

West Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility

THE WETLAND PRESERVE

The “Best-kept” Secret on the
Treasure Coast!



INTRODUCTION



As the population of the County increased and the Utilities' customer-base expanded, the Utility was faced with the need to build additional wastewater treatment facilities.

The choice to create the wetland was cost-effective compared to building new treatment plants.

The wetland was constructed in an area that historically would have been wet flat woods, interspersed with ephemeral wetlands.



HOW DOES IT WORK?



The preserve is located on 135 acres of land that was previously a sod farm. It consists of 13 cells, or ponds. Wastewater is retrieved from other locations throughout the County, and is filtered through indigenous plant life and sand surrounding the cells, emerging as clean wastewater used for irrigation and other reuse needs.



What are the benefits of such a system?

- ❖ To restore and enhance existing wetland habitat.
- ❖ High nutrient uptake rates, thus “cleaning” the water efficiently.
- ❖ Creates recreational and educational opportunities.



What are the benefits of the wetlands? (cont'd)



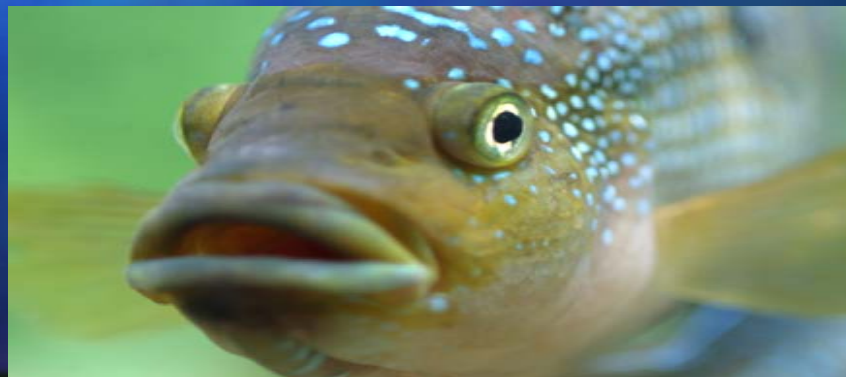
Also, the wetland allows us to use reuse water for golf courses, etc, but most importantly, the savings accrued by the creation of the system allows the Utility to focus on such long-term plans for protecting the environment with advanced methods of brine disposal, among other things.



What are the benefits of the wetlands? (Cont'd)

The most important goal, and the one to which the Utility is most dedicated, is to preserve and protect the Indian River Lagoon, to which all waters flow.

The Lagoon is one of Florida's most precious treasures, and Has been the subject of intense efforts at Restoration and Preservation.



Still more.....



The Preserve is home to alligators, otters, turtles, and during the Migratory bird season, Roseate Spoonbills, Egrets, Herons, Sand Hill Cranes, and many other species of migratory birds. The Wet Lands are listed in the “Great Birding Trails of America” guidebooks.



Can you believe more?

It is truly a bird-watchers paradise, and each year hundreds of people come to enjoy nature at its best! Two bald eagles hunt at the wetlands, and can frequently be seen soaring in the skies above.



STILL MORE.....

Not only is the wetlands home to many species of birds and animals, but the hundreds of species of indigenous plants become a natural filtration system, and allow the water to be cleaner at its final destination, than it was at the beginning of its journey.



Where is the Preserve Located?



We are located off 90th Avenue, at 8th Street, at the West Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are open to visitors from 7:00 to 3:30, every day except Saturday and Sunday. Come see us; you'll be glad you did, and amazed at the Utility has done for the citizens of Indian River County ! Call us at 772-770-5045.



IN SUMMATION:



"Teach us to conserve and not to squander the riches of nature, and to plan for the welfare of our children's children. Renew our wonder, awaken our concern, and make us better stewards and more careful tenants of the world you lend us as our home."

Timothy Dudley Smith