

# Kissimmee River Restoration (KRR) – Gardner-Cobb Marsh



<b>Location:</b>	<b>Osceola County</b>
<b>Subwatershed:</b>	<b>Upper Kissimmee</b>
<b>Basin:</b>	-
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>Restore hydrology to impacted wetlands associated with the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.</b>
<b>Project Operation Start:</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Considerations/Update:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Gardner Cobb Marsh is a restoration project originally slated for funding by Florida Fish &amp; Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). The project remains unfunded.</li> <li>2. The Gardner Cobb Marsh is an approximately 11,000-acre site owned by SFWMD which has been impacted by the installation of ditches and levees from past agricultural operations.</li> <li>3. The surrounding lake system water levels are controlled by the S-65 structure which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).</li> <li>4. An initial planning effort identified the need for additional storage tied directly to Cypress Lake to reduce peak stages during large storm events.</li> <li>5. The regulation for Lake Kissimmee is planned for modification in the near future.</li> <li>6. In 2003, SFWMD in cooperation with the U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) developed a wetland restoration plan to restore approximately 4,000 acres of shoreline and interior wetlands to enhance wading bird/waterfowl habitat in the Rough Island, Gardner Cobb Marsh and Otter Slough.</li> <li>7. Within Otter Slough, Rough Island, and Gardner Cobb Ditch, a total of two canals and 59 earthen ditch plugs were permitted by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on March 29, 2007, and permitted by USACE on or about September 19, 2007.</li> <li>8. Within the Gardner Cobb Marsh, 22 ditch plugs, one water control structure, and one berm removal were permitted by FDEP on May 18, 2012, and by USACE on January 10, 2012.</li> <li>9. Within the Gardner Cobb Marsh, an additional nine ditch plugs were permitted by FDEP on February 7, 2014, and by USACE on September 6, 2014. Uncompleted portions of this work were reauthorized by FDEP on September 17, 2018, and by USACE on July 11, 2018.</li> <li>10. The majority of Gardner Cobb Marsh remains under lease for light cattle grazing until December 31, 2020.</li> </ol>

<b>LOWCP MM#</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Area (ac)</b>	<b>2011 LOWCP Estimated Annual Water Quality Benefits (mt/yr)</b>	<b>2011 LOWCP Estimated Annual Water Quantity Benefits (ac-ft/yr)</b>	<b>Construction Cost</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Gardner Cobb Marsh</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>\$260,087</b>