



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District

# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District host Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area Project ribbon cutting ceremony**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – John Paul Woodley, Jr. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and the Honorable Mark Foley, U.S. Representative for Florida's sixteenth Congressional District, will be the keynote speakers at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area, a critical Everglades Restoration Project. The ceremony will be held Fri., April 28 at 12:30 p.m.

"You are accomplishing something very special here in south Florida, and you are establishing a model for the rest of the nation," said Woodley. "Progress in restoring America's Everglades is being made on many fronts, and President Bush and his staff are fully committed to ensuring that this precious natural resource is preserved for future generations."

Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area is one of nine critical projects authorized by Congress in 1996 to provide immediate benefits to the south Florida ecosystem. The project will improve the water quality and environmental components of the North Fork Aquatic Preserve, St. Lucie River estuary and the Indian River Lagoon, by providing relief from damaging freshwater discharges. It will allow cleaner storm water to be released to the estuary in more moderated quantities, leading to more consistent salinity levels year-round. Sediment and nutrient loads will also be reduced.

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*For more information about Jacksonville District's activities, visit our website at: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil>*

Together with other Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects, Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area will result in expected improvements in fish populations, sea grasses, oyster beds, and overall improvement in the health of the Indian River Lagoon, the most biologically diverse estuary in North America.

“This is a great day for South Florida – for our environment and wildlife, for our visitors and residents, for our businesses and economy,” Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen Castille said. “This new facility brings two benefits: fewer nutrients in the water and less freshwater being released into the estuary - helping to revive and improve the health of the St. Lucie River, St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon.”

“We are thrilled to see the completion of one of the first of many projects being built strictly to ‘get the water right.’ The South Florida Water Management District is committed to constructing projects now that will improve our ability to store and clean the waters of our rivers, lakes and estuaries,” said SFWMD Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle. “The success of projects like this is directly related to the strength of the federal, state, regional and local partnership team behind it. This commitment to getting construction under way without delay is vital if our Everglades are truly going to experience a restoration!”

For more information, contact the Jacksonville District Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1106 or the South Florida Water Management District at 561-682-6197.

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**Directions to the ceremony:** Take I-95 to exit 129, S.R. 70, Okeechobee Road. Take S.R. 70 west. Approximately ½ mile after exiting I-95 you will pass the entrance to the Florida Turnpike. Continue west on S.R. 70 for one mile. When you see the sign for Gentile Road make a left (south). This is an unpaved, unnamed road. Continue on that road for ½ mile. You will pass over a one-lane bridge over Ten Mile Creek and PS 382 is immediately on the left.