

FINAL REPORT - LANDINGS SOUTH 2 GRANT

Contact information

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Introductory Comments

Landings South 2 (LS2) is one of a dozen or more homeowners associations in The Landings, a community of about 2,000 people. There are nine lakes in The Landings, some of them interconnected. LS2 has one lake, about 1-½ acres in size and about 10 feet deep.

LS2 consists of 18 residential villas. Some units are rented or unoccupied, so there are currently only 26 residents, most of whom are seasonal. Of the 26 residents, 11 agreed to help with the pond restoration project if they were here on “planting day”. However, we cancelled plans to utilize volunteer help because of an alligator in the lake.

Our community newspaper, The Landings Eagle, does not publish during the summer months, partly because so few people are here during May - September. The editor of the newspaper has reserved space in the October issue for an article about our pond restoration and the SWIFTMUD grant program. After the article is published internally, we will also seek to have it published in the “Neighborhoods” section of the Herald Tribune and/or another local publication with a broad local readership.

We will video-tape the LS2 Lake Ecology Workshop to be presented on May 22 by Russ Hoffman and Rob Wright. Most opinion leaders in The Landings have been invited to that workshop. The video-tape will be used to share the workshop with LS2 residents and other

interested people who were not available on May 22. Our hope is to encourage other associations in The Landings that have lakes to emulate what LS2 is doing.

***IMPORTANT:** This "Final Report" was prepared on May 18, 2008 and edited on May 23.. It is worded as though project elements that will be completed in the Fall of 2008 have already been accomplished: i.e. newspaper articles, video-tape showings, etc.*

Project information

Which Basin will your project effect?

The Manasota Basin and the Sarasota Bay Watershed.

Which category best describes your project? (List all that apply)

Educational workshop(s)

Watershed clean-up/restoration

Media Campaign

Community your project reached?

Number of persons project reached (directly): 2,000, including Landings residents and visitors (via Landings Eagle newspaper articles and past/future community meetings)

Number of persons project reached (indirectly): 10,000 + Southern Sarasota County newspaper readers (assuming a submitted article is published)

Number of people who volunteered: 11 of 26 LS2 residents (note that some residents are physically unable to help)

Number of hours volunteered worked: Zero due to an alligator in the lake and a steep, potentially dangerous shoreline.

Project start date: May 22 2008 is the date of "Planting and Education Day". Preliminary work on the project started many months earlier.

Project completion date: May 22, 2008 (but with new projects expected).

Final Report Questions

1. Describe your project in 50 words or less.

The LS2 pond and an adjacent pond in Landings South 1 are connected by a large underground conduit. Water quality in the two ponds directly affects water quality in Robert's Bay because they connect to the intercostal waterway near Phillipi Creek by an overflow structure. Only about 200 ft. separates the shore of the Westerly pond from the large wetland bordering the intercostal waterway on the Gulf side of The Landings. By planting hundreds of aquatic plants, we will reduce erosion and provide biological filtration in the LS2 pond, thereby improving water quality. This is in tandem with changing mowing and fertilization practices. If 2009 grant money is available we would like to restore the LS1 pond as well. Restoration of the ponds should have a beneficial effect on the health of Robert's Bay.

2. Provide a succinct list of project accomplishments.

Stabilized the LS2 ponds banks by planting shoreline vegetation and discontinuing weed-whacking of the area of grass between the waters edge and the top of the ponds bank.

Improved water quality through use of biological filters and strict adherence to Sarasota Counties Fertilizer and Landscape Management Code.

Educated The Landings Community, as well as others in Southern Sarasota County, about the principles of watershed ecology and the importance of protecting our watershed.

Stimulated interest in pond restoration on the part of the eight other associations within The Landings that own ponds.

Greatly improved the LS2 pond as a habitat for water birds, insects, amphibians and fish.

3. What three most important things did those who participated in your project learn?

The reasons why it is important to adhere to Sarasota Counties Fertilizer and Landscape Management Code.

What individual Landings residents, as members of a property owners association, can do to have a meaningful impact on the health of the Sarasota Bay Watershed.

That county resources that are available to help with worthwhile watershed improvement projects (and also how to access that help).

4. What materials did you use to provide the people participating in your project with a learning experience?

(a) "Living On The Waters Edge" (b) Sarasota County "Fertilizer & Landscape Management Code". (c) Lake ecology questions and answers used by Rob Wright in our educational workshop. (d) A publication entitled "Green Lawns, Blue Ponds". (e) Until my supply ran out, residents were provided with photos of some of the plants to be utilized.

5. What activities did participants in your project complete?

All LS2 residents, plus many others, were invited to a workshop presented by Russ Hoffman and Rob Wright on May 22. Also, most residents who were in Sarasota on May 22nd viewed the planting activities ... some asked the workers questions. One resident also helped with obtaining a sample of pond water and delivering it to a North Port lab for baseline testing.

6. What impact has your project had on the local environment and your community?

For the most part, the impact of our project will occur in 2009 and beyond. The immediate impact has been to greatly raise the level of interest in upgrading Landings ponds and adhering to sound fertilization and grass mowing practices. My expectation is that one or more additional Landings associations will be seeking grants to emulate what LS2 has done. Over the next several years, we expect to see improved water quality and wildlife density in the LS2 pond and other ponds upgraded per our example. We are hopeful that by heightening environmental awareness among Landings residents we will see greater grass roots support for another major Landings initiative. This initiative involves the complete restoration of an almost eight acre parcel of undeveloped property in the heart of The Landings (the "Eagles Nest Area")

Share your comments with us

I will share comments (all positive) upon returning to Sarasota in July or August, 2008