

## FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### FY 08-09 COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE PROJECTS

#### REMARKABLE COASTAL PLACES

**PROJECT:** *Create the Living Museum*  
Florida Foresight, Inc. & Wakulla County

**CONTACT:** Bill Lowrie  
P.O. Box 896, Panacea, FL 32346  
Ph. (850) 962-7845

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Florida Foresight, Inc., in partnership with Wakulla County, will continue implementation of a strategic plan for the [Big Bend Maritime Center](#), which will be located along the [Panacea](#) waterfront. The maritime center will serve as a major destination point and educational facility for residents and visitors. Project tasks in FY 08-09 are to implement the Oral History program; conduct field trips and workshops; produce the Maritime Education Kit for public schools; formalize the volunteer program; and prepare the Operating Management Plan for acquired properties.

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**PROJECT:** *Rookery Bay NERR: Habitat Mapping & Ground-Truthing*  
Friends of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

**CONTACT:** Bruce Robertson  
300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113  
Ph. (239) 417-6310

**DESCRIPTION:** The Friends of Rookery Bay, in collaboration with the [Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) (RBNERR) will develop baseline habitat maps in order to study the effects of climate change and sea level rise on RBNERR's estuarine and upland habitats over time. The selected consultant will also train RBNERR staff in the field on habitat mapping procedures and ground-truthing, and on in-house mapping and digitizing.

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#### COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

**PROJECT:** *Northern Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Estuarine Education & Stewardship*  
Marine Discovery Center & Volusia County

**CONTACT:** Fielding Cooley, Executive Director  
162 North Causeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169  
Ph. (386) 428-4828

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$40,200

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Marine Discovery Center](#) (MDC), with Volusia County and the St. Johns River Water Management District will conduct an environmental stewardship campaign to engage shoreline landowners along the northern IRL on the threat of invasive species and importance of mangrove & oyster habitats. The MDC will develop handbooks, teacher guides, ecological checklists, recruit volunteers, develop training venues, conduct shoreline audits and provide technical assistance. Volusia County will provide informational brochures and volunteer training funds.

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**PROJECT:** *Grassy Key Restoration Project*  
City of Marathon  
**CONTACT:** Curtis Tookes  
10045-55 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL  
Ph. (305) 289-5001

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$20,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Invasive exotics and illegal dumping are threatening Grassy Key's hardwood hammocks, transitional wetlands and mangrove swamps. The [City of Marathon](#) seeks to protect the key's ecosystems through a four-pronged effort, and will: 1) conduct a public awareness campaign on the importance of Florida Keys' ecosystems through educational materials, newspaper ads and radio; 2) conduct education outreach for local students by providing field trips and developing environmental lesson plans; 3) develop goals and actions for restoration efforts on Grassy Key; and 4) implement restoration activities.

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**PROJECT:** *Reef Ranger Program*  
Reef Relief, Inc. & City of Key West  
**CONTACT:** DeeVon Quirolo  
P.O. Box 430  
Key West, FL 33041  
Ph. (305) 293-9515

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$41,085

**DESCRIPTION:** [Reef Relief, Inc.](#), a non-profit group, will recruit and train volunteers for the Reef Ranger Program which aims to protect coral reefs in the [Florida Keys](#). Reef Rangers conduct marine debris clean-ups, reef monitoring, and environmental education about protecting coral reefs. Reef Relief collaborates with the City of Key West, the [Fort Zachary Taylor State Park](#) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in implementing the Reef Ranger Program. Grants tasks include 1) re-print and distribute a poster on proper disposal of debris; 2) distribute the "No Discharge Zone" brochure to marine interests; 3) design an outdoor coral reef exhibit for display at the Reef Relief Center; 4) monitor near-shore waters; and 5) remove marine debris from offshore coral reefs and coastal mangroves.

