



## CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2026

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**Instructions:** The CHNEP provides Conservation Grants (up to \$9,999) to community organizations for projects that address clean water, wildlife habitat protection and restoration, and outreach priorities in the CHNEP area, as outlined in the [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#). Before applying, please read through the specifications outlined below.

Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding from other sources will receive special consideration. Preference will also be given to new applicants and projects. We encourage requests for funding in the \$500 to \$9,999 range. All funding is reimbursement based; no funding will be fronted for the project.

Please read the following restrictions regarding eligibility carefully. The CHNEP does **NOT** fund:

- Events or services for which there is an admission fee or charge; CHNEP will consider providing support for scholarships to allow participation by those who would not otherwise be able to attend;
- Restoration or improvements on private property;
- Projects that personally benefit the applicant;
- Political action or legislative advocacy;
- Fundraising activities;
- Projects/phase of project completed prior to the award of the grant;
- Items that will be sold by the grant recipient;
- Reprinting of existing material unless part of a larger educational program;
- Capital improvement or endowment funds, or usual operating costs;
- Conference registrations and travel;
- Gift cards or certificates, and;
- Any activities related to permitting.

Reimbursement for Conservation Grants is based on 'Deliverables' or 'Outcomes' provided through the project, rather than cost receipts. Deliverables will be outlined in a grant award email and at the close of the project, CHNEP staff will review to ensure they meet the specifications outlined. Reimbursement can be requested as soon as the project is complete and all required deliverables are received and approved. Note: If *all* conditions or deliverables are not received, reimbursement will be prorated as per the discretion of CHNEP. The budget justification is used to support monetary value of activities and deliverables produced.

The timeline for Fiscal Year 2026 is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. **Projects for FY26 should conclude with all deliverables and final invoice submitted by September 1, 2026.** Note: Any projects not completed by September 1, 2026, are subject to funding reallocation and disqualification of reimbursement.

Once your application is received, it will be evaluated based on the information provided. CHNEP staff will notify you via e-mail upon receipt and will contact you again regarding the status of your application and/or via an award notification once a decision has been made.

- **Winter Deadline is December 1, 2025 for a January 2026 award notice**
- **Spring Deadline is April 1, 2026 for a May 2026 award notice**

Applications should be submitted via email to [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org), by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org) or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

# Application 1

## Contact Information

Project Title	SOUTH VENICE BEACH VEGETAION RESTORATIO
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	All of the South Venice Beach protective native vegetation was stripped completely off of the beach between the gulf and the intracoastal waterway in Hurricane Milton. Serious erosion is happening due to the lack of native vegetation. The beach is in serious danger of being breached.
Contact Name and Title	Gary Cole, Chairman of Board of Trustees, South Venice Beach Endowment Trust
Street Address	720 Alligator Drive
City, State, ZIP Code	Venice, FL 34293
Phone	574-360-9812
E-Mail Address	gmsjcole@aol.com, trust@southvenicebeach.org
Organization Name	South Venice Beach Endowment Trust
Web address	southvenicebeach.org
Amount requested	\$9,999.00.
Total Cost of Project	\$25,000
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	South Venice Beach Endowment Trust, 720 Alligator Drive, Venice, FL 34293

## Critical Questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 1, 2026: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Date	Project Description	Award Amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

## How Project Benefits CHNEP Area (check all that apply)

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters

- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Other (please state) Eliminate further damage to native vegetation by reducing the risk of the gulf waters bursting through into the intracoastal waterway possibly destroying more native habitat.

## Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays  | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myakka River         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River          | <input type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay           |

## Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website | <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook           | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram          | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) One of our board trustees is a Sarasota Co. employee |

## Project Description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

The 5 South Venice Beach Endowment Trust board members and dozens of volunteers from the nearby South Venice Community are planning on planting mangroves, sea grapes and whatever other native vegetation we can procure along with installing several rows of dune fencing in order to restore the native habitat to the beach and reduce the threat of a total breach of the beach. The plantings and fencing will be placed along about an 800 foot stretch of the intracoastal waterway and along about a 1000 foot stretch of the gulf side beach. A finalized plan of the plantings will be procured once funding is available and the work will proceed as soon as possible thereafter.

