



**PASCO COUNTY RESTORE ACT
MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
GULF COAST RESTORATION TRUST FUND
February 19, 2015**



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INTRODUCTION

I. BACKGROUND

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon rig caught fire. Two days later, the rig sank and marked the beginning of an 87-day oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) that cost 11 lives and resulted in over 4 million barrels of oil being spilled into the Gulf. The disaster was the largest oil spill in U.S. History. The impact from this spill was not only felt in terms of a natural disaster, but also in economic impact to the five states that line the Gulf.

In July 2012, the President signed into law the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act. This unprecedented act directed 80 percent of the fines assessed under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to be redistributed among various Gulf Coast political entities. Designed to help them recover from the natural and economic impacts of the spill, it provides funding directly to them for various projects that qualify under the provisions set forth in the act. Funds from the act were split into five different funding streams.

In Florida, under the Direct Component (Pot 1) portion of the act, funds were to be made available to the 23 Gulf counties including Pasco County (35 percent of the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund [GCRTF]; 7% to each State). Funds are required to be utilized in accordance with the provisions of the act and therefore must fall within certain designated uses. Pasco County will receive 7.079% of the non-disproportionately affected funding. This allocation amounts to roughly \$991,060.00 for every 1 Billion Dollars in fines assessed under the CWA. The Transocean, Ltd. settlement resulted in roughly this amount being available to the County. Final interest amounts have not been provided to date.

Federal-level (Pot 2) projects under the RESTORE Act will be accomplished via the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (GCERC). 30% of the funding will go to the GCERC, which is comprised of 11 council members. Those members will select eligible projects to be completed within the 5 states. Selection of the first round of projects is currently being conducted by the council and results are expected in Summer 2015.

State-level funding in Florida (Pot 3) will be controlled and distributed by the Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC). The GCC will receive 5 percent of the RESTORE Act funds. The GCC is comprised of members from all 23 Gulf Coast Counties, including Pasco County. Currently, The Honorable Jack Mariano, County Commissioner (District 5), is our representative. The GCC currently meets several times a year, and is in the process of developing a State expenditure plan to determine how those funds are going to be distributed.

Pots 4 and 5 (2.5 percent each) will be used for research and monitoring through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Gulf Restoration Science Program and State Centers of Excellence.

Additional funding is anticipated upon conclusion of the BP CWA trial in New Orleans, Louisiana. Potential fine amounts range from 5 to 14 Billion Dollars. Once the trial is concluded this Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) will be modified appropriately.

II. MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (MYIP)

The RESTORE Act requires that all entities receiving Direct Component funds from the GCRTF meet certain conditions, including the requirement to "...develop and submit an MYIP for the use of such amounts, which may include milestones, projected completion of each activity, and a mechanism to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill..." Another condition of the RESTORE Act is that projects are "...selected based on meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations..." To meet these requirements on February 13, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) appointed a nine-member RESTORE Act Advisory Committee to review and recommend potential projects eligible for funding.

The U.S. Treasury rule implementing the RESTORE Act and GCRTF further described the required components of the MYIP. The MYIP must describe each program, project, and activity for which it seeks funding. For each program, project, and activity, the MYIP must include a description showing need, purpose, and objectives. It must also identify the eligible activity it will undertake and include the project location, budget, milestones, and projected completion dates. The MYIP must also specify the criteria to be used to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast region.

III. RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Pasco County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee (RAC) was formed by Resolution No. 13-111 on February 19, 2013, by the BCC. The RAC is composed of nine County resident members appointed by the BCC. Membership is comprised as follows:

- (a) One member from the County, being the Chairman of the BCC or designee.
- (b) One member recommended by the District School Board of Pasco County (DSBPC).
- (c) One member from a higher institution (college or university).
- (d) One member from the aquaculture or marine industries.
- (e) One member from the workforce development/job creation industry.
- (f) One member with experience in economic development efforts.
- (g) One member from the tourism industry.
- (h) One at-large citizen member who must possess an interest in one of the areas of allowed uses under RESTORE funds.
- (i) One member of the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

On June 25, 2013, the BCC signed Resolution No. 13-250, which modified the seat listed under (d) above to a member with experience in marine science, coastal ecology, or fisheries. All other provisions under Resolution No. 13-111 remained the same.

The RAC was specifically tasked to:

- (a) Recommend the establishment of an application and procedure for potential projects, programs, or activities to be funded by RESTORE Act funds.
- (b) Hold no less than 5 advertised public meetings to encourage and solicit broad-based citizen input on the potential projects, programs, and activities from individuals, businesses, and organizations.
- (c) Review and rank each proposed project, program, and activity, based upon the guidelines provided in the RESTORE Act; Federal rules; community and regional needs and desires; the best available science for natural resource protection or restoration projects or activities; and other relevant factors.
- (d) Provide monthly status reports to the BCC.
- (e) Prepare and present a ranked project and activity list to the BCC within 90 days after the U.S. Treasury Department has issued its final rules and regulations applicable to the act.

