

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>Project Deadline</i>	<i>Organization & Applicant</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Expected Match</i>
Myakka River Management Coordinating Council (MRMCC) Website	12/1/24	9/1/25	Myakka River Management Coordinating Council, Chris Oliver	Support the domain registration and hosting of above which is an educational resource about the watershed and supports the CHNEP mission.	\$220	In kind staff time
Citizen's Pond Survey	12/1/24	9/1/25	Lee County Hyacinth Control District / Pond Watch Program, Ernesto Lasso de la Vega	Improving a survey tool to evaluate and collect data of storm water pond by Pond Watch volunteers and citizens in Florida.	\$1,000	\$500 (+in kind staff time)
Wildlife Conservation and Protection in Audubon Certified Community	12/1/24	9/1/25	Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club, Michael Barbour	Removal of invasive plants and the installation of a microforest. The microforest is a process following the Miyawaki procedure and involves Florida-friendly plants in a dense configuration to include ground cover, sub-canopy, and canopy plant species to attract a bird diversity and other wildlife to our community. The location is a 5,000 linear ft distance along the boundaries of Heritage Oaks and Sarasota County property with a public sidewalk.	\$9,500	\$98.667



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2025

Instructions: The CHNEP provides Conservation Grants (up to \$9,999) to community organizations for projects that address clean water, wildlife habitat protection and restoration, and outreach priorities in the CHNEP area, as outlined in our Strategic Plan, the [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#). Before applying, please read through specifications outlined in this cover sheet.

Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding from other sources will receive special consideration. Preference will also be given to projects in communities that have been historically underserved by CHNEP grants as well as new applicant and projects.

Please read the following restrictions regarding eligibility carefully. The CHNEP does **NOT** fund:

- Events or services for which there is an admission fee or charge; CHNEP will consider providing support for scholarships to allow participation by those who would not otherwise be able to attend;
- Restoration or improvements on private property;
- Projects that personally benefit the applicant;
- Political action or legislative advocacy;
- Fundraising activities;
- Projects completed prior to the award of the grant;
- Items that will be sold by the grant recipient;
- Reprinting of existing material unless part of a larger educational program;
- Capital improvement or endowment funds, or usual operating costs;
- Conference registrations and travel;
- Gift cards or certificates, and;
- Any activities related to permitting.

We encourage requests for funding in the \$500 to \$9,999 range. All funding is reimbursement based; no funding will be fronted for the project.

The timeline for Fiscal Year 2025 is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. See upcoming deadlines below. Projects for FY25 should conclude by or before September 1, 2025.

Reimbursement for Conservation Grants are based on 'Deliverables' or 'Outcomes' provided through the project, rather than cost receipts. Deliverables will include a final report that includes photos, metrics for measuring success, etc. which will be reviewed and approved by CHNEP staff to ensure they meet the specifications provided through the initial application. Reimbursement can be requested as soon as the project is complete and all required deliverables are received and approved.

Once your application is received, it will be evaluated based on the information provided. CHNEP staff will notify you via e-mail once the application is received and will contact you again regarding the status of your application and/or award notification.

- **Winter Deadline is December 1, 2024 for a January 2025 award notice**

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

Contact Information

Project Title	Myakka River Management Coordinating Council (MRMCC) Website
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Support the domain registration and hosting of above which is an educational resource about the watershed and supports the CHNEP mission.
Contact Name and Title	James 'Chris' Oliver
Street Address	11843 S. Tamiami Trail
City, State, ZIP Code	Osprey, FL 34229
Phone	(941) 882 7206
E-Mail Address	James.oliver@dep.state.fl.us
Organization Name	MRMCC
Web address	myakkarivermanagement.org
Amount requested	\$220.00
Total Cost of Project	\$220.00
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Otter Water Webs/ Steven P. Brookman (W-9 should be on file).

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 2024: Yes No

Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Yes (please describe below) No

Date	Project Description	Award Amount
FY24	MRMCC WEBSITE	\$220.00
FY23	MRMCC WEBSITE	\$220.00
FY22	MRMCC WEBSITE	\$220.00
FY21	MRMCC WEBSITE	\$220.00
FY20	MRMCC WEBSITE	\$220.00

Link to CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Check **ALL** the appropriate descriptions of how the project benefits the CHNEP in efforts to further the CCMP. You are welcome to mention other project benefits here. Visit the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants> to learn more.

