



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Florida—Rural Utilities Service

Strategic Partners

Community Celebrates Earth Day, Announces Plans to Safeguard Environment

Outline Of Need:

The City of Waldo owned an aging and inefficient wastewater treatment plant operating under a Consent Order from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, due to nutrient, toxicity and surface water issues. The plant was discharging treated effluent to surface waters through three onsite constructed wetland cells that flow to natural receiving wetlands which eventually discharged into the Santa Fe River, designated as an Outstanding Florida Waterway. The City needed funding to address the treatment of wastewater and the subsequent environmental issues.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development provided a \$2,527,000 loan and a \$2,837,300 grant to the City of Waldo for construction of a new wastewater collection facility.

The Results:

The City of Waldo partnered with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and USDA to begin construc-



Earth Day was a community celebration in Waldo as USDA Rural Development announced funding for a wastewater treatment system that will protect Florida’s fragile wetlands and the Santa Fe River, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway.

tion of a master pump station and a 10.5 mile pipeline to the point of connection with Gainesville Regional Utilities for treatment of the Waldo’s wastewater. The effluent will be used to cool generation energy plants and municipal irrigation in the City of Gainesville.

“Waldo, Gainesville and Alachua County are to be commended for their measures to protect the environment for future generations. This project, and many more like them, demonstrates the critical role USDA Rural Development can play in confronting these issues,” USDA Rural Development State Director Richard A. Machek said while celebrating Earth Day with the City.

Water and Waste Disposal Loans funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and corporations not operated for profit. The purpose of WWD grants is to reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for rural users.

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Utilities Service, Wastewater Disposal

Investment: \$2,527,000 loan, \$2,837,300 grant

Partners: City of Waldo

Congressional District: FL-06

Demographics: Alachua County

Impact: The City of Waldo partnered with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and USDA to begin construction of a master pump station and a 10.5 mile pipeline to the point of connection with Gainesville Regional Utilities for treatment of Waldo’s wastewater. The effluent will be used to cool generation energy plants and municipal irrigation in the City of Gainesville.