

Tampa Bay Watershed

Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay (FL_RESTORE_004_003_Cat1/Cat2)



Project Name: Palm River Restoration Project Phase II, East McKay Bay

Costs: Category 1: \$87,750 | Category 2: \$497,250

Responsible Council Member: State of Florida

Project Details: This project involves water quality improvement, and upland and wetland restoration, and enhancement on Southwest Florida Water Management District-owned land along the Palm River at the mouth of McKay Bay.

Activities: The project includes activities in two FPL categories. Category 1 activities involve completion of environmental compliance and permitting for the restoration of salt marsh and coastal uplands, and the construction of three stormwater ponds, which will improve water quality and enhance upland and wetland areas on 53 acres of Southwest Florida Water Management District land.

Category 2 activities are proposed for potential future funding, and if implemented would remove exotic vegetation, restore approximately eight acres of salt marsh and 32 acres of coastal uplands, and construct three stormwater management areas to provide water quality treatment for 436 acres of residential, commercial and industrial developed land.

Environmental Benefits: If the Category 2 activities are fully implemented, the project would enable significant reduction of pollutants in stormwater runoff entering McKay Bay and, ultimately, Tampa Bay. The project would be designed to remove an estimated 517 pounds of nitrogen annually. It would also reduce erosion, remove exotics and replant native vegetation to restore approximately eight acres of salt marsh and 32 acres of coastal uplands.

The project would also benefit wildlife in the area. McKay Bay contains highly important bird habitat, supporting many resident species as well as large numbers of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds that use the embayment as a feeding and resting site for several months each year.

Duration: It is anticipated it will take approximately six months to complete the Category 1 environmental compliance and permitting activities. If funded, implementation of the Palm River Restoration Project Phase II East McKay Bay restoration projects proposed under Category 2 would take approximately one year and be monitored and maintained for a two-year period after restoration by the construction contractor. The project's ecological benefits would be sustainable over the long-term, at least 25 years, with minimal maintenance.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix J. Tampa Bay; Unique Identifiers: FL RESTORE 004 003 Cat1 and FL RESTORE 004 003 Cat2.

