



# Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is a regional governmental agency that oversees the water resources in 16 counties – from Orlando to the Florida Keys.

## OUR MISSION

To **SAFEGUARD** and **RESTORE** South Florida's water resources and ecosystems, **PROTECT** our communities from flooding, and **MEET** the region's water needs while **CONNECTING** with the public and stakeholders

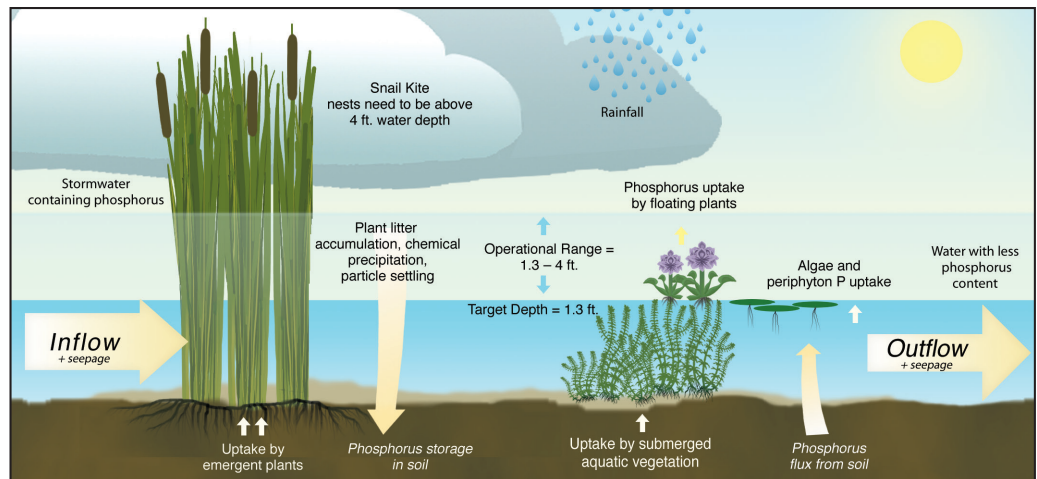
Ron DeSantis, Governor

### SFWMD Governing Board

- Chauncey Goss, Chairman
- Scott Wagner, Vice Chairman
- Ron Bergeron Sr.
- Ben Butler
- Charlie E. Martinez
- Cheryl Meads
- Charlette Roman
- Jay Steinle

Drew Bartlett, SFWMD Executive Director

3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
561-686-8800  
sfwmd.gov



STAs are large, constructed wetlands with emergent and aquatic plants. The plants remove and store nutrients such as phosphorus that are found in stormwater runoff before it is moved out of the STA and into the Everglades. SFWMD has built 62,000 acres of STAs to restore Everglades water quality.

## Why Florida Built STAs

- The State of Florida has invested more than \$3 billion in water quality improvements, including the construction of STAs to treat water before it reaches the Everglades.
- STAs remove excess nutrients in the water, such as fertilizer, through plant growth and accumulation of dead plant material in the soil. These excess nutrients, if not removed, can cause undesirable plants such as cattails to grow in the Everglades, crowding out native wetland plants and degrading the ecosystem.
- Nutrient concentrations, particularly phosphorus, were naturally ultra-low in the Everglades. The STAs have dramatically reduced the concentrations of phosphorus in Everglades-bound water.
- STAs are continually monitored and maintained to maximize water treatment capacity.
- SFWMD has also constructed shallow storage features called flow equalization basins (FEBs) that further optimize the ability of Everglades STAs to treat water.

## SUCCESSES TO DATE

- ▶ Everglades STA's have treated approximately 26.7 million acre-feet of water or 8.7 trillion gallons
- ▶ Retained over 3,400 metric tons of Total Phosphorus
- ▶ 77.4% Total Phosphorus Load Reduction

▼ STA 3/4 (Cell 1A), Pump Station G-370, and inflow to the A-1 FEB.



## ROLE OF VEGETATION

- ▶ Helps Reduce Flow.
- ▶ Provides Surface for Periphyton/ Microbial Colonization and Activity.
- ▶ Nutrients are Retained through Uptake, Settling and Burial.
- ▶ Provides Nutrient Storage.

◀ Everglades Stormwater Treatment Area.