- (f) Track those projects, programs, and activities approved for funding; those referred to or funded from other potential sources; and those denied for funding.
- (g) Provide input and assistance to the County in developing and submitting an MYIP for the use of RESTORE Act funds, which shall include milestones, projected completion of each activity, and a mechanism to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the County.
- (h) Such other duties as assigned or determined by the BCC.

IV. COUNTY AND COMMITTEE ACTIONS TO DATE

The RAC first met on March 27, 2013. Initial efforts by the RAC were to develop a set of criteria that could be used to adequately evaluate the projects presented. The RESTORE Act requires that Direct Component funds may only be used to carry out specified eligible activities in the Gulf Coast Region, including:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- Implementation of a Federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill*.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Administrative costs of complying with this subsection.
- Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
- Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region.

Additionally, to receive funding from the Act, a funded project or program must be designed to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, or economy of the Gulf Coast. Also, in the case of a natural resource protection or restoration project, the project must be based on the best available science. "Best available science" is defined in the RESTORE Act as science that maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information, including statistical information; uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data; and clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific basis for such projects.

To adequately measure the applicability of a project, score sheets and scoring criteria were developed by County staff and approved by the RAC, using the objectives set forth in the act. They were approved for use by the BCC on January 28, 2014.

V. PROJECT SELECTION

All projects submitted for consideration of funding via the RESTORE Act were screened and scored using criteria specifically developed with the aforementioned criterion in mind.

Over 40 projects were presented to the RAC, which held 15 public meetings. Project presenters included County staff, the DSBPC, and the Cities of Port Richey and New Port Richey. Project presentations were completed on October 2, 2014. Committee members graded the projects and staff collated the results. On November 20, 2014, the results of the scoring for the projects were presented to the RAC. The RAC unanimously recommended to the BCC 3 projects for eligibility of Pot 1 Funding and the initial MYIP.

Those projects are:

SunWest Park Facilities	\$195,000.00
Orange Lake Restoration	\$100,000.00
Port Richey Waterfront Revitalization, Phase I	\$667,000.00

Projects were selected by the Committee that best meet the needs of the County. Natural resource restoration and economic stimulus were the driving factors in project selection.

Additionally, under the act, the County is allowed to recoup up to 3% of the award amount for administrative costs expended in the execution of the RESTORE Act. To date, the County has spent approximately \$154,000.00 in RESTORE efforts.

In July 2013, a County website was established to allow for public citizens to present projects, programs, and activities. That website is currently active as of the date of publication.

The BCC voted on January 13, 2015, to approve the RAC's recommendations and directed staff to prepare and publish the MYIP.

Additional meetings for the RAC will be held in the near future to determine the best use of funding anticipated from the BP trial. The public is encouraged to participate in the meetings to ensure that the funds are best used to make Pasco County a premier county. The County website will have the RESTORE meeting dates listed on the calendar. The County website also has a page dedicated to the RESTORE Act - an application process for submitting ideas and links to meeting minutes. A link to this MYIP will also be posted on that website.

Project descriptions, milestones, and criterion for measuring success are covered in more detail under Attachments A-C.

Comments or concerns over the projects, process, or about the MYIP being submitted can be addressed to Curtis Franklin, Environmental Lands Program Coordinator/Grant Writer, at cfranklin@pascocountyfl.net.

ATTACHMENT A - PORT RICHEY WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Port Richey has 25 manmade canals designed to carry boats to the Gulf. Over the years, the canals have collected silt and other debris, degrading the surface quality of the Pithlachascotee River and making navigation difficult. The City initiated preliminary engineering and obtained environmental permits over the last several years in an effort to improve the quality of the waterways and navigability.

To date, the City of Port Richey has completed feasibility studies, permitting, and preliminary designs for the dredging and environmental restoration of a series of 25 severely impacted water bodies and finger canals within the City limits. Environmental permitting efforts included coordination with various regulatory and commenting agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to successfully reduce mitigation requirements from a previously permitted 63-acre seagrass protection zone to a 0.78-acre fill and transplanting effort, which is estimated to save the city over \$1.5 Million Dollars in construction and monitoring costs.

