

NAME: Banana River Estuary Restoration Project

LOCATION: Cape Canaveral, Brevard County, Florida

ACRES: 4.8 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:

City of Cape Canaveral, Florida

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Keep Brevard Beautiful
St. Johns River Water Management District
Marine Resources Council
Brevard County Natural Resources
Florida Native Plant Society

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City owned property to be rehabilitated consists of 4.8 acres of forested wetland/riparian zone that represents one of the last natural habitat properties within the City. Channels were previously dredged throughout the property and now provide brackish water marsh habitat for fish and wildlife. Project activities will consist of the eradication of non-native plant species such as Brazilian Pepper, which have displaced native species and cover about half of the area. Following removal of non-native plant species planting of native species such as red, white, and black mangroves will be performed. Monitoring is proposed for a period of five years with comprehensive annual reporting.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

In general, the primary goal is to return one of the last undeveloped areas within the City limits to its historic natural state thereby improving wildlife habitat and water quality. The improvements will benefit wildlife surveyed within the area such as brown pelicans, herons, ibis, alligator, gopher tortoises, and many turtle and snake species. The project will also compliment a natural adjacent area of about 3 acres providing additional wildlife habitat benefits.

STATUS: Planning and Design