

***Cooperative Projects, Common Goals, and Community Benefit: Smart Planning Saves Time, Money and Has Environmental Impacts to Caloosahatchee River by reduce flooding, improving water quality and recharge groundwater supplies***

Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District is a multi-county, multifaceted Special District Agency. From roads and bridges, to a stormwater management system comprised of lakes, canals, and complex monitoring equipment; to parks and passive recreation, to community projects, the Board of Commissioners guides the agency in a direction best suited to help the communities in which it serves—making it the vehicle for the future of Lehigh Acres. The District service region has a population of approximately 120,000. The municipal district has 34 employees.

Among other public improvements, the Municipal District's stormwater management system (SWMS) including an interconnected network of canals designed to collect and convey stormwater away from adjacent properties.

A 2007 study conducted by ADA Engineering indicated that Lehigh Acres has a water storage deficiency of approximately 15,000 acre-feet. The District has been actively searching for creative funding and partnership opportunities to help achieve the necessary stormwater projects.

Some projects began, and land acquisition started, but funding was still a need. So these individual Capital Projects became a large-scale, coordinated, multi-agency partnership to realize a common goal of improving stormwater storage capacity, improving flood control measures and restoring historical flow patterns to Tidal Caloosahatchee and to Lehigh Acres – the eastern portion of Lee County.

The momentum began when the District formed a partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation on the State Road (SR) 82 project in Lee and Hendry Counties.

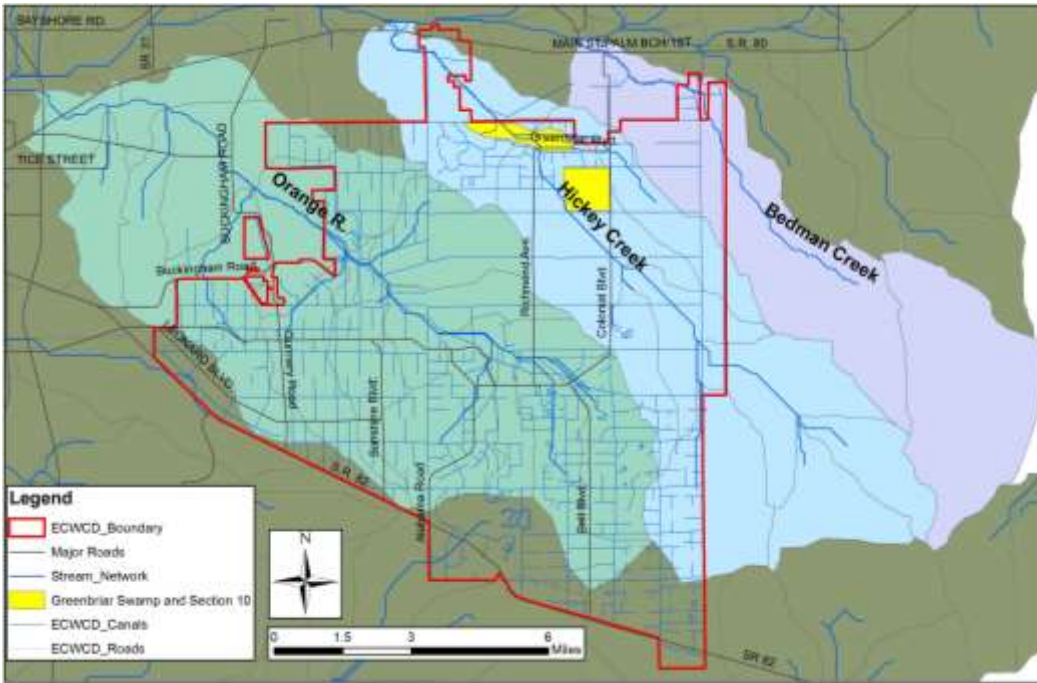
Both agencies entered into an agreement that would provide FDOT dirt from several Municipal District properties for fill dirt for the SR82 widening project. FDOT contractors would dig for the dirt to District project specifications and would pay for the dirt. A win-win situation for the agencies and the region. Tax payers realize a huge cost savings, and project timelines for both agencies are expedited. The District provided approximately 100,000 dump truck loads of fill dirt for the SR82 widening project.

An agreement between the FDOT and the District, led to the District realizing its goal of funding for Capital Projects and expediting the timeline for: West Marsh Preserve Project, Hendry Extension Canal Widening, the Halfway Pond – Moving Water South Phase II, Nine Mile to Panther Canal Connection, Hendry Canal Structure Modifications and other canal system improvements. The cooperative partnership led to nearly \$20 million of tax payer dollars SAVED, expedited schedules, enhanced capital projects and improved community aesthetics (eliminating the need for postage stamp ponds along State Road 82)

To highlight one project from the many listed above.

The Moving Water South Phase II: Blackstone Preserve Project was made possible by LAMISD \$317K, a \$517K grant from FDEP, \$200K from SFWMD and fees from FDOT.

From preliminary evaluation, the MWS PII project will result in a reduction 55 kg/yr. of Total Phosphorous (TP) and 3,877 kg/yr. of Total Nitrogen (TN) in stormwater discharges from the project area.



West Marsh

Figure 22: Proposed Master Site Plan





CREST



Hendry Canal Widening





## Please Join Us

# Moving Water South Phase II: Blackstone Preserve Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

321 Blackstone Drive, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

**11:00 - 11:30 a.m. — Ribbon Cutting**

**11:45 a.m. — Light Lunch**

**Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Tour**

**Contractor: J.P. Murphy and LAMSID In-house Crew**

**Engineer: Tetra Tech**

**Pump Station: MWI Pumps**

### **Project Benefits:**

**Increased: Flood Protection, Wet Detention and Wetland Hydro-Periods**

**Restoration of Existing Wetland Habitat**

**Caloosahatchee River Nutrient Reduction in Nitrogen and Phosphorus**



Following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony there will be an optional tour of the West Harns Marsh Water Quality Project (currently under construction) and the future site for the GS-10 Water Quality Project. The tour is a collaborative, community partnership between Lee County and LA-MSID.

**Please RSVP to [cbrantley@la-msid.com](mailto:cbrantley@la-msid.com). Please indicate if you would like to attend the ceremony and/or the tour component. Please note space is limited for the tour.**

