



Learn More About Water Management Infrastructure in South Florida

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) operates the regional water management system of canals, levees and water control structures according to established operating criteria. The SFWMD regional (primary) system connects to secondary drainage districts comprised of smaller neighborhood systems to effectively manage and protect South Florida's water resources.



Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs):

Large, constructed wetlands designed to remove nutrient pollution from water using natural aquatic plants.

Reservoirs and Impoundments:

Human-made water body used for water storage above or below ground. A **Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)** is a type of impoundment designed to temporarily capture and hold water.



Weirs: Structures across a canal or stream that block the flow of water until the water flows over the structure.

Pumps: Mechanical control structures that force movement of water.



Spillways: Structures that allow movement of water between water bodies by use of gates.

Dikes and Levees: A barrier that diverts or restrains the flow of water. The large earthworks that surround Lake Okeechobee are generally referred to as dikes, whereas the smaller earthworks surrounding canals and Water Conservation Areas are generally called levees.



Culverts: Structures that allow the flow of water between two areas. They are typically placed under roads or levees.

Canals: A system of human-made trenches used for the movement of water.

