

Public Use on SFWMD Stormwater Treatment Areas

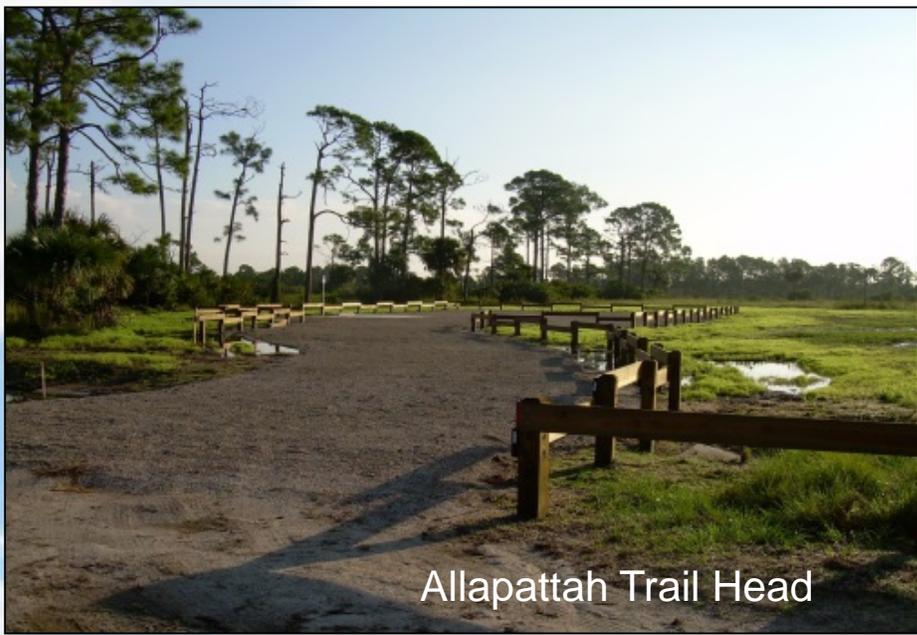
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Land Resources Bureau

17th Annual Public Meeting on the Long-Term Plan
for Achieving Water Quality Goals for the
Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins
February 24, 2020

Public Use On SFWMD Lands

➤ Public Use on District Lands

- Why have Public Use?
- Policy and Rules
- Recreation Partnerships
- STA



Public Use Program Background Information

➤ Why Have Public Use?

- 373.4592 “the district shall allow these areas to be used by the public for recreational purposes... unless such uses are incompatible with the restoration goals of the Everglades Construction Project..”
- SFWMD Created
 - Public Use Policy, 2004
 - Public Use Rules, 2006



