

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Applicant Name: Hernando County, Department of Public Works, Brooksville, Florida

| 1. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT: | | | \$701,121.06 | | | | 2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT: | | | | | \$701,121.06 | |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|--|--|--------------|--|
| 3. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field) | 4. Activity Number and Activity Title (Static Field) | 5. Location - Municipality(ies) (Static Field, locations also shown on attached map) | 6. Total Funding Resources For Activity Budget (refer to Instructions) | | | | 7. Proposed Start Date mm/yyyy | 8. Actual Start Date mm/yyyy (Static Field) | 9. Proposed End Date mm/yyyy | 10. Actual End Date mm/yyyy (Static Field) | 11. Proposed High Level Milestones Further Described in Application | | |
| | | | 6a. Direct Component Contribution | 6b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution | 6c. Other Third Party Contribution | 6d. Total Project Budget | | | | | | | |
| Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region | Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration | Spring Hill, Florida | \$175,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$175,000.00 | \$350,000.00 | Jan-16 | | Mar-18 | | Remove non-native vegetation from marshes; install native plantings; repair road; and upgrade parking area. | | |
| Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources | Hernando Beach Shallow Water Reef Project | Hernando Beach, Florida | \$94,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,500.00 | \$105,000.00 | Jan-16 | | Jul-17 | | Create new artificial reefs in Site A; Site B; and Site C; and restore areas of barren seafloor. | | |
| Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing | Linda Pedersen Park Improvements | Spring Hill, Florida | \$300,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$300,000.00 | Jan-16 | | Mar-18 | | Replace existing seawall; replace existing boardwalk; and provide additional launches for non-powered boats. | | |
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| 12. TOTAL FUNDING FOR BUDGET (refer to Instructions) | | | \$569,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$185,500.00 | \$755,000.00 | | | | | | | |

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name:

POC Title:

POC Email:

POC Phone:

B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Project 1 - Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration. This project involves the repair of two miles of coastal roadway and the restoration of the adjacent coastal marshes. The damaged roadway and parking areas will be repaired to current safety standards and existing parking areas will be upgraded to allow greater utilization of the recreational resource by all citizens. Accumulated roadway sediments and non-native vegetation along the corridor will be removed from the adjacent marsh and native plantings will be installed to improve fish and wildlife habitat. The design will include Best Management Practices and other measures to ensure protection of the improvements and to reduce future maintenance costs. For more detailed information see the MYIP, Appendix D, page 22.

Project 2 - Hernando Beach Shallow Water Reef Project. This project involves the creation of three new artificial reefs west of the newly dredged Hernando Beach Channel. The proposed in-shore reefs will provide a shallow water habitat to enhance recreational fishing, diving and snorkeling opportunities within the County. The three reef sites will be populated with a total of 126 pallet balls as follows: Site A - 38, Site B - 47 and Site C - 41. The placement of the reefs will enhance the restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region. For more detailed information see the MYIP, Appendix D, page 26.

Project 3 - Linda Pedersen Park Improvements. Linda Pedersen/Jenkins Park is a 140-acre passive park along the Gulf of Mexico Estuary that directly benefits public recreation and tourism. This facility offers fishing, swimming, boat launching, picnic shelters, an observation tower and swimming within a freshwater spring run. In addition, Jenkins Spring and Spring Runs provide a habitat to West Indian Manatees which are an endangered species. The project includes the installation of a canoe/kayak launch which will provide direct access to the spring run/tributaries for non-motorized boats and provide separation of recreational user groups to improve safety. Other improvements will include the replacement of an existing seawall and boardwalk within the swimming area to prevent erosion and provide protection from storm damage. For more detailed information see the MYIP, Appendix D, page 29.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

Hernando County determined that the most effective way to obtain broad-based participation from the entire community was to take the following three-fold approach:

1. Presented all aspects of the proposed plan at regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners which are always open to the public for input. The public was initially asked for general comments at the October 10, 2014 meeting and an application form was created and placed on the County website to solicit potential projects meeting the RESTORE Act criteria from outside groups. Then, after the three proposed projects were ultimately recommended by a select panel based on all the ranking criteria and input sources, the projects were presented to the Board of County Commissioners on February 10, 2015 for final review. The Board approved the selected projects for forwarding to the US Treasury for consideration and approval. The plan was immediately posted to the County website and made available for comment and input from the community for a 45-day period ending on March 27, 2015.

