

GROUNDWATER

Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) levels across the District ranged from normal (25th – 75th percentile) to extremely low (<10th percentile) levels this month (Figure 10). Forty-two of the monitored long-term District wells were listed in the extremely low category at the end of the month. Overall, groundwater levels decreased by a median of about 0.6' since the end of March and ended April with a Districtwide average around the 12th percentile.

Each of the 12 groundwater index wells was below long-term averages at the end of the month (Figure 11). The well in Hamilton County near Jasper set a new monthly record low for April. Long-term District UFA well levels ended April in either the normal, low, or very low categories (Figure 12a). The monitored long-term wells with records that extend back to at least 1964 showed decreasing water levels this month relative to last month (Figure 12b).

CLIMATE AND DROUGHT OUTLOOK

ENSO-neutral conditions are currently present and favored through April to June 2026 with an 80% chance. From May to July 2026, El Niño is favored to emerge with a 61% chance and will persist through at least the end of 2026.

The NOAA three-month seasonal outlook suggests above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation within the District from May through July 2026.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report released on Thursday, May 7th shows the majority of the District covered by Exceptional Drought (D4) with smaller areas to the east and south with Extreme Drought (D3).

CONSERVATION

A Modified Phase II Water Shortage containing both voluntary and mandatory reductions in water use is currently in effect for the entire District. The Modified Phase II Water Shortage Order was approved at the April 14, 2026, Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board meeting. This water shortage order includes updated rules regarding landscape and other irrigation. Therefore, the District website (<http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com>) should be consulted for current guidance on water use while the water shortage is in effect.

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- Data Collection: Christian Holton, Matthew Jordan, Dylan Mock, Morgan Pearson, Kevin Posada, and Vince Robinson
- QA/QC and Reporting: Susie Hetrick, Robbie McKinney, Brandi Sistrunk, and Mitch Valerio
- Administrative Support/Document Preparation/IT: Paul Buchanan, Bo Cameron, Tyler Jordan, and Ashley Kirby.

This report is compiled in compliance with Chapter 40B-21.211, Florida Administrative Code, using rainfall (gage-adjusted radar-derived estimates), groundwater (122 wells), surface water (35 stations), and general information such as drought indices and forecasts. Data are provisional and updated as revised data become available. Data are available at <http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/507/Water-Data-Portal> or upon request.