



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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www.sfwmd.gov/news

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New Boat Ramps Add Access to Restored Kissimmee River *SFWMD enhances recreational opportunities on public land*



(Click on picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: Join the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in celebrating the opening to the public of the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area, featuring boat and airboat ramps, picnic shelters and tables, bathrooms, lights and ample parking.

Built in partnership by the District and the Army Corps, the area along the Istokpoga Canal was recently completed as part of the Kissimmee River restoration. The site helps to maintain access to the historic river in Highlands and Okeechobee counties.

The South Florida Water Management District is steadily increasing recreational access to public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood

control missions. At present, the District owns 621,000 acres of land that is open to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails. For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

WHEN: Thursday, March 25, 2010

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: U.S. Highway 98 and the Istokpoga Canal in Highlands County

DIRECTIONS:

- *From the City of Okeechobee:* Travel north on U.S. Highway 98 approximately 25 miles to the Istokpoga Canal Bridge. Look for the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area sign. Make a right turn into the facility.
- *From Sebring at U.S. 27:* Travel south on U.S. Highway 98 approximately 17 miles to the Istokpoga Canal Bridge. Look for the Istokpoga Canal Boat Ramp Area sign. Make a left turn into the facility.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.