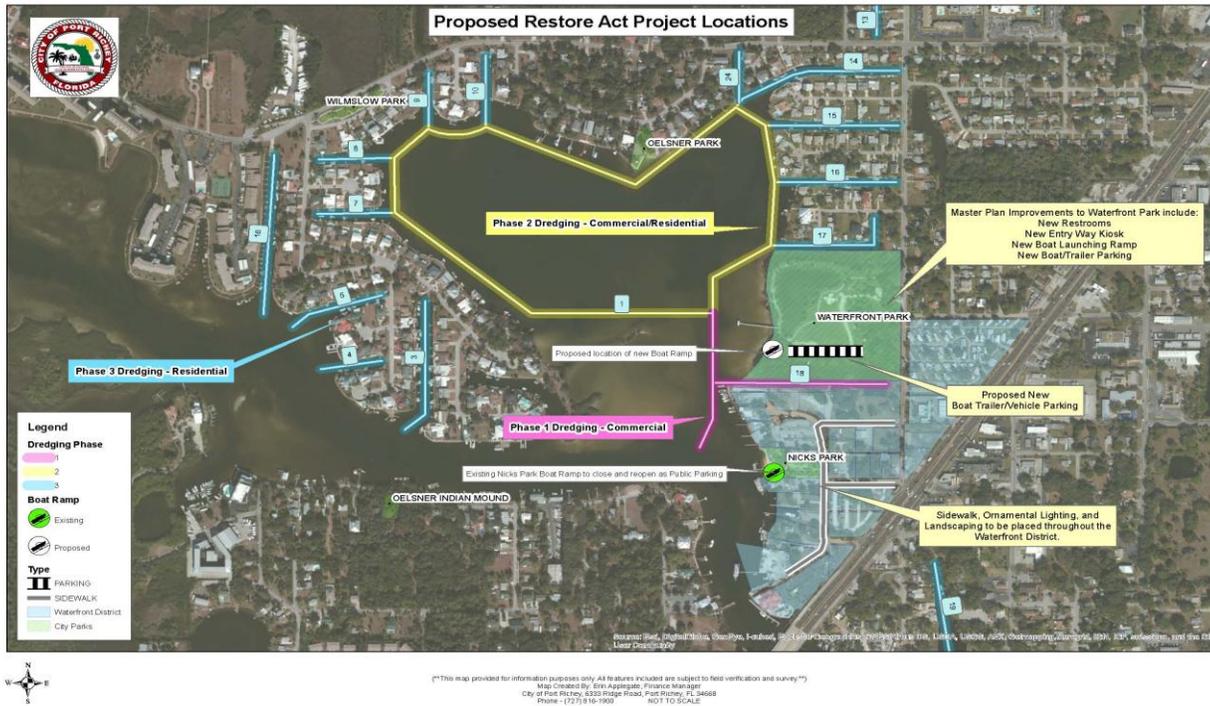
The City has authorization from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to dredge approximately 57,000 cubic yards from these water bodies to improve public access and water quality. Final engineering efforts include final dredging design, dredged material management engineering, support during formation of a special district, construction administration, and monitoring for permit compliance during and after construction.

Additionally, the City is proposing to relocate its boat ramp access to the Pithlachascotee River and Gulf from its current location at Nick's Park to the Port Richey Waterfront Park. The park is located on Millers Bayou less than one-quarter mile north of the current location of Nick's Park. The new ramp location would improve recreational boating access to the River and Gulf and accommodate additional vehicle and boat trailer parking at the waterfront park. Nick's Park could then be configured as a public parking area for cars only, keeping the riverfront picnic pavilions and dock facilities for public use and riverfront access.

The City of Port Richey is proposing to complete the project, including redevelopment of the waterfront district in three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Phase 1 has been designated the commercial part of the City's dredging initiative. The areas to be dredged include the common canal between Gill Dawg's Tiki Bar and Grill and Port Richey Waterfront Park, the proposed new boat ramp access in the park, and the canal leading to the Pithlachascotee River. The estimated cost of Phase 1 is **\$1,042,000.00**.
- **Phase 2:** Phase 2 includes commercial and residential access canals along the perimeter of Miller's Bayou. The estimated cost of Phase 2 is **\$1,618,000.00** (revised to include streetscaping costs).
- **Phase 3:** Phase 3 includes dredging of the residential access canals allowing access to Miller's Bayou and the Pithlachascotee River. The estimated cost of Phase 3 is **\$2,559,000.00**.

LOCATION



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Improve the water quality in the city's waterways and water entering Pithlachascotee River.
- Improve the habitats for fish and plant life in the city's waterways.
- Increase disbursement time of stormwater runoff.
- Increase tidal flow.
- Improve boat access for recreational and commercial purposes.

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

The City of Port Richey has 25 manmade canals designed to carry boats to the Gulf. Over the years, the canals have collected silt and other debris, degrading the surface quality of the Pithlachascotee River and making navigation difficult. The city initiated preliminary engineering and obtained environmental permits over the last several years in an effort to improve the quality of the waterways and navigability. The city's public boat ramp is located at Nick's Park, an area that is extremely congested with limited parking. Relocating the city's boat ramp to the waterfront park would be beneficial, as there is a larger area for vehicle and boat trailer parking. This would help to relieve the waterfront district of the noncommercial vehicular parking and congestion that currently exists.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the project is to dredge the canals that are located in the City of Port Richey's waterfront overlay district, improve the quality of the water in the City's waterways, support improved aquatic life, and to improve access to the waterways that will benefit recreational and commercial users.

BENEFITS

The project provides numerous benefits to include improved water quality, a more robust aquatic ecosystem, improved stormwater quality, and better access to the City's waterways for recreational and commercial purposes.

RESTORE OBJECTIVES

RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include environmental improvements, economic development, and tourism promotion. The project is located in the City's waterfront overlay district, which serves as the region's largest commercial waterfront. The city's free, public boat ramp and largest waterfront park are also located in the project area. Multiple events take place at the Port Richey Waterfront Park.

Environmental - Improved water quality, improved habitats for aquatic life, quicker disbursement of stormwater runoff, increased tidal flow.

Economic Development - improve conditions for recreational and commercial purposes, promote tourism.

