

Southwest Florida Water Management District Offices

Brooksville Headquarters

2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, FL 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 • 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

Bartow Service Office

170 Century Boulevard

Bartow, FL 33830-7700

(863) 534-1448 • 1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Service Office

6750 Fruitville Road

Sarasota, FL 34240-9711

(941) 377-3722 • 1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Service Office

7601 Highway 301 North

Tampa, FL 33637-6759

(813) 985-7481 • 1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

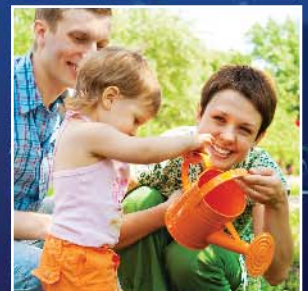
Southwest Florida
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

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 and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Director, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org.

VISAY 09-10

How Water Is Managed *for You*



Across the United States and around the world, water is managed differently. Yet no matter where you go, government participates in water management because it is essential to survival and economic prosperity. In Florida, water is considered a public resource. Therefore, water belongs to everyone and must be managed with this in mind.

Partners in Water Management

To balance the needs of everyone and protect the environment, various government agencies are responsible for managing water resources in west-central Florida.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is responsible for protecting all of Florida's natural resources, which includes water. The FDEP works with the state's five water management districts to ensure that water resources are managed effectively.



Southwest Florida Water Management District

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is one of five water management districts in Florida and is responsible for managing and protecting water resources within west-central Florida. The District does not supply water; however, it issues water use permits, or permission, to individuals or governments to use specific amounts of water for specific purposes and lengths of time. The District also provides guidance to and funds large-scale water supply projects for local city and county governments and regional water supply authorities.



Water Supply Authorities

Regional water supply authorities are groups of local city and county governments that combine their resources and work together to supply water to their area. Water supply authorities receive water use permits from the water management districts.

The water supply authorities in the District are:

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority — Currently provides water only to Citrus County Utilities. Members include Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties, and the cities of Belleview, Brooksville, Bushnell, Inverness and Ocala.

Tampa Bay Water — Provides water to its member government utilities: Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, and the cities of New Port Richey, Tampa and St. Petersburg.

Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority — Provides water to its member government utilities: Charlotte, DeSoto and Sarasota counties; and its customer, the City of North Port. Manatee County is a member of this water supply authority but does not currently need water from the Authority.

Local City and County Water Utilities

Most water utilities receive water from either well fields or surface water sources. After the water is treated, utilities provide it to homes or businesses through a system of pipes. Utilities are often owned by the government to provide the public with a basic need; however, some systems are private.

Consumer

Consumers receive the water from the local city or county water utility, depending on their location.

The District's Role

Under state law, the District coordinates with local governments and/or water supply authorities to assist with managing water for everyone. Before issuing water use permits, the District determines how much water can be withdrawn from underground or from lakes and rivers without causing harm to the natural environment.

The District issues water use permits to five different types of users, including:

Public supply — Water distributed by public water systems and private water utilities, which are the largest users and include water supply authorities and other utilities.



Agriculture — Water used for agricultural production such as citrus groves.

Recreation/Aesthetic — Water used for the irrigation of golf courses, cemeteries, parks and other large landscapes.



Industrial or commercial — Water used for various operations such as hospitals, schools, cement plants, prisons and product manufacturing plants.

Mining/Dewatering — Water used for mining operations such as phosphate, limestone, sand and peat.



Protecting the Environment

District water use permits have requirements to protect the environment. When too much water is taken out of the natural environment, the region can experience:

- Lowered groundwater levels.
- Lowered lake levels.
- Loss of moisture in wetland areas.
- Saltwater intrusion.
- Loss of habitat for animals.

District water use permitting benefits residents, property owners and businesses by protecting water supplies for current and future generations.

Future Planning

The District must also plan for an adequate water supply for the future. Therefore, in addition to using traditional water supplies where possible, the District partners with local governments and regional water supply authorities to investigate, develop and implement a wide range of alternative sources and storage methods, such as:

Conservation — Using efficient water-saving practices.

Surface water supplies — Water drawn from creeks, rivers and lakes.

Reservoirs — Constructed areas where water is collected and stored for later use.

Reclaimed water — Treated wastewater reused for irrigation or other beneficial uses.

Aquifer storage and recovery — Treated water injected in the aquifer and stored for later use.

Desalination — Removing salt from seawater or brackish water to produce drinking-quality water.