

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY2014 COOPERATIVE FUNDING INITIATIVE APPLICATION FORM

Project Name South Venice Waterway Restoration
Project Number N565
Cooperator Sarasota County
Department Environmental Services
Contact Person Deb Banks
Address 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.
City State Zip Sarasota, FL 34240
Phone # 941-861-0660
Email dbanks@scgov.net

Project Type:

☐ Water Supply
 ☒ Water Quality
 ☐ Flood Protection
 ☒ Natural Systems

Strategic Initiatives:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Reclaimed Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Water Supply Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Flood Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum Flows and Level Establishment and Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum Flows and Levels Recovery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Systems Conservation and Restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Systems Identification and Monitoring

Indicate All Counties to Benefit From Project:

<input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte	<input type="checkbox"/> Citrus	<input type="checkbox"/> Desoto	<input type="checkbox"/> Hardee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hernando	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Hillsborough	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake
<input type="checkbox"/> Levy	<input type="checkbox"/> Manatee	<input type="checkbox"/> Marion	<input type="checkbox"/> Pasco	<input type="checkbox"/> Pinellas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarasota	<input type="checkbox"/> Sumter	<input type="checkbox"/> Polk

Project Description:

In October 2011, the County Commission awarded \$313,000.00, CIP #83132309, for neighborhood initiative projects within the South Venice Community, which will match this grant request. The Community overwhelmingly advocated for water quality improvement projects and in July 2012, the County Commission approved allocating the \$313,000 funding for the South Venice Community water quality improvement project in coordination with County staff. This County-Community collaboration project will improve water quality, habitat, and biodiversity within several waterways and ponds in the South Venice area, which constitutes much of the upper Lemon Bay watershed. Recent success by South Venice volunteer residents in restoring the Siesta Waterway highlights a new in-stream healing process that could reinvent waterway management within Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida region. Restoration activities conducted in the waterway will raise dissolved oxygen to healthy levels, dramatically increasing both flora and fauna within this aquatic system. These efforts by the South Venice community involved manually relocating accumulated bottom muck to re-condition the sandy bank soils to support Florida Friendly groundcovers. In addition to restoring biology, this technique has the potential to provide more sustainable and cost-effective waterway management than current techniques. Building on the Siesta Waterway successes, this project will use similar restorative techniques on other public ponds and waterways in the South Venice community to naturalize shorelines, improve water quality, and increase habitat sustainability and biodiversity. Water quality and biological monitoring will be conducted by South Venice residents, Sierra Club Water Sentinels, Mote Marine and County staff to document conditions before, during and after restoration activities. This project is intended to provide an alternative approach to waterway management.

Describe your organizations efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation and flood protection ordinances.

Sarasota County has extensive experience in providing public education on conservation through our website, exhibits, workshops, speaking engagements, brochures and incentive programs. The county was awarded the James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence by the State Floodplain Managers Association and FEMA in 2002. We are a Community Technical Partner (CTP) with FEMA and have entered into a 3-way Mapping Agreement Statement (MAS) with FEMA and SWFWMD for the conversion of the county's digital floodplain maps and studies to Digital-Flood Insurance Rate Maps (D-FIRMs). The county received the Florida Stormwater Association's 2008 Excellence Award for having the best Stormwater Utility Program in Florida. This prestigious award concentrates on four major areas: Flood Protection, Water Quality, Operations & Maintenance, and the Capital Improvement Program. As a participant in FEMA's Community Rating System we hold a Class 5 rating. A Land Development Ordinance is in place to further the objectives of floodplain management requiring all new development have stormwater management systems and finished floor elevations designed at one foot or above the 100-year flood elevation. Developments are required to demonstrate that they will not result in adverse increases in off-site flood stages within the appropriate county watershed model. The Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance won a statewide award for innovation. Irrigation restrictions allow for once-a-week irrigation. Developers are required to install reuse lines throughout any new developments if a reuse system exists within 150 feet of any property line of a subdivision or residential lot.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2013 Budget	FY2014 Budget	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share		13,000	300,000		313,000

Manasota		300,000	300,000
Total	13,000	600,000	613,000

Matching Fund Reduction

☐ Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

Timelines

South Venice Waterway Restoration

Milestone	Projected Date
Start Water Quality and Biological Monitoring	10/31/2012
Start Waterway and Pond Design	10/01/2013
Start Waterway Pond Restoration	01/01/2014
End Waterway and Pond Design	01/31/2014
End Water Quality and Biological Monitoring	10/31/2014
End Waterway and Pond Restoration	10/31/2014