




Sarasota County

Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Reclaimed Water Use and Disposal Program

Background:

- The Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) is one of three such facilities that Sarasota County operates to process wastewater into reclaimed water. In 2018, Sarasota County treated a total of 5.1 billion gallons of wastewater countywide.
- Reclaimed water is used as an irrigation water supply for residents and golf courses.
- Reclaimed water demand is at its highest during the dry season and at its lowest during the rainy season, making it a challenge to balance seasonal needs and storage requirements.

Current issue:

- The Bee Ridge WRF, located at 5550 Lorraine Road, Sarasota, was constructed in 1994 and has a capacity to treat 12 million gallons per day (MGD). It is accompanied with a reclaimed water storage pond with a maximum capacity of 170 MG.
- The volume of reclaimed water produced at the Bee Ridge WRF occasionally exceeds the pond's storage capacity, which results in periodic discharge. This periodic discharge has been occurring since 2013.
- While safe for irrigating lawns, this type of reclaimed water discharge is not permitted by the FDEP. When an unauthorized discharge occurs, the FDEP and all regulatory agencies are formally notified by the county, and routine sampling is conducted in accordance with the county spill protocol.

Short-term solutions in progress:

- Since 2013, the county has been working to develop solutions to address the discharge. Short-term steps are being taken to minimize these occurrences such as:
 - o Evaluate and implement system improvements to transfer excess reclaimed water from the Bee Ridge WRF to an existing deep injection well at the Central County WRF located at 7905 McIntosh Road, Sarasota.
 - o Evaluate and implement wastewater collection system improvements to divert wastewater flows from the Bee Ridge WRF to the Central County WRF.
 - o Enhance efforts to reduce system infiltration and inflow that occurs during storm events.

Long-term solutions:

- The county completed an exploratory well phase at the Bee Ridge WRF on Nov. 14, 2016, and received a permit from FDEP on Dec. 26, 2017 to construct aquifer recharge wells at this location.
- Finalize design and construction of two 18 MG aquifer recharge wells, along with improving water quality processes at the Bee Ridge WRF. Estimated construction completion date is Dec. 31, 2023.
- Improve reclaimed water system transmission capabilities and consider potential policy amendments to increase customer base to balance supply and demand within the system.