

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE¹

Grant Abstracts, FY 2014-2015

PROJECT: *Stewardship of Beach Nesting Birds*
RECIPIENT: Town of Ft. Myers Beach and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FCMP FUNDS: \$11,285
ABSTRACT: The [Town of Ft. Myers Beach](#), in partnership with the [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC), will use FCMP funds to hire a technician for two (2) seasons and purchase equipment and supplies in order to protect critically important shorebird nesting area within the Little Estero Critical Wildlife Area (CWA). The area of the CWA above the mean high water line is closed to human use during the shorebird breeding season, from April 1 – August 31, but the beach remains open to public access, aside from the areas posted around active shorebird nests.

PROJECT: *Building Coastal Stewardship at the Barrier Island Sanctuary and Education Center*
RECIPIENT: Sea Turtle Conservancy and Brevard County
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: The non-profit organization Sea Turtle Conservancy and Brevard County will continue to promote coastal stewardship at the [Barrier Island Sanctuary & Education Center](#) located within the [Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge](#). Project tasks to be supported by FCMP funds include: 1) conduct Coastal Lighting Stewardship Training; 2) implement the Summer Eco-Camp for kids to further awareness on coastal habitat conservation and ecology of sea turtles; 3) expand and conduct workshops on sea turtle conservation, light management and beach habitat management; and 4) support the 2014 *Tour de Turtles Migration Marathon* educational program.

PROJECT: *City of Satellite Beach Community Resiliency*
RECIPIENT: City of Satellite Beach
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: The [City of Satellite Beach](#) will use FCMP funds to partner with the [East Coast Florida Regional Planning Council \(ECFRPC\)](#) and [Florida Institute of Technology](#) to focus on increasing climate literacy within the City through dissemination of educational materials related to climate resilient communities, flood-plain management, and sea level rise. The outcome of the community involvement campaign will be presented and integrated with the development of a draft Adaptation Action Area (AAA) policy.

PROJECT: *Sanibel Dune Habitat Restoration*
RECIPIENT: City of Sanibel
FCMP FUNDS: \$12,875
ABSTRACT: The [City of Sanibel](#) will use FCMP funds to enhance dune and coastal vegetation, thus improving existing critical habitat for a variety of rare species including snowy plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), least terns (*Sterna antillarum*), and gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) that inhabit Sanibel's beach dune system. Restoration will include the planting of native dune vegetation and removal of invasive exotic vegetation at 20 City-owned beach parks. In addition to the beach dune habitat plantings, coastal scrub plantings will be installed at two City-owned beach parks to enhance coastal scrub habitat.

¹ The [Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) makes federal funds from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration available to local governments of Florida's 35 coastal counties and municipalities that are required to include a coastal element in their comprehensive plan. Florida public colleges and universities, regional planning councils, national estuary programs and nonprofit organizations may also apply if an eligible local government agrees to participate as a partner.

PROJECT: *DuBois Park ADA Accessibility and Habitat Restoration Project*

RECIPIENT: Palm Beach County

FCMP FUNDS: **\$30,000**

ABSTRACT: In the past, [Palm Bay County](#) has used grant funds to construct shaded, ADA accessibility pathways where connections are needed to create a 1.5 long mile trail that loops around and through Jupiter Beach and DuBois parks. The pathways provide accessibility for people of all abilities to access or utilize all portions of the park including the Atlantic Ocean, fishing jetty, tidal creek, snorkeling lagoon, restrooms, picnic areas and day use docks. This FCMP funded project will provide for construction of the last missing pathway/sidewalk links, upgrade existing pedestrian bridge to meet ADA standards, add picnic facilities, remove exotic vegetation, and replant native vegetation for both shade and habitat.

PROJECT: *Perico Preserve Habitat Enhancement*

RECIPIENT: Manatee County

FCMP FUNDS: **\$30,000**

ABSTRACT: This project will foster the long-term establishment of a biodiverse matrix of upland and wetland habitats within the 83-acre project area at [Perico Preserve in Manatee County](#) and improve access to these coastal habitats in a way that facilitates passive nature-based recreation. FCMP funds will be for habitat enhancement projects including the removal of nuisance and exotic species, application of prescribed fire, seeding and planting of native grasses, wildflowers, and trees. Additionally, birding blind that will help visitors enjoy wildlife while minimizing disruption of natural behaviors will be installed.

