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 would 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 would 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 proposed project includes activities in two FPL categories. The Category 1 activities would 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 would be completed.

The 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 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. When completed, the project 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 would take two years to complete, and 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.