Community Resilience - greater accessibility to water.

Education - educational signage about aquatic life and environmental conditions.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

Timeline	Proposed Date
Consultant Scope of Work Request Issued to Taylor Engineering	7/13/15
Consultant Notice to Proceed Issued to Taylor Engineering	10/1/15
30% Complete (Design) - Submit to City for Review	11/27/15
30% Complete (Design) - Revisions from City Review	12/11/15
Preapplication meeting(s) with FDEP and ACOE	12/18/15
Submit Environmental Resource Permits (FDEP and ACOE)	1/8/16
60% Complete (Design) - Submit to City for Review	1/8/16
60% Complete (Design) - Revisions from City Review	1/18/16
Required Permits Approved (FDEP and ACOE)	7/18/16
90% Complete (Design)- Submit to City for Review	8/15/16
90% Complete (Design) - Revisions from City Review	8/29/16
Submit Final Design	9/9/16
Construction Bid Package - Submit to City for Review	9/23/16
Construction Bid Package - Revisions from City Review	10/3/16
Bid Advertisement	10/7/16
Bid Tabulation and Award	11/21/16
Contractor Notice to Proceed	12/16/16

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT (CONT.)

Timeline	Proposed Date
Start Construction	12/30/16
Substantial Completion	6/26/17
Complete Construction	7/21/17
Construction Record Drawings Completion and Certifications	8/7/17
Signed and sealed as-builts by a professional engineer	8/7/17
Project Close-out and Contract Termination	8/18/17

FUNDING

Funding from this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Funding	\$ 667,000.00
City of Port Richey	<u>375,000.00</u>
Total	\$1,042,000.00

The City of Port Richey committed verbally to its portion of the funding and discussion is ongoing for method of completion. Additionally, the city plans to apply for Florida Boating Improvement Fund dollars through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to help pay for the construction of a new boat ramp at waterfront park that may help to ease the costs for the completion of the project.

To date, the City has expended approximately \$335,208.00 in feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, and obtaining permits to dredge the canals.

ATTACHMENT B - ORANGE LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

Orange Lake is a small body of water located in downtown New Port Richey, Florida. Orange Lake will be dredged to restore the lake to the greatest extent possible. During dredging, samples will be taken and spoils from the dredge will be removed and disposed of as necessary. Once the dredge is completed and deposited sediment is removed, aeration/diffusion devices will be installed to circulate dissolved oxygen at all levels of the lake. Littoral shelves will be constructed and planted around the perimeter of the lake to allow for vegetation to uptake excess nitrogen and phosphorous. A stormwater control gate will be installed to allow control of the lake level and to direct stormwater overflow as necessary to the Pithlachascotee River. It is important to note that the City of New Port Richey is exploring options to reroute the stormwater drain lines currently aligned to Orange Lake. The combined results of these efforts should result in restoring water quality. A boardwalk will also be constructed to allow the public better access to Orange Lake and provide for aesthetic views.

BACKGROUND

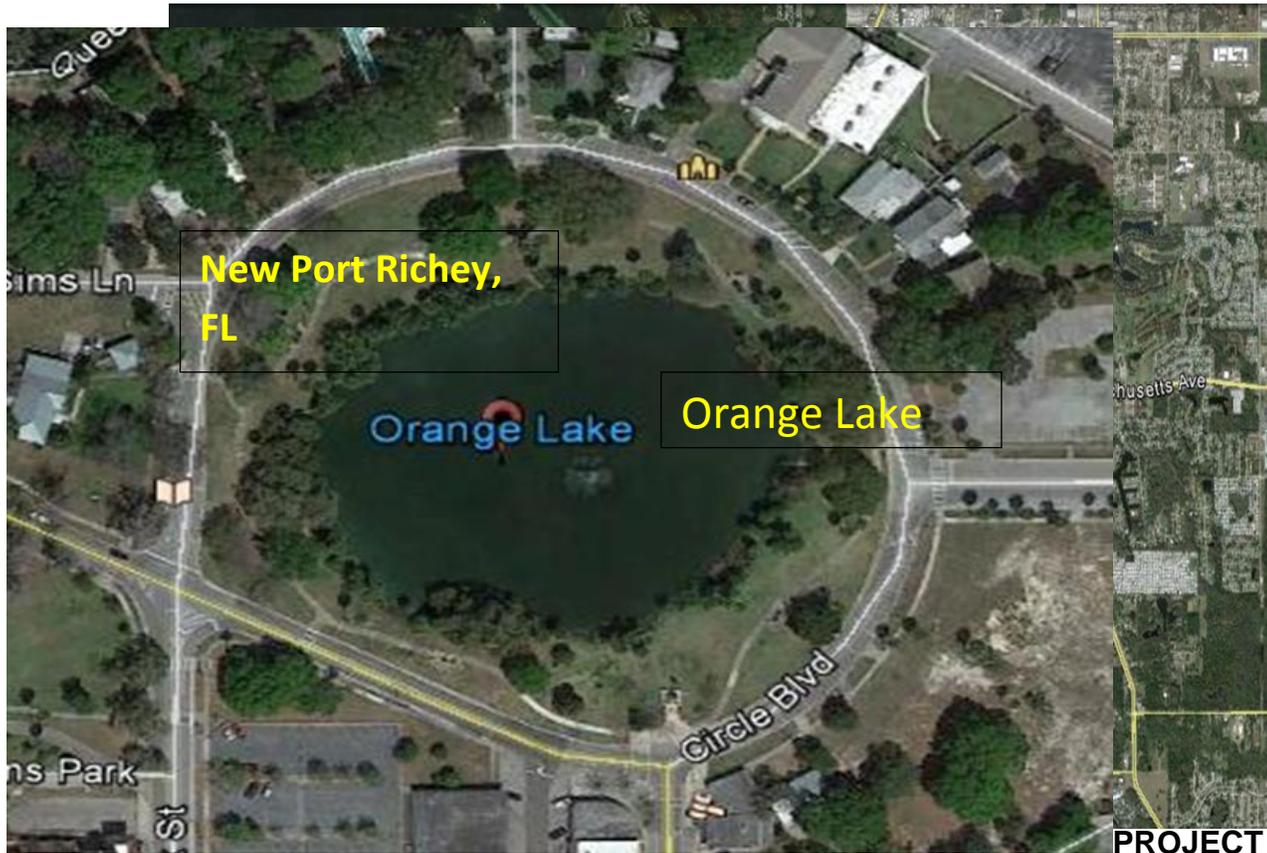
History of the area has shown that Orange Lake was once known as the Little Blue Sink and that water quality was extremely clear. As New Port Richey grew, stormwater was directed into the lake from the surrounding community. Sediments trapped in the stormwater accumulated, eventually plugging the connection to the aquifer. Contaminants within that stormwater further degraded the water quality contributing to the development of an anaerobic layer in the deeper portions of the sink that prevents life from surviving. After decades of stormwater input, the water quality and water clarity has significantly degraded over time.