PROJECT: *Hopkins Street Dune Walkover*

RECIPIENT: City of Neptune Beach

FCMP FUNDS: **\$30,000**

ABSTRACT: The [City of Neptune Beach](#) will use FCMP funds to repair and rehabilitation of the Hopkins Street dune walkover. The existing handicap accessible dune walkover is located at the end of Hopkins Street and provide access over the dune to reach the ocean. The dune walkover terminates on the ocean side of the dune line with a switch back handicap ramp. The walkover is in need of structural repair. The repair will not alter the location or footprint of the walkover.

PROJECT: *Climate Change Resiliency Strategy (CCRS)*

RECIPIENT: City of Cape Coral

FCMP FUNDS: **\$15,000**

ABSTRACT: The [City of Cape Coral](#) is a coastal city located in Southwest Florida, a region particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The City will use FCMP funds to apply the Vulnerability Assessment developed for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Study Area by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council to the City of Cape Coral. The Assessment will identify and develop mitigation methodologies and avoidance, minimization, and adaptation options for inclusion in a Climate Change Resiliency Strategy (CCRS) for the City of Cape Coral.

PROJECT: *Smyrna Dunes Park Renovation*

RECIPIENT: Volusia County

FCMP FUNDS: **\$10,600**

ABSTRACT: Volusia County will utilize FCMP funds at [Smyrna Dunes Park](#) to remove three (3) acres of Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) which are invading into the mangrove fringes of the salt marsh. Tasks will include chainsaw cutting of large individuals and hand removal to a centralized location for disposal. All cut stems will be treated immediately after cutting with appropriate herbicide. The work days will be coordinated with the local East Central Florida (ECF) Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

(CISMA), a local and active CISMA that participates in workdays and educational workshops consisting of local land managers and private citizens

PROJECT: *Indian Creek Park Shoreline Stabilization and Protection*

RECIPIENT: City of Miami Beach

FCMP FUNDS: **\$30,000**

ABSTRACT: The [City of Miami Beach](#) will use FCMP funds to integrate a hybrid shoreline stabilization system to the Indian Creek Park seawall rehabilitation creating a "living shoreline". This project will be one of the City's pilot projects for a seawall rehabilitation incorporating living shorelines and will be used as benchmark for other seawalls rehabilitation projects where incorporating green infrastructure could be feasible. The City will also install educational signage at the Park for residents' and visitors' outreach about the importance of protecting the shoreline ecosystem for shoreline stabilization and protection, habitat creation and nursery, water quality, as well as improving the City's resiliency for sea level rise and climate change.

PROJECT: *Invasive Lionfish Outreach and Control Programs in Southeast Florida*

RECIPIENT: Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and Monroe County

FCMP FUNDS: **\$29,850**

ABSTRACT: Invasive Indo-Pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) is the first non-native marine fish to become established in the Atlantic. Since 2009, lionfish densities in the Florida Keys have exploded and lionfish now pose a significant threat to local marine ecosystems due to widespread predation on native species, prolific reproduction and lack of controlling predators. Lionfish outreach and control efforts are necessary to educate the public and engage key stakeholders to help protect coastal ecosystems. [Reef Environmental Education Foundation's \(REEF\)](#) will partner with Monroe County to receive FCMP funds to enhance lionfish outreach and control programs throughout Monroe County through (1) outreach and training workshops; (2) organized removal dives; and (3) a lionfish derby event.

STATE AGENCY AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROJECTS²

PROJECT: *Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise, Year 4*
AGENCY: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
CONTACT: Dan Fitzpatrick
FCMP FUNDS: \$195,245

ABSTRACT: Projected sea level rise (SLR) impacts threaten to greatly exacerbate the vulnerability of Florida's at-risk coastal resources. The [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#) (DEO) is working to reduce this vulnerability by integrating SLR adaptation into all levels of hazard mitigation and land use planning, and identifying appropriate models for mapping SLR impacts along Florida's coast. Part of this effort will include creating a risk assessment and adaptation plan for at least two pilot communities. Based on lessons learned, the final project report will include recommended statutory and rule changes to integrate SLR into hazard mitigation and land use planning. In the fourth year of this 5-year initiative, DEO will (1) prepare sea level rise adaptation plans; (2) compile lessons learned from pilots, research and previous outreach materials into guidance documents; (3) develop presentation materials and educational techniques to facilitate community involvement; (4) continue to conduct outreach on this project; and (5) offer assistance and lessons learned to the City of Satellite Beach in its development of their own (AAA) policy. This effort is being supplemented by a Project of Special Merit, a competitive award funded by NOAA. Visit [Adaptation Planning/AAAPolicy.pdf](#) for more information.