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**PROJECT:** *A1A Byway – Coastal Conservation Campaign*  
**CONTACT:** Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Byway & the Town of Marineland  
2175 Mizell Road  
St. Augustine, FL 32080  
Ph. (904) 425-8055

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Friends of the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway](#), Inc., a non-profit organization, in partnership with the [Town of Marineland](#), will engage communities, municipalities and civic associations along the A1A coastal corridor in a litter control and education campaign. Project tasks are: conduct two beach cleanups per month at targeted areas; educate residents in conservation strategies; perform mini-project to improve coastal habitats; and promote awareness of litter as a negative experience for Byway travelers.

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## [ACCESS TO COASTAL RESOURCES](#)

**PROJECT:** *Fort Steinhatchee Pier*  
**CONTACT:** Melody Cox  
201 E. Green Street, Perry, FL 32347  
Ph. (850) 838-3501

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$38,250

**DESCRIPTION:** The community of [Steinhatchee](#) is located ½ mile from the Gulf of Mexico in Taylor County. Because recent development has limited available public waterfront access, Taylor County seeks to increase access by making improvements to and expanding the old Steinhatchee Bridge abutment, specifically, construct a lookout tower, add a fishing pier and benches and renovate the entrance for accessibility. The nearby community center will provide adequate parking for the revitalized pier.

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**PROJECT:** *Castaway Point Park Access Improvements*  
**CONTACT :** Tim Ford  
3790 Dixie Highway, NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905  
Ph. (321) 409-7187

**DESCRIPTION:** The City of Palm Bay will use FCMP funds to make improvements to Castaway Point Park, which is located adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) in Brevard County. The improvements involve relocating vehicle access ways and pedestrian walkways to prevent erosion and stormwater runoff into the IRL (which is part of the National Estuary Program). Access ways will be stabilized with pervious pavement (coquina) to improve filtration.

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### WORKING WATERFRONTS

**PROJECT:** *Carrabelle Wharf Improvements*  
**CONTACT:** Tamara Allan  
P.O. Box 0666, Carrabelle, FL 32322  
Ph. (850) 297-2141

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Public access to the [City of Carrabelle](#)'s waterfront is the number one priority of its citizens and is critical to the city's revitalization of the historic and working waterfront. The City will improve and expand its property on the riverfront wharf by installing a boat ramp, benches, picnic tables and bike racks. It will also construct a staging dock, fish cleaning station and information kiosk focusing on the historic and present role of the working waterfront. In addition, seagrasses will be planted along the seawall to stabilize the shoreline. The [Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) will provide consultation on natural shoreline stabilization activities.

### **FY 08-09 FCMP GRANTS TO STATE AGENCIES**

**PROJECT:** *Investigating Early Spanish Landing Sites*

**DESCRIPTION:** Staff of the Department of State's [Bureau of Archaeological Research](#) (BAR) will investigate two colonial landing sites; the *Puerto de San Marcos*, located in the [St. Marks River](#) and the *Puerto de San Martin*, located in the [Suwannee River](#). These ports were important early transit points for exchanging locally produced items for Spanish goods from Cuba and Mexico, and served the colonial chain of missions that stretched from Apalachicola to St. Augustine. BAR staff will use side scan sonar in search of the two sites in order to locate, record and visually inspect targets. Other project tasks include assembling an interpretive exhibit on Spanish maritime trading, and interpreting the high sonar images and video footage on the BAR website to allow visitors to "participate" in the discovery process. This project will also provide an opportunity for the public to learn about both inland riverine wildlife and offshore marine wildlife, since many submerged archaeological sites are excellent habitats for marine and freshwater species.

**AGENCY:** Department of State

**CONTACT:** Dr. Roger Smith

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$79,275

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**PROJECT:** *Waterfronts Florida Program Implementation*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) [Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program](#) (WFP) will provide financial and technical assistance to designated Waterfronts Florida communities for activities that preserve recreational and commercial working waterfronts. Every two years, the DCA designates new communities for the WFP; the three communities designated in 2008 are the [City of Carrabelle](#) in Franklin County, unincorporated [Steinhatchee](#) in Taylor County and the [City of St. Marks](#) in Wakulla County. FCMP funds will provide grants for the second year of the designation cycle for these communities to implement waterfront revitalization plans.

**AGENCY:** Department of Community Affairs

**CONTACT:** Elisabeth Salinas

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$75,000

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**PROJECT:** *Offshore Springs Research*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Environmental Protection's [Florida Geological Survey](#) will ground-truth potential discharges of groundwater in Florida's nearshore and offshore (open Gulf of Mexico) coastal environments to advance the understanding of groundwater flow and better quantify groundwater discharge. This understanding can assist in establishing more accurate Minimum Flows and Levels and Total Maximum Daily Loads for impacted estuaries and marine environments.

**AGENCY:** DEP/Florida Geological Survey

**CONTACT:** Tom Greenhalgh

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$32,250

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**PROJECT:** *Composting Toilets, Pennekamp State Park Paddling Trail*

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail](#) is a 1500-mile sea kayaking trail that starts near Pensacola, extends down Florida's west coast, continues around the Keys and terminates near the Georgia border. Because the [Biscayne Bay segment](#) is anticipated to be extremely popular, Greenways & Trail staff will place two composting toilets at primitive campsites in [John Pennekamp State Park](#), which is located on state lands along the paddling trail.

**AGENCY:** DEP/Office of Greenways & Trails

**CONTACT:** Doug Alderson

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$33,511

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**PROJECT:** *Assessing the Value of Oyster Populations in Various Habitats*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's [Fish & Wildlife Research Institute](#) (FWRI) will collect biological information on oysters growing within typical reef habitat and on seawalls, mangroves and on substrate deposited for restoring oyster populations. The data will be extrapolated to quantify the relative contribution of oysters from the various habitats to ecosystem function within the [Tampa Bay](#)/Boca Ciega Bay system. FWRI will also assess difference in community composition among the habitat types. The resultant data will be applicable to estimating the potential importance of these habitats and their associated oysters to ecosystem function in other Florida estuaries and throughout the natural range of the species.

**AGENCY:** FWC/FWRI

**CONTACT:** William Arnold

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$93,946

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**PROJECT:** *Fisheries-Independent Monitoring in Waters Affected by CERP*

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan](#) (CERP) provides a framework to restore, protect and preserve the water resources of central and south Florida. To meet this goal, it is necessary to evaluate and assess performance and improve the plan. To monitor program effectiveness, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Fish & Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) will continue to investigate the effects of expected drought conditions on the distribution, abundance and habitat use of fishes in the [Caloosahatchee River](#) estuary, a water body directly affected by implementation of CERP. The long-term dataset produced will provide a unique source of information on economically valuable species and on many poorly understood non-game species that may be important ecological indicators. FWRI will conduct monthly random sampling, collect and process biological samples, record associated data, and prepare a report summarizing the data. The report will be provided for use by FWRI researchers and other agencies.

**AGENCY:** FWC/FWRI

**CONTACT:** Philip Stevens

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$83,440

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**PROJECT:** *Project GreenShores Site 2*

**DESCRIPTION:** DEP's Northwest District will construct a third breakwater and build inter-tidal islands in site 2 of [Project GreenShores](#), a habitat creation and restoration project located along Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola Bay, and is comprised of a series of salt marsh and oyster reefs. FCMP funds will be used to purchase limestone and to hire a contractor to transport donated sand material for the salt marsh islands.

**AGENCY:** DEP/Northwest Regulatory District, Pensacola

**CONTACT:** Amy Baldwin

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$150,000

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**PROJECT:** *Seagrass Restoration, Lignumvitae Key*

**DESCRIPTION:** The DEP Division of Recreation & Parks will continue seagrass restoration activities at [Lignumvitae Key](#) Submerged Land Managed Area to restore habitat damaged by boat groundings. Specifically DRP will: identify 2-5 seagrass restoration sites; install bird stakes to establish seagrass beds, emplace topographic fill in areas where injury has displaced or removed substrate; conduct site inspections and monitoring; and prepare baseline reports and maps.

