



An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Southwest Florida Water Management District

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(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

**Bartow Office**

170 Century Boulevard  
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700  
(863) 534-1448 or  
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

**Sarasota Office**

78 Sarasota Center Boulevard  
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9770  
(941) 377-3722 or  
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

**Tampa Office**

7601 U.S. 301 North  
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Hillsborough, Pinellas

**Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.**  
Executive Director

December 17, 2025

Mr. Jeff Rogers, County Administrator  
Hernando County Government  
15470 Flight Path Dr.  
Brooksville, Florida 34604

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 26 2025**

**HERNANDO COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) mission is to protect water resources, minimize flood risks, and ensure the public's water needs are met. The District's responsibilities can be grouped under four general areas which form our core mission: water supply, water quality, natural systems and flood protection.

This letter specially addresses our goal for the natural systems area of responsibility. As outlined in our Strategic Plan, the goal for natural systems is to preserve, protect and restore natural systems to support their natural hydrologic and ecologic functions.

As described in Governing Board Policy Annual Habitat Letter, the District is providing elected officials and administrators with updated information regarding permitted wetland impacts, mitigation and habitat restoration activities within the District's boundaries. The restoration efforts by our staff and partners tie directly to our natural systems goal.

Since 1984, the District has seen 12,329 acres of wetlands habitat impacted through District permits. During this same period, the District, through projects or permit requirements, has restored or created 50,801 acres of wetlands and adjacent upland habitat; a net gain of 38,472 acres (see chart enclosed).

In Hernando County, during the same time, there have been 107.8 acres of impacts while 1,756 acres of wetland and adjacent upland habitats have been restored or created. This accomplishment is an example of the importance of preserving these systems to support their natural hydrologic and ecologic functions.

We invite you to read more about our initiatives in our Strategic Plan available on our webpage, [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org)

Sincerely,

Brian Armstrong, P.G.  
Executive Director

Enclosure: Habitat Chart

# 2025 Total Habitat Restored

## Southwest Florida Water Management District

County	Since 1984 Total Permanently Impacted Acres Through ERP Permitting (Approximately)	Since 1984 Total Acres Restored Through District Efforts (Approximately)
Charlotte	581.4	1,993.6
Citrus	79.5	2,129.7
DeSoto	246.3	987.8
Hardee	111.8	91.6
Hernando	107.8	1,756.0
Highlands	64.7	133.4
Hillsborough	2,196.3	8,499.1
Lake	116.9	436.3
Levy	4.9	-
Manatee	1,127.1	4,022.9
Marion	23.4	1,402.1
Pasco	2,447.1	11,423.2
Pinellas	540.4	2,500.5
Polk	2,978.7	8,651.6
Sarasota	1,261.8	3,636.7
Sumter	440.7	3,136.3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,328.8</b>	<b>50,800.8</b>
	<b>Net Habitat Restoration Gained Within the District</b>	<b>38,472</b>

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

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