

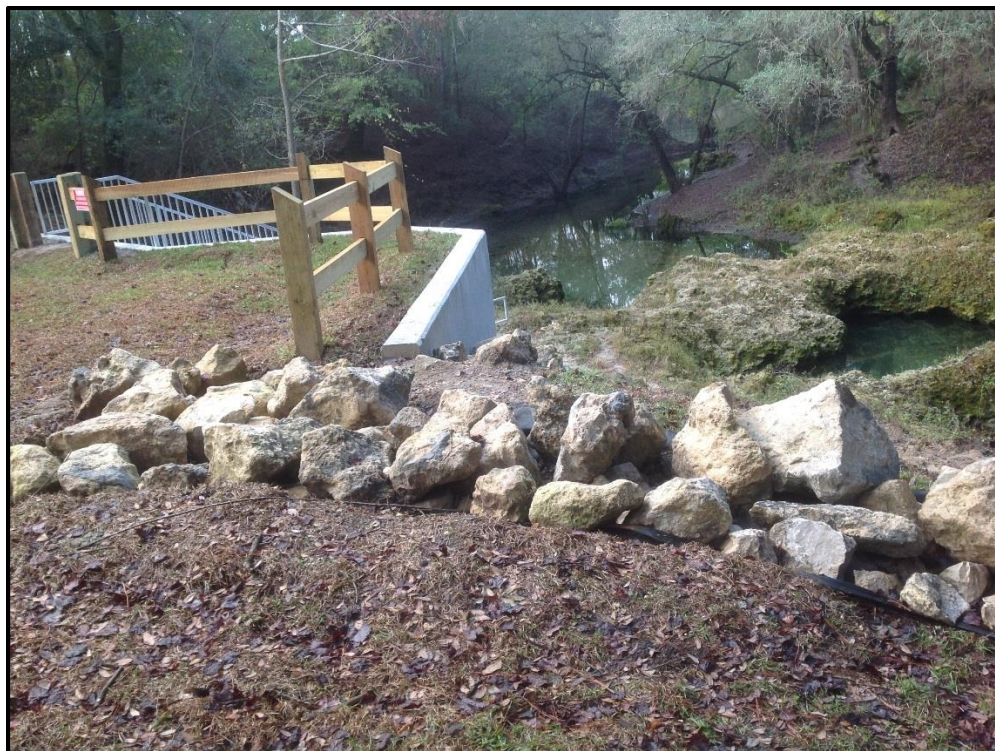
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**SRWMD Board awards 15 new RIVER projects**



Recently completed Charles Spring, Suwannee County, bank stabilization RIVER project.

LIVE OAK, FL, May 16, 2016 – The Governing Board of the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) has approved nearly \$1.7 million dollars for 15 projects. Funding for these projects are from the District’s Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) program. Projects that are eligible for RIVER funding consideration enhance or address the District’s water supply, water quality, flood protection and/or natural systems responsibilities District wide.

“Partnering with our local communities is essential to sustaining our water resources,” said Noah Valenstein, District executive director. “Together we can successfully implement measures to benefit people and our ecosystems that are critical to North Florida. Several of the selected projects will help the recovery of the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee minimum flows and levels, as well as, reduce nutrient loadings in the Santa Fe BMP”

The approved projects will benefit five river basins; conserve 0.55 million gallons per day (mgd) of water; provide 0.54 mgd of reclaimed water; remove over 44,000 pounds of sediments from springs; eliminate 20 septic tanks that will reduce nutrient loading; improve flood protection for 468 residents, 10 businesses and 2 schools; reduce the discharge of raw sewage from entering receiving waters and groundwater; and provide improved water supply services for approximately 1,473 residents and several businesses.

The RIVER cost-share projects are being awarded to Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Levy and Taylor counties along with the municipalities of Hampton, High Springs, Lake City, Live Oak, Madison, Newberry, Starke and Waldo. These local governments will each play a significant role towards protecting and improving natural resources.

County governments, municipalities, water supply authorities and other interested government entities with water management projects aligned with the District's core missions are encouraged to apply during the next funding cycle which begins in the fall of 2016.

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