

Project Name: E&SF: Critical Projects - Ten Mile Creek Water Preservation Area
Project ID: 1111
Lead Agency: USACE / SFWMD
Authority: WRDA 1996 (Section 528); WRDA 2007 (*amended cumulative cap*)
Funding Source: Federal/State

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: Primary: 1-A.1 Secondary: 2-A.3

Measurable Output(s):

- 6,000 acre feet of storage provided on 526 acres of land
- 2,740 acres of habitat improved by project

Project History: WRDA 1996 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to expeditiously implement restoration projects deemed critical to the restoration of the south Florida ecosystem. The SFER Task Force nominated 35 projects with input from the Governor’s Commission for a Sustainable South Florida and the public. Based on the set of priorities, the USACE conducted an abbreviated study of and produced a report transmitted to the Secretary of the Army for approval. This is one of the 12 restoration “Critical Projects” having the Secretary of the Army’s approval (WRDA 1996). However, Federal funding caps under WRDA 1996 and later revised under WRDA 2007 provide a \$95M spending limit.

Current Project Synopsis: Ten Mile Creek is the largest sub-basin delivering water to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River Estuary (SLE), which has been established as an *Outstanding Florida Water* (OFW). The SLE discharges into the Indian River Lagoon, also an OFW, and the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. The entire lagoon is endangered by increased watershed runoff. Excess stormwater, due to drainage improvements, is causing radical fluctuations of the salinity concentration in the estuary. Adverse salinity concentrations eliminate viable habitat suitable for oysters, sea grasses, and marine fish spawning.

The project site is located just south of Ten Mile Creek in St. Lucie County and consists of the acquisition of 1,559 acres of land in the eastern portion of the Ten Mile Creek Basin and construction of an above-ground impoundment for stormwater detention purposes. It includes construction of a pump station and several control structures for circulation and discharge within the project. A constructed wetland or flow-through marsh has been added for additional water quality improvement purposes. This feature includes construction of a water preserve area and polishing cell to attenuate flows and improve water quality. Detailed monitoring will provide practical information about how well the reservoir can capture nutrients on its own, prior to treatment in the STA; fish and wildlife use of the reservoir; and whether species can persist under a greatly fluctuating hydrologic regime.

The 1998 Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) provides seasonal or temporary storage of stormwater from the Ten Mile Creek basin. Land certification, plans and spec completion and the construction award occurred in 2003; and construction was physically completed on the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area by June 2006. Since that time, interim operations, testing and monitoring have been under way by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in accordance with the Water Quality Permit and Project Cooperation Agreement.

During the process for preparation to transfer the project to the sponsor (SFWMD) for full operations, concerns were raised about some aspects of the project. In September 2007, the USACE and the SFWMD immediately began identifying all issues and planning a course of action toward remediation and delivering a quality project. This effort identified additional project needs and their associated costs, which were significant.

Current Status: On June 1, 2009 the SFWMD ceased Operations and Maintenance. As current holder of the FDEP permit, the USACE is responsible for the facility. That same month, the SFWMD transferred responsibility for the Ten Mile Creek project to the USACE and discontinued active project participation. The Corps has placed the facility in a passive operating state in order to limit project expenditures, which are within \$33K of the \$25M Federal spending cap set for Critical Projects (WRDA 1996 and WRDA 2007.)

The 2009 Water and Energy Appropriations Act increased the spending authorization by \$3.5M. The \$3.5M would be used to complete a post authorization change report and to fund facility maintenance thru FY2014. A Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was underway from September 2010 through April 2011 between USACE and SFWMD, which would increase project spending cap, with the non-Federal sponsor, to begin the post authorization change report. However the agreement was put on hold by the SFWMD in April 2011, pending the outcome of the litigation efforts.

A test fill of the reservoir was completed by the Department of Justice for litigation data collection purposes. The test fill began Dec 2011 and was completed Mar 2012. At the conclusion of the test fill, the facility was placed back into a passive operating state pending the outcome of the litigation efforts.

Est. Cost: \$ 50,000,000

Project Schedule:

1997 Start
 2006 Finish Construction
 2007 Interim Operations and Monitoring - SFWMD
 2009 Passive Operations and Monitoring begun - USACE
 2014 Post Authorization Change Report (Pending Finalization of FCSA)

Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):

Ten Mile Creek	Expenditures Thru FY 2011
USACE	\$24,966,000
SFWMD	\$24,703,000
Total	\$49,669,000

Hyperlink: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/EcosystemRestoration.aspx>

Contact: Kim Vitek, Project Manager, Programs & Project Management Division, USACE
Kimberly.A.Vitek@usace.army.mil
 Alan Shirkey, Lead Engineer, SFWMD
ashirkey@sfwmd.gov

Source: Project description was summarized from the *Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (1999)*. Current status information was provided by the project manager.

Additional Information:

