



St. Johns River Water Management District

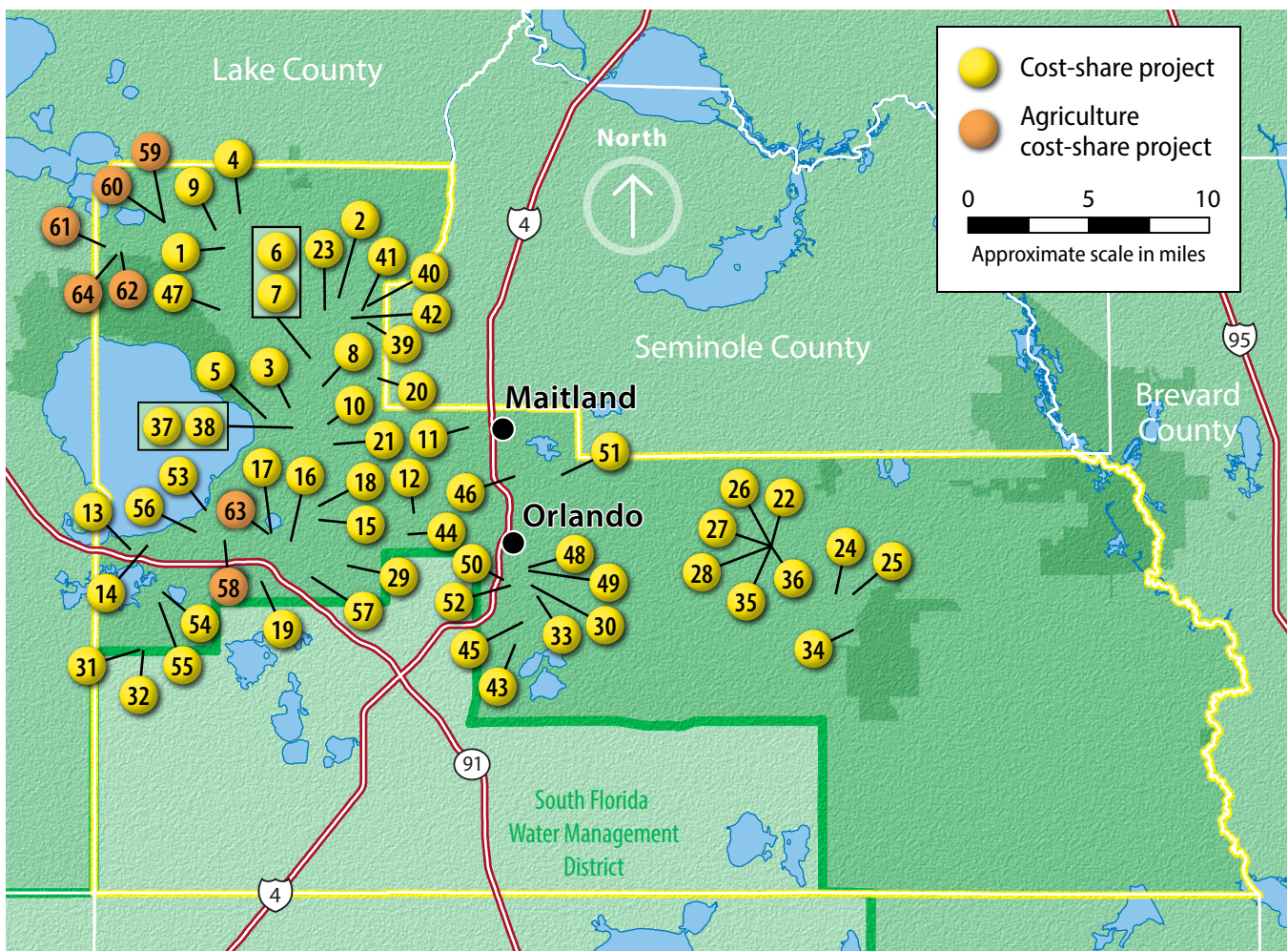
Cost-share and District-led projects in Orange County

