

Water shortage restrictions lifted in some areas

Lawn and landscape irrigation may take place once or twice a week depending on location

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) Governing Board voted August 14 to amend the District's water shortage order to rescind water restrictions in Baker, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Putnam, Suwannee and Taylor counties.

Water restrictions will remain in effect for the following counties: Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Jefferson, Levy, Madison and Union.

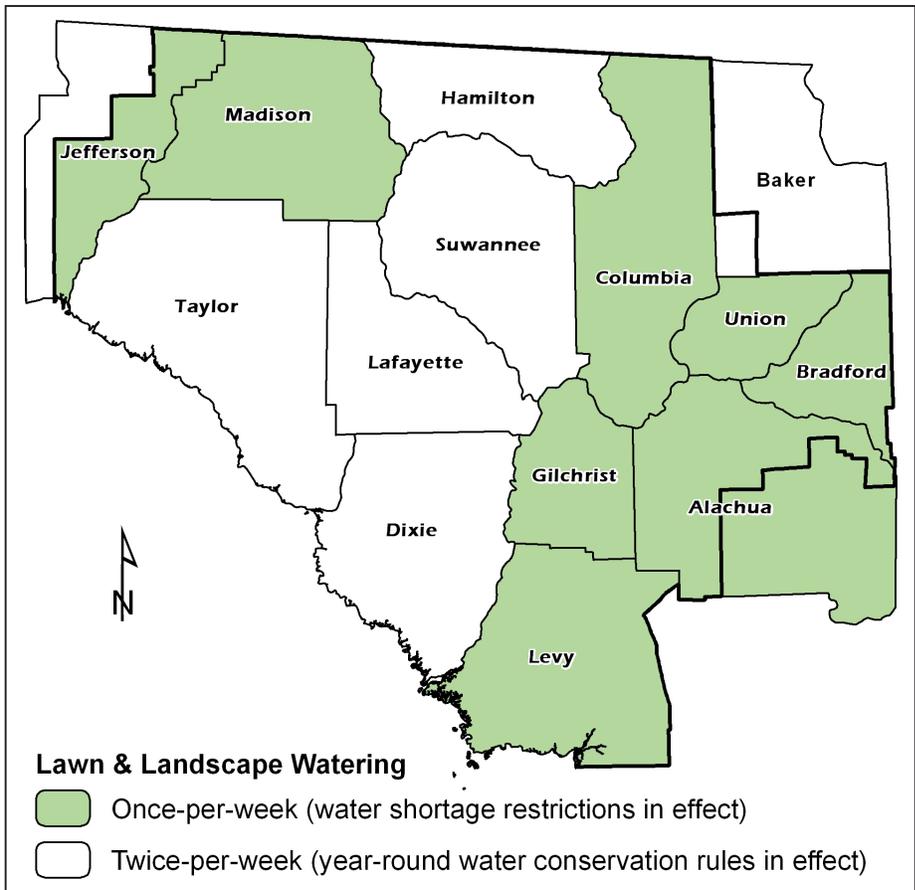
The amended order also extends the water restrictions to all unincorporated areas of Alachua County that are located in the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), in accordance with a delegation agreement between the two water management districts and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.

"Although groundwater conditions have rebounded in many areas of the District following cumulative rainfall over the last couple of months, some areas are still facing low and extremely low conditions," said Megan Wetherington, District senior professional engineer.

"Though the District is lifting water restrictions in areas that have made significant improvements, we would like to remind the public that year-round water conservation rules apply to all counties within District boundaries," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.

Year-round water conservation rules limit lawn and landscape irrigation to twice per week for this time of year, and apply to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and public and commercial businesses. In addition, watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Farmers follow conservation measures included in their water use permit.

Under the water shortage restrictions, watering of existing lawns and landscapes is limited to one day per week and is



prohibited between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Designated watering days are determined according to an even-odd address numbering system as follows:

- House addresses ending in 0 or 1 may only irrigate on Monday.
- Addresses ending in 2 or 3 may only irrigate on Tuesday.
- Addresses ending in 4 or 5 may only irrigate on Wednesday.
- Addresses ending in 6 or 7 may only irrigate on Thursday.
- Addresses ending in 8 or 9 may only irrigate on Friday.
- Residences with no address (community common areas, etc.) may only irrigate on

Friday.

Treated wastewater irrigation and irrigation for home vegetable gardens are exempt from the water shortage restrictions. Other restrictions apply to agriculture, golf courses, mining, manufacturing, processing plants, bottled water plants, and power companies. Water utilities must adhere to certain conservation measures.

A complete list of the water restrictions is available at www.mysuwanneeriver.com/watershortage. Details about the District's year-round water conservation rules are available at www.mysuwanneeriver.com.

