

City of Winter Haven/Peace Creek Watershed Water Resource Sustainability Plan

Because Winter Haven area is at the headwaters of the Peace River Watershed, as well as the groundwater basin, this area receives no inflow of surface or groundwater from outside sources. In the past century, water resources were considered to be a waste product and moved out of the area through ditching, draining and stormwater outfalls. Today, we know that every drop of water has to be used to its maximum potential before it leaves the watershed.

The Water Resource Sustainability Plan will restore lost storage in the area so that the water needs for future economic development and natural resources can be met. These new storage areas, located within natural floodplain and wetland areas, will create a series of open space 'nature parks' with recreational, scenic and economic development benefits. The plan also calls for more water to be percolated into the ground for future storage. The basis for the plan is that using the natural system to provide services will be more efficient for meeting long-term goals than future man-made solutions. Concepts such as mitigation banking, public/private partnerships, conservation land use planning, and amenities creation will implement the plan and enhance the economic potential for the area.