

RESTORE Act Ecosystem Restoration Project Proposals
for consideration in the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council's Comprehensive Plan
2012

Contact Information: Brooke Elias, Sarasota County ESLAP, belias@scgov.net , (941) 861-5387						Date of Submittal: 1-7-13	
Name of Project: Land Acquisition – Myakka River Watershed						Org and Rank: Sarasota County #4	
Project Description: Protection of spring-flow creek which drains into the Myakka River and eventually into Charlotte Harbor. Riverine, scrubby flatwoods and other natural habitats would be protected through acquisition of land (fee simple) and/or conservation easements on the creek, including: 1. Reduce sedimentation, nutrient load. 2. Protect habitat for listed species, including wading birds. 3. Extend 'Blueways' paddle trails, kayak landings.							
Project Location: Myakka River Basin							
Responsible Party: Sarasota County				Partners:			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$1,266,840			Dollars Needed: \$1,266,840		
Start: FY13				Completion: FY15			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Land/ conservation easement acquisition is dependent on willing landowner agreeing to option contract for sale of project parcel(s).							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: NA							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
	Contact landowners; begin negotiations.	Execute Option Agreements; close on properties.	Re-contact remaining landowners.				
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: Acquiring 31 acres along Warm Mineral Springs Creek would protect a rare spring flow which drains into the "Wild and Scenic" designated Myakka River. County environmental land stewardship programs already monitor listed species on a regular basis. Increased protected habitat acreage and future monitoring will provide quantifiable measures.							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): This project will protect the outflow on one of Florida's most unique spring systems. The creek also provides winter cold weather refuge for the endangered West Indian manatee. Protecting land to buffer this sensitive natural area also provides ecosystem services, including storm protection, floodwater capacity/ retention, and filtration of nutrients/ sediment draining into the bay.							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: No jobs are anticipated to be created.							

How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: Up to 31 acres of natural habitat in the Myakka River basin could be protected, including creek frontage.
Quantify pollutant reductions: Habitat protection will reduce nutrient and metal pollutants in water discharged to the bay. Quantifying reductions may not be feasible on protected properties.
What living coastal/ marine resources will be improved and by how much?: This rare spring-fed creek provides riverine habitat for a diversity of fish, invertebrate and wading bird species. Scrubby flatwoods in upland areas along the creek provide habitat for the state-threatened gopher tortoise.
How will community resilience be enhanced? This project will provide resilience to impacts from tropical storm flooding. It will also enhance the quality of life for citizens to access and enjoy natural areas surrounding Warm Mineral Springs.
Additional Justification: The Myakka River is designated a ‘Wild and Scenic River’ by the Florida legislature. Acquiring 31 acres along Warm Mineral Springs Creek would protect this unique spring run that flows into the Myakka River. The creek also provides winter refuge for the endangered West Indian Manatee. Sarasota County’s Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program has acquired 4.27 acres along the creek since 2003 at a cost of \$473,434. Acquiring an additional 31 acres in this priority site would further protect these habitats and the drainage into the Myakka River and Charlotte Harbor.

Add any photos or maps that explain project: *See attached.*

**WARM MINERAL
SPRINGS CREEK
PROTECTION PRIORITY
SITE**

- Site Boundary
- Protected With ESLPP Funds
- Neighborhood Parklands
- Public Lands
- WMS Creek

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Site Data

35.9 ESLPP Site Acreage
4.0 Protected Land Acreage
11.1 Percent of Site Protected

