

Timeline

- 1994:** The Florida Legislature passes the Everglades Forever Act, which directs the State of Florida to develop a phosphorus criterion for the Everglades Protection Area. The criterion numerically interprets an existing narrative standard, which states: "In no case shall nutrient concentrations of a body of water be altered so as to cause an imbalance in natural populations of aquatic flora or fauna."
- 1996:** Farmers in the Everglades Agricultural Area implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- 1997:** Agricultural BMPs reduce phosphorus amounts leaving the agricultural area basin by 51%. Phosphorus loadings are reduced from 240 metric tons to 122 metric tons.

The South Florida Water Management District completes construction of the first of six filtering wetlands known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs).

- 1999:** BMPs reduce phosphorus levels to 50 parts per billion (ppb).
- 2000:** Agricultural BMPs continue to reduce phosphorus loads from the Everglades Agricultural Area.
- 2001:** STAs 1 West, 2, 5 and 6 are operating and remove more than 24 metric tons of phosphorus from inflows into the Everglades Protection Area.

For the fifth consecutive year, BMPs reduce phosphorus loads from the Everglades Agricultural Area by 30% more than is required by rule or statute.

- 2002:** BMPs reduce phosphorus loads from the Everglades Agricultural Area by 48% more than is required. STAs reduce phosphorus concentrations to less than 35 ppb, exceeding the goal established in the Everglades Forever Act.

Construction begins on the two final Everglades Construction project STAs, 3/4 and 1 East.

- 2003:** The Florida Department of Environmental Protection proposes to set the first numerical ambient water quality standard for phosphorus at 10 ppb.