



Depot Park in Gainesville
Source: Gainesville CRA

Stormwater runoff is one of the most impactful environmental issues affecting northwest Florida. Addressing stormwater resilience on a regional basis offers the opportunity to develop projects that provide multiple benefits to the community and allow various partners to work towards the same goals. To this end, the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is developing a Regional Stormwater Resilience Pilot Plan using Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds.

This plan will identify local stormwater needs and assets, focusing on the stormwater impacts of eligible projects currently in the 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) of the TPO. The goal is to develop a process by which the local governments can work with FDOT at the early planning stage to identify opportunities to establish stormwater projects with multiple community based benefits.

Traditionally, stormwater management is done site-by-site, resulting in numerous fenced-off ponds, often on prime real estate. Many communities have begun shifting towards a regional stormwater approach that includes public amenities such as paths, disc golf courses, and amphitheaters. These ponds may also provide additional stormwater treatment capacity for future developments. Cascades Park in Tallahassee (see: <https://www.talgov.com/parks/parks-cascades.aspx>) and Depot Park in Gainesville (see: <http://www.depotpark.org/>) are two examples of similar projects in Florida.

This stormwater pilot project will result in the following primary outcomes:

- Development of a process for identifying and aligning TPO, FDOT, and community stormwater priorities/needs
- Identification of up to three sites where regional stormwater parks can be designed to meet both FDOT stormwater needs and community stormwater needs
- Development of concept layout/plans for the 1-3 regional stormwater parks identified including conceptual project estimates

To support the planning process, a Stormwater Implementation Team will be established to guide the project. An Advocacy Working Group, public meetings, and direct outreach will provide additional feedback and comments. For more information, please reach out to Eric Christianson at eric.christianson@ecrc.org or 515.451.5662.