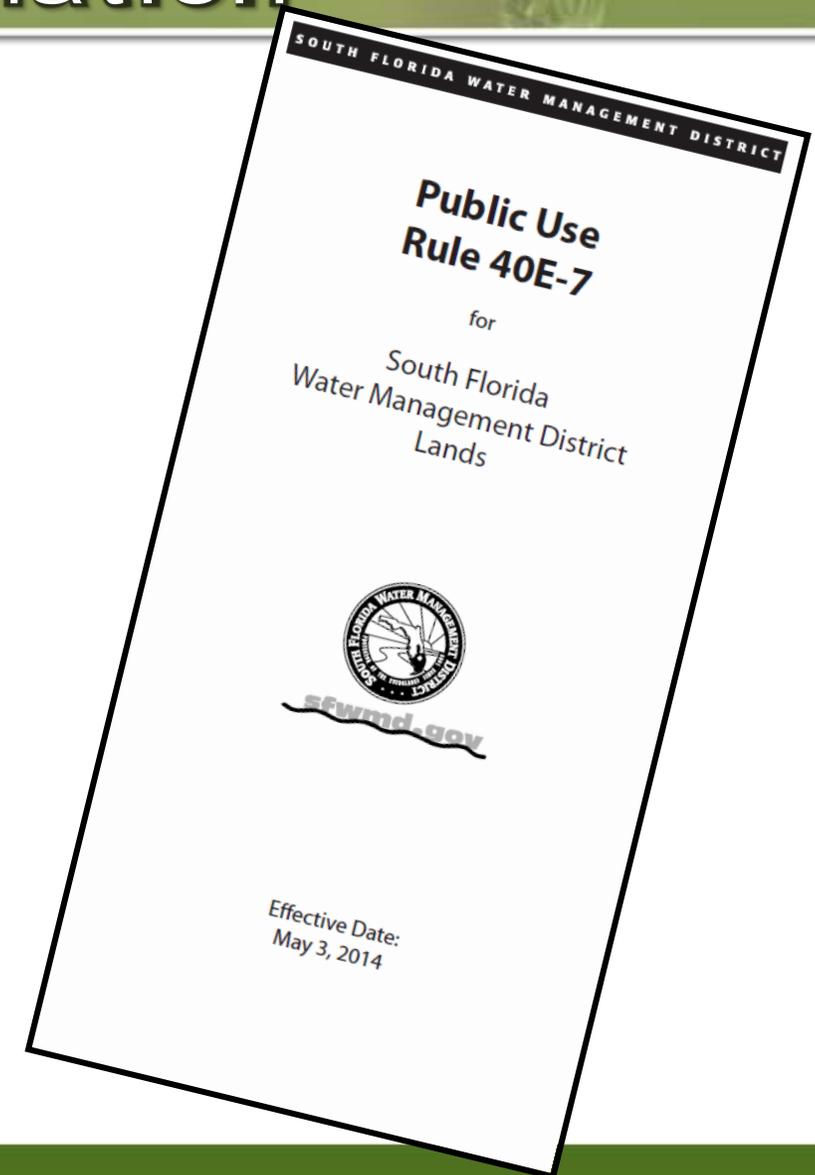
Public Use Program Background Information

- Public Use Policy
 - Public Participation
 - Recreation Issues Forum
 - Project Purposes First
 - Different rules for different types of lands
 - Project Planning, Design and Construction
 - Incorporate recreation facilities



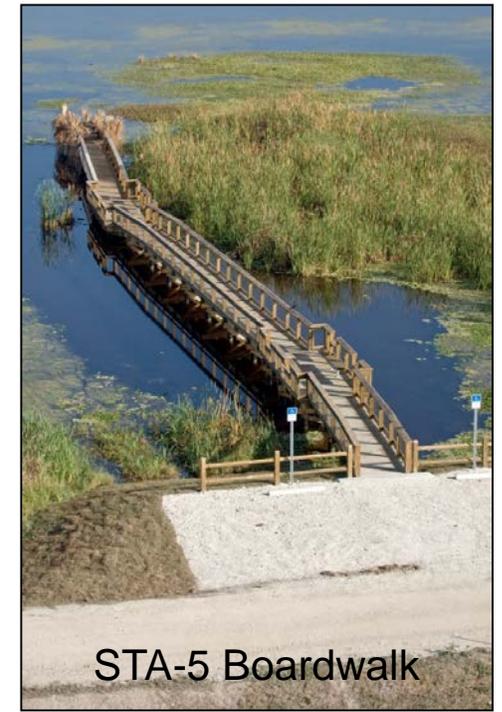
Public Use Program Background Information

- **Public Use Rule 40E-7**
 - Rules provide commitment for public access and nature-based recreation on District lands consistent with state statutes and District policy
 - Types of Land include
 - Conservation Lands
 - Interim Use
 - Right of Ways
 - Project Lands-STAs and Impoundments



