

## Central Florida Water Initiative



*Officials joined for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the project's start.*

### **Mt. Dora's regional approach to reclaimed water**

A groundbreaking in April 2019 brought out local leaders to celebrate the installation of about three miles of reclaimed water pipe between the cities of Mt. Dora and Apopka. Located west of Wekiwa State Park and just east of the Harris Chain of Lakes, the project's regional significance extends beyond zip codes to help conserve water, benefiting groundwater supplies across the Central Florida Water Initiative.

Once complete, the installed pipes will tie into existing infrastructure, allowing Mt. Dora to receive about 3 million gallons per day of reclaimed water from multiple central Florida utilities, including Apopka, Altamonte Springs and Orange County. The additional reclaimed water will enable the city to supplement their current supply and eventually provide existing potable irrigation systems with access to reclaimed.

Reclaimed water involves taking what was once wastewater, treating and disinfecting it, then using the resulting reclaimed water for a beneficial use, such as irrigation for golf courses, parks, highway medians, playgrounds and residential properties. Florida is the national leader in reclaimed water use, with the majority of beneficial reuse occurring in the central Florida area.

Recognizing the project's regional water supply benefits, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) each contributed

\$275,000 to the city's project, which is estimated to cost \$1.1 million and expected to be completed by March 2020.



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[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)



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[watermatters.org](http://watermatters.org)



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[www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com)

The CFWI encompasses five counties: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole. The state's water experts project that this region will need an additional 300 million gallons of water per day by 2035. Through the CFWI, three water management districts — South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River — are working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to implement effective water resource planning, including water resource and supply development and management strategies to protect, conserve and restore our water resources. To learn more, please visit [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com).