

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE¹

Grant Abstracts, FY 2012-2013

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 2012 *Tour de Turtles Migration Marathon* educational program.

PROJECT: *Florida Keys Coastal Stewardship Program*
RECIPIENT: Reef Relief, Inc. and City of Key West
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: [Reef Relief, Inc.](#), in partnership with the [City of Key West](#), will increase community actions to protect Florida Keys' coastal resources through education, field trips and clean-up events. Reef Relief will use FCMP funds to expand its "Discover Coral Reefs School Program", which includes distributing coral reef Guides and anti-litter posters to area 4th grade students. Educational outreach will continue through distribution of environmental posters and brochures to resorts, hotels, visitor centers, boaters, snorkelers and fishermen. Through its website, Reef Relief will inform the online community on coastal resource issues, trainings and volunteer opportunities, including the scheduling of ten community coastal cleanup events.

PROJECT: *Greater Jacksonville Paddling Guide*
RECIPIENT: Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute and City of Jacksonville
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: The [Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute](#) (PTELI) and the City of Jacksonville will use FCMP funds to develop a detailed waterproof blueways map (paddling guide) for the Greater Jacksonville area that will include canoe/kayak landings, channel and depth markers, paddle distances, restrooms/parking locations and ecological, cultural and historic information. Paddling guide signs will be placed by the City on at least two public parks. The *Greater Jacksonville Paddling Guide* website will also be produced. A public event announcing release of the Guide will be hosted by PTELI and the City.

PROJECT: *Apalachee Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Segment 1: Panacea-St. Marks Paddling Trail*
RECIPIENT: Wakulla County
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: [Wakulla County](#) will use FCMP funds to develop the Panacea-St. Marks segment of the Apalachee Bay Maritime Heritage Trail. The paddling trail will provide connectivity, enhance access and promote the area's unique features such as Apalachee Bay, the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, Newport Park, Panacea, San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park, and the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. The trail maps will include canoe/kayak landings, paddle distances, lodging, restaurants, picnic areas, camping, parking locations and ecological, cultural and historic information. The County will also develop a Paddling Trail Master Plan.

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: *Flagler Beach Innovative Coastal Stewardship*

RECIPIENT: City of Flagler Beach

FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000

ABSTRACT: The [City of Flagler Beach](#) is a premier recreation destination, but is continually faced with waste management issues along its coastline. In an effort to reduce the frequency of trash pickup while encouraging recycling, the City seeks financial assistance to replace its standard trash containers with innovative, solar-powered, compacting containers equipped with real-time email notification of fullness. The containers will be placed adjacent to the City pier and within Veterans Park. Use of the innovative receptacles will displace fossil fuel usage through renewable energy, saving 8-10 tons of CO₂ emissions and nearly 900 gallons of fuel annually. Five solar-powered compacting waste/recycling containers will be purchased with FCMP funds.

PROJECT: *Raccoon Island Restoration and Trails*

RECIPIENT: St. Lucie County

FCMP FUNDS: \$29,000

ABSTRACT: [St. Lucie County](#)'s Raccoon Island has long been valued for its prime location, natural beauty and as a popular destination for weekend boating visitors to its wide, sandy shores. The island's interior, however, is limited to public access due to thick masses of invasive, non-native vegetation that prevent traveling beyond the beach. To expand open access to Raccoon Island uplands, St. Lucie County will use FCMP funds to eradicate invasive exotic vegetation, design and install an educational kiosk and interpretive signs, construct a trail and plant native vegetation. Maintenance of the trail will be conducted by volunteers and through the County's Adopt-an-Island Program.

PROJECT: *Ideal Boating Facility and Park at Steinhatchee*

RECIPIENT: Taylor County

FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000

ABSTRACT: Taylor County acquired the Ideal Boat Ramp and Park located at the mouth of the [Steinhatchee River](#) and Gulf of Mexico in 2011. The County will use FCMP funds to improve access to the boating facility and park, specifically, for a paved parking area and construction of a pavilion with picnic tables and benches. Security lighting will also be installed, and the county will remove non-native vegetation, landscape the pavilion area with Florida Friendly vegetation, and install educational and coastal stewardship signage.