2. Posted the proposed plan and a request for public comment to a dedicated page on the County website focusing on the RESTORE Act and County involvement. The page includes links to the actual Multi Year Implementation Plan (MYIP), an e-mail address to submit comments to County staff, a link to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection site that explains the RESTORE Act and its impact on the Gulf Coast, as well as a link to the US Treasury RESTORE Act web page. This collection of web sites and links to information on the RESTORE Act is virtually a one-stop shop for the public to learn about, submit comments on and to stay informed regarding the status of the RESTORE Act and the important connection to Hernando County.

3. Notified the local media outlets and area non-profit organizations of the proposed plan along with a request for input from all community members and groups. The County Information Manager provided a news release with general project information and invited the local media to tour the actual project locations, where they would receive a detailed briefing on the projects and be provided an opportunity for photo and video coverage of the proposed enhancements to the community.

Consideration was given to having bilingual staff members present the proposed plan in Spanish, however, based on past experience resulting in virtually no public turnout to this type of venue, it was determined to not be a worthwhile endeavor.

Although the vast majority of public comments received on the plan were accolades and appreciation there were two that resulted in material changes to either the plan or operations within the County government.

1. The letter from the National Wildlife Federation dated March 27, 2015 resulted in modification in the project description and addition of information to the MYIP in order to provide a plan more focused on meeting the goals and objectives of the Federal legislation. In addition, the website was updated to include all RESTORE Act and MYIP documents pertaining to Hernando County's submittal.
2. Public comment received at the October 14, 2014 Board meeting from County resident Forrest Bennett resulted in the adoption of a County ordinance requiring the removal of invasive species commonly known as "Lead Tree" within the jurisdictional boundary of Hernando County.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Project 1 - Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration. This project meets the eligibility requirements by providing restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region. The project entails the restoration of eroded areas along the linear park/roadway corridor. In addition, the removal of non-native plant species along this corridor will help to restore the native habit of the saltwater marsh community.

Project 2 - Hernando Beach Shallow Water Reef Project. This project meets the eligibility requirements by providing mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources. The project entails the creation of several artificial reef habitats along the Coast of Hernando County. Construction of these reefs will provide protection for dwindling fish species so they have safe havens to live and spawn. These areas will allow fish to grow bigger and reproduce more, which in turn provides the healthy fish populations that provide more seafood and fishing opportunities.

Project 3 - Linda Pedersen Park Improvements. This project meets the eligibility requirements by promoting tourism and recreational fishing in the Gulf Coast Region. Linda Pederson Park will be marketed as part of the County's "Adventure Coast, Nature's Place to Play" tourism marketing program and is featured as a site for our "Canoe and Kayak Trail" adventure.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Project 1 - Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration. The main measure of success for this project will be an after project assessment to ensure non-native plant species removal and reduction in erosion along the corridor. Success rates will be measured by comparing a pre and post exotic species vegetation survey to measure the percentage removed.

Project 2 - Hernando Beach Shallow Water Reef. Annual post construction monitoring will be done to detail the marine species inhabiting the reef. This information is part of the reef permit and will be provided to the Army Corps of Engineers on an annual basis. Project success will be indicated by a rise in fish population and diversity at the reef sites.

