Central Florida Water Initiative

CFWI Water for Tomorrow

Kissimmee River Management Area 10-Year Plan Provides a Strategy to Restore and Protect Public Conservation Lands

The South Florida Water Management District (District) Governing Board approved the 10-year update of the Kissimmee River Management Area 10-Year General Management Plan (2025-2035) at the June 2026 monthly meeting. The Kissimmee River Management Area General Management Plan (General Management Plan or Plan) is a 10-year strategy developed by the District to guide the stewardship of 42,750 acres of public conservation lands in Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Glades counties. These lands were acquired to support the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, one of the largest and most successful river restoration efforts in the world.

A General Management Plan describes the historical, physical, and ecological aspects of the property, existing public recreational opportunities, and the various land management functions necessary to properly manage the area. The purpose of a General Management Plan is to provide guidance to District land managers for the implementation of appropriate and consistent land management practices, to identify goals and objectives for the property's management, and to present the findings of the land management review team. The Plan also shares how the District will preserve history by protecting cultural and archaeological resources within the management area.

The General Management Plan outlines key goals that include restoring natural wetlands impacted by decades of river channelization, protecting wildlife by supporting endangered and threatened species through habitat restoration and monitoring, and controlling invasive species by reducing harmful plants and animals that threaten native ecosystems.

The Plan highlights how the District will continue to provide public access to the Kissimmee River Management Area through maintaining trails, campsites, boat ramps, and hunting areas. Residents and visitors can explore over 120 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding and opportunities for camping, boating, air boating, fishing, and hunting.

Read the full Kissimmee River Management Plan to learn more.