PROJECT: *Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park and Trail Loop: Phase II Construction*

RECIPIENT: Santa Rosa County

FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000

ABSTRACT: Santa Rosa County received FCMP funds in 2010-11 to design and prepare permit documents for improvements to the [Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park](#), located at the confluence of Pond Creek and the Blackwater River. The Mill Site Park is located adjacent to the historic Village of Bagdad, a designated Waterfronts Florida Partnership Community, and the only county-zoned historic district in Santa Rosa County. In 2012-13, the County will use FCMP funds to implement Phase II of this project, which involves construction of park amenities – a fishing pier, picnic tables, benches, grills, bike racks, water fountain and trash receptacles.

PROJECT: *Heart of Haney Creek Exotic Removal*

RECIPIENT: City of Stuart

FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000

ABSTRACT: The Heart of Haney Creek property is comprised of 53 acres located immediately north of the St. Lucie Estuary in downtown [Stuart, Florida](#); the site was purchased by the City in 2011. This diverse coastal habitat includes live oak, mangrove swamp, freshwater marsh and other ecosystems that provide habitat for ferns, native plants and wildlife such as the American alligator, wood stork, snowy egret, bald eagle, manatee, Eastern diamondback rattlesnake, pine snake and Florida scrub jay. The Heart of Haney tract will become part of a large area of existing public-access lands with trails connecting to the north and future trails to the Estuary. Prior to development of the access trail, the City will use FCMP funds to remove dense exotic non-native vegetation (Old World Fern, Brazilian pepper, and Melaleuca) that have severely degraded the wetlands. The site is so diverse and wetlands so extensive that hand control of exotics will be utilized.

PROJECT: *Access and Protection of the Carrabelle Waterfront*

RECIPIENT: City of Carrabelle

FCMP FUNDS: \$10,000

ABSTRACT: In 2008, the [City of Carrabelle](#), a Waterfronts Florida Designated Community, constructed a floating dock/boat ramp, kiosk and fish cleaning station as part of the Carrabelle Wharf and Boardwalk Park. The fish cleaning station has been very successful; however, because it is adjacent to the Carrabelle River, visitors often throw fish carcass remains into the river and on the shore, which attracts seagulls, pelicans, feral cats and raccoons. To mitigate this situation, the City will use FCMP funds to purchase and install a fish carcass grinder pump alongside the station; the pump will drain into the Carrabelle sewer system as opposed to the River. Signs will also be placed at the site – one sign will provide information on the safe operation of the grinder, and the second sign will indicate the fine for throwing fish remains in the river.

PROJECT: *Sailboat Bend Preserve Canal Head Restoration*

RECIPIENT: City of Ft. Lauderdale

FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000

ABSTRACT: The Sailboat Bend Preserve is a 1.3-acre live oak hammock located in Ft. Lauderdale in an urbanized area rapidly approaching build-out. The property provides access to the North Fork of the New River via the Argyle Canal, and is located within a historic district. The site was acquired through the Broward County Land Preservation Fund and contains habitat suitable for white ibis, a species of Special Concern, and the Florida mastiff bat, a State-designated threatened species. The [City of Ft. Lauderdale](#) intends to expand public access to the Argyle Canal, and will use FCMP funds to support a portion of a canoe/kayak floating dock for non-motorized boats. The City will provide non-federal matching funds from a portion of in-house design and engineering services.

PROJECT: *Restoring Coastal Miami*

RECIPIENT: City of Miami

FCMP FUNDS: \$29,490

ABSTRACT: [Virginia Key](#) is a 1000-acre barrier island located between Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean in the City of Miami – the Key encompasses a variety of upland and wetland plant communities including seagrass beds, inter-tidal sand/mud flats, mangroves, dunes and coastal maritime hammocks. To improve public access on Virginia Key, the City of Miami intends to develop a nature trail that will extend the current trail system on site. Towards this goal, the City will remove exotic, invasive vegetation lateral to the proposed trail and revegetate the area with native plants. FCMP funds will be used to design and install interpretive, educational/ecological signage, six shelters, benches, and trash and recycling containers.

PROJECT: *Harbor Branch Mangrove Marsh Restoration*
RECIPIENT: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and St. Lucie County
FCMP FUNDS: \$150,000
ABSTRACT: [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) and [St. Lucie County](#) will use FCMP funds to conserve and restore tidal connectivity to 178 acres of estuarine intertidal forested habitat that are currently impounded. In order to accomplish the ultimate restoration goal in this uniquely altered setting, several on-the-ground tasks are involved. The perimeter dike, which ultimately severed tidal connection of the wetland to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), will be reconstructed and will include the installation of culverts to allow free water exchange. Additionally, a pump station has been installed to provide additional water exchange during summer months.

PROJECT: *Sebastian Working Waterfront – Historic Exhibit/Museum*
RECIPIENT: City of Sebastian
FCMP FUNDS: \$10,000
ABSTRACT: Within the Sebastian Community Redevelopment District (CRA), the Working Waterfront Exhibit/Museum Project is located at 1540 Indian River Drive, Sebastian, Florida. This is a City owned historic facility, located on the Indian River Lagoon and is part of the Sebastian Working Waterfront Project locally known as [Fisherman’s Landing Sebastian](#). The city will use FCMP funds to CPI grant proposal seeks funds to help plan the construction and assembly of exhibits. The exhibit has four main concepts, which will educate the public about the (1) Rich history of the Indian River Lagoon (flora and fauna plus habitat, geography, etc.); (2) Aquatic influences from the Indians and Spanish that led to relying on the Indian River Lagoon, mapping and early exploration; (3) Early settlers and the impact of commercial fishing in Sebastian; (4) Highlight Pelican Island as the first national wildlife refuge and the impact of eco –tourism on the region; and, (5) Environmental stewardship and awareness.

PROJECT: *Martin County – Beach Cleaning Task Force*
RECIPIENT: Martin County
FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000
ABSTRACT: The Martin County Beach Cleaning Task Force will develop a targeted and integrated approach to keeping Martin County’s beaches clean through a pilot project at three (3) [County beaches](#); Jensen Beach Park (4191 NE Ocean Blvd., Jensen Beach, Florida), Stuart Beach Park (889 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, Florida) and Bathtub Reef Beach Park (1585 SE MacArthur Blvd., Stuart, Florida). Project includes (1) effectively utilizing, (2) developing a marketing campaign and posting educational signage to promote awareness; and Improved waste receptacles and recycling efforts.

PROJECT: *City of Oak Hill – Waterfront Revitalization Master Plan*
RECIPIENT: City of Oak Hill
FCMP FUNDS: \$10,000
ABSTRACT: The [City of Oak Hill](#) is the southern-most City in southeast Volusia County with a population of 1,792. The Indian River provided the means for a commercial fishing industry that began in 1908, well before the City’s charter in 1927. The commercial fishing industry has dwindled (as has the citrus industry in Oak Hill), requiring most residents to leave the City each day for work. FCMP funds will be used to help the City develop a waterfront master plan. This plan will help the City to preserve their waterfront history and heritage while identifying and implementing new opportunities to protect and utilize the incredible resource of the Indian River Lagoon. The plan will provide a tool to promote and maximize the public benefit and enjoyment of the waterway by identifying and prioritizing the waterway access needs of the community.

PROJECT: *Keep Brevard Beautiful Adoption/Equipment Repair Project*

RECIPIENT: Keep Brevard Beautiful and City of Palm Shores

FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000

ABSTRACT: The adoption teams are vital to Brevard County for keeping litter from along our waterways. This is very important to continue to draw tourist to our lovely county and for the citizens and environmental health of our area. Beautiful and [City of Palm Shores](#) will use FCMP funds to help maintain the Adopt a Road and Adopt A Shore (AAS) teams by providing equipment maintenance, provide printed materials and promotional items to help recruit new teams and promote future events, provide new signage for existing and new teams, a set salary to bring on an assistant to the Event and Volunteer Coordinator, and sponsor upcoming team events county wide. The project will occur throughout all of Brevard County. As Brevard County has 72 miles of coastline and many miles of river shorelines numerous groups will be recruited to assist with the maintenance the vast shorelines.

STATE AGENCY AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROJECTS²

PROJECT: *Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise, Year 2*

AGENCY: Department of Economic Opportunity

CONTACT: Julie Dennis

FCMP FUNDS: \$179,000

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 second year of this 5-year initiative, DEO will 1) inventory SLR scenarios and vulnerability analysis modeling methods; 2) establish SLR scenarios and evaluate guidance for adaptation integration into planning frameworks; and 3) provide best practice planning strategies and targeted technical assistance for SLR adaptation on the internet and through training, site visits and workshops related to community resiliency and SLR adaptation. 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 and Monitoring, Year 2*

AGENCY: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

CONTACT: David Palandro

FCMP FUNDS: \$85,810

ABSTRACT: In its second 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. Second year activities include 1) producing a single coral reef classification scheme and testing it for validity on Florida's varying coral reef structures; and 2) disseminating information to a larger coral reef community members who produce coral reef maps. FWC will request feedback from the community to ensure that work already completed will not be reproduced.

PROJECT: *Special Area Management Planning for FWC's Critical Wildlife Areas, Year 2*

AGENCY: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

CONTACT: Melissa Tucker

FCMP FUNDS: \$117,000

ABSTRACT: [Critical Wildlife Areas](#) (CWA) provide areas where important wildlife congregations can be protected during critical life cycles (e.g., nesting, migration) while still providing recreational user access. FWC has identified limiting human-wildlife conflicts in CWAs as a high priority since human-wildlife conflicts increase as areas available to wildlife decrease (especially in beach habitats). CWAs, however, are designated through establishment orders that must be revised when new areas of congregating wildlife are identified. In Year Two of this effort, FCMP funds will be used to 1) develop an interactive web-accessible GIS database for CWAs, with data identified in Year One incorporated into the mapping project; 2) identify CWAs needing re-establishment under the revised rule; 3) implement conflict management strategies; 4) incorporate management strategies in the mapping project; 5) develop a prioritized list of sites with vegetation management needs; and 6) utilize technicians to train partners and volunteers in management strategy methods.

PROJECT: *Estuarine Habitat Restoration: State Planning and Guidance, Year 2*

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

AGENCY: St. Johns River Water Management District

CONTACT: Paul Haydt

FCMP FUNDS: \$81,000

ABSTRACT: A variety of public and private estuarine habitat restoration activities (submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reef, salt marsh, mangroves, coral reef) occur within Florida primarily as stand-alone or regional efforts. However, Florida lacks a statewide planning and guidance document focused on coordinated estuarine habitat restoration. As a collaborative effort, the St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) will partner with CAMA, FWC and other involved agencies to develop, test and refine a statewide estuary restoration planning and guidance strategy and a Northeast Florida Estuarine Restoration Plan. Year Two project tasks are 1) produce a draft situation analysis for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comment and revision; 2) develop the Restoration Plan; 3) hold regional public workshops to obtain input from stakeholders (resource managers, researchers, restoration professionals) to identify dataset gaps, local needs and issues, and complete identified dataset gaps and refinements; and 5) incorporate workshop feedback into the restoration plan and provide to the TAC to review for adoption and endorsement.

PROJECT: *Aquatic Preserve Management Plan Update Support Services, Year 2*

AGENCY: DEP/Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA)

CONTACT: Penny Isom

FCMP FUNDS: \$20,190

ABSTRACT: [CAMA](#) will use FCMP funds to support development of management plan updates for the state's aquatic preserve (AP) system. CAMA is responsible for the state's 41 APs, 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 FY 12-13, CAMA will pursue final approval by the Acquisition Restoration Council and Board of Trustees on five AP management plans. CAMA 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 plans.