The Black Creek Water Resource Development (WRD) Project will help to replenish the Floridan aquifer in northeast Florida using flow from flood-prone Black Creek, in Clay County.

The project is among several identified in the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (NFRWSP) to help meet future water supply demands while protecting natural resources. This project, which will be built over four years in southwest Clay County between Penney Farms and Camp Blanding, focuses on providing recharge to the Upper Floridan aquifer in the Keystone Heights region and Lower Santa Fe basin.

The project will capture up to 10 million gallons per day of water flow from the Black Creek South Fork during high water periods, which is an estimated 75 percent of the time. The water will then be pumped through a transmission system toward Camp Blanding in the Keystone Heights area and discharged to an Upper Floridan aquifer recharge system and into Alligator Creek.

The project is expected to contribute to minimum flows and levels recovery in the region and may help improve water levels in lakes in the Alligator Creek system, including drought-stressed lakes Brooklyn and Geneva.

Funding for the estimated $41 million project includes $5 million a year from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, funded through Amendment One, the Florida Land and Conservation Initiative. The funds are part of a 2017 legislative appropriation championed by Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, Rep. Bobby Payne, R-Palatka, and Rep. Travis Cummings, R-Orange Park, and will be administered by the district.

First year funding is $13.3 million with $5.5 million in recurring funds until the project is completed.