\*\*\*\*\*WORK WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.\*\*\*\*\*

## Project Results

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? For example: “500 students will understand how stormwater ponds work”, “more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants”, etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected
-

It is expected that the results of the project would be the restoration of what was once a dense native vegetative barrier between the gulf and the intracoastal waterway barring any additional hurricane damage before the vegetation has time to mature. The number of plants installed per acre would depend upon the amount of funding received and the design plan for the restoration. We would expect that there would be at least 25 to 50 volunteers available to participate in the execution of the restoration plan, including adults, students and children. All would be intimately aware of the importance of the implementation of the restoration project because all of them are probably greatly concerned about the South Venice Beach being completely destroyed of the gulf waters breach into the intracoastal waterway.

## Project Outputs/Deliverables

A Final Report will be included in the ‘Deliverables’ for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. **Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project.** These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so.

We would certainly provide project photos from events showing areas restored in addition to providing aerial maps of areas restored, drone footage of actual events and final product. We would also provide event attendee lists. Interpretative signs could be erected as well indicating all entities involved, etc.

## Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
<i>EXAMPLE: LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted</i>	<i>WQ Testing Results Report</i>	<i>\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)</i>	<i>\$300 (\$29.95/hr.** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)</i>	<i>\$900</i>
Deliverable #1 – XXX	Design Plan preparation for native plantings restoration	\$2000	\$400 (20.00/hr x 20 hours of volunteer time)	\$
Deliverable #2 – Final Report	Native Plants as per design plan	\$8000	\$9600 (20.00/hr x 480 hours of volunteer time)	\$
TOTAL		\$10000	\$10000	\$

\*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

\*\*Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2025, volunteer hours are valued at \\$34.79.](#)

Applications should be submitted via email to [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org), by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org) or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

# Application 2

## Contact Information

Project Title	21st Avenue Cul-De-Sac to Canal restoration
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	This project will remove exotic plants and plant native trees, bushes, grasses, and flowers in a one-half acre parcel in the middle of Cape Coral. This parcel has about 100 feet of shoreline on a freshwater canal. This work will provide a better habitat for the local flora and fauna and viewing opportunities for the human residents.
Contact Name and Title	Russ Ringland, Executive Director
Street Address	1821 Bolado Parkway
City, State, ZIP Code	Cape Coral, FL 33990
Phone	M.(239)9880-7711
E-Mail Address	russ@russringland.com
Organization Name	Future Forestry Corporation
Web address	www.futureforestry.org
Amount requested	\$8,400.00
Total Cost of Project	\$18,269.00
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Future Forestry Corporation

## Critical Questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 1, 2026: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Date	Project Description	Award Amount
2024	Estero Community Park Lakeside Beautification	\$6,500.00
2025	Cape Coral Dry Retention Pond Rebuild	\$6,872.00
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

## How Project Benefits CHNEP Area (check all that apply)

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters

- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

### Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myakka River        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay           | <input type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River         | <input type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay                   |

### Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook         | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____      |

### Project Description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. Please see attached project narrative.

### Project Results

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? For example: "500 students will understand how stormwater ponds work", "more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants", etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected
- 

Please see attached project narrative.

## Project Outputs/Deliverables

A Final Report will be included in the 'Deliverables' for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. **Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project.** These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so. **Please see attached project narrative.**

## Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
<i>EXAMPLE: LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted</i>	<i>WQ Testing Results Report</i>	<i>\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)</i>	<i>\$300 (\$29.95/hr. ** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)</i>	<i>\$900</i>
Deliverable #1 – XXX	Exotics removed and All trees and other plants installed. Mulch installed	\$300.00 Mulch \$400.00 Tools Gloves, snacks \$4,100.00 Plants -- =\$4,800.00	\$3,500.00 Proj.Mgr Pd from foundation \$4,174 In-kind Volunteers \$7,674.00	\$12,474.
Deliverable #2 – Final Report	Bench installed Sign Installed Final report delivered	\$1,500.00 Concrete \$1,800.00 Bench \$300.00 Steel sign =\$3,600.00	\$1,500.00 Proj.Mgr. Pd from foundation \$695.00 In-kind Volunteers	\$5,795.
TOTAL		\$8,400.00	\$9,869.00	\$18,269.

\*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

\*\*Volunteer Hours rate: As of 2025, volunteer hours are valued at \$34.79.

## Attachments to include in submission email with application

- A one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- A project timeline
- A copy of W-9
- A copy of 501c3 if applicable

## 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Cul-De-Sac to Canal Improvement.

This is a wildlife habitat restoration project that falls within the Charlotte Harbor and Pine Island Sound areas of the CHNEP jurisdiction. This property is part of the Lee County Department of Transportation Right-of-way for Veterans' Memorial Parkway in the city of Cape Coral. This one-half acre site is situated between the residential lot and right-of-way and adjacent to a freshwater canal. This area has been growing exotic invasive plants since the roadway was completed 30 years ago. The shoreline is about 100 linear feet.

