

ROCK PONDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Dedication



April 13, 2016
10 a.m.

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

Robert R. Beltran, P.E.

Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Director Speakers

Speakers

Sandra L. Murman

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, District 1

Michael A. Babb

Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Chair

Brandt Henningsen, PhD

Southwest Florida Water Management District Project Co-Manager
with Nancy Norton, P.E.

Joe Rodi

QGS Development, Inc. Operations Manager

Thomas F. Ries

Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. Executive Vice President

Release of Rehabilitated Wildlife

Ed Straight

Wildlife, Inc. President

Optional Tours



Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project Overview

The District's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program, in cooperation with Hillsborough County, completed the largest habitat restoration project ever done in the history of Tampa Bay. Located in the southeastern reaches of Tampa Bay adjacent to Cockroach Bay, the Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project involved restoring approximately 1,043 acres of uplands and wetlands in need of coastal enhancement, restoration and creation. This project complements the SWIM/Hillsborough County Cockroach Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project, a 500-acre habitat restoration project completed in 2012.

Of the 1,043-acre project footprint, approximately 645 acres were restored uplands and 398 acres were restored as various freshwater and estuarine wetlands. The project creatively helps restore the area's hydrology, improves the bay's water quality via stormwater treatment, creates fisheries habitats, and supplements important bird nesting and feeding habitats. Equally important, the project design will help accommodate projected sea-level rise.

The SWIM Program, along with its partners, has completed 96 restoration projects along Tampa Bay involving more than 4,600 acres of coastal habitats (7.2 square miles).

Project Funding Provided By

Gardinier Trust Fund
via Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Hillsborough
County Environmental Protection Commission

Hillsborough County
via Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
via Tampa Bay Environmental Fund

Southwest Florida Water Management District
via SWIM Program

State funds
various trust funds

(Provided project funding for land acquisition, design, and/or construction)

list continues on the back

Project Support Provided By

Admiral Farragut Academy
Bell Creek Academy
Bill Burger, archaeologist
Boy Scout Anthony Howard and Troop 45
Boy Scout Matt Sandburg and Troop 263
Canterbury School of Florida
Channelside Academy
Creative Environmental Solutions, Inc.
Dowdell Middle Magnet School
East Bay High School
5M Civil LLC
Florida Audubon of the Audubon Society Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Florida Natives Nursery, Inc.
Hillsborough County's Conservation and Environmental Lands Management
Department
Hillsborough County's Public Works Department
Lakewood High School
Manatee County Sheriff's Department
QGS Development, Inc. (Phase 2 Wetlands/Uplands Restoration)
Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc. (Phase 2 Restoration Design & Permitting)
Scott's Miracle Grow Company
Seminole High School
Shorecrest Middle School
Sickles High School
Tampa Bay Watch
Tampa Contracting Services, Inc. (Phase 1 Upland Restoration)
Tampa Electric Company
Tarpon Springs High School
And more than 1,500 valuable volunteers