

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Grant Abstracts, FY 2024-2025

PROJECT: *Blackwater River Streamgage Project*

RECIPIENT: Santa Rosa County

FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000

ABSTRACT:

Santa Rosa County was awarded funding to install a USGS Streamgage on the Santa Rosa County portion of the Blackwater River to provide better management of the coastal resources through monitoring and collecting data from the installed streamgage, as well as conduct outreach efforts about water safety and utilizing the data from the gage system. Successful implementation of this project will allow for higher quality efforts in prediction and mitigation of flooding events.

PROJECT: *Ahern Street Dune Walkover*

RECIPIENT: City of Atlantic Beach

FCMP FUNDS: \$60,000

ABSTRACT:

The City of Atlantic Beach was awarded funding to replace an aged, wood construction, non-ADA compliant dune walkover structure at the Ahern Street beach access point in Atlantic Beach, the City's highest traffic beach access point. The walkover is one element of a larger public beach access redevelopment initiative that includes the addition of ADA parking spaces, improved walkways, amenities such as bike racks, benches, and an outdoor shower/foot washing station, and an expanded lifeguard station intended to replace the existing station that has a history of mold contamination resulting from ongoing water leaks. The walkover is to protect the existing dune features, encourage nourishment of the dunes, and minimize disturbance of native vegetation from pedestrian traffic while increasing convenience and safety for pedestrians accessing the beach. The walkover will be approximately 150 feet long and 6 feet wide, constructed with stainless steel hardware, aluminum handrail, Wear-Deck™ composite decking and railing with marine grade CCA pressure treated support pilings and framing. These long-lasting materials will minimize the amount of construction material that may become debris during a storm over the useful life of the structure. The walkover will be fully ADA compliant to include eliminating stairs and providing adequate width to accommodate wheelchairs.

PROJECT: *OysterCorps; Protecting and Restoring Apalachicola Bay's Vulnerable Coastlines*

RECIPIENT: City of Apalachicola

FCMP FUNDS: \$60,000

ABSTRACT:

The City of Apalachicola was awarded funding to enhance and protect coastal resources and meet the priorities of improving water quality and protecting vulnerable coastlines by educating and training local youth, restoring coastal habitat, advancing best practices by eliminating the use of plastics in living shoreline construction, producing materials (oyster shell and plants) to be used in coastal habitat restoration, and restoring oyster reef and salt marsh habitat. There will be 40 weeks of field work focused on oyster habitat and accompanying tidal marsh restoration to include use of reclaimed oyster shell and locally propagated native salt marsh plants such as *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) and *Spartina patens* (salt meadow cordgrass). In partnership with the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) and Florida Sea Grant, the project prioritizes the use and documentation of best practices to rebuild living shoreline through the use of "oyster pillows" on Little St. George Island and to implement a pilot to monitor the longevity of "oyster prisms" at Cat Point in Apalachicola Bay.

PROJECT: **Repaving Project: Multi-Use Trail at Withlacoochee River Park**
RECIPIENT: Pasco County
FCMP FUNDS: \$22,500
ABSTRACT:

Pasco County was awarded funding for the repaving of approximately one mile of the multi-use trail at the Withlacoochee River Park. The trail provides a natural, non-vehicular setting for walkers, runners, bicyclists, hikers, in-line skaters, those who use wheelchairs, birdwatchers, and backpackers to enjoy nature and reach the park's amenities without vehicular traffic. Websites such as Alltrails.com and those of Florida Hikes, the Great Florida Birding Trail, the Florida Trail Association, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District's recreational atlas highlight the multi-use trail. Pasco County's Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Department manages Withlacoochee River Park and encourages users to be immersed among native plants, natural communities, and Florida wildlife. The Department has seen that such immersion leads the public to appreciate these coastal natural resources and promotes the public's sense of ownership, stewardship, and protection.

PROJECT: *Planning Grant for ADA Broadway and Poseidon Beach Access Dune Walkovers*
RECIPIENT: City of Longboat Key
FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Longboat Key was awarded funding to hire a Coastal Engineer to develop design plans for two dune walkovers. The walkovers are ADA accessible, a smaller, more efficient footprint, providing beach access, preserving the dunes to meet compliance. Having designated walkovers provides a convenient way for people to reach the shoreline without trampling on the fragile dunes. This balance between access and preservation helps to maintain the ecological health of the beach while allowing people to enjoy it responsibly.

PROJECT: *J. Dewey Hawkins Waterfront Access*
RECIPIENT: City of Oakland Park
FCMP FUNDS: \$60,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Oakland Park was awarded funding to enhance the J. Dewey Hawkins Waterfront Park. The City will redevelop the site that can provide long-term service to the community by adding new piers/loading docks, which are constructed at a higher elevation with more resilient materials to avoid current submersion events. The new kayak/canoe launch will be fully accessible, meeting current ADA standards.

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.