Gaydos Hydro Services, LLC, was hired by the city to perform an analysis on Orange Lake in 2014, to determine what Orange Lake was, and if it could be restored to its former state. A site investigation, bathymetric study, water quality sampling, and some local hydrological research were conducted on the lake.

Orange Lake was determined to be a remnant sinkhole that is currently not connected to the Floridian Aquifer. Water samples show that the lake exceeds limits on phosphorus and nitrogen, most likely due to the untreated stormwater that is directed into the small lake. This makes Orange Lake a pollution contributor to the Pithlachascotee River as excess water is directed to the river. The Pithlachascotee River eventually empties into the Gulf.

LOCATION

Orange Lake is located in New Port Richey, Florida (82°43'11.49"W, 28°15'6.488"N).



OBJECTIVES

- Improve water quality of Orange Lake.
- Remove manmade contaminants that have deposited in the lake.
- Improve stormwater control of the lake and surrounding community.
- Improve water quality of water entering the Pithlachascotee River.
- Improve the level of aquatic life in the lake by providing aeration.
- Improve lakeside aesthetics for park users.

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

Orange Lake has had manmade deposition occurring from stormwater runoff for over 100 years. In order to restore the lake to its natural state, the lake will be dredged and the majority of the sedimentation removed. To assist the surrounding neighborhoods in stormwater control and help control future sediment deposition, slide gates will be used to control the level of the lake. Orange Lake studies revealed that the lake has an anaerobic layer approximately 9 feet down in the water column. Because of this, the ability to sustain aquatic life has been greatly reduced. In order to support life, oxygen levels will need to be greatly improved. Economically, the lake is in a high-use area, but the quality of the lake does not match the surrounding area.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the project is to restore the lakes water quality, improve the circulation of dissolved oxygen to support and increase aquatic life, and improve the aesthetic qualities of the lake for the benefit of the surrounding environment, community, and visitors. Improved stormwater control for the community around the lake is also desired.

BENEFITS

Improved water quality, a wider and more robust aquatic ecosystem, improved stormwater control, and lowered pollutant discharge into the nearby river are all benefits that this project provides.

RESTORE OBJECTIVES

RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include ecosystem restoration, economic development, and tourism promotion. The lake is located in close proximity to where several local community events are held annually. A walkway currently exists around the location to serve the public. Multiple events are held at a lakeside pavilion.

Environmental - Improved water quality, benthic and submersed habitats, and recreational activities in the lake and river.

Economic Development - Use of lake and development of watersports on river to promote tourism.

Community Resilience - Flood control.

