



THE RIVER ACCORD

A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ST. JOHNS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Gerri Boyce, Media Coordinator
(904) 665-4626
boycgm@jea.com
jea.com



CHALLENGE

To reduce nitrogen in the effluent that goes into the river.

PROJECT UPDATES

Where we were:

- JEA invested more than \$1.9 billion in the water and wastewater system when JEA took it over from the City in 1997.
- JEA's five large regional wastewater treatment plants were built between 1960 and 1990.
- JEA had already committed to a very aggressive goal of voluntarily reducing nitrogen discharge to the St. Johns River by 50 percent in 2000.

Where we are today:

- On July 27, 2006, JEA signed the River Accord, an historic partnership committed to improving the health of the St. Johns River.
- On July 6, 2007, JEA and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) signed an agreement under which the parties committed to invest a combined \$250 million through a 50/50 cost share to dramatically expand JEA's ability to deliver reclaimed water.
- JEA has nearly reached its voluntary nitrogen removal goal by reducing almost 50 percent from the 2000 baseline.
- JEA has decommissioned two of its six remaining old technology wastewater treatment facilities.
- As part of its River Accord commitments, JEA has embarked on a 10-year, \$160 million program, to implement advanced nitrogen removal at its five major regional plants, providing a discharge in the range of 3-5 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of nitrogen.
- JEA has spent \$64 million to date on River Accord projects which include \$34 million on collection and treatment projects to reduce Nitrogen concentration to the River and \$30 million on reclaimed water storage, pumping and distribution to provide reclaimed water to customers.
- To date, JEA has received more than \$3 million from the SJRWMD as reimbursement for reclaimed water projects approved and funded under the agreement.
- In addition to JEA's previous commitments and River Accord pledge, JEA has surpassed these goals lowering nitrogen levels by 75 percent or more as a result of upgrades to the wastewater treatment processes at our plants.
- Since the signing of the River Accord, the net impact of the wastewater treatment and reclaimed improvements includes the following:
 - Increased reclaimed water capacity of plants in the St. Johns River basin from 18 million gallons per day (mgd) to 23.9 mgd.
 - Increased delivery of reclaimed water, system wide, from 6.5 mgd in June 2006 to more than 13 mgd in June 2008.

- Removal of an additional 110 tons of nitrogen per year from river. The 2000 baseline of nitrogen going into the river from all JEA facilities was greater than 1400 tons per year. This has now been reduced to less than 771 tons per year, in spite of population growth since 2000.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- JEA will invest \$200 million during the 10-year River Accord commitment to improve the quality of the St. Johns River and to preserve the Floridan aquifer.
- Ongoing wastewater treatment upgrades will take the removal treatment process to more than 90 percent, which will significantly exceed the anticipated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) permit requirements.
- In fiscal year 2006, JEA reused approximately 9 percent of its total wastewater treated. In fiscal year 2008, that total is expected to more than double to 19 percent. By 2018, JEA forecasts it will reuse 66 percent of the total wastewater flow.
- The increased use of reclaimed water will not only result in a reduction in nitrogen discharged to the river, but also reduce water withdrawals from the Floridan aquifer, preserving it for future generations of growth.
- In 2018, after full implementation of the River Accord treatment and reclaimed water projects, it is estimated that JEA will have reduced the discharge of nitrogen to the river by 68 percent from 2000, even though the volume of wastewater to be treated in 2018 will have increased by 33 percent over the same period. In terms of the pounds of nitrogen discharged per million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater treated, JEA will have reduced the discharge 75 percent.

###