The St. Johns River Water Management District (District) implements a wide variety of projects aimed at protecting water supplies, improving water quality, restoring natural systems, and providing flood protection. A summary of the cost-share projects benefiting Orange County are described on the following pages. The summary includes a description of benefits for each project, including nutrient load reduction (total phosphorus [TP], total nitrogen [TN] pounds per year [lbs/yr]), alternative water supplied (million gallons per day [mgd]), water conserved (mgd), alternative water storage capacity created (million gallons [MG]), or acres protected from flooding.

Also listed at the end of this document are District-led and other efforts benefitting the communities in Orange County.

Cost-Share Program:

In partnering with local communities throughout our 18-county district, important water projects are being completed every year. Through the Cost-Share Program, the District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) together have awarded \$33 million for projects in communities throughout Orange County beginning in fiscal year 2014, leveraging approximately \$93 million when



combined with local matching funds. Orange County cost-share projects have provided an estimated benefit of 21.1 million gallons per day (mgd) of alternative water supply, 1.8 million gallons (MG) of storage capacity, 4.5 mgd of water conserved, 69,000 lbs/yr TN (total nitrogen in pounds per year [lbs/yr]) reduction, 5,000 lbs/yr TP (total phosphorus) reduction, and 40 acres of flood protection.

- 1. Apopka Golden Gem Road Reclaimed Water (RCW) Extension** — The project involves the construction of a reclaimed water main the length of Golden Gem Road between Ponkan Road and Kelly Park Road. The estimated water supply benefit is 0.39 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 2. Apopka Individual Distributed Wastewater Treatment Systems Conversion Project** — The Project includes abandoning existing septic systems and replacing with individual distributed wastewater treatment systems in locations where a sewer connection is not available or feasible. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to Wekiwa-Rock springshed is 784 lbs/yr of TN. Project Status: In Progress.
- 3. Apopka Keene Road Reclaimed Water Transmission Main** — The project includes construction of a reclaimed water distribution main from the City of Apopka's Reclaimed Water Treatment Facility to the Keene Road / Marden Road intersection. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 2.2 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 4. Apopka Kelly Park Road and Ponkan Road Reclaimed Water Extension** — The project includes construction of reclaimed water main extension into the future high-density Kelly Park Crossings development and along Ponkan Road. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 0.9 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 5. Apopka Reclaimed Water Main Extensions** — The project includes construction of three reaches of reclaimed water main within the City of Apopka. The estimated

alternative water supply benefit is 1.05 mgd. Project Status: Complete.

- 6. Apopka Water Conservation Program Phase 1** — The project includes implementing a water conservation program that will target high-water use residential, commercial and city accounts and offer a free irrigation audit. It will provide a landscape evaluation by city staff certified by the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS), which will include providing recommendations for efficiency improvements as well as offer rebates to implement the improvements. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.13 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 7. Apopka Water Conservation Program Phase 2** — This water conservation program includes targeting high-water use residential and commercial accounts that will have the greatest potential to reduce water use. The estimated water conservation benefit is 1.01 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 8. Apopka Water Reclamation Facility Nutrient Removal** — The project includes the expansion of the capacity and upgrading the treatment level for the city's existing water reclamation facility. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is 45,662 lbs/yr of TN. The project also provides an estimated alternative water supply benefit of 1.5 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 9. Apopka West Reuse Storage Facility and Reclaimed Water Extension** — The project includes a repump facility and approximately 7,900 linear feet (LF) of reclaimed water main extension. The estimated alternative water supply benefit within the Wekiwa-Rock Springs priority focus area is 2.87 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 10. Lost Lake RV Park Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade** — The project includes the construction of a 9,000 per day (gpd) precast wastewater treatment plant. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit within the Wekiwa Springs springshed is 767 lbs/yr of TN. Project Status: Complete.

- 11. Maitland Village Homeowners Association Irrigation Optimization** — The project consists of installing a smart irrigation controller to reduce irrigation. The estimated water conservation benefit to Wekiwa-Rock Springs is 0.008 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 12. Oak Hill 200 LLC Rosala West Water Conservation** — The project consists of replacing high-consumption toilets and shower heads for 344 units with 0.8 gallons per flush (gpf) toilets and low-flow 1.25 gpm shower heads. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.03 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 13. Oakland Hull Avenue Septic-to-Sewer** — The project includes the construction of approximately 3,800 LF of 8-inch gravity sewer; including lateral sewer connections for 46 residential lots, two commercial lots and three vacant lots. Upon completion, 44 residential lots, two commercial lots and three vacant lots were converted to sewer. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa-Rock springshed is 249 lbs/yr of TN. The project will also provide an estimated alternative water supply benefit of 0.01 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 14. Oakland Stormwater/Drainage Improvements** — The project includes construction of three bio-filtration retention ponds and associated swales and structures. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is 56 lbs/yr of TN and 10 lbs/yr of TP. The project will also provide an estimated flood protection benefit to 39 acres. Project Status: Complete.
- 15. Ocoee Final Phase of Meter Replacement and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)** — The project includes converting to smart meters and fully integrating an AMI system in support of the city's water conservation program. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.42 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 16. Ocoee Hammocks Reclaimed Water Retrofit** — The project includes the extension of the reclaimed water lines to The Hammocks, an existing 125-home neighborhood, to replace the use of potable water for irrigation with reclaimed water. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 0.05 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 17. Ocoee Lake Prima Vista Sediment Nutrient Inactivation** — This project includes the application of alum and Phoslock® in Lake Prima Vista to improve water quality through inactivation of sediment nutrients. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is a one-time 359 lbs of TP over a five-year period. Project Status: Complete.
- 18. Ocoee Water Meter Replacements** — The project consists of implementing a water conservation project to replace 500 traditional water meters with smart meters, upgrading these meters with AMI and AquaHawk Alerting to help identify water use inefficiencies (leaks, high water use and noncompliance with irrigation rules). The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.33 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 19. Ocoee Windermere Groves Reclaimed Water (RCW) Retrofit** — The project includes the extension of reclaimed water lines to the 128-home Windermere Groves neighborhood, replacing the current use of potable water for irrigation. The estimated alternative water supply benefit within the Wekiwa springshed is 0.015 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 20. Orange County Utilities (OCU) Toilet Retrofit** — The program will provide up to two hundred \$100 rebates for residences that replace older toilets with new, low-flow toilets. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.005 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 21. Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Smart Irrigation** — OUC's program will provide hardware to home builders to upgrade irrigation systems to a Wi-Fi enabled evapotranspiration (ET) smart timer, rain sensors and high efficiency spray nozzles to at least 100 new construction homes. The

expected water supply benefit is estimated to be 0.01 mgd in the Orange County region.
Project Status: Complete.

22. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Commercial Account Program** — The project is an expansion of Orange County Utilities Water Wise conservation program to include commercial properties within OCU’s service area and includes providing smart irrigation timers, rain sensors, and high efficiency spray nozzles to those commercial properties that agree to participate in the program. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.04 mgd. Project Status: Not Started.
23. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Program** — The project involves the implementation of a comprehensive residential water footprint reduction program to a minimum of 100 homes. This voluntary program will encourage homeowners to meet certain benchmarks to become as water efficient as possible. The program includes financial incentives to help with hardware retrofits and will provide assistance with behavioral changes that promote water conservation. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.016 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
24. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Program Phase 1 (New)** — This is a comprehensive voluntary water conservation program to a minimum of 500 new construction homes. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.083 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
25. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Program Phase 1 (Retrofit)** — The program includes plumbing and irrigation retrofit of 300 homes. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.027 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
26. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Program Phase 2 (New and Retrofit)** — The project involves the continuation of the county’s water conservation program for new homes and retrofits. This phase will

include up to 300 new homes and 300 existing homes. The program is voluntary, whereby builders (new) and residents (retrofit) agree to meet certain benchmarks to become as water efficient as possible. The county provides advanced irrigation equipment to the builders and residents. The builder and resident must meet 80% of the Florida Water StarSM silver level requirements. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.06 mgd.
Project Status: Complete.

27. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Neighbor Program Phase 3** — The project involves the continuation (year 3) of the county’s comprehensive water conservation program to about 300 new construction and 300 existing homes. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.107 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
28. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Waterwise Program Phase 4, Irrigation for New Construction** — This is an expansion of OCU’s Waterwise Neighbor Program, which focuses on reducing landscape irrigation water use. The program provides smart irrigation evapotranspiration timers, rain sensors, high-efficiency spray nozzles and pressure-regulated spray bodies to participating builders. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.03 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
29. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Cypress Lake Wellfield, Oak Meadows** — The project includes installation of variable frequency drives on the pumps at the Oak Meadows water supply facility. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 2 mgd. Project Status: In Progress.
30. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Efficient Irrigation Nozzle Replacement** — The project includes conducting full irrigation audits and replacement of 5,000 old, inefficient irrigation nozzles at 143 residents with new nozzles that have an even water distribution pattern. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.07 mgd. Project Status: Complete.

31. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Malcolm Road LFA Well Phase 1** — The project includes constructing a Lower Floridan aquifer (LFA) well at the planned Malcolm Road water supply facility. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 2 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
32. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Malcolm Road LFA Wells Phase 2** — The project includes constructing two additional Lower Floridan aquifer wells at the Malcolm Road water supply facility. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 1.33 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
33. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Rain Sensor Replacement Project** — The program includes working with 1,100 residences, making sure the properties have functioning rain sensors. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.098 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
34. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Watersmart Customers Conserve** — The program includes working with residents to reduce the water use of 30,000 residential customers by 4.9%. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.37 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
35. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Water Conservation with Advanced Targeting** — The water conservation program will provide indoor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense® devices for inside the home and rebates for irrigation system retrofits. The estimated water conservation benefit to Wekiwa-Rock Springs is 0.07 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
36. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Water Conservation with Advanced Targeting: Phase 2** — This water conservation program will provide indoor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense® devices for inside the home and rebates for irrigation system retrofits. The estimated water conservation benefit to Wekiwa-Rock Springs is 0.07 mgd. Project Status: Not Started.
37. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Wekiwa Springshed Alternative Water Supply (AWS) Expansion Phase 1** — The project includes constructing a reclaimed water transmission main and related pumping improvements to supply water from Orange County to the City of Apopka's reuse system. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 3 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
38. **Orange County Utilities (OCU) Wekiwa Springshed AWS Expansion Phase 2** — The project includes improvements to the electrical control building, additional site work and piping and the installation of three additional pumps to the associated Phase 1 project, for a total of five pumps for reclaimed water distribution. The estimated water supply benefit is 3.0 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
39. **Orange County Wekiwa Springs Septic Tank Retrofit Phase 1** — The project includes construction of a sanitary sewer main, laterals, sewer connections, lift stations and septic tank abandonment for 213 parcels in the Sweetwater West and Wekiwa Highlands subdivisions. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa-Rock springshed is 1,471 lbs/yr of TN. In addition, there is a 0.057 mgd alternative water supply benefit. Project Status: Complete.
40. **Orange County Wekiwa Springs Septic Tank Retrofit Phase 2** — The project is Phase 2 of a septic-to-sewer conversion that involves the installation of sewer laterals, sewer connections, septic tank abandonment, sanitary sewer main, and lift stations for 154 parcels in the Palms 1 and 2 neighborhoods. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to Wekiwa-Rock springshed is 1,601 lbs/yr of TN. In addition, there is a 0.042 mgd alternative water supply benefit. Project Status: Complete.
41. **Orange County Wekiwa Springs Septic Tank Retrofit: Phase 3** — The project includes the abandonment of 213 septic tanks and connection to sanitary sewer in the Palms 3 and 4 neighborhoods. This is the third phase of a

six-phase project. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa-Rock springshed is 2,101 lbs/yr TN. The project is also estimated to provide a water supply benefit of 0.05 mgd. Project Status: In Progress.

42. **Orange County Wekiwa Springs Septic Tank Retrofit: Phase 4** — The project includes the construction of laterals, sewer connections, septic tank abandonments, sewer main, manholes, and lift stations for 352 parcels in the Rolling Oaks neighborhood. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa-Rock Springs is 3,473 lbs/yr of TN and an alternative water supply benefit of 0.1 mgd. Project Status: Not Started.
43. **Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Lake Jennie Jewel Alum Treatment** — The project involves in-lake alum treatment of Lake Jennie Jewel, an urban lake in south Orange County. Also, this project includes the installation of a nutrient-separating baffle box (NSBB) on the east lobe of Lake Jennie Jewel. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is 45 lbs/yr of TN and 1,239 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
44. **Orange County EPD Lake Lawne Irrigation Facility** — The project includes creating a stormwater pond in-line with the Lake Marylin Outfall Canal to capture stormwater from a 300-acre subbasin. The stormwater will then be used to irrigate an area within Barnett Park along Lake Lawne, an urban lake and the upstream-most lake in the Little Wekiva system that flows to the Wekiva River. The expected nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is 650 lbs/yr of TN and 106 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
45. **Orange County EPD Lake Pineloch Water Quality Improvement** — The project includes the construction of a nutrient separating baffle box-upflow filter (NSBB-UFF) treatment train to treat stormwater runoff. In addition, TP concentrations in Lake Pineloch will be suppressed with the use of an alum/buffer

solution applied to the surface water. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefits from the NSBB-UFF system are 530 lbs/yr of TN and 80 lbs/yr of TP. Additionally, the lake alum treatment will result in an approximate one-time TP nutrient load reduction of 1,530 lbs over a five-year period. Project Status: Complete.

46. **Orange County EPD Lake Killarney Sediment Inactivation** — The project includes alum treatment to stabilize the sediments in Lake Killarney. The estimated one-time nutrient load reduction water quality benefit is 1,293 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
47. **Orange Blossom KOA Sewage Treatment Plant Elimination** — The project includes connecting the RV park's sewer system via a lift station and force main to the City of Apopka's central sewer system. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa Spring springshed is 550 lbs/yr of TN and 275 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
48. **Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Irrigation Conservation Program Phase 1** — The program includes identifying, notifying, and educating customers with high potential for water conservation, assisting customers to implement improvements through qualified contractors, retrofit landscaping at the Pershing and Gardenia OUC properties using Xeriscape™. The estimated water conservation benefit is 1.11 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
49. **Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Irrigation Conservation Program Phase 2** — The project involves the continuation of OUC's irrigation conservation program. The project targets high use residential and commercial irrigation customers. Postcards are mailed and free irrigation evaluations are conducted. This project is now also now includes a toilet rebate program for residential and commercial customers. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.06 mgd. Project Status: Complete.