Because of the angle of the slope going down to the water, we are going to remove the exotics and treat the stumps. We won't remove the stumps because we don't want the dirt washing into the canal. Then we are going to plant roughly 100 trees and 300 bushes, grasses, flowers, and vines. That's a lot of plants but we will leave space for some grass mowing and viewing corridors. As the trees get bigger there will be little to no mowing. These native trees and other plants should encourage birds, animals, and other creatures into this area. We are also inviting people to this site as well. We are going to pour a concrete pad and install a park bench near the right-of-way. The bench will be facing the wild area with the hope that people will want to see the wildlife. Next to the bench we are going to install a sign to help describe how native plants at this site provide food, shelter, and homes for native birds, butterflies, the rest of the gang. The sign will also show the partnership between Future Forestry Corporation, Lee County Department of transportation, and The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership.

We are going to have good short-term deliverables and great long-term results. The short-term deliverables include removing the exotic vegetation, treating the stumps, planting the native plants, and installing the mulch. We have an existing base of nearly 300 volunteers, and we work with several different groups of high school and university students. We also work with groups including Kiwanis and The Rotary Club of Cape Coral. The work in the first phase of deliverables will likely take three or four Saturdays. We typically work Saturday mornings from 8am to 10am or 11am because it gets too hot later in the day. The second set of deliverables will be installing the concrete pad, installing the park bench and installing the sign. The bench will be situated so that folks walking or riding on Veterans' corridor can see the wild area and feel comfortable getting to it. The bench will be facing the wild area so that they can see the birds, butterflies, and maybe a mammal or turtle. Included in the short-term deliverables is the hands-on education of an adult volunteer and the students. They learn details like the kinds of trees, bushes, flowers, and grasses. Then they may learn which butterflies eat which vines or flowers. They also learn about the process and the importance of restoring the land back to a wild state.

Our number one long term goal is to attract as many native birds, insects, butterflies, mammals, and amphibians (all flora and fauna) to this site as possible. Some will arrive soon and some will take a long time. The second long-term goal of this project is to educate and influence the people that get to enjoy the area. There are a lot of people walking and riding bikes on the sidewalk along Veterans' Memorial Parkway. We want them to feel drawn to the area because they will have an opportunity to see the wildlife in action. We want them to love what they see there. And if they love what they see they are far more likely to protect nature in other ways.

Applications should be submitted via email to [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org), by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org) or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

# Application 3

## Contact Information

Project Title	Brazilian Pepper Removal Project
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	In this project a contractor (SavATree) will remove Brazilian Pepper from the front perimeter of multiple conserved properties in Applicant's conservation service area. A crew of 3-4 and all needed equipment will be supplied by SavATree for a flat fee day rate per the attached quote. Cut branches will be chipped on site and the chippings will be removed. The cut/glyphosate treatment method will be utilized on cut trunks.
Contact Name and Title	Barbara Lockhart, President
Street Address	3465 Alfred Road
City, State, ZIP Code	North Port, FL 34286
Phone	941-218-9775
E-Mail Address	NPconservancy@gmail.com
Organization Name	The Environmental Conservancy of North Port, Inc. d/b/a Neighborhood Land Conservancy
Web address	www.neighborhood-land.org
Amount requested	3943.00
Total Cost of Project	4336.51
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	The Environmental Conservancy of North Port, Inc.

## Critical Questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 1, 2026: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Date	Project Description	Award Amount
2/4/2021	Scrubby Flatwoods Lot Restoration Project	665.00
5/16/2024	Stewardship Funding for Neighborhood Land Management	2150.00
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

## How Project Benefits CHNEP Area (check all that apply)

Maintain or improve water quality

- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters
- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Other (please state) Educate the public on the importance of removal of Brazilian Pepper.

## Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myakka River         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River          | <input type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay                  |

## Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website | <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook           | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram          | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____ |

## Project Description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

In this project a contractor (SavATree) will remove Brazilian Pepper from the front perimeter of up to 4 conserved ¼ acre properties in Applicant's conservation service area in Charlotte County (see the attached list and photograph). Applicant is a 501c3 neighborhood land conservancy operating in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties. Applicant has met with SavATree in the field to view one of Applicant's properties and discussed and confirmed the scope of work to be done. SavATree will supply a crew of 3-4 and all needed equipment for a flat fee day rate for 7 hours of time per the attached quote and will complete the work on as many of the 4 parcels as possible during that time frame starting from least to most. Cut branches will be chipped on site and the chippings will be removed. Applicant will implement the cut/glyphosate treatment method of the Brazilian Pepper on site following directly behind the workers as the trunk cutting is done to ensure against future regrowth. It is common in area neighborhoods for Brazilian Pepper to be growing across the front perimeter of natural undeveloped parcels, with seeds spread by City/County right-of-way mowing, resident mowing, wildlife and/or strong storms/hurricanes.

## Project Results

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? For example: "500 students will understand how stormwater ponds work", "more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants", etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected

Brazilian Pepper is an aggressive invasive that can form a dense closed canopy, shading out almost all native vegetation over time. It releases toxins into the soil that actively prevent the growth of surrounding native vegetation in both dry and wet areas. It has high seed viability too. It is for these reasons that we are seeking grant funding to implement its removal. Applicant will request statistics from SavATree to provide a measurable result of the number and volume of Pepper branches/stumps/trees cut and chipped (example: a count of the number of trees removed, size/capacity of the chipper used, how many chipped loads were created) as the work is being performed. Every targeted property has different sizes of Pepper growing upon them so it is not possible to project the volume information accurately prior to work commencement. Applicant will schedule 1 “before” viewing event and 1 “after” viewing event on 1 property for the public as an educational tool to display first-hand why Brazilian Pepper is an environmental issue, how it can be removed and what is left behind once it is removed (open space for native plants/trees to re-seed themselves, grow back from the seed bank, or be re-planted by humans). Videos and photographs will also be captured before, during and after the work to provide education to the public on Applicant’s social media, newsletter, and in presentations in library displays and informational powerpoints. At least 1 volunteer will accompany the SavATree crew to apply the glyphosate to the cut Brazilian Pepper trunks during the 7 hour work day.

## Project Outputs/Deliverables

A Final Report will be included in the ‘Deliverables’ for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. **Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project.** These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so.

Once the project is complete Applicant and its land management committee members will periodically monitor the properties for re-growth; glyphosate treatment will be re-applied by Applicant if needed and new seedlings will be hand-pulled. In the past, volunteers have performed this type of Brazilian Pepper removal work on other properties Applicant owns and no re-growth has occurred to date. As a result, Applicant feels strongly about the success of this endeavor with a paid contractor as well. Applicant is seeking funding to pay SavATree to continue with this land management work on its behalf as the number of properties Applicant now owns has created a workload that exceeds the time volunteers are willing or able to provide. Expected results are the improving of these natural areas to a healthier state, regrowth of native plants through nature’s reseeded of itself and re-growth from the existing seedbank, which will be recorded. Re-planting of natives may later occur. Increased wildlife usage of the healthier properties could occur; trail cameras are already utilized on Applicant’s properties to monitor wildlife on a rotational basis. An educational handout explaining this project will be created in-house to provide to the public through our informational tables, library displays and public presentations to include acknowledgement of CHNEP and the grant funding. We would be interested and available to do a presentation on this project at CHNEP meetings if invited.

## Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
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<i>EXAMPLE: LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted</i>	<i>WQ Testing Results Report</i>	<i>\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)</i>	<i>\$300 (\$29.95/hr. ** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)</i>	<i>\$900</i>
Deliverable #1 - SavATree Brazilian Pepper removal and the cut/glyphosate treatment method with volunteer doing the treatment	Photographs/videos of before and after work, report of volume of Pepper removed from SavATree	\$3943.00 per quote day rate 7 hours	\$243.53 in volunteer hours applying Brushtox (7 hours x \$34.79)	4 1 8 6 .5 3
Deliverable #1 - 64oz Brushtox for cut trunk treatment from Tractor Supply	Cut Brazilian Pepper receives treatment	74.99 from Tractor Supply	74.99	1 4 9 .9 8
Deliverable #2 – Final Report	Description of project accomplishments with supporting data and photographs as described herein	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
TOTAL		\$4017.99	\$318.52	4 3 3 6 .5 1

\*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

\*\*Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2025, volunteer hours are valued at \\$34.79.](#)

### Attachments to include in submission email with application

- A one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- A project timeline
- A copy of W-9
- A copy of 501c3 if applicable

Applications should be submitted via email to [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org), by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: [Grants@chnep.org](mailto:Grants@chnep.org) or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

The application on the following pages allows you to tell us about your project. Please complete all fields for the application to be evaluated for funding. If a field does not apply to you or your organization, please type in "NA".