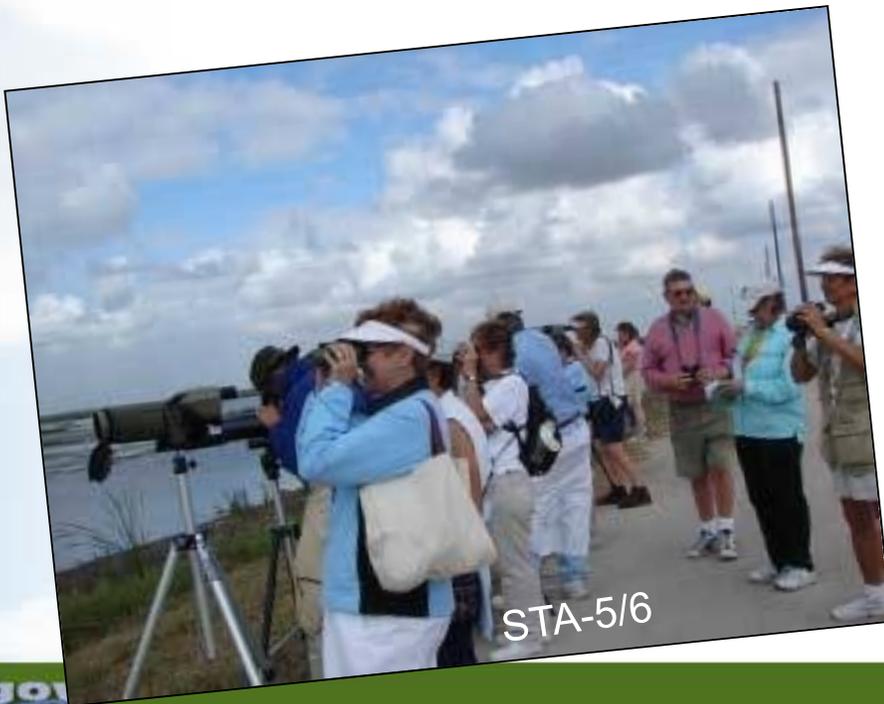
STA Activities and Facilities

- Public access, open on “extended weekends” Friday – Monday
- Daylight hours
- Bird watching, hiking, biking
- Fishing
- FWC hunting alligator and waterfowl
 - Friday waterfowl hunts
 - STA-1W and STA-3/4



Public Use Program Partnerships – Audubon, Florida Trail

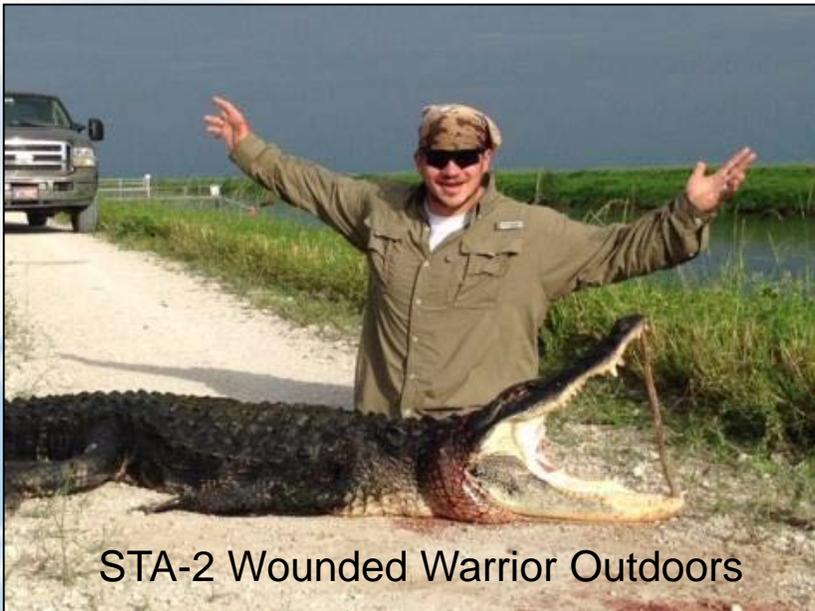
- Audubon Society- Cooperative guided bird-watching tours on the STAs.
 - 1st Audubon tour in 2005 at STA-5, now 3 Chapters leading over 65 tours with 1,600+ participants at STA-1E, STA-2 and STA-5/6
- Florida Trail Association



Public Use Program Partnerships- FWC

➤ Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Waterfowl & alligator, quotas
- Specialty hunts
 - Youth and wounded warrior
- Enforce all public use rules



Public Use on STAs

- Project Lands - Stormwater Treatment Areas
- Highly Managed Areas



Questions



Loxahatchee River