Project 3 - Linda Pedersen Park Improvements. In 2014, an estimated 1.7 million visitors traveled to Hernando County. The focus of the upcoming "Florida's Adventure Coast, Nature's Place to Play" tourism marketing campaign is to promote nature and water-based activities. This non-motorized watercraft launch will be featured in the campaign, which aims to increase tourism by five percent each year. The launch facility will be monitored to determine frequency of use and number of daily users. An annual campaign survey will be conducted to determine increase in use and interest from kayak and canoe visitors.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The projects were prioritized using the following nine criteria (not in order of priority):

1. Protect, conserve and/or restore native habitats including the protection of natural springs.
2. Provide storm water or surface water quality improvements including the prevention of erosion and sedimentation potentially impacting waterways connecting to the Gulf.
3. Reduce the withdrawal of potable water from the aquifer.
4. Create policies, programs and/or mechanisms to remedy environmental and/or economic damages.
5. Protect against future environmental and/or economic vulnerabilities.
6. Provide climate change/sea-level rise planning, adaptation and/or related community engagement.
7. Diversify and improve the economy including tourism and recreational opportunities.

8. Promote sustainable recreational fishing and consumption of seafood dependent on the Gulf ecosystem and protect working waterfronts.

9. Provide quality improvements to existing groundwater resources.

Then, eleven ranking criteria and a point value system were used to determine how well projects met select County Comprehensive Plan element goals and priorities, RESTORE Act eligible activities, regional benefits, partnerships, project benefit longevity and matching fund applicability. The following criteria were used to determine the top three priority projects out of twenty five potential candidates considered for RESTORE Act funding:

- 1 - Restoration and protection of the natural resources, springs, spring runs, groundwater resources, ecosystems, waterways designated as Outstanding Florida Waters, upland habitats that contribute to waterways that drain to the Gulf, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.
- 2- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources, including erosion and sedimentation of waters that feed the Gulf and improve water quality.
- 3- Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, springs protection or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- 4 - Workforce development and job creation.
- 5 - Improvements to or on State parks or County recreation areas located in coastal areas or waterways and rivers that drain to the Gulf.
- 6- Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy (including port infrastructure and projects that increase access to recreational opportunities) or ecological resources, springs protection or groundwater protection.
- 7 - Coastal flood protection and the preservation of habitat in flood zones, coastal surge areas and flood ways.
- 8 - Projects (including infrastructure development) that promote tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing, swimming, bird watching, passive recreation and kayaking.
- 9 - Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region and projects that provide or benefit marine habitat.
- 10 - Applicability of matching funds from a source other than the RESTORE Act.
- 11 - Timeliness of the realization regarding initial project benefits.

The three projects in the matrix appear in order of their selection based on priority, significance to the community and the probability of success in a reasonable amount of time.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

Not applicable at this time.



Appendix D Selected Projects Overview

1. Bayou Drive Repair and Restoration

Project Summary:

This project involves the repair of two miles of coastal roadway and the restoration of the adjacent coastal marshes. The site is listed in the Hernando Audubon Society's *Birding in Hernando* booklet. The area is noted for exceptional bird watching for serious birders as there is a large variety of birds found in the Gulf Coast lowlands and swamp areas.

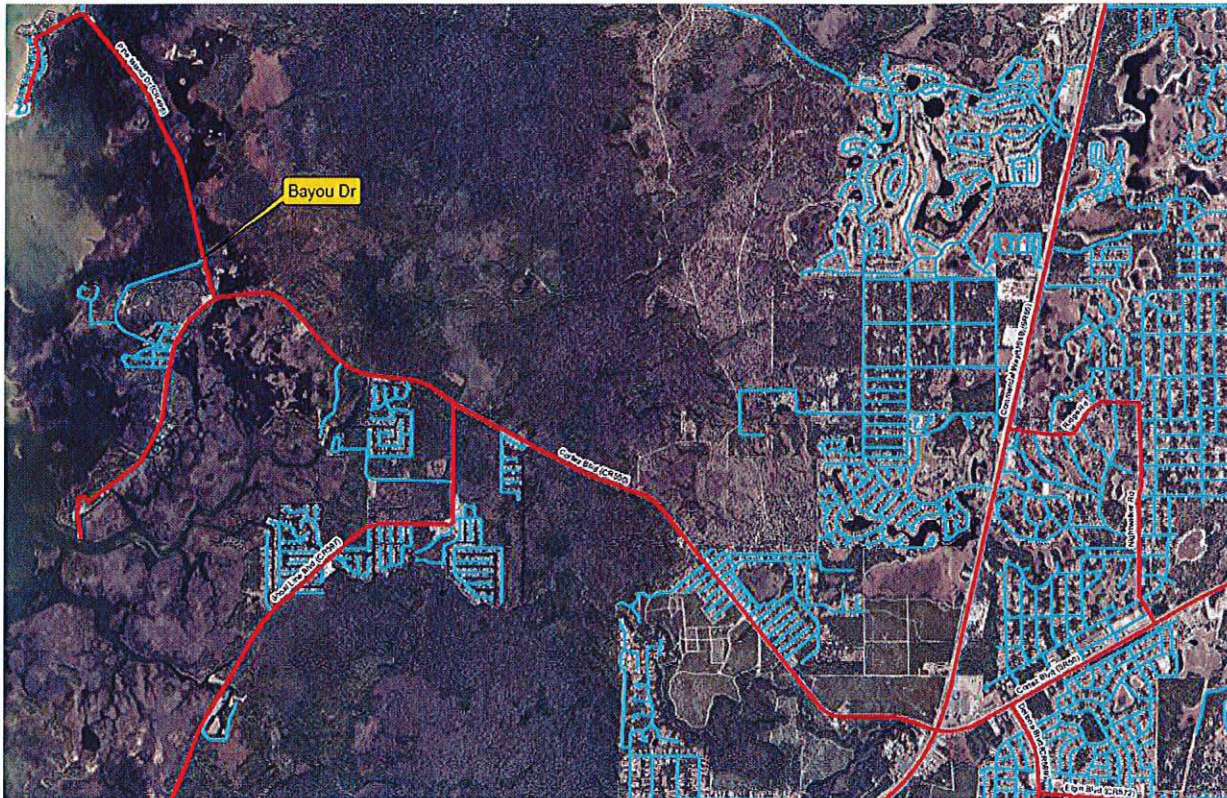
The damaged roadway and parking areas will be repaired to current safety standards and existing parking areas will be repaired and upgraded to allow greater utilization of the recreational resource by all citizens.

Accumulated roadway sediments and non-native vegetation along the corridor will be removed from the adjacent marsh and native plantings will be installed to improve fish and wildlife habitat. The design will include Best Management Practices and other measures to ensure protection of the improvements and reduce future maintenance costs.

Location:

Bayou Drive, Spring Hill, Florida.





Project Goals:

- Restoration of salt marsh habitat for wildlife along the shores of Hernando County.
- Improve roadside parking areas to reduce future damage and potential erosion caused by vehicular use.
- Provide additional recreational activities for nature-related tourism in the Gulf Coast region.
- Provide better access to recreational fishing and birding opportunities.

Project Need, Purpose, Benefits and RESTORE Applicability:

Need:

Bayou Drive is a coastal roadway that provides a linear park-like setting for residents and visitors to enjoy bird watching, fishing, and non-motorized boating. The roadside use has resulted in areas of extreme erosion that not only threaten to damage the roadway but have degraded the nearby salt marsh. In addition, there are sections where non-native Brazilian pepper and lead trees have made a presence.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to restore the roadside infrastructure and habitat along Bayou Drive by repairing eroded areas and cleaning up natural areas affected by the sediment and non-native plant species.

Benefits:

Restoration of this area will help to not only reduce the degradation of the adjacent salt marshes but will provide a recreational opportunity for Nature Coast visitors. Reduction in sedimentation and non-native species will provide restorative benefits to the salt marsh environment.

RESTORE Applicability:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.

The project entails the restoration of eroded areas along the linear park/roadway corridor. In addition, the removal of non-native plant species along this corridor will help to restore the native habit of the saltwater marsh community.

Proposed Schedule:

| Project Phase | 2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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| Project Design | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Permitting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Bidding | | | | | | | | | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Construction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Close-out | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | |

Project Funding:

Funding for this project will be provided as follows:

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|---|------------|
| RESTORE Act Funding | \$ 175,000 |
| Hernando County Storm Water MSTU | \$ 65,000 |
| Hernando County Transportation Trust Fund | \$ 110,000 |

Funding provide by Hernando County will be reserved for the culvert replacement and roadway overlay portion of the project. RESTORE Act funding will be utilized for the repair and stabilization of corridor slopes, removal of sedimentation along the corridor as well as the removal of non-native plant species throughout the project boundaries.

Applicable Best Available Science (BAS)

Brazilian peppertree, *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi (Anacardiaceae), is an aggressive, rapidly colonizing weed of disturbed habitats, natural communities and conservation areas in southern California, Hawaii, Texas and peninsular Florida. In Florida, Brazilian peppertree is a pioneer species of disturbed sites such as highways, canals, power line rights-of-way, fallow fields, and drained wetlands. Once established, it quickly displaces the native vegetation adjacent to the disturbance, often forming dense monocultures that reduce the biological diversity of plans and animals in the invaded area. (Cuda et al., 2006)

Appropriate water management through the development of a water management plan may be the key to preventing slope failures. Vegetation and mechanical structures can be used alone or in conjunction to stabilize slopes. When using vegetation to stabilize slopes, mulch and soil amendments can aid in on-site vegetation establishment. Saving and reusing topsoil and mulching with on-site materials are cost-effective and sustainable practices. Erosion control products could be considered for use at every site on any disturbed soil surface, as it

is much easier to prevent erosion than to fix an already eroded slope. Methods used to control surface erosion or stabilize slopes can be used alone or as components of a system. Mechanical slope stabilization methods can also be used alone or in conjunction with plants (biotechnical stabilization). Earthwork techniques can be used to make slope surface less likely to erode and more stable (Fay et al., 2012)

REFERENCES

1. Cuda, J.P., Ferriter, A.P., Manrique, V., Medal, J.C., (2006). Florida's Brazilian Peppertree Management Plan: Recommendations from the Brazilian Peppertree Task Force, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. 2nd Edition.
2. Fay, L., Akin, M., Shi, X., (2012). Cost-Effective and Sustainable Road Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control: A Synthesis of Highway Practice. NCHRP, Synthesis 430. Transportation Research Board.

2. Hernando Beach Shallow Water Reef Project

Project Summary:

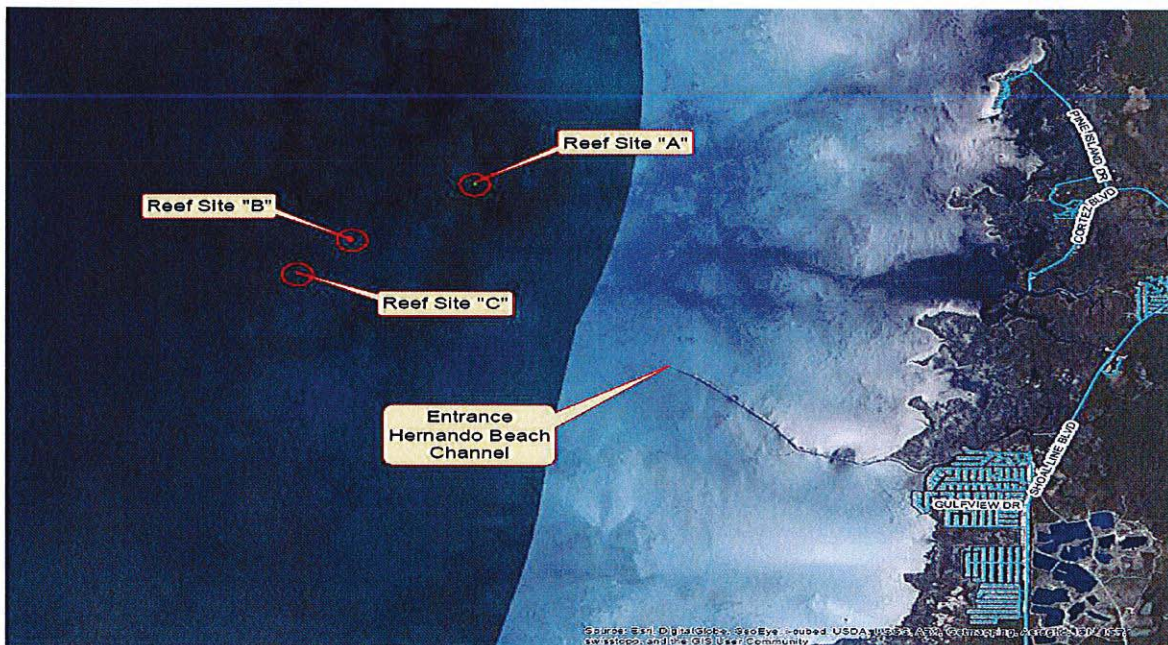
This project involves the creation of three (3) new artificial reefs west of the newly dredged Hernando Beach Channel. These proposed in-shore reefs will provide a shallow water habitat to enhance the recreational fishing, diving and snorkeling opportunities within the County.