- 50. Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Smart Leak Detection Device Rebates** — The program involves a rebate of up to \$100 for customers who install smart leak detection devices within OUC’s service area. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.011 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 51. Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Water Conservation Rebates** — The program includes a rebate of \$75 for replacement of toilets that consume 3.5 gallons per flush (GPF) or more, with a toilet that consumes 1.28 GPF or less. The program also includes an \$100 rebate for WaterSense-labeled irrigation controllers. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.02 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 52. Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Water Conservation Rebates: Phase 2** — The project is a continuation of OUC’s water conservation program and includes rebates for high-efficiency toilets, Energy Star clothes washers, high-efficiency sprinklers, and rain sensors. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.02 mgd. Project Status: In Progress.
- 53. Winter Garden Reclaimed Water and Stormwater Recharge** — The project includes constructing the Winter Garden Reclaimed and Stormwater Aquifer Recharge System Project. It includes storage ponds for stormwater and reclaimed water to increase aquifer recharge and for reuse irrigation. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 1.8 MG storage capacity created. The project will also result in a secondary nutrient load reduction water quality benefit of 10,950 lbs/yr of TN and 1,988 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 54. Winter Garden Reuse Distribution Retrofit** — The project includes expansion of the city’s reuse water service to retrofit four subdivisions in the Stoneybrook West community. A total of 221 properties will be converted from potable water to reuse water for irrigation. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 0.055 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 55. Winter Garden Southwest RCW** — The project includes expanding the existing reclaimed water system to three residential subdivisions located in the Stoneybrook West Development and provide looping improvements along Tilden Road. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 0.148 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 56. Winter Garden Water Conservation Program** — The project involves the expansion to the city’s current system that manages and communicates water use at the account-level that can provide immediate information to customers to initiate actions with water conservation results. The estimated water conservation benefit to the Wekiwa Springs springshed is 0.3 mgd. Project Status: Complete.
- 57. Woodlawn Memorial Park Irrigation System Upgrade** — The project includes converting an irrigation system from potable to reclaimed water. Three wells will be abandoned and the irrigation system connected to existing reclaimed water main. The estimated alternative water supply benefit is 0.215 mgd. Project Status: Complete.

Agricultural Cost-Share Program:

The Agricultural Cost-Share Program provides funding to agricultural operations to conserve water and reduce offsite nutrient loading. Beginning in fiscal year 2015, the District has provided nearly \$756,000 in funding for agricultural projects in Orange County. Orange County agricultural cost-share projects have provided an estimated benefit of 0.14 mgd of water conservation, 4,700 lbs/yr TN reduction, and 900 lbs/yr TP reduction. The following cost-share project list provides a description for each project and the benefits of each project, including nutrient load reduction (total phosphorus [TP], total nitrogen [TN] in pounds per year [lbs/yr]) or water conserved in million gallons per day [mgd]).

- 58. Bekemeyer Family Farm Hydroponic System** — This project involves excavating an existing retention pond and conducting land grading, installing vertical hydroponics, micro-jet/micro-drip retrofit and installation of a Bermad irrigation/fertigation controller on approximately 15.5 acres of citrus, vegetables and fruits. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.01 mgd. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Wekiwa/Rock springshed and Ocklawaha River is 687 lbs/yr of TN and 148 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 59. Mercer Botanicals Irrigation Retrofit** — This project involves performing an irrigation retrofit on approximately 7.24 acres of indoor foliage. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.007 mgd. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to Wekiwa-Rock Springs and Ocklawaha River is 378 lbs/yr of TN and 55 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 60. Mercer Botanicals Irrigation Retrofit 2** — This project involves converting to a low volume irrigation system on approximately 1.2 acres of indoor container nursery. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.003 mgd. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Ocklawaha River is 6 lbs/yr of TN and 1 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 61. Total Ag Care Irrigation Conversion and Pump Automation** — This project involves performing an irrigation conversion and implementing pump automation on approximately 120 acres of row crops/sod. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.086 mgd. The project also provides an estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the middle St. Johns River of 208 lbs/yr TN and 61 lbs/yr TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 62. Total Ag Care Irrigation Retrofit and Precision Fertilizer Application** — This project involves performing an irrigation

retrofit, installation of soil moisture sensors, and purchase of precision fertilization equipment on approximately 125 acres of blueberries. The estimated water conservation benefit is 0.035 mgd. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Middle St. Johns River Basin is 522 lbs/yr of TN and 76 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.