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters
- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship

Provides benefits to an underserved area/population as identified in the [CHNEP Equity Strategy](#) (specifically Figures 3 and 5 that map out disadvantaged communities in the CHNEP area)

Other (please state) _____

Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Myakka River | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River | <input type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay |

Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website | <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____ |

Attachments included in submission email with application

- Please attach a one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- Please attach a Project Timeline

Project description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Click or tap here to enter text .

Project results (outcome)

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? such as: "500 students will understand how stormwater ponds work, more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants", etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected

The total cost for 12 months of support for the MRMCC website is \$220.00. The MRMCC was established in 1985 by the Myakka River Wild and Scenic Designation and Preservation Act to provide inter-agency and intergovernmental coordination in the management of the Myakka River. The MRMCC reviews and make recommendations on all proposals for amendments to the Designation Act, the Myakka Wild and Scenic River (MWSR) Management Plan, and the Myakka river Wild and Scenic River Rule (Chapter 62D-15), as well as other matters which may be brought before the Council by the Department, any local government, or any member of the Council. The Council can then render its non-binding advisory opinion to the SWFWMD, FDEP, and affected local governments. This project would support the continuation of the MRMCC website to provide citizens, as well as the Council members with meeting minutes, Council archives, current Council member list, and other important watershed updates. Otter Water Web is responsible for the current hosting of the MRMCC website and updates are made by Otter Water Web upon request from the Myakka River Management Office. Payment of an invoice from Otter Water Web would be sent directly to the company. No other financial support is necessary.

Project products (outputs/deliverables)

A Final Report will be included in the 'Deliverables' for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project. These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so.

It is expected that many staff from state and local agencies, NGOs, HOAs, and citizens will visit myakkarivermanagement.org to acquire information that may help them to be more informed about the Myakka River Watershed and water issues more generally. Ideally this information can assist MRMCC members and other citizens in the process of making the best management decisions for the watershed and other resources. The upcoming cycle, we can assume, will be similar to previous website visitation patterns.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

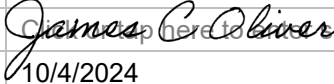
Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
Annual website domain	Domain registration	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Hosting and website management	Server space and management of site	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$195.00
TOTAL		\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00

*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

**Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2023, volunteer hours are valued at \\$33.49.](#)

Agreement and Signature

- By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. If a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to acknowledge CHNEP in any media related to my project, and include CHNEP logo on any signage, publications, social media posts etc. Additionally, if awarded, I will be asked to provide image/photo files that I have taken or that I have written permission to use (high resolution preferred). These photos will be credited to the organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2025.

Name (printed)	James Chris Oliver
Signature	 Copy here to signature.
Date	10/4/2024

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on December 1, 2024. Please include a copy of W-9 and 501c3 if applicable, with submission.

Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2025

Instructions: The CHNEP provides Conservation Grants (up to \$9,999) to community organizations for projects that address clean water, wildlife habitat protection and restoration, and outreach priorities in the CHNEP area, as outlined in our Strategic Plan, the [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#). Before applying, please read through specifications outlined in this cover sheet.

Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding from other sources will receive special consideration. Preference will also be given to projects in communities that have been historically underserved by CHNEP grants as well as new applicant and projects.

Please read the following restrictions regarding eligibility carefully. The CHNEP does **NOT** fund:

- Events or services for which there is an admission fee or charge; CHNEP will consider providing support for scholarships to allow participation by those who would not otherwise be able to attend;
- Restoration or improvements on private property;
- Projects that personally benefit the applicant;
- Political action or legislative advocacy;
- Fundraising activities;
- Projects completed prior to the award of the grant;
- Items that will be sold by the grant recipient;
- Reprinting of existing material unless part of a larger educational program;
- Capital improvement or endowment funds, or usual operating costs;
- Conference registrations and travel;
- Gift cards or certificates, and;
- Any activities related to permitting.

We encourage requests for funding in the \$500 to \$9,999 range. All funding is reimbursement based; no funding will be fronted for the project.

The timeline for Fiscal Year 2025 is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. See upcoming deadlines below. Projects for FY25 should conclude by or before September 1, 2025.

Reimbursement for Conservation Grants are based on 'Deliverables' or 'Outcomes' provided through the project, rather than cost receipts. Deliverables will include a final report that includes photos, metrics for measuring success, etc. which will be reviewed and approved by CHNEP staff to ensure they meet the specifications provided through the initial application. Reimbursement can be requested as soon as the project is complete and all required deliverables are received and approved.

Once your application is received, it will be evaluated based on the information provided. CHNEP staff will notify you via e-mail once the application is received and will contact you again regarding the status of your application and/or award notification.

