMS Program. Mini-FARMS provides cost-share funding for agricultural operations with smaller projects. Mini-FARMS reimbursement is 75% of total project costs not to exceed a reimbursement of \$10,000.

In FY2025, FARMS approved four water conservation-related projects with a total estimated savings of 103,000 gpd (see Table 2). Mini-FARMS approved 52 conservation-related projects with a total estimated savings greater than 348,848 gpd (see Table 3). More information on the FARMS program can be found in the FARMS Status Report.

Table 2. FARMS Conservation Projects Approved in FY2025

Project # / Name	County	Budgeted District Share Reimbursement	Estimated Water Savings (gpd)
H833 – Midway Farms, LLC – Raulerson Road	Polk	\$45,468	20,000
H834 – Jim Rash, Inc. – Zoffay Road	Polk	\$64,214	18,000
H830 – McClure Properties, LTD – Phase 2	Manatee	\$195,706	45,000
H831 – Gapway Mixon CUPS, LLC	Polk	\$64,171	20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$369,559</b>	<b>103,000</b>



The FARMS Program helped fund this reservoir and pump station, which are estimated to save 100,000 gallons of groundwater per day.

Table 3. Mini-FARMS Conservation Projects Approved in FY2025

Project Name/#	County	Budgeted District Share Reimbursement
Green Acres Ph3 WMD 458	Pasco	\$3,379.38
Phillip Rucks WMD 506	Polk	\$4,401.75
Sizemore Farms 9887 WMD 477	Polk	\$5,062.50
Clear Springs Enterprises WMD 487	Polk	\$6,000.00
Clear Springs Enterprises Strawberries WMD 488	Polk	\$6,000.00
Fresh Pro Inc WMD 460	Sarasota	\$6,543.00
Fresh Pro Inc WMD 459	Sarasota	\$6,673.77
Parkesdale Farms WMD 476	Hillsborough	\$6,750.00
FC Farms - Polk Automation WMD 471	Polk	\$6,833.75
FC Farms WMD 467	Hillsborough	\$7,173.00
Jeff Phillips Trucking Automation WMD 486	Levy	\$7,739.52
Berry Red Farms WMD 463	Manatee	\$8,716.50
Ag Metrics Group WMD 475	Hillsborough	\$8,716.50
Sweet Roots 1 WMD 478	Hillsborough	\$8,716.50
Sweet Roots 2 WMD 479	Hillsborough	\$8,716.50
Polkdale Farms WMD 493	Polk	\$9,357.75
Etheridge Cattle Co Automation WMD 496	Levy	\$9,589.77
Bereah Tree Farm 12151	Polk	\$9,921.62
Jeff Phillips Trucking Automation WMD 485	Levy	\$9,952.78
Simmons Farms WMD 464	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00
Jed Weeks WMD 468	Hardee	\$10,000.00
Florida Hydros LLC Automation WMD 469	Manatee	\$10,000.00
Florida Hydros LLC Automation WMD 470	Manatee	\$10,000.00
Fresh Pro, Inc - Adams Place WMD 473	DeSoto	\$10,000.00
Fresh Pro, Inc - Adams Place WMD 483	DeSoto	\$10,000.00
D and L Farms WMD 484	Polk	\$10,000.00
Starnes Farming and Trucking Automation WMD 489	Levy	\$10,000.00
Starnes Farming and Trucking Automation WMD 490	Levy	\$10,000.00
N47 Cups Automation WMD 491	Polk	\$10,000.00
N47 Cups Precision WMD 492	Polk	\$10,000.00
Hammock Hay CO Wyatt WMD 495	Levy	\$10,000.00
KLM Farms LLC WMD 498	Polk	\$10,000.00
Oak Ridge Fish Farm Bldg 5 Plumbing WMD 504	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00
Oak Ridge Fish Farm Bldg 5 Sterilization WMD 505	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00
Bereah Tree Farm 23030 WMD 500	Polk	\$10,000.00
Bereah Tree Farm 8328 WMD 501	Polk	\$10,000.00
Bereah Tree Farm Automation	Polk	\$10,000.00
Norris- Weclaw WMD 465	Hardee	\$9,809.25
Norris- Poverty Hill	Highlands	\$9,809.25
Hammock Hay Co JJ WMD 494	Levy	\$10,000.00
The Doc Applications WMD 507	Polk	\$5,452.96
Sweet Life Farms - Balaban Automation WMD 508	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00