# Application 4

## Contact Information

Project Title	Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring: Bacteria Testing and Field Sampling
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	This project advances community-based water quality monitoring within the CHNEP service area by introducing new, routine <i>E. coli</i> testing alongside existing monthly Enterococci monitoring to address critical data gaps in both freshwater and tidal systems. Calusa Waterkeeper will deploy trained volunteers using standardized sampling kits and conduct monthly IDEXX Enterococci and <i>E. coli</i> analyses, generating high-quality, quality-controlled datasets that are currently unavailable or incomplete in many priority waterways. This project expands long-term monitoring capacity while strengthening citizen participation in watershed stewardship.
Contact Name and Title	Jennifer Walker, Fundraising and Donor Relations Manager
Street Address	2151 SE 20th Pl
City, State, ZIP Code	Cape Coral, FL 33990
Phone	239-899-1440
E-Mail Address	jenwalker@calusawaterkeeper.org
Organization Name	Calusa Waterkeeper
Web address	www.calusawaterkeeper.org
Amount requested	\$9,750
Total Cost of Project	\$13,202
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Calusa Waterkeeper, Inc.

## Critical Questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 1, 2026: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Date	Project Description	Award Amount
2021	Documentary Film Production	\$3,000
2022	ADAM unit for detecting HAB toxins in air and water	\$1,238
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.
Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

## How Project Benefits CHNEP Area (check all that apply)

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Protect, enhance, or restore native habitat
- Increase conservation, preservation, or stewardship of lands or waters
- Support public involvement in watershed management
- Provide opportunities for citizen participation in research, monitoring, or restoration
- Produce watershed and estuary communication tools
- Implement conservation landscaping or home best management practices
- Educate children and adults about estuary stewardship
- Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

## Geographic Area (check all that apply)

Map of CHNEP area can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dona & Roberts Bays | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Harbor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Myakka River        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace River         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estero Bay           |

## Where did you hear about the Conservation Grant program?

Check the box that best describes how you first heard about the CHNEP Conservation Grant program.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Website          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Outreach Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Facebook         | <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague/Word of Mouth         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Instagram        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previous Applicant   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____      |

## Project Description

Describe the project. If it is an event, include location and date. Provide information on the: **who, what, how, where** and **when** of the project. Is this project part of an ongoing project? Who will be participating and/or partnering in the project? What is the timeline of the project? Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

WHO

This project will be implemented by Calusa Waterkeeper (CWK), a grassroots science-based nonprofit organization (501(c)(3)) with a mission to protect and restore the Caloosahatchee River from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal waters. CWK is a watchdog and defender of 1,000 square miles of water resources and our quality of life in Southwest Florida. CWK operates within the CHNEP planning area, serving diverse communities that rely on coastal and freshwater resources for recreation, livelihoods, and quality of life. This mission is furthered through science-driven monitoring, community education, and interdisciplinary environmental research.

CWK's work is led by three full-time staff members, a 13-member Board of Directors, an Advisory Council of scientists, educators, and conservation leaders and our highly trained corps of volunteer Rangers-citizen scientists who complete intensive instruction in sampling, pollution science and monitoring protocols. Project oversight, quality assurance, and data management will be handled by Calusa Waterkeeper staff and Ranger Leadership with experience in IDEXX testing protocols, volunteer training, and citizen science coordination.

This project is part of our ongoing Ranger Program which trains volunteers, students, and emerging professionals in water quality field sampling, pollution science, data interpretation, and environmental advocacy, offering hands-on experience. These trained volunteers conduct field sampling and Calusa Waterkeeper provides training, supervision, and QA/QC oversight to ensure that all samples and data meet established protocols and produce reliable, defensible results.

Calusa Waterkeeper is one of more than three hundred Waterkeepers across the globe and one of 15 in the state of Florida that make up the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global network of grassroots leaders protecting citizen's rights for clean water.

CWK collaborates with Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State College, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Florida Sea Grant and regional public agencies. These partnerships ensure that CWK's research informs scalable, evidence-based solutions that strengthen public health protections, community resilience, and long-term environmental sustainability.

## WHAT

Maintaining safe, clean, and swimmable waters is a core goal of Calusa Waterkeeper. However, fecal bacteria contamination remains one of the most common causes of water-quality impairment in the CHNEP region, directly affecting public health, recreational use, and economic activity.

