



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Lake Hicpochee Hydrologic Improvements

The Lake Hicpochee Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement Project will provide water storage and hydrologic enhancement consistent with the goals of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. The project will capture surface waters from the C-19 Canal, which discharges directly into the Caloosahatchee River (C-43); hold the water in a shallow storage feature north of the lake; and distribute the stored water via a spreader canal onto the northwest area of Lake Hicpochee. It will also provide some water quality treatment.

Background

- Located in southeastern Glades County, Lake Hicpochee was one of three lakes that were historically considered the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River.
- The channelization of the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) in the 1800s created an artificial connection between the Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okeechobee, resulting in detrimental impacts to hydrology and ecology in the basin.
- This action bisected Lake Hicpochee into north and south portions and drained the natural headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River.

Project Objectives and Benefits

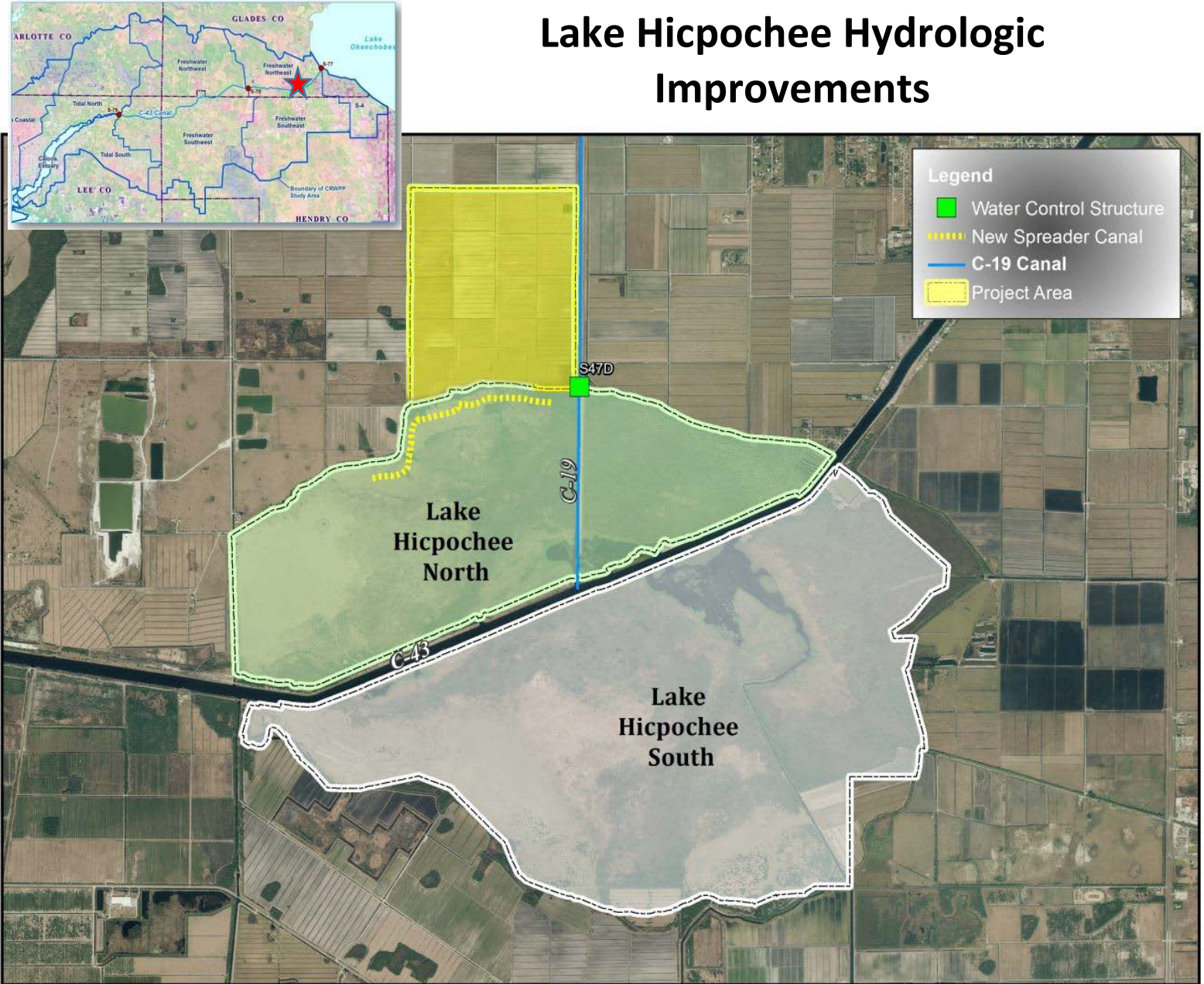
- Store and distribute C-19 flows to promote hydrologic enhancement of Lake Hicpochee North and improve the timing and volume of water deliveries to the Caloosahatchee River.
- Provide additional water storage and increased capacity for water quality enhancements in the Caloosahatchee basin.
- Promote ancillary habitat and water quality improvements.

Project Status and Cost

- The South Florida Water Management District has acquired 670 acres of strategic land north of Lake Hicpochee to be used as part of the shallow storage feature. A second phase of this project is currently being considered contingent upon a proposed 2,400-acre land purchase.
- Construction of the first phase began in April 2017 and will be completed by the summer of 2018.
- Estimated cost of the initial project phase (670 acres) is \$18.4 million.



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For more information on strategies for improving the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, visit www.sfwmd.gov/caloosahatchee



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