Bentley Ranch (1 - Precision Ag) WMD 510	Hardee	\$10,000.00
Bentley Ranch (2 - Zone Automation) WMD 511	Hardee	\$10,000.00
Noble Ag, LLC - Lasso Citrus WMD 512	Manatee	\$10,000.00
SunDance Growers House 1 WMD 513	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00
SunDance Growers House 2 WMD 514	Hillsborough	\$10,000.00
Windmill Farming and Hay Mason Mills WMD 515	Levy	\$1,687.50
Duette Duo - Automation WMD 516	Manatee	\$10,000.00
Wheeler Farms, Inc WMD 518	Highlands	\$10,000.00
Wheeler Farms, Inc WMD 519	Highlands	\$10,000.00
Southern Citrus Nurseries, LLC WMD520	Polk	\$5,915.95
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$452,919.50</b>



A weather station, such as the one pictured here and funded by the Mini-FARMS Program, conserves water by providing data for a grower to know when a crop needs irrigation and when it can go without.

# IV. Utility Services

## Utilities Services Group

The District's Utilities Services Group assists public water utilities in increasing system efficiency and reducing system losses. It includes the following services:

- Leak detection surveys
- Water audit guidance and evaluation

Since inception of the program in 1990, the leak detection team has conducted 170 leak detection surveys throughout the District, locating 1,821 leaks of various sizes, with an estimated 6.1 million gallons per day (mgd) of potential water savings. In FY2025, five leak detection surveys were completed with a potential estimated water savings of 127,080 gpd.

Utilities with a water loss of more than 10% are required to submit a remedial action plan and water audit to address water loss. In FY2025, District staff provided technical assistance for 19 utilities in completing water audits and remedial action plans. Staff completed one technical water audit report that was provided to the utility.

## Water Conservation Project Cost Effectiveness Calculator

The District's CFI water conservation calculator illustrates the potential cost effectiveness of various water conservation programs and can help estimate the water saving potential of various indoor and outdoor water conservation projects. The tool calculates cost effectiveness in cost per thousand gallons saved by using estimated water savings, project costs and project component service life. This information assists utilities in choosing projects that will provide the greatest benefits for the least cost. The calculator is available on the District's CFI webpage.

## Water-Conserving Rate Structures

The District works with utilities to adopt water-conserving rate structures to reduce per capita water use. These efforts assist utilities in achieving a compliance per capita rate of 150 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) or less as identified in the District's Strategic Plan and Rule. As the pricing of water can signal that potable water is an increasingly scarce and valuable resource, rate structures are one way to motivate customers to conserve. To estimate the effectiveness of a water-conserving rate structure, the District has a free water rate simulation model, WATERATE2008, available for utility use upon request. WATERATE2008 is a planning tool that simulates how changes in water and sewer rate structures impact water revenues and water demand. As part of the projection, the model allows a revenue neutral evaluation. This takes into account the decrease in water demand that results from an increase in price.

## Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

The District reviews local government comprehensive plan amendments pursuant to Chapter 163, Part II, F.S., and Section 373.711, F.S. Conservation is promoted through technical assistance comments and recommendations that focus on proposed policy language and updates to Ten-Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plans. In addition, consideration of Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>, Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> and other water-conservation programs, methods and techniques are encouraged for land use changes that involve increases in residential density.

<sup>1</sup> Rule 40D-3.091 (a) which references the Water Use Permit Applicant's Handbook Part B (section 2.3.7.2)

# V. Water Conservation Initiative

The Water Conservation Initiative (WCI) is an ongoing effort designed to maximize assistance to public suppliers and promote the implementation of best management practices to achieve conservation objectives within the District's Strategic Plan. The WCI objectives include the following:

- Assist utilities in the District to reduce regional per capita, as identified in the Strategic Plan.
- Identify public supply Water Use Permits (WUPs) expiring on a two-year basis to ensure internal and external coordination occurs prior to and during permitting to comprehensively evaluate potential conservation measures.
- Take feedback received from utilities and develop recommendations to improve the District's conservation efforts.

Divisions within the District with representatives on the Water Conservation Initiative Team include Regulation, Resource Management, Employee, Outreach and General Services, and the Office of General Counsel.

