

# Ironies and Oddities of Florida Water Management

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SELDOM STRAIGHTFORWARD

On July 05, 2015 at 01:09PM, Tom at [Watery Foundation](#) published the following article:

Water management in Florida is seldom straightforward because people find many ways to get around the laws of hydrology and economics. A few examples:

- The biggest irrigated “crop” in Florida is lawn grass and other ornamental landscapes.
- Even with immense numbers of natural springs, rivers, lakes, and sandy beaches, Florida has [more “water parks”](#) than any other state.
- Most bottled water in Florida starts as tap water.
- People will pay more for one brand of bottled water than another.
- The biggest water using sector accounts for less than [2%](#) of state domestic product.
- Hay growers in north Florida deposit nutrients into local aquifers in order to feed thousands of recreational horses in south Florida.

- Billions of dollars are spent for Everglades restoration while doing relatively little to prevent submergence from rising sea levels.
- Water body “restoration” in Florida involves many [gigantic pump stations](#).
- “[Dispersed water](#)” payments to farmers in south Florida often involve storing water on land that has been artificially drained for agriculture.
- The director of the Florida Park Service thinks that [logging, cattle grazing, and hunting](#) could be a pretty good idea for state parks.
- Many purchases of conservation “land” in Florida are actually done for water resource reasons.
- Everybody agrees that water is oh-so-valuable but withdrawals are free.
- Wastewater treatment plants are highly regulated but millions of septic tanks have little oversight.
- [Municipal drinking water systems](#) are required to test water quality regularly for many possible contaminants but the millions of Floridians on individual wells have infrequent and limited tests of water quality.



Moral(?): The path to effective water management is long and crooked.

Read this article from [Watery Foundation](#) at <http://www.wateryfoundation.com/?p=11899>.

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