PROJECT: *Coral Reef and Hardbottom Mapping & Monitoring, Year 4*
AGENCY: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
CONTACT: Rene Baumstark
FCMP FUNDS: \$175,430

ABSTRACT: In its fourth year of funding, the [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will continue to address the need for a single coordinated perspective on the mapping, monitoring and management of the Florida reef tract due to increased threats from anchoring incidents, increased boater activity and potential climate change. FWC will build upon methods currently used by federal, state and university scientists to provide a highly detailed and synoptic view of the coral reef ecosystem that ranges from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to Martin County. By combining FWC's Coral Reef Evaluation & Monitoring Program with extensive mapping projects in southeast Florida, the Dry Tortugas and Biscayne National Parks, a more robust and synoptic dataset will be made available for resource managers, stakeholders and the public. Fourth year activities include (1) an updated Unified Map with accuracy assessments and new data; (2) updated GIS layers in the living map with new tools and data layers; (3) final stakeholder meetings; and (4) spatial data support for NOAA's Environmental Impact Assessment of Florida Keys Sanctuary Advisory Council, Ecosystem Protection Working Group.

² Program enhancement projects identified in the FCMP's [Section 309 Assessment and Strategies, FY 2011-2015](#).

PROJECT: *Marine Debris and Aquaculture Use Zones, Year 2*
AGENCY: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CONTACT: Portia Sapp
FCMP FUNDS: \$74,092
ABSTRACT: In its second year of funding, the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services \(FDACS\) – Division of Aquaculture](#) will The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (DACS) Division of Aquaculture organized two stakeholders meetings in August and December 2012, to introduce the goals and objectives of the project and seek member input to identify non-regulatory and regulatory actions to prevent and manage marine debris that occurs n and around aquaculture use zones. FDACS will implement an integrated effort that will focus on revisions to the existing Aquaculture Best Management Practices (i.e., regulations), shellfish farmer and shellfish processor educational workshops, and partnerships to prevent future marine debris accumulation via methods and practices to remove, collect, transport and properly dispose of lost or discarded production materials. In year 2, FDACS will (1) finish revision of the Best Management Practices; (2) continue to contract install and manage marine debris collection containers at seven shellfish processor or publically accessible locations; and (3) contract for the removal of marine debris at deepwater sites that experience strong tidal flow.

PROJECT: *Estuarine Habitat Restoration: State Planning & Guidance, Year 4 (Pellicer Estuarine Ecosystem Service Assessment)*
AGENCY: DEP/Florida Coastal Office - GTMNERR
CONTACT: Lia Sansom
FCMP FUNDS: \$40,290
ABSTRACT: The [Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR](#) will use FCMP funds to provide local planners and other stakeholders with information on the value of Pellicer estuarine system so they may accurately assess the costs and benefits related to future land-use decisions. The project team will pull together the best available information to assess the economic value of the intertidal estuarine and freshwater wetland habitats (including adjacent uplands) and the tradeoffs of various land-use decisions.

PROJECT: *Aquatic Preserve Management Plan Update Support Services, Year 4*
AGENCY: DEP/Florida Coastal Office
CONTACT: Penny Isom
FCMP FUNDS: \$34,943
ABSTRACT: The [Florida Coastal Office \(FCO\)](#) will use FCMP funds to support development of management plan updates for the state's Aquatic Preserve (AP) system. FCO is responsible for the state's 41 AP's, and with almost two million acres of submerged lands to manage, effective and efficient oversight is critical for the long-term protection of these valuable coastal resources. AP plans define specific key issues (e.g., ecosystem health, land use, water resources, human activities and geophysical conditions) and identify goals, objectives and strategies on how to address these issues through active management. In FY14-15, FCO will pursue final approval by the Acquisition Restoration Council and Board of Trustees on five (5) AP management plans. FCO will also develop and receive field staff input on AP site resources, public uses, natural communities, planned uses, frame of issues, maps and other data, and will revise and receive public input on the draft plan(s).