*Table 4. Water Conservation Initiative Activities and Accomplishments for FY2025*

County	Activity	Outcome
Inter-District	The WCI team held several planning meetings to coordinate and keep up to date on various conservation efforts.	Enhanced coordination of the District's water conservation activities across multiple bureaus and divisions.
Districtwide	Continued the Water Use Evaluations for Non-Agricultural Users pilot project.	Revised scope of work in preparation for issuing a Request for Quotes.
Inter-District	District Regulation and Water Supply staff coordinated on the review and discussion of Public Supply WUPs exceeding 150 gpcd.	Non-compliance letters were sent to four utilities with a compliance per capita above 150 gpcd.
Inter-District	District Regulation and Water Supply staff coordinated on the review of water conservation plans and population projection calculations.	Coordinated review for six public supply WUP applications.
Pasco County	District Communications staff worked with Government and Community Affairs and Office of General Counsel staff on Florida Water Star <sup>SM</sup> (FWS) codes and ordinances.	Built FWS into the City of Dade City's building ordinance.
Districtwide	District staff helped coordinate an inter-district water conservation coordinator meeting at Toho Water Authority in Kissimmee and hosted another one at the Tampa Service Office.	Districtwide utility staff attended the workshop to hear about and discuss conservation trends in Florida. Topics included irrigation restrictions, use of AMI and customer portals, as well as a round table discussion. Staff also helped with the FSAWWA conservation symposium and conservation awards.

## Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency Program

The Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency (WISE) program is a cost-share program aimed to financially incentivize water conservation projects with nonagricultural water users. WISE was initiated under the WCI based on the District's recognition for the need to offer an alternative funding opportunity for smaller projects that may not be supported through the CFI. Historically, this includes projects implemented by utilities, apartment complexes, schools, prisons, homeowners associations, golf courses, hotels, manufacturers, food processing facilities and other commercial users.

In FY2025, the WISE program allocated \$131,327 across 11 projects with a total estimated water savings of 140,797 gpd. At a cost share of up to 50%, approved applicants were eligible to receive up to \$20,000 per project in District funds.

*Table 5. WISE Projects Approved in FY2025*

Project #	Project Name	County	Budgeted District Share Reimbursement	Estimated Water Savings (gpd)
76	Fairway Lakes HOA	Manatee	\$1,726	427
77	Citrus County	Citrus	\$10,500	3,300
80	Lakeside Village HOA	Pasco	\$2,700	1,990
82	Central Park Neighborhood Association Inc.	Manatee	\$4,203	2,680
83	Country Club East HOA Inc.	Manatee	\$18,560	83,604
84	WRWSA	Multiple	\$18,270	7,526
85	Deer Creek RV golf and Country Club Inc.	Polk	\$20,000	28,332
87	City of Venice Toilet Rebate	Sarasota	\$12,750	2,190
88	City of Winter Haven	Polk	\$20,000	5,949
89	Seazen Rocky Point LP	Hillsborough	\$2,618	939
90	Manatee County	Manatee	\$20,000	3,860
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$131,327</b>	<b>140,797</b>

## Conservation Education Program

The Conservation Education Program (CEP) provides utilities, Extension offices and homeowners associations with support for educational projects that enhance existing efforts to increase residents’ knowledge and behaviors that lead to water conservation. The CEP was developed through the WCI in response to utility feedback that residential education is needed to help reduce water use. Through the CEP, the District works with project partners to promote, develop, implement and evaluate approved projects.

The District implemented the sixth year of the CEP in FY2025. The program allocated \$19,823 across four projects in FY2025 to enhance conservation outreach efforts (see Table 6).



*In partnership with Pasco County Utilities and UF/IFAS Extension, rain sensors were provided following audits at residential properties found to have no rain sensor or a non-working rain sensor, and the homeowner received educational information on rain-shut off devices and recommendations to help reduce outdoor water use.*

**Table 6. CEP Projects FY2025**

Project Partner	Main Project Type	Project Components
Citrus County Utilities	Educational Billboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded a billboard to support the County’s “Be a Smart Irrigator” campaign and coordinated on advertisement artwork.</li> </ul>
UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County	Conservation Giveaways and Educational Stickers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased 50 rain sensors to support irrigation evaluation program.</li> <li>• Designed and purchased 500 stickers with seasonal irrigation run time recommendations.</li> </ul>
UF/IFAS Extension Pasco County and Pasco County Utilities	Conservation Giveaways and Educational Stickers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased 50 rain sensors to support irrigation evaluation program.</li> <li>• Designed and purchased 500 stickers with irrigation tips and resources.</li> </ul>
City of Lakeland	Educational Magnets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchased 500 magnets on local water restrictions previously designed by the District.</li> </ul>

# VI. Education & Outreach

## Water Conservation Programs

### Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>

The Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> (FWS) program is a water conservation certification program for new residential and commercial construction and existing home renovation. The program encourages water efficiency in appliances, plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and landscapes, as well as water quality benefits from best management practices in landscapes. The program was developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District in 2006 and became a statewide program in 2012.