The first reef (Reef Site A) will be populated with 38 pallet balls, the second reef (Reef Site B) will be populated with 47 pallet balls, and the third reef (Reef Site C) will be populated with 41 pallet balls. This project has been submitted for permitting through the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and is proposed to be incorporated into a large area management zone which is currently in the planning stages. The Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) artificial reef program has also been involved in the growth of the Hernando County Artificial Reef Program.

Interest in recreational fishing has skyrocketed along the Gulf in the last several decades and Hernando County is no exception. Overfishing and loss of spawning and juvenile protection habitat have been linked to the reduction in recreational fish populations within the Gulf of Mexico. The placement of the reefs will provide mitigation of damage to the fish populations inhabiting the coastline of Hernando County.

Location:

Coastal waters less than 7 miles from the Hernando Beach Channel; and less than 10 miles from the coastline of Hernando County, Florida.



Project Goals:

- Provide additional habitat for marine wildlife off the shores of Hernando County.
- Improve barren areas of the seafloor so that they may sustain marine life.
- Provide additional recreational activities for nature-related tourism in the Gulf Coast region.
- Provide better access to recreational fishing opportunities.

Project Need, Purpose, Benefits and RESTORE Applicability:

Need:

Hernando County is located in an area known as the Nature Coast. Its unique shoreline provides for a shallow water shelf extending from the mainline out into the Gulf of Mexico. Although the area off the coast of Hernando County is known for its excellent sea grass beds, there are areas void of vegetation and structure. Hernando County, through its Port Authority, has made a concerted effort over the years to create marine wildlife habitat along the coastline within these void areas.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide a viable marine habitat in areas off of the Hernando County shoreline that are currently void of structures with a potential to sustain marine life.

Benefits:

Creation of additional habitat capable of sustaining marine life is the major benefit of the project. These reefs will also provide additional opportunities for recreational fishing, diving, and snorkeling activity.

RESTORE Applicability:

- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

The project entails the creation of several artificial reef habitats along the Coast of Hernando County. Construction of these reefs will provide protection for dwindling fish species so they have safe havens to live and spawn. These areas will allow fish to grow bigger and reproduce more, which in turn provides the healthy fish populations that provide more seafood and fishing opportunities.

Proposed Schedule:

| Project Phase | 2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Project Design | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Permitting | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Bidding | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Construction | | | | | | | | | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Close-out | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | █ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* The design for this project was started in fiscal year 2014/15 and is currently in the permitting stage.

Project Funding:

Funding for this project will be provided as follows:

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|--|-----------|
| RESTORE Act Funding | \$ 94,500 |
| Hernando County Boating Improvement Fund | \$ 10,500 |

The Hernando County funding match will be utilized to finalize the permitting process and provide underway survey for the project. RESTORE Act funding will be utilized to implement the creation of the artificial reefs.

