

## Tampa Bay Watershed

Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration (DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_011\_Cat1/Cat2)



**Project Name:** Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration **Costs:** Category 1: \$470,910 | Category 2: \$1,319,636

**Responsible Council Member:** Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA)

Partnering Council Member: State of Florida

**Project Details:** This project is part of the Connecting Coastal Waters (CCW) initiative NOAA will lead with partners to restore the extent, functionality, and resiliency of Gulf Coast wetlands and provide a science-based inventory of wetland hydrology restoration projects that make the greatest contribution to that goal. Goals for the Robinson Preserve Wetland Restoration project include: 1) creation of coastal upland and wetland habitats and tidal creeks that will be designed to incorporate projected near-term sea level rise; 2) creation of high-quality estuarine subtidal habitats; and 3) restoration of a natural hydrology linking the coastal upland, wetland and estuarine areas within the Preserve.

**Activities:** The project includes activities in two FPL categories. Category 1 activities will complete planning and design for the restoration of a natural hydrology to approximately 140 acres of coastal upland, wetland, and subtidal habitats on Robinson Preserve in cooperation with Manatee County and other project partners. A restoration plan, engineering design, regulatory compliance, monitoring and evaluation plan, and outreach and education plan will also be completed under Category 1 activities.

Category 2 activities are proposed for potential future funding, and if implemented would restore 140 acres of upland and wetland habitat on a fallow parcel recently acquired to expand Robinson Preserve in the Tampa Bay watershed. NOAA would also work with partners to conduct monitoring of restoration outcomes and to implement outreach and educational activities to share restoration practices and engage stakeholders.

**Environmental Benefits:** If fully implemented, the project would restore 140 acres of a 150-acre expansion area recently acquired by Manatee County, and if completed would provide approximately 85 acres of upland habitats and 55 acres of created wetland and sub-tidal habitats, restoring a total of 140 acres of productive habitat from fallow lands. Restoration of these important coastal habitat types would provide increased ecosystem services, including water quality improvements, juvenile fish nursery areas, and habitat for birds and other wildlife.

**Duration:** Category 1 activities will take two years to complete. Category 2 activities, if funded, would take up to three years to implement.

More information on these activities can be found in Appendix J. Tampa Bay; Unique Identifiers: DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_011\_Cat1 and DOC\_RESTORE\_001\_011\_Cat2.

