



## Water Utility Management

**Client**  
City Public Works Department

**Location**  
Gainesville, FL, USA

## Stormwater Management Utility Program

### Project Description

The City Public Works Department of Gainesville, Florida, retained CH2M HILL to develop, implement, and provide an operations plan for a stormwater management utility (SMU) program. Phase 1 of the project included developing the rate structure and billing system, a public information program, an ordinance and resolution, and a Commission presentation. The billing system for the utility was implemented for Phase 2. CH2M HILL also assisted with a public information program for this project. Later, CH2M HILL updated the billing database after the City annexed some of its urban fringe.

To address the need for increased stormwater management services required by the City's SMU program, CH2M HILL prepared a city-wide strategy for allocating a limited capital improvement fund. The strategy was based on preparing basin level project design plans for each of the six stream basin areas of the City. Design projects have included the placement of flood control levees, channel improvements, on-line storage, wetland enhancements, sediment trapping facilities, and water control installations. The watershed levels were modeled to evaluate the performance of project alternatives and cost estimates were prepared to screen and rank proposed improvements. Permitting with the St. Johns River Water Management District began with conceptual permitting of the proposed watershed program and will proceed to individual construction permits. A key step in developing final design details involved working with local neighborhoods and the City Commission to gain public acceptance.

CH2M HILL assisted the City of Gainesville with the evaluation, final design, and permitting of a flood control levee located next to a large, natural wetlands in the downstream area of a major watershed system. A neighborhood next to the wetlands was subject to periodic backwater flooding. This flooding had worsened as the upstream areas of the watershed were developed. The purpose of this evaluation and design was to protect this neighborhood from flooding without increasing flooding to areas next to the wetland.