



PUBLIC WORKS MEMO

To: Barry M. Burton, Administrator
Through: Jill Silverboard, Assistant County Administrator
From: Kelli Hammer Levy, Public Works Director
Subject: RESTORE Act Multiyear Implementation Plan Amendment
Date: April 22, 2025

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) Act established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund to allocate penalties paid from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig drilling explosion and offshore oil spill. The Trust Fund is distributed by federal agencies or councils through five different components.

The U.S. Treasury Office of Gulf Coast Restoration (OGCR) administers the RESTORE Act Direct Component federal grant awards to “restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region.” The OGCR approved the [Pinellas County Multiyear Implementation Plan \(MIP\)](#) in November 2015 to fund four initial MIP project applications:

- Pinellas County Assessment of Vulnerability to the Impacts of Sea Level Rise & Infrastructure Resiliency Plan - Pinellas County Planning Dept - \$300,000
- Coastal Ocean Monitoring & Prediction System (COMPS) - USF College of Marine Science - \$233,934
- A Very High-Resolution Estuary Circulation Forecast Model for Tampa Bay & Vicinity - USF College of Marine Science - \$479,493
- Fort De Soto Park Dune Walkovers - Pinellas County Office of Management & Budget - \$534,894.

Public Works is proposing an amendment to this original MIP to fund 4 additional projects. Under Federal RESTORE Act grant provisions, the Draft MIP Amendment, including preliminary project scope and budget, must undergo a 45-day public comment period. Environmental Management will address or incorporate public comments in the amendment proposal. The Plan will be presented to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners as a resolution for approval. Environmental Management will then submit the MIP Amendment to the U.S. Treasury OGCR for approval which then allows the County to apply for planned project funding awards.

The County's MIP Amendment will include four projects based on priorities identified by Public Works, Utilities, and Parks & Conservation Resources departments. The projects are eligible for funding based on 1) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region, 2) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, 3) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources, and 4) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing. The following four projects are proposed:

Philippe Park Seawall Enhancement Segments 1 & 2 Construction: \$904,500 (RESTORE)

Two types of seawall enhancement will be installed to restore coastal habitat and reduce erosion impacts from wave energy and storm surge. Installations will build coastal resiliency, preserve recreation at the park, and protect the Tocobaga Temple Mound, a national historical landmark. Segment 1 will include installation of mini eco-rap with reef domes along 440 linear feet of existing seawall and Segment 2 will establish riprap terraces with marsh grass in front of 475 linear feet of seawall.

Fort De Soto Campground & Bunces Pass Cove Living Shoreline Implementation: \$2,043,145 (RESTORE) + \$100k (Tampa Bay Estuary Program Habitat Master Plan) + \$1,181,781 (Penny for Pinellas)

The project will address approximately 2,300 linear feet of park coastline along the campground and Bunces Pass cove area within the Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge. Project design is underway to propose options to replace the non-repairable seawall and prevent further erosion by implementing living shoreline elements build coastal resiliency while reducing maintenance and emergency recovery costs. This project will help restore and maintain native habitat, improve water quality and promote recreation.

Keystone Ranchettes Septic to Sewer Improvements: \$2,814,515 (RESTORE) + \$2,814,515 (FDEP Wastewater Grant)

The County's septic to sewer conversion project will provide centralized wastewater collection service for septic system users to realize public health and pollution reduction benefits. The project will remove aging septic sewer systems and eliminate current and future wastewater nitrogen pollution and pathogen loadings in an important watershed that drains to nearby Lake Tarpon and Old Tampa Bay.

Lofty Pines Septic to Sewer and Stormwater Retrofit: \$60,000 (RESTORE)

The County's 2019 State Appropriation funded a septic to sewer project in Lofty Pines in unincorporated Dunedin to provide lateral service for 15 properties. Residents are now able to connect to centralized sewer service, which will assist in reducing wastewater pollution to impaired coastal waters. The County can use RESTORE funds to reduce the financial burden of septic tank decommission and ensure timely septic tank abandonment.

The timeline for this amended project period will be fiscal years 2026 through 2028.