

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE¹

Grant Abstracts, FY 2025-2026

PROJECT: *REEF Coastal Conservation Initiative*
RECIPIENT: Reef Environmental Education Foundation/ Monroe County BOCC
FCMP FUNDS: \$29,496
ABSTRACT:

Reef Environmental Education Foundation was awarded funding to train Monroe County Students to take an active role in stewardship by developing skills as citizen scientists. Students participated in virtual field trips, an ocean exploration experience that incorporates critical thinking, collaborative work, and problem – solving. REEF hosted 51 events throughout a 100-mile stretch of islands in the Florida Keys. Those events included Coastal Habitats & Marine Life Identification Seminars, Invasive Species Workshops, Coastal Science Seminars, Professional Development for Educators & Nonprofits, Florida Keys Lionfish & Arts Festival, International Coastal Clean-Up events.

PROJECT: *Mexico Beach Dune Walkover Phase I*
RECIPIENT: City of Mexico Beach
FCMP FUNDS: \$23,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Mexico Beach was awarded funding to hold a citywide workshop to include citizens and engineers for input about location they would like to have an ADA Dune Walkover installed. 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 award included hiring an Environmental Consultant to determine necessary permits, surveys, engineer drawings and testing needed to complete the ADA Dune Walkover.

PROJECT: *Panama City Beach Safe Beach Access*
RECIPIENT: City of Panama City Beach
FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Panama City Beach was awarded funding to enhance the safety program by purchasing top-level lifesaving equipment. This project will provide vital lifesaving equipment for the city to better serve the million annual visitors. Panama City Beach is providing up to 20 lifeguards, this project is to enhance the City's lifesaving equipment for these lifeguards. CPI funds will purchase no more than 4-ATV's, 3 ATV board racks, 8- Rescue Boards, 8- AED LP 1000 and 6-8 Rescue Tubes, Binoculars and Fin Belts.

PROJECT: *Lighthouse Point Park Invasive Removal*
RECIPIENT: County of Volusia Coastal Division
FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000
ABSTRACT:

County of Volusia Coastal Division was awarded funding for the removal of Brazilian Pepper Plants. The County will completely remove Brazilian Pepper plants and restore native vegetation. To accomplish the project the County will implement measures to prevent the re-establishment of Brazilian Pepper plants using herbicide application. Treatment methodologies have been broken into two basic categories; spot and mechanical treatment. Spot treatment is conducted on foot with handheld equipment and consists of various treatment methods such as basal bark, cut stump, and foliar applications. Mechanical treatment includes heavy machinery used to grind, mulch, or completely remove entire Brazilian Pepper trees. These areas require herbicide application to all cut stumps remaining after mechanical treatment.

PROJECT: *Invasive Species Removal to Protect natural Resources in Jacksonville, FL*
RECIPIENT: City of Jacksonville
FCMP FUNDS: \$36,150
ABSTRACT:

The City of Jacksonville was awarded funding to hire a contractor with a team of experienced professionals that will treat invasive plants using chemicals including Foliar, Cut Stump, and Basal Bark applications of herbicide and mechanical treatments using physical removal, either by hand or with equipment. These professionals will treat invasive plants that cannot be easily removed by volunteers. Funding will provide supplies such as trash bags, gloves, water, sunscreen and bug spray for volunteers working with the City of Jacksonville employees and members of the First Coast Invasive Work Group to remove invasive plants from public parks. During these events volunteers will learn how to identify and remove invasive plants including sword fern and air potato and how they negatively impact coastal resources, including adverse impacts on native plants. The City will also install interpretative signage to inform park visitors about invasive plants. Signs will provide information about common invasive species, as well as the adverse impacts of invasive species. Signs will be placed in prominent locations so that they will be readily available to park visitors. Moreover, the City is also committed to providing information about invasive species during regularly scheduled nature walks at the parks and by providing educational materials about invasive species during environmental outreach events.

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.