

April 2016

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**FACTs**

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

**J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area  
Levee System Improvement Project**

*As part of Florida's response to unprecedented rainfall from Tropical Storm Isaac in 2012, immediate action was taken in support of local flooding relief efforts, including quick-fix measures to strengthen the Indian Trail Improvement District berm that borders the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. In the aftermath of the emergency situation, Gov. Rick Scott directed that a multiagency working group be convened to develop a longer-term solution for enhancing flood protection and safety for area residents. The first phase of construction of that long-term solution has been completed.*

**Working Group Participants**

- The South Florida Water Management District is responsible for managing and protecting water resources in 16 counties by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. The agency operates the region's primary water control system.
- Local drainage is typically handled by entities known as 298 districts, or at the county level. In The Acreage vicinity, this includes the Indian Trail Improvement District (ITID) and Palm Beach County.
- The 60,348-acre J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area is managed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). A berm owned by the Indian Trail Improvement District separates the Corbett's natural area from The Acreage community to its south.
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection protects, conserves and manages the state's environment and natural resources.

**Analysis Recommends Berm Replacement**

- The interagency group is charged with developing and evaluating conceptual design alternatives and providing the technical and permitting support needed for implementation of an improved levee system plan.
- While remedial repairs have provided short-term fixes, a continued patchwork approach does not strengthen the berm's existing structural integrity or serve as a long-term solution.
- The current recommendation is to replace a 5.6 mile segment of the existing berm using the latest levee technologies, design and construction practices available to date. This action provides two benefits:
  1. Increased flood protection for residents to the south.
  2. More flexibility in operation of water levels within the Corbett Area.
- Preliminary studies completed include design alternatives and cost estimates, topographic surveys, geotechnical reports, wetland mapping and computer modeling.
- Phase I construction completed. All that is remaining to complete the replacement is construction money for Phase II.



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Phase 1 and Phase 2 of J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Levee Replacement