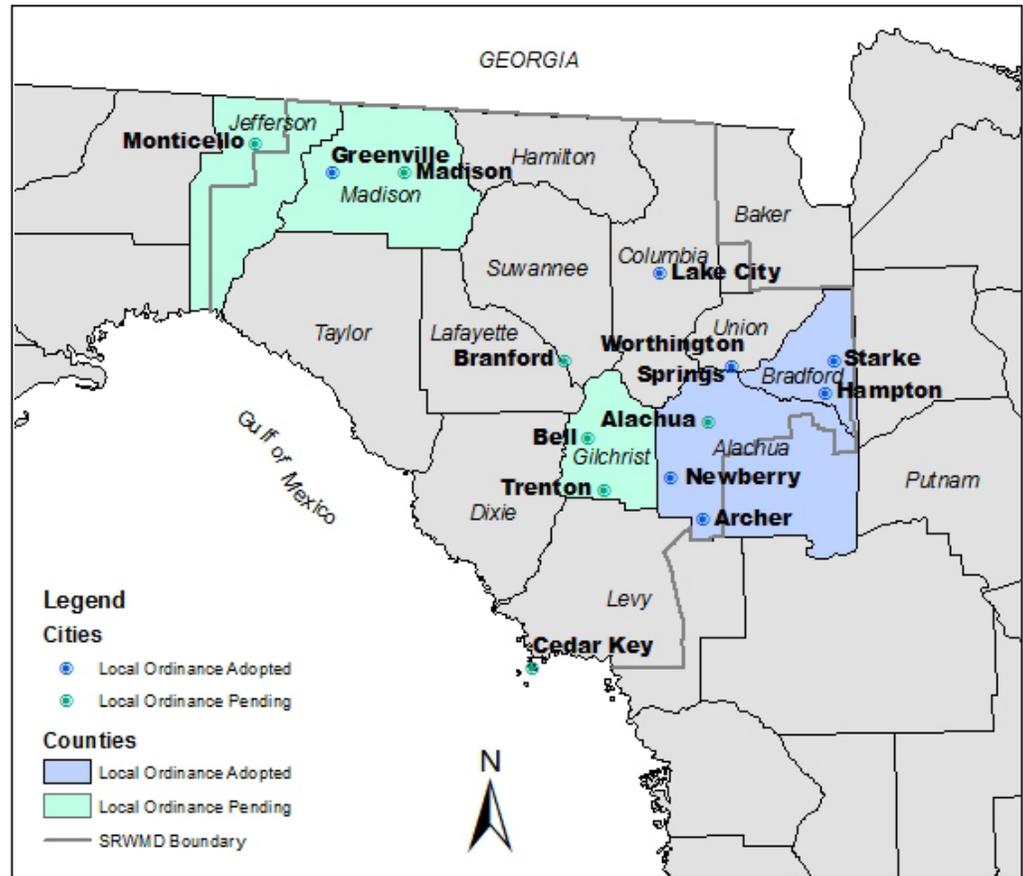
Local governments recognized for assistance with water shortage, conservation efforts

Over the last few months, the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has requested that all governments within its boundaries adopt a local ordinance that reflects the District's year-round water conservation rules and temporary water shortage restrictions. Governments that adopt the ordinance will locally implement these measures.

To date, Alachua County, Newberry, Archer, Bradford County, Hampton, Starke, Lake City, Greenville, and Worthington Springs have approved or have opted into an ordinance. The following governments are considering an ordinance: the City of Alachua, Bell, Trenton, Gilchrist County, Monticello, Cedar Key, Madison County, and Branford.

Also, these and many other local governments are assisting the District with public education efforts by placing information about District rules on their websites, Facebook pages, and water bills; distributing District information pamphlets; and responding to calls from the public.

"The District appreciates the efforts of our local governments to assist with reducing the water use demand during a water shortage and preserving and protecting our water resources for the long-term," said District Executive Director Ann Shortelle.



Mallory Swamp holding 10 billion gallons of water, recharging aquifer



Mallory Swamp, August 1, 2012.

Mallory Swamp, the Suwannee River Water Management District's largest restoration project to date, is now holding water and recharging the aquifer following record rainfall from Tropical Storms Beryl and Debby.

The District purchased nearly 30,000 acres of the swamp in 2002 with plans to restore the property back to its natural hydrology. The installation of culverts and ditch blocks helped restore natural drainage patterns after nearly 40 years of the property being drained for timber production.

Rain from the tropical storms put the District's restoration efforts to the test. Previously, the water would have run off to the Suwannee and Steinhatchee rivers. Now the property is holding approximately 10 billion gallons of water.

District Senior Land Resources Manager Bob Heeke said restoration efforts will help the property store water, serve as a recharge area, and reduce flooding downstream.

"Instead of water draining to the rivers, it is now being captured in the swamp and replenishing the aquifer," he said.