**AGENCY:** DEP/Division of Recreation & Parks

**CONTACT:** Melba Nezbed

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$90,000

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**PROJECT:** *Beach Sediments Atlas*

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Florida Geological Survey](#) (FGS) will sample and characterize beach sediments along Florida's east coast counties in Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucy, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade. This project is an expansion of a multi-year effort by FGS and the [Minerals Management Service](#) to develop a sediment atlas to facilitate the matching of sand from borrow sources to sediments on Florida east coast. Project tasks include sediment sampling, sediment processing and statistical analysis. FCMP funds will be used for salaries, supplies and travel. Analysis results will be presented at the annual National Shore & Beach Preservation Association meeting to disseminate study findings.

**AGENCY:** DEP/Florida Geological Survey

**CONTACT:** Ron Hoenstein

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$50,728

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**PROJECT:** *Targeted Design to Reduce the Impacts of Armoring*

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) (FWC), Imperiled Species Management section will develop a model to predict interference with marine turtle nesting and loss of nests and nesting beach due to coastal armoring structures on sandy beaches. The FWC will also use FCMP funds to contract with a licensed coastal engineer to develop one or more coastal armoring designs that minimize encroachment on sea turtle nesting beaches and loss of nests and nesting habitat.

**AGENCY:** Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission

**CONTACT:** Robbin Trindell

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$87,763

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**PROJECT:** *Changes in the Use of Polyhaline Seagrasses by Estuarine-Dependent Fishes*

**DESCRIPTION:** The FWC's FWRI will investigate changes in the use of polyhaline seagrasses by estuarine-dependent fishes after the reopening of Blind Pass inlet (Charlotte Harbor estuary). The reopening of a tidal inlet at Blind Pass will likely affect ingress of estuarine-dependent species into San Carlos Bay. The hypothesis is that use of seagrasses by fishes that spawn offshore and recruit to estuarine waters will increase after the opening of the barrier island inlet. To test this, FWRI will resample juvenile fishes in San Carlos Bay (fishes were sampled in the estuary in 08-09, prior to opening of the inlet). Changes in distribution and abundance of recruiting fishes post-opening will be compared to pre-opening dataset. FCMP funds are for OPS salaries, fuels, supplies, repairs and indirect.

**AGENCY:** FWC/FWRI

**CONTACT:** Philip Stevens

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$41,000

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**PROJECT:** *DCA Coastal Program Support*

**DESCRIPTION:** FCMP funds will be used to continue a program of coordination, technical support, and review through the Department of Community Affairs' [Division of Community Planning](#) to evaluate federal actions for consistency with the FCMP, and to assist local governments in evaluating the impacts of coastal development. The Division is responsible for various growth management initiatives, including the [Development of Regional Impact](#) process, the [Areas of Critical State Concern](#) program, and the [local government comprehensive planning](#) process.

**AGENCY:** Department of Community Affairs

**CONTACT:** Beth Frost

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$37,240

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**PROJECT:** *Waterfronts Florida Partnership Enhancement*

**DESCRIPTION:** The [Waterfronts Florida Program](#) (WFP) at the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created to address the physical and economic decline of traditional working waterfront communities. Since its inception, 21 communities have been designated as WFP communities, which affords access to technical assistance with community-designed vision plans. The plans are used to guide the revitalization of water-dependent economies by addressing public access, hazard mitigation, environmental and cultural resource protection and economic enhancement. In 2008-2009, DCA will continue to provide technical assistance to the communities; conduct quarterly program managers' meetings; develop an administrative rule to strengthen the WFP framework; enhance coastal resiliency in waterfront communities by developing tools and strategies to prepare communities for the regional effects of climate change; and promote regionalism amongst communities by identifying regional and common issues, goals and facilitating potential collaboration.

