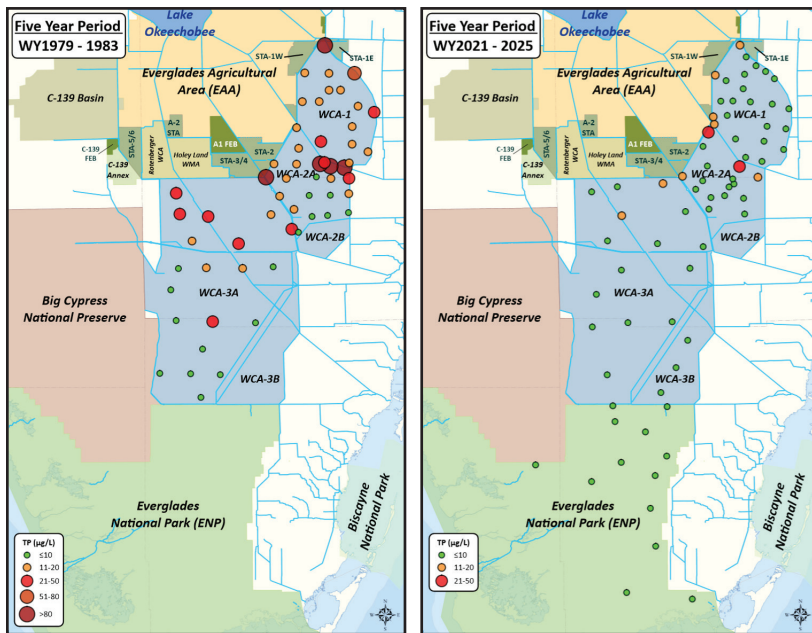




Significant Water Quality Improvement in the Everglades

Over 5.6 million pounds of nitrogen and 933,000 pounds of phosphorus are being removed from Florida's waterways on an annual basis, marking a major reduction in nutrient pollution.



Delivering Results

Everglades STAs are specifically designed to improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution before the water enters the Everglades. These STAs, together with other restoration projects, have significantly improved water quality in the Everglades.

For Water Year 2025, more than 98% of the Everglades Protection Area achieved phosphorous levels meeting state water quality standards (≤ 10 parts per billion), marking one of the best results on record.

With the completion of the Restoration Strategies projects and several Everglades STA Refurbishment projects, significant water quality improvements continue to be achieved in the Everglades.

Historic Momentum

During Governor Ron DeSantis' first term, he signed record investments to protect America's Everglades and support water quality, investing a record \$3.3 billion. At the start of his second term, he called for a historic \$3.5 billion investment over the next four years.

The Governor's 2026-27 budget included \$1.2 billion for Everglades restoration and water quality, bringing the total investment during the Governor's second term to \$6 billion, and bringing the investment during the Governor's tenure to nearly \$9.5 billion.

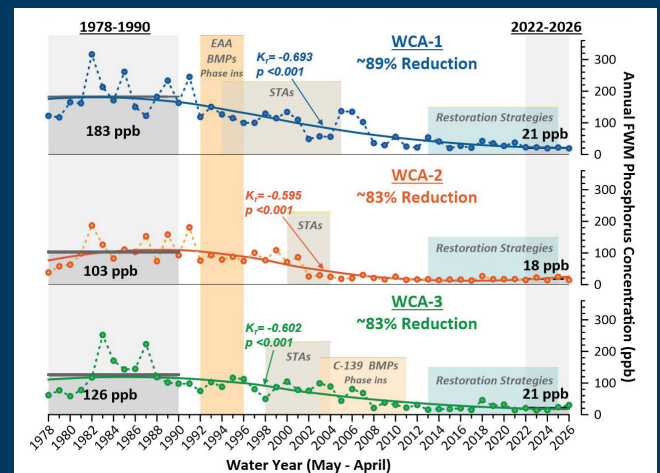
Providing Clean Water for the Everglades

Everglades Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) are large, constructed wetlands with emergent and aquatic plants that remove and store nutrients.

The plants remove and store nutrients such as phosphorus that are found in stormwater runoff as it travels out of the STA and into the Everglades. The South Florida Water Management District operates 64,000 acres of STAs to restore Everglades water quality.

Role of Vegetation in the STAs:

- ▶ Helps slow down flow.
- ▶ Provides surface for periphyton/microbial colonization and activity.
- ▶ Nutrients are retained through uptake, settling and burial.
- ▶ Provides nutrient storage.



Restoration is Working

The District is committed to delivering clean water to the Everglades. The chart above demonstrates a significant reduction in phosphorus across all three water conservation areas (WCAs) in the Everglades Protection Area.