- 63. Tom West Blueberries Precision Fertilizer Equipment** — This project involves the purchase and implementation of precision fertilizer application equipment for 20 acres of blueberries. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Middle St. Johns River Basin is 182 lbs/yr of TN and 27 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.
- 64. Total Ag Care Precision Fertilizer** — This project involves purchasing and implementing the use of a precision fertilizer sprayer and nurse tank on approximately 100 acres of blueberries and strawberries. The estimated nutrient load reduction water quality benefit to the Ocklawaha River is 2,687 lbs/yr of TN and 563 lbs/yr of TP. Project Status: Complete.

District-led projects and other efforts

The District constructs large, regional projects that often benefit multiple counties and benefit more than one of the District's core missions. Some of the efforts in Orange County include:

Lake Apopka restoration — This restoration is based on a multipronged approach of putting the lake on a phosphorus diet and exercise program. Diet has focused on the reductions in phosphorus entering the lake, which has included reducing the volume of water pumped from the District's North Shore property to the lake, treating all discharges to inactivate phosphorus and passage of the Lake Apopka Stormwater Rule. Exercise is the removal of phosphorus from the lake, which has included operating the marsh flow-way to remove phosphorus and suspended solids and harvest of rough fish to remove phosphorus. In addition, a portion of the Lake Apopka Loop Trail traverses the District

property, covering more than 20 miles and providing hiking and biking opportunities across the property. There are four trailheads for the Loop Trail with restrooms at the Green Mountain, North Shore/ McDonald Canal boat ramp, and Magnolia Park trailheads and port-a-lets at the historic pump house. This trail connects with regional trails in both Orange and Lake counties. The Lake Apopka North Shore is one of the top three birding areas for the state and set a one-day Christmas Bird Count record in 1998, the highest for any inland (versus coastal) location. The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is a one-way, 11-mile drive meandering through the eastern portion of the North Shore property, all within Orange County. The growing popularity of this drive is estimated to annually generate \$5 million in ecotourism revenue.

Loch Haven Chain of Lakes Feasibility Study — This water quality and flood protection feasibility study assesses and evaluates the current stormwater infrastructure and nutrient loading to the LHCL with the purpose of identifying project concepts that can potentially improve water quality and provide flood protection for future implementation by federal, State and local partners. Design work will follow the completion of the feasibility study.

Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) — The District works in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, local utilities and other stakeholders in the central Florida region to implement effective and consistent water resources planning, development, and management. Learn more about this planning region and its adopted regional water supply plan at www.cfwiwater.com.

Minimum flows and levels (MFLs) program — The District establishes MFLs for priority water bodies within its boundaries. MFLs define the

limits at which further water withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of an area. MFLs is an effective tool to assist in making sound water management decisions and preventing significant adverse impacts due to water withdrawals.

Hydrologic and water quality data collection — The District operates a network of data collection sites for hydrologic conditions and water quality in many lakes, wetland restoration areas, streams, springs, and wells.

Blue School Grant Program — School teachers within the county have received grant funding from the District for projects to enhance student development in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related topics and to engage students in understanding and appreciating Florida's freshwater and estuarine systems. Since 2016, this program has funded 75 projects, reading more than 9,400 students, with more than \$104,000 awarded across the District. Learn more about this program at www.sjrwmd.com/education/blue-school.

District conservation areas

The District buys land in the course of its work to protect and preserve water resources. These lands also protect plant and wildlife habitat and provide areas for public recreation and environmental education. Virtually all District property is open to the public for activities that are compatible with conservation, though some may be closed during ongoing construction or restoration projects. In Orange County, District properties include Econlockhatchee Sandhills Conservation Area, Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park, Lake Apopka North Shore (and wildlife drive) and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. For a current listing of District conservation areas, visit www.sjrwmd.com/lands.

Project status as of February 2025

