

Questions and Answers

Significant improvements are in store for SFWMD Web site visitors. What are the major changes?

The Web site is undergoing a complete renovation to make it more useful to anyone who wants information about the South Florida Water Management District. Easy-to-find facts and figures, reports, data and interesting images and multimedia presentations will be more readily accessible on the improved site. The restructured Web site will include streamlined navigation and integrated multimedia tools to highlight the most relevant information, making www.sfwmd.gov even more dynamic.

After the initial launch of the improved Web site is up and running, please take a few minutes to explore what's new, beginning with the home page. There are some surprises in store for visitors! The new look and structure will be introduced in phases through mid-2010, so check the Web site frequently for additional updates and new pages.

What new features are being added to enhance the site?

The way users move from place to place within the site to find and gather information is being dramatically streamlined. This meant rethinking and reorganizing everything on the Web site, beginning with where information is stored to how it is presented.

A variety of new navigation paths will allow visitors to travel within the site in a way that's more intuitive or comfortable. That could mean browsing by topic, region or water management mission responsibility – or by choosing from a series of user-group tabs: residents and visitors; engineers and scientists; businesses; and educators and students.

The Web site's new design and construction takes advantage of current technologies to make the site more interactive and appealing. Expanded multimedia capabilities, animations, video clips and other graphic features are being added. Visitors will be able to quickly find specific reports, documents, publications, presentations, charts, videos and other water resource data. As the site unfolds, a more extensive library with a powerful search tool will be available.

Will information from the existing Web site be retained?

Current information about District missions, programs and projects will remain available throughout the re-engineered Web site and in the new online library. Some pages may be consolidated or replaced with more relevant or pertinent pages, helping to reduce duplicate information. Older information may be archived.

Will bookmarked links to SFWMD pages still work?

Most bookmarked links will need to be updated when existing Web pages are replaced by newer or consolidated pages. This is an easy fix for frequent visitors. First, search for the new page by topic, region, mission or audience category. An alternative is to use the site-wide search tool on the home page. Then, simply reset the link.

Up-to-date news, features and multimedia presentations will be added regularly, making it worth revisiting the home page at www.sfwmd.gov to see the latest new details and information.

Will the multimedia upgrades require the latest version of Adobe Flash Player?

No. Multimedia presentations on the Web site are being created and published using Adobe Flash, version 8. Newer versions of Adobe Flash are available, but they are not required to open videos, audio recordings and other presentations. For visitors with older versions of Adobe Flash Player on their computers, a link to download a more updated version will pop up on the Web site home page. If needed, the Adobe Flash update is a free and safe download.