**AGENCY:** Department of Community Affairs

**CONTACT:** Julie Dennis

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$75,000

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**PROJECT:** *Blueways/Collier County Boating Characterization*

**DESCRIPTION:** Florida leads the nation in recreational boat registrations, and the state is facing critical issues regarding waterway access and use conflicts. A boating characterization methodology developed by the [Fish & Wildlife Research Institute](#) (FWRI) was successfully applied in a six-county area of the west coast by directly enhancing planning and intergovernmental coordination. In 2008-2009, the FWRI will continue its [BlueWays](#) boating characterization methodology for Collier County and work with federal, state and local agencies to use the data to address resource protection, waterway management and public access issues in Collier county and adjacent waters. The intent is to continue active integration of waterways and waterfronts issues into growth management plans, decisions and policies.

**AGENCY:** Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission/FWRI

**CONTACT:** Bill Sargent

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$162,330

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**PROJECT:** *Harmful Algal Bloom Response Plans (HAB), Year 3*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Florida Department of Health (DOH) will continue to assist local county health departments (CHD) in developing [HAB](#) public health response plans that draw on local experience and expertise. In Year 3, response plans will be developed in 12 counties that have been identified as being at high risk for HAB events. This work will build on HAB response plan activities completed in 2007-08 to identify plan components and formats, develop a database and work with CHDs on protocols and implementation. The DOH will also continue research and plan sections specific to blue green algae/cyanobacteria, Florida Red Tide, Ciguatera and Saxitoxin.

**AGENCY:** Florida Department of Health

**CONTACT:** Andy Reich

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$85,000

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**PROJECT:** *Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plans, Year 3*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will continue its initiative to develop [post-disaster redevelopment plans](#) (PDRP) for local governments. Although local comprehensive plans should include plans and policies addressing PDRP issues, preparation of plans has been hindered because no standards have been established to guide their development. In year 3, DCA will 1) conduct an objective analysis of the draft guidelines as tested in the pilot community, Panama City; 2) produce the Final Plan and revised guidelines; 3) make recommendations for statutory and rule changes related to PDRPs; and 4) complete the Final Best Practices Guide for Preparing PDRPs.

**AGENCY:** Department of Community Affairs

**CONTACT:** Julie Dennis

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$75,000

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**PROJECT:** *Seagrass Integrated Mapping & Monitoring, Year 2*

**DESCRIPTION:** Florida seagrass beds are an extremely valuable resource but are vulnerable to many direct and indirect human impacts, especially eutrophication, which reduces water clarity. To protect and manage this resource, the [Fish & Wildlife Research Institute](#) (FWRI) will continue an integrated program of seagrass mapping and monitoring, specifically, the FWRI will evaluate the feasibility of using satellite imagery and feature extraction software to replace aerial photography and manual photo-interpretation in the process of seagrass mapping. The feasibility of the new mapping techniques will be tested in Florida Bay, Tampa Bay and the Big Bend. FWRI will also produce a report evaluating the utility and test results; update the guidance document for seagrass mapping; present findings to all water management districts; and provide results to the NOAA Coastal Services Center for use by additional users.

**AGENCY:** Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

**CONTACT:** Paul Carlson

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$91,000

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**PROJECT:** *Evaluating Impacts of Onsite Septic Systems in the Suwannee River*

**DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Health will conduct a study in the Town of Suwannee, Dixie County to measure the change in water quality resulting from replacing onsite systems with central sewer. With funding from the Environmental Protection Agency in 1996, DOH evaluated the effects of this conversion for two months before and at the end of sewer installation in 1997. Using the extensive baseline database established in 1996 & 1997, DOH will evaluate the long-term effects of the project and use the results to guide other communities in making the decision to convert to a centralized solution and understanding the potential cost/benefits of such projects.

**AGENCY:** Department of Health

**CONTACT:** Elke Ursin

**FCMP FUNDING:** \$68,000

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