

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

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Date of Submittal: 1/7/13

Name of Project: Congregation Beth Am Wetland Restoration, Phase II **Org and Rank:**

Project Description: Remove invasive plants, primarily Brazilian pepper, and replant with native plants in a stormwater wetland north of Lake Senac in the Sweetwater Creek watershed of Hillsborough County, Florida. This project was funded with a Mini Grant by TBEP in 2009; since that time, approximately ½ of the wetland was restored (phases 1 and 2 in the application) and the project is in a maintenance phase.

This application seeks to continue the project by hiring a tree service to remove invasive pest trees (Brazilian pepper, Camphor and Melaleuca). An additional contractor would be hired to plant wetland emergents, and the remaining trees and shrubs required as mitigation would be planted by volunteers. Spraying of the invasive tree remains (stumps) and maintenance would be undertaken by volunteers.

Breakdown of costs: \$6000 for tree removal (contractual), \$1000 for replanting emergents on bottom of pond, and \$1000 for plant material for students to plant.

Project Location: 2030 W. Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612. Directions: south of Fletcher Avenue, west of Rome.

Responsible Party: Congregation Beth Am

Partners: The congregation will seek partnership with the adjacent Hillel Day School, which owns approximately one-third of the pond.

NEP: **Project Cost:** \$8000

Dollars Needed: \$8000

Start: 2013

Completion: 2015

Status of Project Design and Permitting: The original permit from the Environmental Protection Commission has expired and will be renewed if the project is funded.

What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: 2013

Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)

FY	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
	Permit	Tree removal and replanting	Maintenance				

Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them: Reduction in invasive plant population by at least 90 percent in the pond. The amount of native ecosystem restoration would count as one acre.

Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): A private tree removal service will be hired to remove invasive plants; another would be hired to install wetland emergents on the pond bottom. Native plants from local nurseries will be purchased to replace the non-natives.

Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 10 (from contractors).

How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: One acre

Quantify pollutant reductions:

What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much? The wetland is part of the Sweetwater Creek Watershed, which drains directly to Tampa Bay.

How will community resilience be enhanced? The removal of non-native trees will lessen damage from breaking limbs in the event of high winds. Nearby native trees can also be trimmed to minimize wind resistance.

Additional Justification: This project continues to provide environmental education to the students in the congregation's religious school and youth group, who have been enlisted to help replant the wetland. The project, in addition to the associated butterfly garden planting, was taught as an environmental elective.

Add any photos or maps that explain project: The attached photograph shows two of the religious school students who helped with replanting of the wetland. It also depicts some of the remaining Brazilian pepper in the background. The attached map shows the location of the wetland pond and the location of the third phase of the project. An attached aerial photograph outlines the Sweetwater Creek Watershed (source – Hillsborough County Water Atlas).