

**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:** 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, construction of an above-ground impoundment, a treatment cell, a pump station, and several control structures. 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 1998 Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) recommended 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. Interim operations, testing, and monitoring 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 is complete.

During the process for preparation to transfer the project to the sponsor (SFWMD) for full operations, concerns were raised regarding the constructed project. In September 2007, the USACE and the SFWMD began working to resolve project issues, to transfer this project to the SFWMD for operation and maintenance.

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.

The Ten Mile Creek WPA project was in a passive operating state since 2009. Temporary operational testing of the reservoir was conducted from December 2011 to March 2012 for data collection purposes to monitor and evaluate the performance of the reservoir. Upon completion of the limited operations of the Ten Mile Creek WPA, all water was pumped out of the reservoir into Ten Mile Creek and the project has been returned to a passive operating state. The data collected is being used by the government and will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in identifying the future operation plan for the Ten Mile Creek WPA.

**Current Status:**

Congress passed legislation directing the Secretary of the Army (through the Corps of Engineers) to execute a transfer agreement with the SFWMD. Section 107 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, deauthorizes the Ten Mile Creek project upon execution of the transfer agreement. The Corps and SFWMD executed the transfer agreement on May 12, 2016. The Ten Mile Creek project is no longer a federally authorized project.

**Est. Cost:** \$ 57,000,000

**Project Schedule:**

1997	Start
2006	Finish Construction
2007	Interim Operations and Monitoring - SFWMD
2009	Passive Operations and Monitoring begun - USACE
2015	SFWMD temporary operational testing
2016	The Project was officially deauthorized

**Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):**

Ten Mile Creek	Obligations Thru 2016
USACE	24,969,385
SFWMD	24,764,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,733,506</b>

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

**Contact:** Michael Collis, Senior Program Manager, Programs and Project Management Division, USACE, Michael.J.Collis@usace.army.mil

Alan Shirkey, Lead Engineer, SFWMD  
[ashirkey@sfwmd.gov](mailto: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 program manager.

**Additional Information:**

