

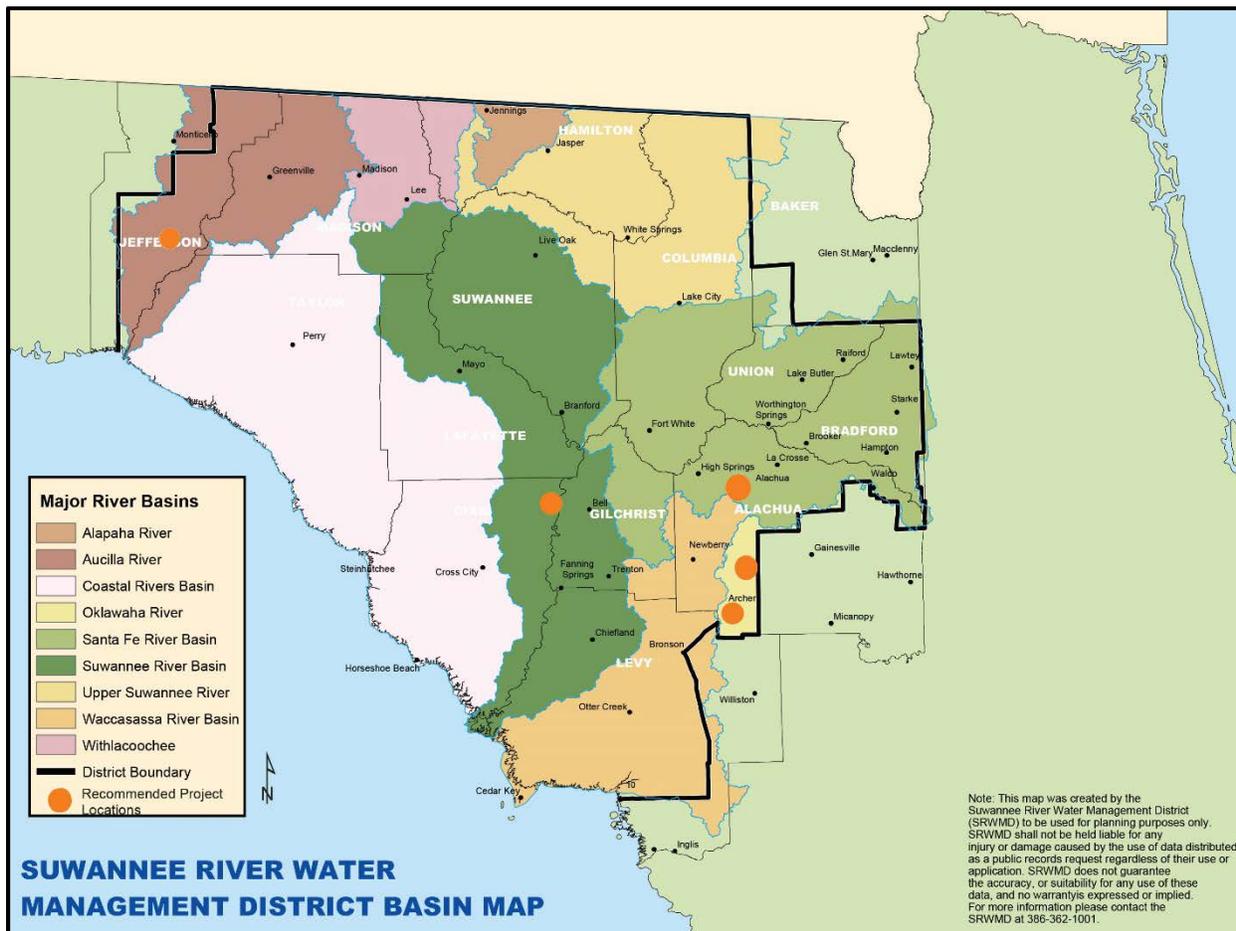
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Map showing river basin boundaries across the district showing December RIVER cost-share projects.

SRWMD APPROVES NEARLY \$700,000 FOR ADDITIONAL WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS

LIVE OAK, FLA, Dec. 13, 2016 – The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board approved almost \$700,000 for water resource projects through the December round of Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost share funding. These projects address District water supply, water quality, flood projects and/or natural system responsibilities.

“These projects are paramount for supporting our local communities and partners to improve water resource protection throughout the District,” said Noah Valenstein, executive director for the District. “These projects would not be possible without the tremendous partnerships between the District and our stakeholders.”

The approved projects include: Holly Hills Stormwater Improvement in the City of Archer to benefit the Oklawaha River Basin; Walker Spring Road Cross Drains in Jefferson County to benefit the Aucilla River Basin; Mill Creek Sink Water Quality Improvements in the City of Alachua to benefit the Santa Fe River Basin; Oakmont Reclaimed Water Main Extension with Gainesville Regional Utilities to benefit the Oklawaha River Basin; and Gornto Springs Restoration in Dixie County to benefit the Suwannee River Basin.

The District conducts two funding cycles for the RIVER cost-share program – one in May and another in December. The intent of the double funding cycle is to provide supplemental funding to District communities for protecting natural resources which support local economies.

“The December funding cycle allows the District to provide funding to ‘shore-up’ existing projects, complete pending projects or bring new, time-sensitive projects on board,” said Darrell Smith, director of the division for agricultural and environmental projects.

Many communities within the district face several major on-going challenges including: aging water transmission and distribution lines, which contribute to water loss and adversely impact the dependability of water supply; development of new and alternative sources of water for growing populations while ensuring sustainability of regional water resources; growing demands and new opportunities for the reuse of reclaimed water, which can extend the resources available for beneficial purposes while also facilitating watershed protection and restoration; drinking water quality problems resulting from infrastructure limitations and source conditions; and stormwater and water quality improvements.

The District accepts cost-share applications through an online portal year-round. Staff continually consider all projects within the portal for future funding opportunities. To submit a project proposal, visit www.mysuwanneeriver.com, search “Funding Initiatives.”

“The District’s project team is committed to providing communities and stakeholders the tools and expertise needed to submit competitive, quality projects,” said Valenstein. “If communities have ideas, we encourage submittals. Our staff is willing to assist any way we can.”

The mission of the Suwannee River Water Management District is to protect and manage water resources to support natural systems and the needs of the public. The District holds true to the belief of water for nature, water for people.

For more information about the District, visit www.mysuwanneeriver.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, search @SRWMD.

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