



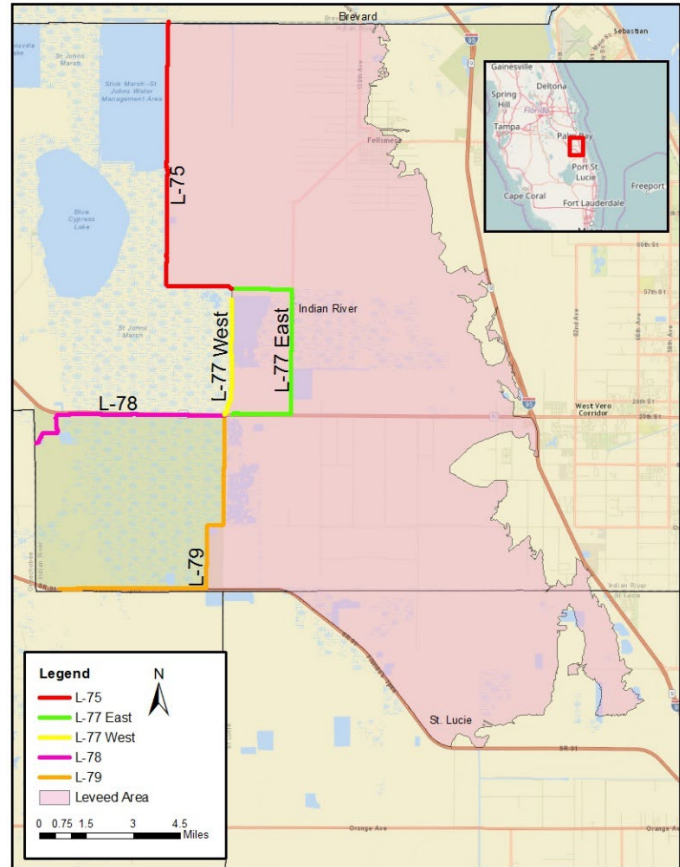
# Levee System Summary Upper St. Johns River Basin, South Indian River County, Florida

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

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**Project Description:** The Upper St. Johns River Basin, South levee system is located in Indian River County, Florida. The system consists of five levee segments (L-75, L-77 East, L-77 West, L-78, and L-79) that form the boundaries of the St. Johns and Blue Cypress Water Management Areas and the Ft. Drum and Blue Cypress Marsh Conservation Areas. These water storage areas were constructed to reduce the occurrence of flooding, with other purposes that include water supply for municipal and agricultural uses, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The levees range from 8 to 14 feet high and are 40 miles combined length. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed construction of the system in 1995 and turned it over to the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) who is responsible for operating and maintaining the levees and associated structural components. The leveed area is primarily in Indian River County, though a portion of it extends into St. Lucie County. The land use is mostly agricultural, and there is residential and commercial development concentrated away from the levee in the town of Fellsmere. The system provides benefits to approximately 6,000 people that work or live behind the levee, with \$532 million in property value.



**Risk Characterization:** The system reduces but does not eliminate the risk of loss of life or economic damages from high water or flood events in the Upper St. Johns River Basin. USACE risk assessments consider flooding frequency, the likelihood of the levee breaching or overtopping, and the resulting potential loss of lives and damage to homes, businesses, and the environment. Based on the most recent risk assessment of the system in 2016, USACE considers this levee to have a low risk. The most likely threat to the levee is seepage. Seepage is when the water on the flood side of the levee seeps through to the land side. Seepage can carry soil particles with it and if enough soil is moved through the levee, the levee may be weakened and breach. Some water seeping through the levee is normal, and there is no immediate concern that the levee will breach. The risk associated with water overtopping the levee is low. If the system performs as designed, water would be anticipated to overtop the levee in a storm that has a 1 in 5,000 chance of occurring in any given year. If the levee breaches or overtops, the range of flooding in portions of the leveed area could be up to 5 feet deep.

What is driving the risk?	What is being done about it?
Levee embankment seepage.	SJRWMD will continue to perform routine maintenance, and will increase the frequency of inspection monitoring during high water events.

**What Is Important to Know?** It is important to know that you are living in a leveed area. Levees may reduce flood risk, but they do not eliminate it. If you live or work in a community with levees, there is a role for you. First, know your risk. No matter how strong or well maintained a levee is, there is always risk. Second, take action to reduce your risk such as have an evacuation plan so that you can leave the area quickly if notified by the local authorities. Pay attention to flood watches and warnings. Consider purchasing flood insurance, whether it is required or not, and support your community's efforts to reduce the risks. FEMA and USACE want to ensure that communities are aware of the risk associated with levees so you can make informed decisions and plan ahead. Local communities can provide valuable information to help in managing risk. FEMA and USACE can help your community maximize your understanding of the available options associated with management of flood risk at the local level, while improving public understanding of federal roles and responsibilities.

<b>Latest Inspection and Rating:</b>	The most recent inspection of the levee system by USACE occurred in 2022 and was a formal inspection. The inspection identified deficient items that included unwanted vegetation, encroachments, animal burrows, and gated structures.
<b>Rehabilitation Program Eligibility Status:</b>	This levee has an active status in the USACE Rehabilitation Program. It is eligible for assistance from USACE to repair damages to the levee system caused by flooding. SJRWMD has a plan to correct complex deficiencies, called a System-Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF).
<b>National Flood Insurance Program Status:</b>	The Upper St. Johns River Basin, South levee system is currently shown as accredited on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.

**Ongoing Activities and Studies:** SJRWMD operates and maintains the levee system according to the system specific operations and maintenance manual. Regular inspections are conducted.

**Who Can I Contact?** Information concerning this levee system may be obtained by contacting the following entities:

<b>National Levee Database</b>	<a href="https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/#/">https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/#/</a>
<b>FEMA National Flood Insurance Program</b>	FEMA Region IV, FEMA Flood Map Service Center website: <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/">https://msc.fema.gov/</a> FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX): 877-336-2627, or email at: <a href="mailto:FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcdfs.com">FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcdfs.com</a>
<b>Levee Sponsor</b>	St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, FL <a href="https://www.sjrwmd.com/">https://www.sjrwmd.com/</a>
<b>Local Emergency Management Agency</b>	Indian River County Emergency Management <a href="http://www.irces.com/em/">http://www.irces.com/em/</a>

**FLOOD RISK ASSOCIATED WITH LEVEES CAN CHANGE**  
**Know your risk, know your role, and take action!**

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