

Potentially wonderful news for Everglades restoration as the governor has reached an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to begin construction later this year on the much-anticipated EAA (Everglades Agricultural Area) Reservoir.

U.S. Rep Brian Mast (Rep), Stuart, considers the project, "[the single most important Everglades restoration project](#) that will help end toxic discharges permanently."

While the EAA Reservoir will not completely stop the toxic discharges of water containing industrial and agricultural runoff coming out of Lake Okeechobee, water now forced into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers to the east and west of the lake, water which produces the toxic algae blooms you read about devastating the water quality along both routes as well as the Gulf and Ocean where it dumps into, it would go a long way towards doing so. The reservoir, which has been discussed for 20 years, will be sited just south of Lake O and in addition to easing pressure off discharge to the east and west, will provide the added benefit of storing and releasing that water south to Everglades National Park where it is so desperately needed.

The EAA Reservoir will be a 10,500 acre water holding area with a completion date of 2027. It will sit adjacent to a 6,500 acre man-made wetland being constructed by the South Florida Water Management District with an anticipated completion date of 2023.

Learn more about Everglades water flow, projects to restore it and Big Sugar's efforts to derail it, by listening to [this recent podcast](#) I co-hosted on the subject.

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Pending the governor's signature, the worst of the M-CORES (Roads to Ruin) toll road projects will be eliminated thanks to SB (Senate Bill) 100. The bill does not do everything conservation groups were pushing for and still provides for additional roads and road expansion, but it does remove the Southwest-Central Florida Connector in its entirety. This highway would have cleaved panther habitat.

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Looking for a getaway? Try Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales which I visited recently. Bok Tower Gardens features a Florida endangered plants garden and is performing [critical scientific research](#) in native plant restoration and conservation.

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Meet Eleanor Dietrich, the "prime instigator of [Florida's designated Wildflower Areas](#), 12,000 miles of roadside from Pensacola to the Keys," where wildflowers are allowed to thrive thanks to reduced mowing.

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Oil and gas exploration companies are pushing to drill in Big Cypress National Preserve. The drilling and associated roads, infrastructure, traffic, light, noise and people which it would bring to the area would be obviously disastrous for the plants and animals there. Send a quick automated email to the Department of Interior to propose these plans [by clicking here](#).