Through the CFI, the District currently offers FWS rebates in select communities in partnership with local utilities. New homes and commercial buildings receiving FWS certification are eligible for the rebates. The following rebates were offered to builders within the District in FY2025:

- Tampa Bay Water offered rebates in the amount of \$1,000 per home. During FY2025, District staff promoted the rebates through the Tampa Bay Builders Association and conducted an FWS Accredited Professionals training at Tampa Bay Water.

In addition to rebates, during FY2025 the District worked with the city of Dade City to incorporate FWS certification and criteria into local building codes. At the close of FY2025, there were a total of 17 local governments and one utility that incorporated FWS into local building codes or water transfer requirements. While most cities allow for affidavits to be signed for official FWS certification, the cities of Dade City, Lake Wales and Zephyrhills require FWS certification for the builder to obtain their Certificate of Occupancy. In addition, Bay Laurel Utilities requires official FWS certification for transference of water service from builder to homebuyer. District staff also attended approximately 40 builder, landscape and irrigation meetings to promote the FWS program.

An average FWS homeowner with outdoor irrigation can save up to 48,000 gallons of water each year. Since 2009, 8,499 properties have been certified by the District. In combination with those certified by the District, additional properties have or will meet FWS criteria based on local codes and ordinances. At build-out, more than 69,000 properties will be required to meet FWS criteria, saving approximately 3.2 billion gallons of water each year.



*With the passing of Dade City's FWS ordinance, FWS apprentice inspectors were trained to inspect new homes in Dade City.*

## Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) is also part of the District’s educational programs. It was created by the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to educate residents about landscape and irrigation principles that save water and protect water quality. The District promotes the use of FFL to members of the building industry, managers of community development districts and boards, homeowners associations, residents, and landscape and irrigation professionals during presentation events and through development and distribution of program publications and materials. The District has supported this program since 2001.

## Community Awareness Campaigns

The District has many community-wide outreach programs and awareness campaigns that focus on water conservation, watersheds and water quality. These include:

- **“Skip a Week” Campaign**—To encourage reduced irrigation during the winter months of January and February.
- **Water Conservation Month**—Throughout the month of April, the District works with local government partners to share the importance of water conservation and increase efforts to conserve water.
- **“Watch the Weather, Wait to Water”**—To encourage residents to watch the weather during the summer months of June, July, August and September to offset irrigation with rainfall.
- **“Water 101” Campaign**—To educate new and existing residents, as well as community managers, about how they can help conserve and protect water resources.

## Publications and Materials

Free publications are available to download or order via [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org) for residents within the District. These publications include posters, student worksheets, teacher guides, bookmarks, recreation guides, informational brochures, tip cards and more on a variety of topics related to the District’s mission, including conservation.

The District also supplies water-conserving items, such as leak detection tablets, sink aerators, low-flow showerheads and water-efficient spray nozzles at public events, presentations, workshops and to partner organizations. Education materials are provided concurrently to reinforce water conservation.

## Youth Education

The District provides funding to school districts within our region to help support water conservation education both in and out of the classroom. These programs allow students to gain the background knowledge to make informed decisions about water resources in the future. They include field trips, teacher trainings, classroom project supplies and Splash! school grants. Many free resources also are available to teachers, including free publications and materials, water education videos, virtual watershed excursions and the Classroom Conservation Challenge.

## Social Media

The District uses social media to promote conservation through regular posts, including tips to residents on how to conserve water through infographics, videos and promotion of free publications and additional resources.

## News Releases

The District issues news releases to inform the media and the public about District-initiated news and events, including those involving water conservation, such as water restrictions and conservation campaigns.

## Speaking Engagements

Through the Speakers Bureau, District staff share their expertise with a wide variety of audiences. Frequently requested topics include water resources and water conservation. The latter focuses on the limitations of our water supply and how residents can help conserve water both in the home and in the yard. Learning about leak detection, rain sensors and other conservation measures helps to ensure that residents are well-informed and can act to conserve water.

## Decision-Maker Water Schools

The District provides small grants for decision-maker water schools, which have a large focus on conservation. These programs provide elected officials, community leaders and other decision makers with factual information about their county's water resources and encourages improved public policy and decision making regarding water resource issues.



