

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

Contact Information: Roland Ottolini	Date of Submittal: 1/7/2013
Name of Project: Palmona Park Water Quality Improvement	Org and Rank: 9
Background: The Caloosahatchee River runs from Lake Okeechobee through a series of locks to San Carlos Bay. It has both fresh and marine segments: the freshwater segment extends for over 40 miles from Lake Okeechobee to the Franklin Lock and Dam (S-79). The marine segment, which is referred to as the Caloosahatchee Estuary or Tidal Caloosahatchee, extends for about 25 miles from the Franklin Lock and Dam (Control Structure S-79) to Shell Point, adjacent to San Carlos Bay, with Pine Island Sound to the northwest and Estero Bay to the southeast. The Caloosahatchee Estuary receives freshwater input from S-79 and from various tributaries and canal systems that discharge directly to the estuary downstream of S-79. Palmona Park, located in North Fort Myers, FL is within the East Branch Yellow Fever Creek watershed, a tributary to the Tidal Caloosahatchee watershed that drains into the tidal portion of the Caloosahatchee system. The land uses in this watershed are predominantly agriculture (pasture) and medium to high density residential with aging septic tanks. Project Description: The Palmona Park Water Quality Improvements include drainage upgrades to a 200+ acre, 1960's subdivision generally located in the northeasterly quadrant of Tamiami Trail (US 41) and Pine Island Road (SR 78) in North Fort Myers, Florida. The residents of Palmona Park have complained of poor water quality that is visible in the open ditch system and associated symptoms such as algae mat over-growth, frequent and excessive odors, and the concern that there are many failing septic systems in the area that likely short-circuit into the ditch system which could constitute a human health hazard for this low-income area. Palmona Park is classified by the Lee County Department of Human Services as a low to moderate income area (LMA). LMA's are those neighborhoods with majority of household incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Greater than 65% of the households in Palmona Park are at or below 80% of the median income for Lee County. This project primarily concerns water quality improvement associated with the open ditch along Brown Road and San Jose Street. Improvements include placement of a water control structure in proximity to the Ellis Street intersection, the partial filling (approximately 12 to 18 inches) of the ditch in its current configuration, an improved inter-connection between the two northerly wetland areas (Atlantic to Tennessee), and the addition of wetland plantings along the entire route. The anticipated improvements will focus on addressing the water quality parameters dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and nitrogen as well as containment of litter and debris to the greatest extent practicable within the existing rights-of-way. The project design takes into consideration balancing the flow of water in the above ditch and stream system to improve the surface water quality outflows.	
Project Location: Palmona Park, in North Fort Myers, Florida (North East corner of from the intersection of US41 and Pine Island Road)	
Responsible Party: Lee County	Partners: SFWMD, FDEP

NEP: CHNEP		Project Cost: \$906,940			Dollars Needed: \$450,000		
Start: 03/01/2012				Completion: 10/30/2013			
Status of Project Design and Permitting: Currently under design, permit applications pending.							
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
	406,940	500,000					
Quantify Environmental Results and How to Measure Them:							
Economic Benefits (including ecosystem services): Improved water quality.							
Estimated number of Jobs Created or Preserved: 5							
How much Habitat will be restored and conserved?:							
Quantify pollutant reductions:							
What living coastal/marine resources will be improved and by how much?: Tidal Caloosahatchee River							
How will community resilience be enhanced? Improved freshwater quality in the current landscape will help improve and sustain fisheries in Tidal Caloosahatchee as climate change and sea level rise occur.							
Additional Justification: Lee County has entered into a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2012. The BMAP was promulgated due to TMDLs for total nitrogen in the Tidal Caloosahatchee. The County is required to restore and protect water quality under this watershed restoration plan. In addition, the Tidal Caloosahatchee is part of a system that has been designated an Estuary of National Significance as well as discharging into State Aquatic Preserve and National Wildlife Refuges.							

Add any photos or maps that explain project:

