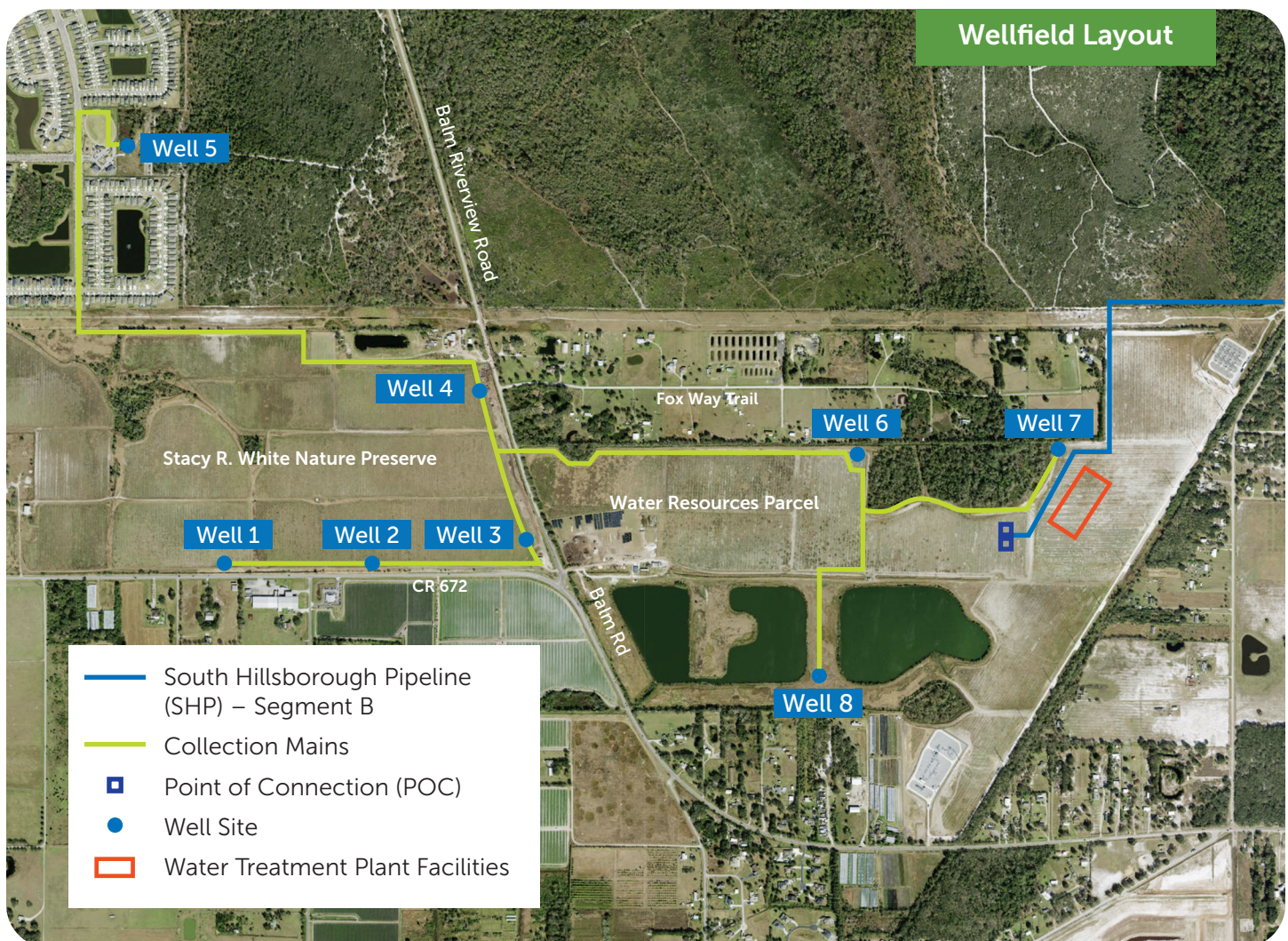


The South Hillsborough Wellfield could bring an additional 6-12 million gallons per day of high-quality water to the region as early as 2030.

Project Overview

This project involves building a new fresh groundwater wellfield in southern Hillsborough County at the intersection of Balm, Balm Riverview and Balm Boyette roads. Tampa Bay Water completed feasibility studies on this project in 2021 that show that the wellfield is technically feasible, environmentally sound and economical. Those findings were confirmed with a second aquifer performance test in 2023.

The wellfield has an estimated yield of 6-12 million gallons per day. To date, Tampa Bay Water has acquired five water use permits in south Hillsborough County that are no longer needed by area landowners. The amount of water that can be transferred from these permits to the South Hillsborough Wellfield totals an estimated 3.9-5.9 million gallons per day, depending on determinations to be made by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Tampa Bay Water plans to supplement the acquired permits by purchasing groundwater recharge credits from Hillsborough County.



South Hillsborough Wellfield

Project Components

- Eight production wells
- 4 miles of 6- to 24-inch pipeline to deliver water to the treatment facility
- A 6-12 million-gallon-per-day groundwater treatment facility with ozone treatment
- Finished water storage tank
- Point of Connection metering facilities

Next Steps

- Receive approval of a property agreement with Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) for well sites at the Stacy R. White Nature Preserve
- Finalize a long-term agreement with Hillsborough County for aquifer recharge credits
- Submit water use permit application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Acquire property/easements
- Hire a design engineering firm
- Complete wellfield design
- Hire a construction contractor

Schedule

- Initial Water Use Permit: early to mid-2026
- Engineering Services Selection: late 2026
- Construction Contractor Selection: early 2027
- Construction: 15-18 months, tentatively beginning in 2028
- Wellfield Online: as early as 2030



Benefits

- **Reliability** – Groundwater is a reliable water source.
- **Affordability** – Fresh groundwater is the lowest cost source because it is very high quality and needs minimal water treatment.
- **Proximity** – The project is in an area where regional water demands are rapidly growing.
- **Environmentally friendly** – The project produces a net benefit to the aquifer by reducing historic pumping impacts; Hillsborough County aquifer recharge program increases groundwater levels several miles inland.

Get in Touch

Tampa Bay Water provides wholesale water to the public utility systems of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties, as well as the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. Visit tampabaywater.org and futurewater.org to learn more about the region's drinking water and options for meeting future needs.

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