

# RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name:

POC Title:

POC Email:

POC Phone:

**B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:**

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

Port Richey Revitalization Project. This project would involve dredging the river near the waterfront park, relocating the boat ramp from Nick's Park to the waterfront Park and increasing its launch and parking capacity, performing streetscaping and improvements of the roads in this area and park improvements to the local parks. This is Appendix A in the Final Initial MYIP. A detailed description of the activity is on page 11.

Need:

The City of Port Richey has limited boater access for boaters to use to access the Gulf of Mexico. This project greatly increases that access by creating a new, higher capacity boat ramp, increased parking capacity for the boat ramp and increased parking for users of Nick's Park non boating features. In addition, the deteriorated boat ramp at Nick's Park will be closed. Improved traffic flow will greatly benefit the local area as current capacity is already beyond design limits. Over the years, the channel and canals have collected silt and other debris, making navigation difficult. The City of Port Richey 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 of Port Richey's existing public single lane boat ramp is located at Nick's Park, an area that is extremely congested with limited parking. Relocating the boat ramp to 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. Businesses in the area would benefit, and event parking would be increased at Nick's Park.

Purpose:

The primary purpose of the project is to dredge the main channel by Canal 18 and Waterfront Park. In addition, a new and improved capacity boat launch will be constructed at the City park with capability to handle an increased amount of boater traffic. The existing boat ramp will be converted into parking to support the local businesses in the area that are located in the City of Port Richey's Waterfront Overlay District and to improve access to the waterways that will benefit recreational and commercial users.

Project Objectives:

1. Improve boat access for recreational and commercial purposes.
2. Improve the water quality in the City of Port Richey's waterways and water entering the Pithlachascotee River.
3. Increase disbursement time of stormwater runoff.
4. Increase tidal flow.

Orange Lake Restoration Project. This project involves removing accumulated sediment from the lake, improving the storm water capabilities and construction of amenities designed to preserve and enhance the lake. This is attachment B in the Final Initial MYIP. A detailed description can be found on page 15.

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 nine 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. The water quality in Orange Lake and aesthetic view of the water in Orange Lake is degraded. The surrounding natural areas are well kept, clean, and pleasingly landscaped for the residents of and visitors to New Port Richey to enjoy the serene environment. This project is designed to bring Orange Lake, which is the center attraction for this area, to a level of attractiveness which will make it an overall pleasurable experience.

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.

Project 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.

- a. Environmental: Improved water quality, benthic and submersed habitats, and recreational activities in the lake and river.
- b. Economic Development: Use of lake and development of watersports on river to promote tourism.
- c. Community Resilience: Flood control.

The Sunwest Project involves constructing various facility improvements and amenities for Pasco's newest park. The funding will be used to help construct an additional bathroom facility, increase parking capacity and/ or construct a television tower. This is Appendix C in the Final Initial MYIP . A detailed project description can be found on Page 21.

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.

Project Objectives:

Economic development and facility improvement.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

On January 13, 2015 the BCC in public forum approved the release of the MYIP for public comment. The MYIP was published to the Counties RESTORE Act web page on February 14, 2015. On February 19, 2015 a news release was published and released to the local papers. A copy of the News release is attached. The news release was also published and pinned to the counties home page with a link that took the viewer to the MYIP. Public comment was accepted for the period from February 19, 2015 until April 13, 2015. Comments were collected during that time frame. All public comments were presented to the BCC on April 21, 2015. The BCC directed the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee (RAC) to meet to discuss public comment. The committee met to discuss public comment on May 7, 2015. The National Wildlife Federation was responsible for nearly all the comments and they were invited to attend and speak, which a representative did. The RAC discussed the public comments and comments presented by NWF. The decision was made to recommend moving forward on the selected projects originally selected, but to also take into consideration many of the comments that NWF made. An updated version of the MYIP was created for enhanced transparency. Staff worked with the NWF closely to ensure that all concerns were addressed. On June 2, 2015 a letter was received from the NWF concerning the comment response. The letter was favorable towards the Pasco process and response to requests for increased transparency. In addition the letter acknowledged that all three projects selected were within the RESTORE Act guidelines. On June 9, 2015 the BCC received the comments and recommendations from the RAC and elected to move forward with the original projects contained in the MYIP. They also directed implementation of the recommended changes to the process of project selection and RESTORE transparency.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

The Waterfront Revitalization Project is an Infrastructure Project that benefits the Economy. Please see Appendix A for more detail. Orange Lake is a Natural Resources Restoration Project. Please see appendix B of the MYIP for more detail. The Sunwest Project is an Infrastructure Project that benefits the Economy. Please see Appendix C for more detail.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Orange Lake will be evaluated by evaluating water quality samples taken in the lake. The Waterfront Revitalization Project will be evaluated by examining boater activity in the local area. Sunwest will be evaluated by looking at the usage of the park and economic

improvement measures. Please see appendix A, B and C for detailed descriptions of the success measures for Pasco Counties selected projects.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Pasco County formed a RESTORE Act Advisory Committee comprised of 8 members of the public and one member from the BCC. This committee formulated criterion and score sheets taken directly from the Act. The criterion was approved for use by the BCC. Projects were presented to the RAC and the criterion and the score sheets were used to score the projects presented. A tabulated list was then presented to the RAC for discussion. Projects were selected that had a high rank, made the greatest impact to the citizens of the County and were able to be completed using the amount of funds available. All projects also had additional contributions for funding from other sources to maximize the projects potential. Results were presented to the BCC for approval. A copy of the criterion used is available in the MYIP as well as a detailed description of the process that was used to screen the projects.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

Not applicable. Only Direct Component Funds were available for use.

*According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.*