*The District sponsored the Pinellas Waters Stewardship Program that educated participants about a variety of water-resource topics and emerging water issues.*

# VII. Research

## Water Conservation Research

The District provided funding to the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/ IFAS) primarily for research projects involving agricultural best management practices, including those targeting water conservation. Additionally, funds have been awarded to research that relates to public supply conservation. UF/ IFAS is a federal-state-county partnership that provides research and development for Florida’s agricultural, human and natural resources, as well as related food industries.

From FY2005 through FY2025, the District has provided a total of \$12.5 million in funding toward 60 UF/IFAS research projects. In FY2025, the District provided \$199,000 in support of research projects, all of which involved water conservation.

*Table 7. Current Governing Board-Approved Conservation Research Projects*

Project #	Project Name	Crop Type/ Use	Funding Years	Total Project Cost	FY25 District Funding Allocation
B136	Florida Automated Weather Network Data Dissemination and Education	General Agriculture	FY2025	\$100,000	\$100,000
B424	Water-Nutrient Smart Production Systems with Compact Bed Geometry Technology: Water, Production, Economics	Tomato	FY2020-2024	\$299,000	\$79,000
B426	Turf Grass Literature Review	Urban Landscape	FY2025	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$419,000</b>	<b>\$199,000</b>

# VIII. Regulation

## Water Use Permit Conditions

A Water Use Permit (WUP) allows the withdrawal of a specified amount of water, either from the ground (i.e. aquifers), surface (i.e. lakes, rivers or ponds) or alternative water supplies (i.e. reclaimed water or tailwater recovery). Upon submittal of a WUP application, the District's WUP Bureau evaluation staff determine if the use of water is reasonable and beneficial, does not interfere with any existing legal use of water, is consistent with the public interest and does not impact any sensitive environmental features. WUPs issued by the District contain standard and special conditions that mandate efficient use of water and conservation measures. Requirements include use of best management practices, leak detection and repair, inspections, water audits, water-conserving rate structures, a compliance per capita rate no greater than 150 gpcd and implementation of a Water Conservation Plan.

Additional special conditions are added for WUPs located within the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) planning area dependent on the location, quantity and predominant use of the permit. The CFWI is a collaborative process between the Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), regional public water supply utilities, and other stakeholders to address the current and long-term water supply needs of Central Florida without causing harm to the water resources and associated natural systems. The CFWI encompasses five counties, including Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and southern Lake.

## Water Conservation Plans

As part of the WUP process, all applicants for annual average quantities of 100,000 gallons per day or greater are required to implement a Water Conservation Plan. The plan must demonstrate that environmentally, technically and economically feasible water conservation measures applicable to the proposed use have been or will be employed. Water conservation measures that have been approved by the Governing Board by rule or water shortage order must be implemented. Where specific water conservation elements have been developed for specific use types, such as public supply or agriculture, these elements are incorporated into the permit.

For WUPs located in the CFWI planning area, all applicants are required to develop and implement an Annual Conservation Goal Implementation Plan (ACGIP) and submit a compliance progress report to the District as indicated by the reporting frequency on their WUP. Agricultural users with a total allocation less than 100,000 gpd may enroll in an adopted FDACS Best Management Practices (BMPs) program and utilize the FDACS BMPs as their annual conservation goal if the documentation supporting the enrollment and implementation of selected BMPs is maintained annually. Public Supply users with an annual average of 100,000 gpd or greater, and whose commercial water use is less than 30% of its total water use, are required to meet the annual conservation goal by demonstrating yearly progress toward a gross per capita daily water use rate of no greater than 115 gpd or a functional per capita daily water use rate of no greater than 100 gpd.

## **Year-Round Water Conservation Measures**

Year-round water conservation measures are part of District rules (Chapter 40D-22, Florida Administrative Code). The rule primarily focuses on allowable irrigation practices, including lawn and landscape watering, that are in place when there is no drought or other declared water shortage. The District generally uses the term “measures” instead of “restrictions” to distinguish the year-round practices from stricter watering limitations that can be imposed during a water shortage. These practices are meant to reduce wasteful irrigation habits and to help condition lawns for drought survival. The District’s year-round water conservation measures are in effect except where stricter measures have been imposed by local governments.

## **Water Shortage Plan/Orders**

Water shortage orders are temporary water use restrictions and other requirements that are declared in accordance with a state-mandated water shortage plan. This plan is included in a District rule (Chapter 40D-21, Florida Administrative Code) that describes how the agency will monitor hydrologic conditions and make decisions to manage the impact of droughts and other water shortages. Management strategies include four phases of response and additional actions that can be implemented in emergency situations.





VISAV 02-26

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only); or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at [WaterMatters.org/ADA](http://WaterMatters.org/ADA).

