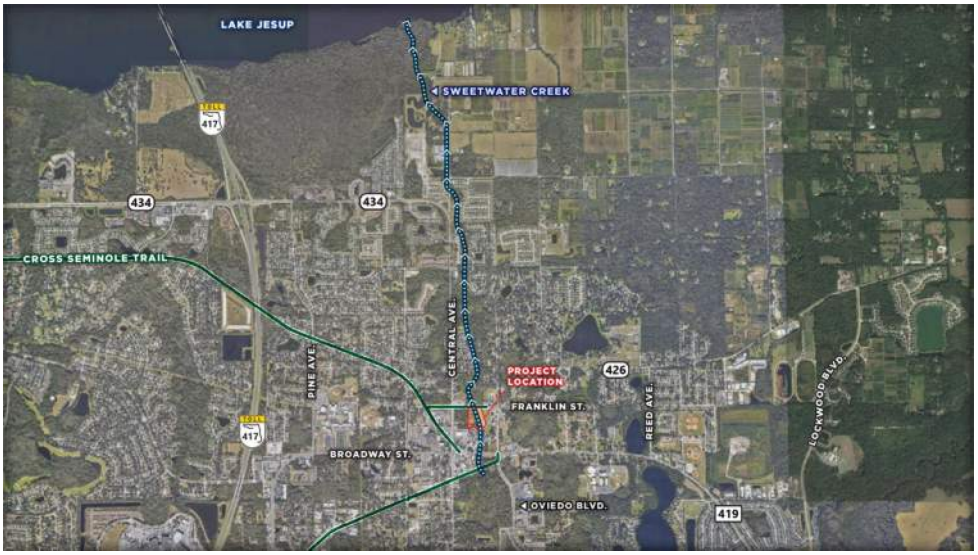
Supporting Information

The following summarizes how the five overall project goals have been met.

Goal 1 – Enhance the Water Quality in Sweetwater Creek and Lake Jesup

Prior to the construction of the construction of the regional pond, a portion of the historic downtown area of Oviedo discharged to Sweetwater Creek and ultimately to Lake Jesup without treatment or attenuation. The newly construction pond is a 6-acre wet detention pond that not only serves the downtown of Oviedo, but it also serves State Road (SR) 434, Franklin Street, Geneva Drive and Broadway Street. These roadways are part of an overall plan to improve the transportation network in Oviedo. The stormwater management system provides treatment to approximately 22 acres of downtown Oviedo and will lead to reductions in Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Total Phosphorus (TP), Total Nitrogen (TN) and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) in the stormwater runoff that currently drains directly to Sweetwater Creek and ultimately to Lake Jesup. The project also supports the initiatives of the Lake Jesup Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) to reduce nutrient loads to Lake Jesup.



Goal 2 – Enhance Sweetwater Creek

Prior to the construction of Solary Park, Sweetwater Creek conveyed stormwater from a box culvert at Geneva Drive to a box culvert at Franklin Street. The creek was truly more of a ditch with a trapezoidal cross section with nuisance and exotic species along its banks. While it served a conveyance function, it did not provide a benefit to the environment.

As a part of the Solary Park project, the creek was re-routed around the regional pond. The cross section was revised to mimic a creek with overbanks and native vegetation. Revetment in the form of rip rap was added at critical locations to provide erosion protection. The newly restored and constructed creek provides a more natural creek that improves water quality and opportunities for birds and wildlife. In fact, Solary Park has already become a refuge for local wildlife. State designated threatened species have been sighted and documented, such as Roseate Spoonbills, Otters, Woodstorks and Snowy Egrets to name a few.

Before Solary Park

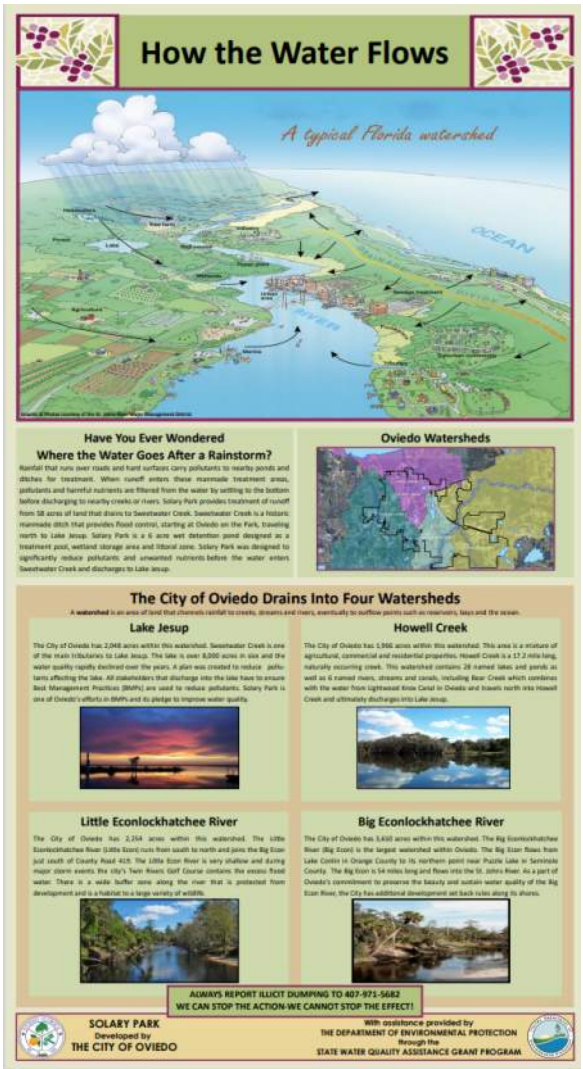
Solary Park

Goal 3 – Create a Park Destination for the Residents

The City of Oviedo has an active recreation and parks program and was looking for innovative ways to engage the public. One of the key features of the park is an 1800-foot-long boardwalk/trail system around the regional pond. It provides a connection to the Cross Seminole Trail via the multi-use trail along Franklin Street. The park also has a number of opportunities for the public to view the lake and creek through overlooks and benches along the boardwalk. There is also a pavilion with tables and a restroom.

Goal 4 – Provide an Opportunity to Engage and Educate the Public Regarding Stormwater

Given the proximity of the regional pond and park to the impaired waterbody, Lake Jesup, the City wanted to create an opportunity to educate and engage the public. Integrated with the boardwalk and trail are monument display boards are located throughout the park that provide educational information on the local watersheds, environmental benefits of wetlands and conservation areas, ways to help preserve the natural floodplains and how residents can help prevent pollution. Additional educational information is available in the kiosk located at the park entrance.



Goal 5 – Provide a Catalyst for the Redevelopment of Downtown Oviedo

The main part of downtown Oviedo consists of a strip shopping center and other commercial areas that need redevelopment. One of the challenges for developers is how to provide stormwater management as parcels are redeveloped. With the construction of the regional pond approximately 22 acres of the historic downtown will be accommodated in the regional pond, addressing the challenge to developers. The City is already seeing conceptual plans to redevelop portions of the area.