- **Winter Deadline is December 1, 2024 for a January 2025 award notice**

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

Contact Information

Project Title	Citizen's Pond Survey
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Improving a survey tool to evaluate and collect data of storm water pond by Pond Watch volunteers and citizens in Florida
Contact Name and Title	Ernesto Lasso de la Vega
Street Address	15191 Homestead Rd.
City, State, ZIP Code	Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
Phone	239-694-2174
E-Mail Address	lassodelavega@lchcd.org
Organization Name	Lee County Hyacinth Control District
Web address	www.lchcd.org
Amount requested	\$1000
Total Cost of Project	\$1500
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Lee County Hyacinth Control District

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 2025: Yes No

Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Yes (please describe below) No

Date	Project Description	Award Amount
8/10/2018	Pond Watch Annual Workshop water sampling coolers	670
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description.	Click or tap here to enter amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

Link to CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Check **ALL** the appropriate descriptions of how the project benefits the CHNEP in efforts to further the CCMP. You are welcome to mention other project benefits here. Visit the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants> to learn more.

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters
- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Provides benefits to an underserved area/population as identified in the [CHNEP Equity Strategy](#) (specifically Figures 3 and 5 that map out disadvantaged communities in the CHNEP area)
- Other (please state) __Provide a survey tool to other monitoring organizations_____

Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myakka River | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay |

Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website | <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)_____ |

Attachments included in submission email with application

- Please attach a one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- Please attach a Project Timeline

Project description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Who: Lee County Hyacinth Control District / Pond Watch Program

What: Citizen's Pond Survey

Where: In Lee County and all counties in the state of Florida through Water Atlas

When: January 2025 the tool should be ready to be use.

Project results (outcome)

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? such as: "500 students will understand how

stormwater ponds work, more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants”, etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected

Volunteers currently face difficulties in documenting pond conditions in the field using paper-based methods, which can lead to incomplete data collection. A prototype tool was developed by a volunteer group, however; the current prototype survey tool is too specific to the needs of its creators and has not been validated for use by the wider volunteer base.

We will adapt and refine the existing volunteer-created survey tool to be more user-friendly and applicable to a broader audience. This will not only benefit our volunteers but may also serve as a valuable tool to other pond and lake monitoring programs across the state.

Project products (outputs/deliverables)

A Final Report will be included in the ‘Deliverables’ for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project. These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
<i>LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted</i>	<i>WQ Testing Results Report</i>	<i>\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)</i>	<i>\$300 (\$29.95/hr.** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)</i>	<i>\$900</i>
Deliverable #1 – Survey Tool for Pond Watch volunteers	Development of a Survey Tool	\$1000 to cover 40hrs of development, testing and implementation of the tool.	\$500 (20hrs) of supervision by Pond Watch Coordinator	\$1500
Deliverable #2 – Final Report	Final product will include instructional video and publication on the CHNEP Water Atlas	\$0	\$0	\$
TOTAL		\$1000	\$500	\$1500

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*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

**Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2023, volunteer hours are valued at \\$33.49.](#)

Agreement and Signature

- By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. If a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to acknowledge CHNEP in any media related to my project, and include CHNEP logo on any signage, publications, social media posts etc. Additionally, if awarded, I will be asked to provide image/photo files that I have taken or that I have written permission to use (high resolution preferred). These photos will be credited to the organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2025.

Name (printed)	Ernesto Lasso de la Vega
Signature	<i>Ernesto Lasso de la Vega</i>
Date	9/20/2024

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on December 1, 2024. Please include a copy of W-9 and 501c3 if applicable, with submission.

Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY 2025

Who: Lee County Hyacinth Control District / Pond Watch Program

What: Citizen's Pond Survey

Where: In Lee County and all counties in the state of Florida through Water Atlas

When: January 2025 the tool should be ready to be use.

Project Lead Resume

Dr. Ernesto Lasso de la Vega is coordinator of the volunteer monitoring program Pond Watch of the Lee County Hyacinth Control District. The program was created in 1993 to educate, guide and help citizens of Lee County in the management of storm water ponds. Dr. Lasso de la Vega is a biologist with 35 yrs of experience working on the water quality laboratory, managing storm water ponds and providing information about pond to citizens in Lee Co. and abroad.

ABSTRACT:

When volunteers are out in the field collecting data on pond conditions, it can be difficult to accurately document observations on paper. To better support our volunteers and enhance data collection, we are adapting a survey originally developed by one of our volunteers. This prototype survey has only been used in one of the 130 Pond Watch volunteer sites, and it is tailored to the specific needs of the creators rather than the broader volunteer base.