Education - Educational signs along boardwalks regarding hydrology and the historic connection to the Floridan Aquifer, surface water, and stormwater inputs; nutrient cycles in the lake; and animal and vegetation identification.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

Timeline	Proposed Date
Consultant Notice to Proceed	10/1/15
Project Site Acquisition/Easement Acquisitions	N/A
Sampling Plan	11/6/15
Timeframe for Sampling	One Time per Week during Dredging
Data Analysis	One Week after Collection
30% Complete (Design)	11/6/15
60% Complete (Design)	12/11/15
90% Complete (Design)	12/30/15
Final Design	1/8/16
Preapplication Meeting(s)	1/22/16
Required Permits Approved	3/25/16
Operation and Maintenance Plan	3/25/16
Construction Bid Packages	3/25/16
Bid Advertisement, Tabulation, and Award	4/22/16
Contractor Notice to Proceed	4/29/16
Start Construction	5/16/16
Substantial Completion	10/21/16
Complete Construction	11/18/16
Construction Inspection Reports and Construction	12/2/16

Certification	
Construction Record Drawings, to include Resource Benefit Calculations and Methodology	12/2/16
Signed and Sealed by a Professional Engineer	12/2/16
Final Report	12/2/16
Project Close-out and Contract Termination	12/30/16

PROJECT SUCCESS CRITERIA

Upon completion of the project, water samples will be taken and analysis completed to determine the amount of improvement in the water quality. Water samples will also be taken at the discharge points of the Pithlachascotee River to determine if the discharge from stormwater overflow has been improved. Aeration studies will be completed at various levels in the lake to ensure that oxygen levels will support improved aquatic life. Littoral shelves planted will be monitored for growth and health.

FUNDING

Funding from this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Funding	\$100,000.00
City of New Port Richey	150,000.00
Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)	<u>150,000.00</u>
Total	\$400,000.00

The City of New Port Richey committed verbally to its portion of the funding and discussion is ongoing for method of completion. Discussions are also in progress with SWFWMD to secure funding. Should these funds fail to be secured, the County will reevaluate using RESTORE funds to pay for this project.

To date, the city has expended approximately \$501,910.00 in efforts to prevent contaminants from entering the lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Orange Lake will be dredged to restore the lake to the greatest extent possible. During dredging, samples will be taken and spoils from the dredge removed and disposed of as necessary. Once the dredge is completed and deposited sediment and stormwater runoff is removed, aeration devices will be installed to allow for dissolved oxygen at all levels of the lake. Littoral shelves will be constructed and planted around the perimeter of the lake to allow for vegetation to uptake excess nitrogen and phosphorous. A stormwater control gate will be installed to allow control of the lake level and to direct stormwater overflow as necessary to the Pithlachascotee River. It is important to note that the City of New Port Richey is exploring options to reroute the stormwater drain lines currently aligned to Orange Lake. The combined results of these efforts should result in restoring water quality. A boardwalk will also be constructed to allow the public better access to Orange Lake and provide for aesthetic views.

APPLICABLE SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

Stormwater runoff can become contaminated by automobiles, atmospheric deposition, chemicals used in homes and offices, erosion from construction sites, discharges from industrial plants, and wastes from pets. These contaminants include total suspended solids and volatile suspended solids; nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus; heavy metals, such as zinc, lead, chromium, nickel, copper, cadmium, and iron; and hydrocarbons, which are byproducts of petroleum products and bacteria¹.

¹ (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1999)

To achieve maximum pollutant removal, stormwater residuals and sediment solids must be periodically removed from the system. Dredging is one method to physically remove such sediments and stormwater residuals. Orange Lake is considered a wet pond since it is permanently filled with surface water and stormwater. Wet ponds will eventually accumulate enough sediment to significantly reduce the storage capacity of the permanent pool, affecting the appearance and the pollution removal efficiency¹, which is the case at Orange Lake. According to the Center for Watershed Protection, stormwater ponds require sediment clean-out every 15 to 25 years (Schuler and Yousef 1994)². Orange Lake has not had any sediment-removal activities to date.

There are several methods of dredging. For large basins, dragline or hydraulic dredge methods may be necessary. Mechanical dredging methods include dipper dredges, clamshell dredges, and bucket dredges, and are used in basins where hydraulic dredging is not warranted. In small, shallow ponds, the water level can be reduced to a point where the sediments can dry in place and be removed by mechanical construction equipment such as a front-end loader¹. For the Orange Lake Restoration Project, vacuum dredging or a similar method will be used.

The State of Florida (State) implemented best management practices (BMP) in the early 1980s, but the State does not have any regulation that requires dredging and removal of sediment periodically; currently, it has issued a guidance manual. The manual recommends testing all BMP sediments using the Toxicity Characteristics Leaching Procedure (TCLP), metals extraction, priority pollutant metals, nutrients, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and organochloride pesticides before disposal³. Landfills require the appropriate laboratory TCLP paperwork before accepting sediments and debris from dredge projects. All sediments will be tested and disposed of following all Federal and State regulations.

SWFWMD has recently funded several local projects that include dredging of sediment for water quality and restoration purposes. These projects include the dredging and sediment removal of Lake Panasoffkee in Sumter County, Lake Maggiore in Pinellas County, and the headsprings of the Homosassa Springs and the Chassahowitzka River in Pasco County. Draft results of the Chassahowitzka Headspring Restoration Feasibility Study have been submitted and report that the accumulation of fine sands, silts, and organic matter pose a risk of habitat degradation from accretion of organic sediments over productive sand bottoms. The project proposes the use of vacuum dredging to remove approximately 5,100 cubic yards of sediments to be dewatered and disposed. This equates to 1,650 tons of dry materials. With the dredging and removal of these sediments, the project is anticipated to significantly reduce the nutrient and bacteria levels as well as improve navigation. Overall, the project benefit is reported to improve water quality in one of Florida's outstanding waters of the State⁴.