Applicable Best Available Science (BAS)

The use of artificial reefs has been increasing worldwide in an effort to increase fish abundance and diversity, improve catch rates of targeted species, and restore damage to nature coral reefs. Productivity in real terms in relation to artificial reef deployment relies on the assumption that artificial Reefs provide additional critical habitat which increase the environmental carrying capacity and there the abundance and biomass of reef biota (Polovina, 1994, Bortone et al., 1994). Near shore artificial reefs can be created that will develop communities of encrusting organisms and bait fish over time. As various encrusting organisms such as corals and sponges cover the artificial reef material, small animals take up residence. As these small animals become abundant larger animals are attracted and feed upon these, and so on until a reef food web is created. Energy is able to then provide biological growth potential that provides additional protective habitat, as well as sustenance for fish species. Some experts believe that artificial reefs can function comparably to natural reef communities. Others argue that artificial reefs merely attract existing fish from the adjacent open water habitat, forming more dense fish aggregations (Fikes, 2013).

Artificial reefs also create an avenue to promote visitation and marine tourism within a community. Artificial and natural reefs are public resources that provide recreational benefits to reef user and income to local economies (Johns et al., 2001). As residents and visitors spend money in the county to participate in reef-related recreation, income and jobs are created within the county as a result (Johns et al., 2001).

REFERENCES

1. Johns, G.M., Leeworth, V.R., Bell, F.W., and Bonn, M.A. (2001, October). *Socioeconomic Study of Reefs in Southeast Florida, Final Report*, Hazen & Sawyer Environmental Engineers and Scientists.
2. Polovina, J.J., (1994). Functions of artificial reefs. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 55 (2-3), 1349.
3. Bortone, S.A., Martin, T., Bundrick, C.M., (1994). Factors affecting fish assemblage development on a modular artificial reef in a northern Gulf of Mexico estuary. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 55 (2-3), 319-332.
4. Fikes, R., (2013) *Artificial Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico: A Review of Gulf State Programs & Key Considerations*. National Wildlife Federation.

3. Linda Pederson Park Improvements

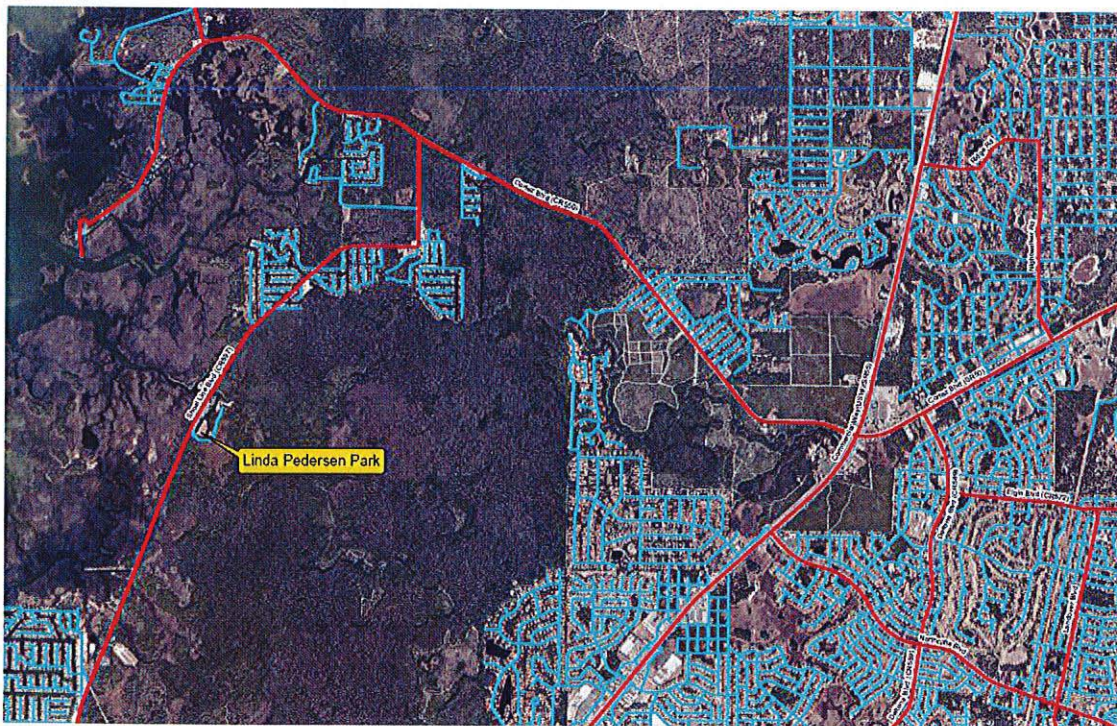
Project Summary:

The Linda Pederson/Jenkins Creek Park is a 140-acre passive park located along the Gulf of Mexico estuary that offers fishing, swimming, boat launching, picnic shelters, and an observation tower all located along a freshwater spring run. The park improvement project entails the installation of a canoe and kayak launch area, which will be integrated into a replacement of the existing seawall and boardwalk adjacent to the swimming area.

The replacement of the existing seawall and boardwalk along the Jenkins Creek spring run will prevent sedimentation impacts to the spring run and provide needed repairs to aging park infrastructure. The addition of the kayak and canoe launch integrated into the seawall and boardwalk area will provide direct public access to the spring run and its tributaries for non-motorized boats. It will also serve to provide a separation of recreation watercraft user groups (motorized and non-motorized) to improve safety in the area. These improvements will directly benefit the public, tourism industry, and will aid in maintaining water quality in the spring.

Location:

Linda Pederson Park
6300 Shoal Line Boulevard
Spring Hill, Florida



Project Goals:

- Provide recreational access to the spring run and tributaries for non-motorized water craft.
- Provide additional recreational activities for nature-related tourism in the Gulf Coast region.
- Provide better access to recreational fishing opportunities.
- Repair aging coastal infrastructure within the park.
- Reduce sedimentation into the Jenkins Creek spring run.
- Improve spring run aesthetics for park users.

Project Need, Purpose, Benefits and RESTORE Applicability:

Need:

The Jenkins Creek spring run located within Linda Pederson Park has an existing seawall and boardwalk viewing area that are in need of repair. The existing boat launch facilities at this park consist of a boat ramp and dock system constructed to provide access to a mix of recreational watercraft including motorized and non-motorized alike. This regional coastline park is in need of a non-motorized boat launch facility to allow canoes and kayak to take advantage of the spring run as well as access to the Gulf of Mexico coastline. Integration of a canoe and kayak launch into the existing seawall and boardwalk area will provide the benefit necessary to meet this need.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide additional non-motorized boat launch facilities in the area for residents and visitors wishing to partake in nature-related recreational activities. This project will also replace existing seawall and boardwalk facilities within the park and integrate them into the new launching facility.

Benefits:

The addition of non-motorized boat launch facilities along the Hernando coastline will provide opportunities to expand the canoe and kayak offerings publicized through the County's Tourism office. The new launching facility and improved spring run area will be integrated into the County's "Florida's Adventure Coast, Brooksville Weeki Wachee" advertising campaign.

RESTORE Applicability:

- Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including promotion of recreational fishing.

This project provides non-motorized recreational watercraft launch facilities to be utilized in the County's ongoing tourism promotion program. Linda Pederson Park is currently marketed as part of the County's "Florida's Adventure Coast, Brooksville-Weeki Wachee" marketing program and is featured as a site for our "Canoe and Kayak Trail" adventure.

Proposed Schedule:

| Project Phase | 2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | jan | feb | mar | apr | may | jun | jul | aug | sep | oct | nov | dec | jan | feb | mar | apr | may | jun | jul | aug | sep | oct | nov | dec | jan | feb | mar | apr | may | jun | jul | aug | sep | oct | nov | dec | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Design | [Blue] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Permitting | | | | | | | | | [Purple] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Bidding | | | | | | | | | | | | [Red] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Construction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | [Yellow] | | [Yellow] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Close-out | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | [Green] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Project Funding:

Funding for this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Act Funding \$300,000

The RESTORE Act funding will be utilized to accomplish the project in its entirety.

Applicable Best Available Science (BAS)

Not applicable for this project.