Our goal is to refine and distribute this survey tool with all Pond Watch volunteers and other storm water monitoring organizations in different counties, allowing the collection of data that can help other citizen science water quality programs. This revised survey tool will enable the immediate recording of temperature, aquatic plant cover, littoral shelf, and other water quality indicators, in addition to photos of the condition of the ponds. By transitioning from paper-based data collection to a digital format we will streamline data management and improve the assessment of pond health.

Problem:

Volunteers currently face difficulties in documenting pond conditions in the field using paper-based methods, which can lead to incomplete data collection. Additionally, the current prototype survey is too specific to the needs of its creators and has not been validated for use by the wider volunteer base.

Solution:

We will adapt and refine the existing volunteer-created survey to be more user-friendly and applicable to a broader audience. This will not only benefit our volunteers but may also serve as a valuable tool for other pond and lake monitoring programs across the state.

Methodology:

1. Survey Development:
 - a. We will use the existing prototype as a foundation, maintaining its core elements while making necessary adjustments to meet the needs of a larger group of volunteers.
2. Pilot Testing:
 - a. The revised survey tool will be tested by 5-10 Pond Watch volunteers, each responsible for different communities and ponds. These volunteers will use the survey tool during their regular monthly data collection.
3. Feedback & Improvement:
 - a. After the initial testing phase, volunteers will provide feedback through follow-up conversations and discussions. This feedback will help identify any areas for improvement in the survey's clarity, usability, and functionality.
4. Final implementation:
 - a. Based on the feedback, we will make any necessary revisions and then roll out the finalized survey to all Pond Watch volunteers.
 - b. We will provide a product that can be tailored to any community that has storm water ponds and volunteers that are willing to inspect their ponds.
 - c. A video will be produced to explain its use and functionality.
 - d. A final product will be available through the Water Atlas platform for Pond Watch to download for free.

Budget:

We are requesting \$1000 to fund an intern Madeline Aadnes from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), who will work for 40 hours at \$25 an hour. This intern, a graduate student with experience in survey design and evaluation, will assist in the development and testing of the survey tool. In kind contribution of \$500 (20 hours at \$25 an hour) is budgeted as supervision by the Pond Watch Coordinator Ernesto Lasso de la Vega.

Timeline:

The work on transformation of the survey tool will begin as soon as the Conservation Grant is approved (December 2024). The development and testing of the survey tool will be conducted during the first month of 2025 anticipating the release of the final product by March of 2025, during the annual Pond Watch Workshop.



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2025

Contact Information

Project Title	Wildlife Conservation and Protection in an Audubon Certified Community
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Our intent is to eradicate invasive plants and to install a microforest, a concept new to the Suncoast. The microforest is a process following the Miyawaki procedure and involves Florida-friendly plants in a dense configuration to include ground cover, sub-canopy, and canopy plant species to attract a bird diversity and other wildlife to our community.
Contact Name and Title	Dr. Michael Barbour
Street Address	4577 Legacy Ct
City, State, ZIP Code	Sarasota, FL 34241
Phone	941-374-4903
E-Mail Address	michaeltbarbour@yahoo.com
Organization Name	Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club
Web address	https://www.heritageoaksgcc.com/
Amount requested	\$9,500
Total Cost of Project	\$108,167
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club

Required Responses

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 1, 2025: Yes No

Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years?[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Yes (please describe below) No

Date	Project Description	Award Amount
10/15/2024	Phase 1 is to eradicate invasive vegetation and to lay a blanket of cardboard to foster fungal development beneath that is necessary for healthy forest growth.	\$2,000
10/20-30/2024	Overlay wood chips and mulch to anchor the cardboard and to enhance degradation of the cardboard for final preparation of planting.	\$3,500
12/3-15/2024	Plant with high density (approximately 3 plants/yard) to allow the microforest to take root and grow quickly.	\$4,000

5/1/2025	Continue irrigation from planting through May until the rainy season to support the growth of the numerous plant species and density	\$0
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Link to CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Check **ALL** the appropriate descriptions of how the project benefits the CHNEP in efforts to further the CCMP. You are welcome to mention other project benefits here. Visit <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants> to learn more.

