

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

Contact Information: Stephanie T. Powers, Staff Environmental Scientist, Southwest Florida Water Management District Stephanie.Powers@swfwmd.state.fl.us					Date of Submittal: 11/1/2012		
Name of Project: Lemon Bay Habitat Restoration Project in Englewood, Florida					Org and Rank:		
Project Description: This project is the design, permitting, and construction of a habitat restoration project at the Wildflower Preserve in Charlotte County. The 80-acre preserve was purchased by the Conservancy in 2010 to improve natural systems and water quality. The property formerly served as an active golf course, situated adjacent to Lemon Bay, and includes several man-made features that are now infested with non-native vegetation. A large portion of the site contains freshwater wetlands, or remnant water hazards, which are nutrient rich and stagnant. The remaining wetlands on the site are tidally influenced, providing some habitat for economically and recreationally important juvenile fish species. The project objectives involve the restoration of freshwater and estuarine wetlands and their associated upland habitats. Water quality will be improved over the entire site via the creation of new wetland connections and littoral shelves. Exotic vegetation will be eliminated and native plantings will be established throughout.							
Project Location: Charlotte County, 80-acre parcel owned by the Lemon Bay Conservancy							
Responsible Party: SWFWMD				Partners: This project has support from SWFWMD and the Lemon Bay Conservancy			
NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$2,000,000			Dollars Needed: \$500,000		
Start: December 2012				Completion: December 2015			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: This project is in the initial design and permitting phase. Exotic removal areas have already been identified and restoration efforts in these areas could begin immediately. The remaining components will be ready to construct in ~12 months.							
What Date or Year could Construction Feasibly Begin: December 2013							
Your Proposed Timing of Funding (given permits, phasing, staging, etc.)							
FY	Previous	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Total
	\$750,000	\$200,000	\$1,050,000				\$2,000,000
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them:							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): The value of ecosystems service improvements has not been estimated yet.							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 31							
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?: 80 acres							
Quantify pollutant reductions: This phase will provide some pollutant load reductions, though they have not yet been quantified.							
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Arthropod and fish abundance and diversity will be improved with resulting increase in bird abundance and diversity.							
How will community resilience be enhanced? Hydrologic alterations on the site will reduce the effects of sea-level rise and improve resilience of the preserve.							
Additional Justification: Charlotte Harbor is a Surface Water Improvement and Management							

(SWIM) water body that was designated an estuary of national significance by the U.S. Congress in 1995. The Harbor is generally viewed as one of the most productive estuarine systems in Southwest Florida. Although it is appropriately considered a healthy system, hydrologic alterations, water quality degradation, and habitat loss have impacted the Harbor. The SWIM Plan for Charlotte Harbor focuses on management strategies for the Peace and Myakka Rivers. The plan outlines goals to restore hydrology, habitat, and reduce pollutants entering the Harbor. The objectives of this project are consistent with these goals. Funding for the project design and permitting has been included in the District's budget for FY13. The District does not have sufficient funds to complete construction at this time. This project is estimated to cost \$2 million.

Add any photos or maps that explain the project:

