

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE¹

Grant Abstracts, FY 2023-2024

PROJECT: *REEF Coastal Stewardship Program*
RECIPIENT: Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and Monroe County
FCMP FUNDS: \$29,656
ABSTRACT:

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and Monroe County were awarded funding to increase coastal stewardship in Monroe County through outreach and education to students, educators, and adult residents of the Florida Keys community. The REEF Coastal Stewardship Program (CSP) raises awareness and appreciation of Florida's diverse habitats and marine life by engaging coastal communities in marine education and hands-on stewardship activities. The goal of the CSP is to educate the community of Monroe County about their local coastal resources through fun and engaging stewardship activities, so residents are inspired to continue to take care of these resources long after the program is complete.

PROJECT: *Atlantic Beach Coastal Dunes Exotic Plant Planning*
RECIPIENT: City of Atlantic Beach
FCMP FUNDS: \$10,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Atlantic Beach was awarded funding to identify and survey existing non-native and invasive species in its roughly 2.5 miles of coastal dunes. The City will also create a management plan that addresses monitoring, managing, and removal of non-native and invasive species as well as best practices and recommendations for revegetation of native species such as sea oats.

PROJECT: *Mexico Beach Non-Motorized Launch Site*
RECIPIENT: City of Mexico Beach
FCMP FUNDS: \$40,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Mexico Beach was awarded funding for the construction of an ADA-accessible non-motorized watercraft launch site (Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddle Boards). The site will have ADA-accessible parking spaces, an on/off-loading parking spot, and minimally sloped extra-wide access ramps (attached from the sidewalks to the floating docks). The floating dock will have entry systems specifically designed for both ADA and non-ADA persons that include adaptive person transfer platforms, safe watercraft launch platforms, and multiple handrails. Construction is primarily modular, using systems available from several vendors providing easy shipping and on-site assembly.

PROJECT: *Panama City Water Trail*
RECIPIENT: City of Panama City
FCMP FUNDS: \$60,000
ABSTRACT:

The City of Panama City was awarded funding for the construction of two dock systems with kayak launches and one ADA accessible sand mat kayak launch into St. Andrews Bay. The launches will create a public recreational use water trail for hand-propelled, non-motorized watercraft. This project will build upon the City's single existing kayak launch at Watson Bayou Waterfront Park, funded by a previous Coastal Partnership Initiative grant award. Further, this project will provide complementary access points to Segment 3 of the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail,

which offers an alternative route through St. Andrews Bay in Bay County, FL. At present, access points to the FCSPT are only available on the Bay's southwest coast in Panama City Beach. The proposed access points will service the northwest coast of the Bay, allowing access directly from Panama City and minimizing the need for vehicular travel (see enclosed map denoting existing FCSPT access points).

PROJECT: *Ben T. Davis Beach Improvements*

RECIPIENT: City of Tampa

FCMP FUNDS: \$60,000

ABSTRACT:

The City of Tampa was awarded funding for public access improvements at Ben T. Davis Beach, the most popular beach within the city. The City will purchase and install a rollout wooden walkway that is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and will improve access to the beach for persons using mobility devices, including wheelchairs, walkers, and others. The wooden walkway, which is environmentally friendly and made of teak/Ipe slats and connected by spacers and cord, does not get as hot as plastic mats, is longer lasting since it does not tear, and is a pervious surface that allows water to drain through it. The longevity of the rollout wooden walkway is expected to last more than 20 years. In addition, they will also purchase and install 4 ADA-compliant picnic tables.

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.