LAKE REGION LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2027 Goals and Objectives

Pursuant to F.S. 189.0694

The Lake Region Lakes Management District remains committed to the safe, efficient, and responsible maintenance and operation of the District's canals, drainage systems, dams, locks, water-control structures, and public boat launching facilities.

For 2027, the District will continue its established maintenance and operational responsibilities while placing additional emphasis on stormwater management, flood mitigation, environmental restoration, infrastructure improvements, and long-term financial sustainability.

The District anticipates significant financial challenges associated with changes to Florida's property tax structure, including the potential reduction of ad valorem tax revenue and continued uncertainty regarding replacement funding or financial assistance from the State of Florida.

Canals (Boating)

Seawalls will continue to be inspected weekly during routine canal trash collection routes. Any required repairs will be promptly reported to the Field Manager and scheduled for completion based on severity, available funding, and operational priorities.

Aquatic vegetation within canals, around trash receptacles, and at canal entrances will be routinely monitored. Necessary herbicide treatments will be scheduled and documented through the District's herbicide tracking system to ensure responsible aquatic vegetation management.

The District will continue efforts to maintain safe and navigable waterways while prioritizing essential repairs and maintenance within available budgetary resources.

Canals (Drainage Ditches)

District-maintained drainage ditches will be routinely inspected for fallen trees, aquatic vegetation, sediment accumulation, and other obstructions that may restrict stormwater flow.

Comprehensive inspections will be conducted prior to the summer rainy season and in advance of major storm events when conditions allow. Maintenance activities will primarily be scheduled during the dry season to improve accessibility, operational efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

A major priority for 2027 will be the restoration and clearing of an overgrown stormwater drainage ditch connecting to the Peace Creek watershed. This project will focus on removing accumulated vegetation, fallen trees, and other obstructions to improve stormwater conveyance, restore drainage efficiency, and reduce potential flooding impacts.

Dams & Water-Control Structures

Regular inspections of all District-maintained dams and water-control structures will continue throughout the year.

Prior to the summer rainy season, these structures will be inspected, serviced, and operated as appropriate to verify proper functionality. Necessary repairs will be evaluated and prioritized according to their impact on public safety, flood protection, and operational reliability.

Additional inspections will be conducted before major storm events and during periods of elevated water levels.

The District will continue evaluating opportunities to improve the long-term reliability, efficiency, and management of its water-control infrastructure while considering financial limitations.

Locks

District personnel will continue to inspect the locks during weekly maintenance and trash collection routes between the upper and lower chains.

Comprehensive inspections will be performed periodically throughout the year to evaluate lock doors, safety devices, cables, seals, and associated operating components.

Routine maintenance, including pressure washing, lubrication, adjustments, and repainting, will be performed as necessary.

Major repairs or improvements will be prioritized according to safety, operational necessity, and available financial resources.

Boat Launching Facilities

District-maintained boat launching facilities will continue to receive weekly maintenance from designated personnel.

Routine services will include trash collection, mowing, edging, vegetation trimming, and inspections of boat ramps, docks, and associated public facilities.

Identified safety hazards and maintenance concerns will be reported to the Field Manager and addressed according to urgency and available resources.

Due to anticipated financial constraints, major dock replacements, facility upgrades, and other capital improvements will be prioritized based on structural condition, public safety, usage, and overall necessity.

Wahneta Wetland Restoration and Stormwater Management Project

A significant long-term objective for 2027 will be to begin the formal planning and development process for a proposed wetland restoration and stormwater management project on District-owned property in Wahneta.

The District will explore opportunities to utilize portions of its property for wetland restoration, stormwater retention, improved water management, groundwater recharge, and environmental enhancement.

Initial efforts will focus on evaluating site conditions, identifying potential engineering and environmental requirements, and coordinating with appropriate local, regional, and state agencies.

The District will also investigate potential grant opportunities, cooperative funding arrangements, and partnerships that may assist with planning and future implementation.

While the project is expected to require multiple phases and potentially several years to complete, the primary goal for 2027 will be to establish a practical foundation for future development through preliminary planning, agency coordination, feasibility evaluation, and identification of potential funding sources.

Financial Responsibility and Operational Sustainability

Recognizing the significant financial challenges facing the District, a primary objective for 2027 will be to maintain fiscal responsibility while preserving essential services and infrastructure.

Changes to Florida's property tax structure and uncertainty surrounding potential state replacement funding may substantially affect the District's ability to maintain historical service levels and complete planned capital projects.

The District will closely monitor revenue projections, state funding developments, operating expenditures, and available reserves to ensure that financial decisions support long-term operational stability.

Projects will be evaluated and prioritized based on public safety, statutory responsibilities, flood mitigation, infrastructure preservation, environmental protection, and available financial resources.

The District will continue exploring alternative funding opportunities, grants, intergovernmental partnerships, and operational efficiencies to offset anticipated revenue reductions.

Although reduced funding may require certain projects to be delayed, modified, or implemented in phases, the District will make every reasonable effort to maintain essential operations and complete as many high-priority projects as financially feasible.