MEASURE OF PROJECT SUCCESS

The primary goal of this project is to improve water quality of the lake. Project success will be measured by water sample analysis, to include clarity, conductivity, turbidity, pH, nutrients, and other factors. Oxygen concentrations at various depths will also be measured to determine successful implementation of the aeration system.

² (Schueler, Summer 1994)

³ (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2015)

⁴ (BCI and SWFWMD, 2009)

ATTACHMENT C - SUNWEST PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The SunWest Park Project, located in Hudson, Florida, consists of developing an abandoned quarry pit into a premier county park and tourist attraction. The manmade, 60-acre lake will be developed to allow residents and visitors alike a place with beaches, sporting events, and on-site attractions. A boardwalk around the lake will bring residents closer to nature as they tour nearby wetlands. Multiple amenities will be available to the public such as watersports, sand volleyball, sand soccer, and a splash pad. Local concerts will also be arranged at the venue. The County is teaming with a nearby developer to put a wakeboard facility in at the lake. This project is designed to not only allow the residents and visitors to Pasco County a new and modern park, but to provide the local area with a boost in economic income.

BACKGROUND

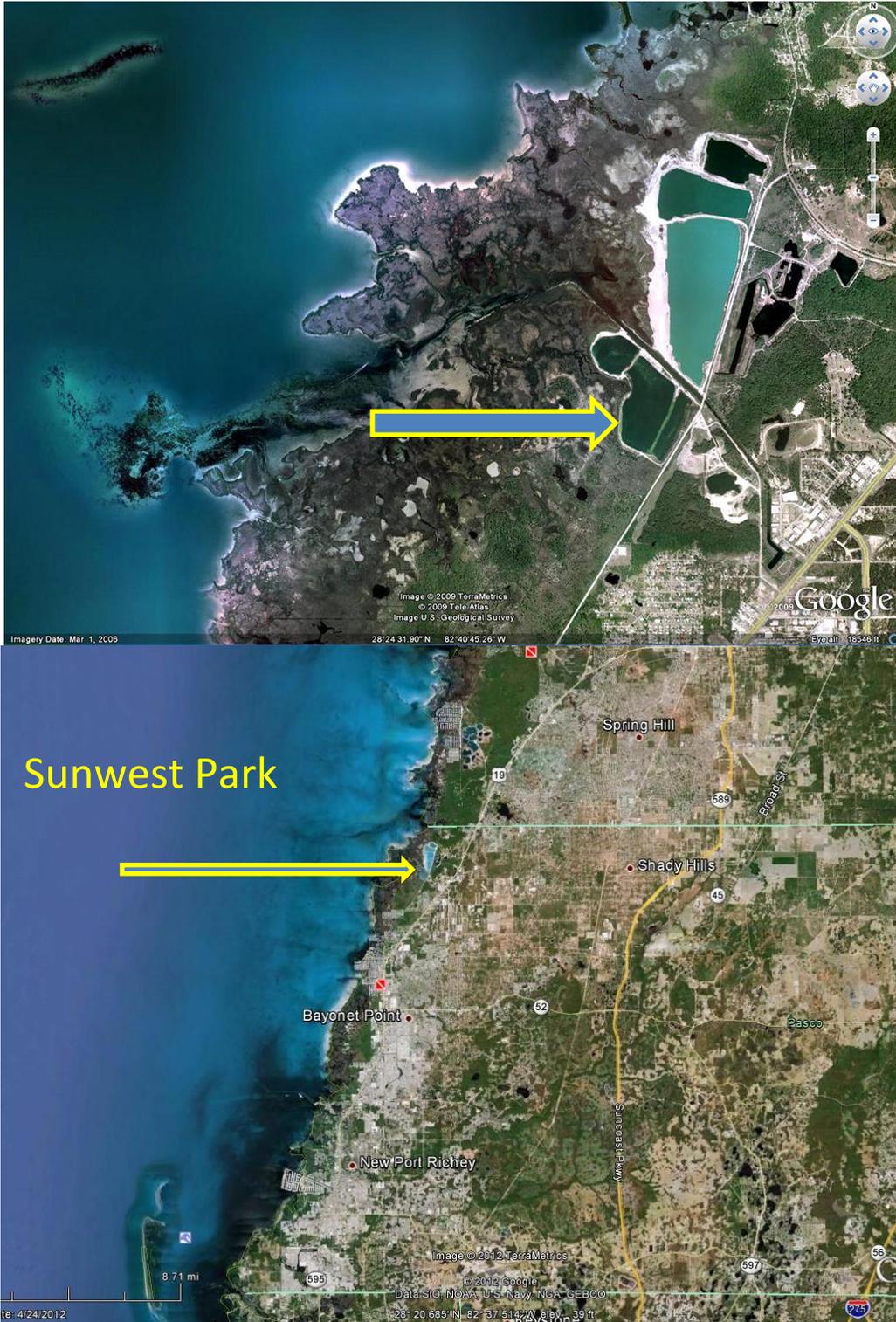
Located near Fillman's Bayou in Hudson, Florida, the SunWest Mine is an operational limestone quarry located in the northwest corner of the County. Originally an abandoned portion of the nearby mine, the County negotiated with SWFWMD and the owners to reutilize the abandoned quarry pit into a functional park.