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters
- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Target community(ies) historically underserved by CHNEP Grants
- Other (please state) _____

Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. Please click on which basin(s) your project is located in:

- Dona & Roberts Bays
- Myakka River
- Lemon Bay
- Peace River
- Charlotte Harbor
- Pine Island Sound
- Caloosahatchee River
- Estero Bay

Attachments to be included in submission email with application

- One-page resume of the project lead for Heritage Oaks.
- W-9 for 2022 of Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club

Project description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an on-going project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Heritage Oaks contains 9 preserves under the Audubon Certification plus other common areas that have the ability to fall under this certification. Adding a microforest along boundary lakes and creating additional wildlife preserves is a goal of Heritage Oaks. The location is a 5,000 linear ft distance along the boundaries of Heritage Oaks and Sarasota County property with a public sidewalk. Creating a wildlife conservation area will be beneficial for public observation and appreciation. Additionally, the Healthy Lakes Initiative of Heritage Oaks is an ongoing project which focuses on ameliorating nutrient and herbicide runoff and stabilizing banks from soil loss. The planting of a microforest along the boundary lakes with County property addresses our objective while providing ample observational opportunities for the public on the adjoining sidewalk. Our discharge is to Cow Pen Slough and ultimately to Dona Bay. Improving our ability to mitigate adverse chemical discharge to the watershed is our ultimate goal.

Project results (outcome)

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? such as: "500 students will understand how

stormwater ponds work, more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants”, etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics of this project:

- Using this grant to supplement funds from Heritage Oaks as well as using volunteer residents will help with accomplishing our goal as well as educating our residents of the full value of this microforest and our existing preserves. The general public will enjoy the diversity of birds attracted to this dense microforest.
- Furthering the communication and education of residents within our 850-unit community on the value and benefit of our preservation interests and the connection to our Healthy Lakes Initiative and conservation programs. Demonstrating the cost/benefit savings by establishing a more ecological management program for any community is something that can be shared with other communities.
- Becoming an example of a good land/lake management process for Sarasota County and communities discharging within the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership jurisdiction is of interest to our community.

The results of this project are key to our overall ecological program including our Healthy Lakes Initiative and will establish a precedent for transforming current land/lake management practices to a more ecologically sustainable process that will benefit not only our community but the Dona Bay watershed, as well.

Project products (outputs/deliverables)

A Final Report will be included in the ‘Deliverables’ for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below.

Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project. These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>.

The project will be monitored from initial planting to the completion date of September 1, 2025, culminating in a final report to document growth and success of the project. Pictures will be provided as evidence of the project and seasonal trends. Because the Miyawaki procedure for microforest is a relatively new concept to the Suncoast but has been successful in several communities in our area, we will provide details on our success story to add to the collection of studies that will support other communities with regard to protecting the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Program. The final report will consist of the following sections – (1) full description of the microforest area and the plantings providing pictures of the chosen plants and brief explanation of their use in these situations; (2) Monthly monitoring will be conducted to verify progress as well as identify strengths and weaknesses of the process; (3) summary of conclusions of our project with recommendations and beneficial outcomes.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
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Eradication of Invasives and laying a cardboard foundation over affected area (about 5,000 linear feet by 30ft width)	Preparation of the area in advance of the plantings using some hired help for eradication and volunteers for cardboard placement.	\$2,000	\$5,000 + 80 hrs of volunteer time = \$2,544	\$9,544
Distributing wood chips and much to a layer of about 6" over cardboard foundation.	Wood chips is the final preparation to retain water, help with decomposition of the cardboard, and enhance fungal development in the ground layer below the foundation.	\$3,500	\$4,000 + 80 hrs of volunteer time = \$2,544	\$10,044
Procuring plants and planting of Florida-friendly plants in dense configuration	Providing a 3-level growth density of ground cover, sub-canopy, and canopy.	\$4,000	\$80,000 + 100 hours of volunteer time for planting = \$3,180 + \$763 (Volunteer time of about 1-2 hrs to take and catalog pictures every month)	\$87,943
Deliverable – Final Report (required)	Prepare the final report describing procedure, successes, and improvement recommendations	\$0	\$636 (Volunteer time of about 20 hrs for drafting and internally review final report)	\$636
TOTAL		\$9,500	\$98,667	\$108,167

*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

**Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2023, volunteer hours are valued at \\$31.80/hour.](#)

Agreement and Signature

- By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. If a Conservation Grant is awarded for my proposed project, I understand and agree to acknowledge CHNEP in any media related to my project, and to include CHNEP's logo on any signage, publications, social media posts, etc. Additionally, I agree to allow CHNEP to use provided images and photos in its communications. I also agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead no later than 5 pm on September 1, 2024.

Name (printed)	Michael T Barbour
Signature	Michael T Barbour
Date	6/25/2024

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!