



Public Works & Utilities Department

409 Mango Tree Drive
Edgewater, Florida 32132
(386)-424-2400 Ext. 4009
www.cityofedgewater.org

To: Joe Mahoney, City Manager
From: Jeff Lariscy, Director
Date: March 25, 2026
Subject: Reclaimed Water

Mr. Joe Mahoney,

This memorandum provides information regarding City Council discussions related to an ordinance and/or a charter amendment prohibiting the introduction of potable reuse into drinking water pipes or through underground injection.

The Public Works & Utilities Department has provided the information below, as there may be implications on future rates and the ability for the City of Edgewater to meet State regulations regarding reuse water disposal.

The City of Edgewater treats wastewater from approximately 11,000 customers within the City and portions of unincorporated Volusia County. A portion of the influent wastewater is made up of “blackwater,” as defined by Florida Statute 381.0065, meaning the part of domestic sewage carried off by toilets, urinals, and kitchen drains, while the remainder is considered “greywater.”

Edgewater Public Works & Utilities treats this combined wastewater at the wastewater treatment plant, which meets Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards. This means the water produced has undergone high-level nutrient removal, including nitrogen and phosphorous, along with the removal of solids and pathogens. The treated water meets the definition of reclaimed water.

The reclaimed water produced at the City’s wastewater treatment plant is used for irrigation systems throughout the City. The City of Edgewater has one reclaimed pump station and 93.3 miles of reclaimed distribution pipe.

Any excess treated water is currently discharged into the Indian River, as regulated by the State of Florida. However, the Deering Park development includes the construction of a wetland park that will serve as a future discharge location.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the City produced an average of 1.676 million gallons per day of reclaimed water. Approximately 92.5% was reused for irrigation, while 7.5% was discharged to the Indian River.

Florida Statute 403.064 may require the City of Edgewater to discontinue excess treated water discharge into the Indian River, depending on the percentage of reclaimed water reuse.

Allowed discharges include:

- Indirect potable reuse
- Wet weather discharge
- Irrigation reuse systems
- Systems achieving 90% reuse
- Environmental benefits such as wetland rehydration (i.e., Deering Park wetland park)

The Edgewater Public Works & Utilities Department is continually reviewing options to meet these requirements. The options listed below are examples only and are not necessarily being actively pursued:

- Sprayfields
- Rapid infiltration basins (RIBs)

- Salinity barrier wells
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Surface reservoirs
- Above-ground storage
- Wetland rehydration expansion
- PAR system expansion
- Deep well injection

Underground injection is regulated under Chapter 62-528, F.A.C., and is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The Aquifer Protection Program ensures the protection of drinking water sources through strict standards, including:

- Geological confinement requirements
- Setbacks from drinking water wells
- Additional treatment requirements
- Continuous monitoring
- Regular inspections

Limiting available options could result in higher costs, increased utility rates, and potential challenges in meeting future regulatory requirements. The Edgewater Public Works & Utilities Department has contacted its regulatory authority for guidance on this issue, including potential impacts on future grant funding; however, no guidance could be provided.