In 2014, funding for the development of the park was secured and development of Phase 1 began. The County has invested approximately 3.7 Million Dollars into the park development. Construction on the first phase is expected to be completed around April 1, 2015. Current construction consists of grading of the beach areas, redevelopment of the access road, installation of a bathroom facility at the southern end, limited parking facilities, installation of a cofferdam at the shallow water border for safety and to keep sand loss at a minimum, and basic facilities.

Once basic construction is finished, a private developer will install a boat-free wakeboard tow facility in the lake and will maintain the parks amenities.

LOCATION

SunWest Park is located in Hudson, Florida (28°24'22.6944"N, 82°40'26.7348"W).



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Repurpose an abandoned quarry to a park useable by residents and visitors.
- Provide a modern park with multiple amenities.
- Improve tourism to the area, particularly sports-related tourism.
- Promote local, State, National, and International sporting events in the County.
- Improve the economic value of the surrounding community.

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

SunWest Park has funding for construction of Phase 1, but is unfunded for Phase 2. These additional amenities are necessary to complete the project. Additional amenities include an expanded parking area, northern restroom facility, splash pad area and playground, a boardwalk around the lake with appropriate wildlife signage, park signage and pay stations, a spectator pier, and television tower. These additional amenities will set SunWest Park ahead of the standard park expectations.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose is to provide the additional amenities for the park to make it truly one-of-a-kind. Additional boardwalk improvements will allow the public to see and experience wetland areas and likely will be used by bird enthusiasts, given the nature and location. Sporting events in the park will be fully supported with the amenities necessary to draw in larger events. This in turn will boost tourist revenue for the surrounding area.

BENEFITS

Parking will be suitable to support sporting events held at the park, and restroom facilities will be adequate to support normal use. A boardwalk allowing greater access to the nearby nature areas will result in better ecotourism and awareness. Support facilities will be sufficient for the ultimate intended use of the park and support growth. Increased tourism from the park will support the local economy. An abandoned quarry pit will be turned into a functioning park available for use by the public.

RESTORE APPLICABILITY

RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include economic development and tourism promotion.

Economic Development - events held at the park will result in increased usage of the area and a boost in the economy. Local citizens will benefit from a modern park with a large variety of amenities.

Tourism Promotion - Sporting events are planned for the area that cover a large range of scope in size. An international volleyball tour as well as college-level matches will be able to be held there.

Education - Educational signage will be included along the boardwalks.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

EVENT	TIMEFRAME	START	END
Phase 2 Construction (North Restroom)	119 days	4/15/15	9/28/15
Securing Funding	43 days	4/15/15	6/12/15
FDEP-CC-Pasco Preconstruction Meeting	1 day	6/15/15	6/15/15
Notice to Proceed	5 days	6/16/15	6/20/15
Construction Start	1 day	6/23/15	6/23/15
Construction Process	60 days	6/23/15	9/14/15
Inspect and Punch Out	5 days	9/15/15	9/21/15
Final Cleanup and Owner Inspection	5 days	9/22/15	9/28/15

EVENT	TIMEFRAME	START	END
Phase 2 Construction (North Parking, Splash Pad, North Sidewalks, Trails, TV/Spectator View Tower)	80 days	4/15/15	9/28/15
Notice to Proceed	5 days	6/16/15	6/20/15
Construction Start	1 day	6/23/15	6/23/15
Construction Process	64 days	6/24/15	9/21/15
Inspect and Punch Out	5 days	9/22/15	9/28/15
Final Cleanup and Owner Inspection	5 days	9/29/15	10/05/15

PROJECT SUCCESS CRITERIA

A post inspection by the County will be conducted to ensure that the facilities added are adequate and per the contractual descriptions. Attendance at the park will be taken to determine the amount of success that the County has with bringing in events and providing services to residents and guests alike.

FUNDING

Funding from this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE funding

\$195,000.00

To date, the County has invested over 4 Million Dollars into the park design and initial construction. This additional funding will not be sufficient to complete all the amenities and upgrades desired by the County. However, the park will be a functional one that can support a wide array of entertainment and park services such as beaches; a 230-parking space area; security lightning; landscaping; south beach sidewalk; picnic shelters; 10 barbecue grills; sporting events including beach volleyball tournaments (designed for 40 volleyball courts); and fishing opportunities.

APPLICABLE SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS

Not Applicable for this Project

REFERENCES

- BCI and SWFWMD. (2009). BCI Project No. 03-13653.7. *Chassahowitzka Headsprings Restoration Feasibility Study*.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us>.
- Schueler, T. and. Yousef, Y.L. (Summer 1994). Pollutant Dynamics of Pond Muck. *Watershed Protection Techniques, Volume 1, No. 2*.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1999, September). *Stormwater O & M Fact Sheet, EPA Document No. EPA 832-F-99-015*.