

Project of the Month

Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPA)



Figure 1: Looking North along the C-11 Canal towards Water Conservation Area 3A and pump station S-9.

The Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) project is located in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties in densely populated South Florida. The WPA project is an integral piece of the greater Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) which includes approximately 68 various components that will work in unison to restore this failing Everglades ecosystem. The Everglades ecosystem is affected by competing demands for recreation, development, and natural and commercial resources. Within this fragile ecosystem there are 68 federally listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species whose existence is contingent on the critical balance between man and nature. Ecological restoration of the Everglades will require a significant increase in the quantity of water made available or retained for the natural system. This is where the WPA excels. One main tenet behind the WPA concept is the capture and storage of excess water that is currently lost to tide via the many canals in the south Florida. It is estimated that approximately 1.7 billion gallons of water each day is lost to tide. In addition, the WPA will also provide the ability to make timely releases of water to meet agricultural, municipal, and saltwater intrusion prevention demands for water supply.

The Corps in partnership with its non-Federal partner, the South Florida Water Management District selected a plan, at a cost of \$746,980,000, that includes two above-ground impoundments and associated pumps and water control structures: the C-11 Impoundment with an effective interior storage of 1,068 acres and two wetland marsh mitigation areas north of the C-11 Impoundment with 488 acres of wetland marsh; the C-9 Impoundment with an effective interior storage of 1,641 acres and two wetland marsh mitigation areas north of the C-9 Impoundment with 339 acres of wetland marsh; canal conveyance improvements to connect the two impoundments; and an approximately 4,633 acre seepage management area east of the Water Conservation Areas. In addition, the project plan also includes passive recreation features that including nature trails, canoe launches, boardwalks, land bridges, information kiosks, and central sites for parking and sanitation.

The Corps recently completed the Final Project Implementation Report that was unanimously approved by the Civil Works Review Board (CWRB) for final state and agency review and preparation for a Chief of Engineer's Report. The project is being prepared for construction authorization and detailed design activities have commenced. This project is a perfect example of the Corps' continuing commitment to its Environmental Operating Principles.



Figure 2: Looking North across Broward County WPA project across C-9 canal and the future location of the C-9 Impoundment.



Figure 3: Looking North towards the Broward County WPA project area Water Conservation Area 3A/3B.