



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Lake Walk-in-Water Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration



Project Location: Lake Wales, FL
Name of Owner: Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Owner Contact: Carly Althoff
Construction Date: 04/29/2019 - 04/30/2019

Scope of work

1. Project design
2. Locate restoration sites
3. Cultivate planting stock at Sea & Shoreline's aquatic nursery
4. Deploy PVC marker poles
5. Install 5,000 mechanical planting units via Sea & Shoreline's mechanical planting vessel



Lake Walk-in-Water, also known as Lake Weohyakapka, is a 7,528-acre spring-fed lake located in Lake Wales, Florida. Prior to the summer of 2004, lake Walk-in-Water had a thriving ecosystem complete with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and an abundant variety of fishery species. However, between August and September of 2004, three hurricanes made landfall in central Florida and managed to destroy most of the lake's SAV which in turn had negative impacts on the lake's aquatic ecosystem. The purpose of the Lake Walk-in-Water SAV Restoration Project was for Sea & Shoreline to restore the native vegetation, Illinois Pondweed (*Potamogeton illinoensis*), to a 1.93-acre project area. The project area was separated into five distinct sites along the perimeter of the lake and 1,000 mechanical planting units were planted at each site. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be monitoring the project sites and reporting the data they collect during their studies. This data will be used to determine whether the project has been successful in reestablishing native vegetation. FWC and any partnering associates will also be able to use their studies to document changes to the Lake's environmental parameters, if any, and compare them to the lake's aquatic parameters prior to the 2004 hurricane season.