Exposure to bacteria-contaminated waters increases the risk of gastrointestinal illness, skin infections, and other waterborne health impacts, particularly for residents and visitors who swim, fish, paddle, or work on the water. These risks are amplified when localized contamination goes undetected due to limited monitoring coverage.

Calusa Waterkeeper's monthly Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) testing monitors sites that the State of Florida does not, and this testing has shown patterns of elevated contamination. FIB results in some local waters are often many times higher than the State's regulatory limits.

To combat these threats, Calusa Waterkeeper seeks funding to expand and enhance its interdisciplinary Ranger program, which integrates environmental science, public health and field research. This project supports funding for enhanced monthly fecal indicator bacteria monitoring and standardized volunteer sampling kits, allowing Calusa Waterkeeper to:

- Monitor marine Enterococci, the primary indicator used to assess human health risk in coastal recreational waters
- Monitor freshwater *E. coli* in tributaries and inland waterways that influence downstream estuaries

Testing will be conducted using IDEXX Enterolert and Colilert methods, which are widely accepted for evaluating recreational water quality and potential health risk. Select samples will be submitted for certified laboratory validation, strengthening the dataset's credibility and usefulness for regional water-quality assessment.

Grant funds will also provide 30 complete volunteer water sampling kits, enabling safe, consistent, and repeatable sample collection. Each kit includes telescoping sampling poles, coolers, ice packs, sterile bottles, gloves, and basic field screening tools, ensuring volunteers can collect samples without direct water contact and with reduced contamination risk.

## WHEN

The project will be implemented from June 1, 2026 through September 1, 2026, following grant award notification in May 2026.

- Monthly water sampling and bacteria testing will occur during the project period
- Sampling kits will be deployed and used consistently across sites
- Data review and reporting will occur concurrently, with a Final Project Report submitted by September 1, 2026

## Complete Project Timeline is Attached

## WHERE

Calusa Waterkeeper is responsible for 1,000 square miles of water resources in Southwest Florida, including both urban areas and rural agricultural communities. These areas often face higher vulnerability to environmental health risks and limited access to scientific monitoring resources. CWK tests up to 30 sites per month throughout the CHNEP area, including the Caloosahatchee River, Pine Island Sound and Estero Bay.

## WHY

Many of the waterways we protect, and monitor are documented as impaired by fecal bacteria, heavy metals and nutrient pollution. Rapid regional development continues to threaten public health, ecological integrity, and economic stability. This hurried growth and land use changes increase the urgent need for reliable and independent watershed monitoring.

Calusa Waterkeeper's monthly Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) testing has shown patterns of elevated contamination. FIB results in some local waters are often many times the state of Florida's regulatory limits. These conditions pose significant risks to families who fish, swim or kayak our waters- and to the region's tourism driven economy.

This ongoing project benefits more than one million residents across SWFL who depend on healthy waterways. With expanded tools and capacity Calusa Waterkeeper will help fill critical gaps in state monitoring and provide data essential to protecting public health and restoring Southwest Florida's waterways.

## Project Results

Briefly describe the project expected result(s), and how you will measure success. Why is there a need for the project? What are the goals of the project? For example: "500 students will understand how stormwater ponds work", "more than 3,000 people each year will visit the site and learn how to garden with native plants", etc. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary.

Other examples of measurable restoration outcomes, benefits, or metrics:

- Number of plants installed/acres restored
- Tons of bagged oyster shell or Vertical Oyster Gardens installed
- Number of volunteer events completed/Number of volunteers involved in project implementation
- Total weight of trash collected

### Expected Results and Outcomes

By the conclusion of the project period, Calusa Waterkeeper will produce the following outcomes:

- Monthly fecal indicator bacteria datasets for marine and freshwater sites, including Enterococci and *E. coli* results collected using standardized methods
- Certified laboratory validation results to support data quality and confidence in monitoring outcomes
- Deployment and documented use of 30 complete volunteer water sampling kits, ensuring consistent, safe, and repeatable sample collection
- Increased spatial and seasonal understanding of bacterial contamination patterns, particularly at locations not routinely monitored by state agencies
- Expanded community participation in water-quality monitoring through trained volunteer involvement

These outcomes support informed decision-making regarding recreational water use and contribute to broader awareness of water-quality conditions affecting public health and environmental integrity.

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### Measuring Success

Project success will be measured through the completion and documentation of the following:

- Number of sampling events conducted during the project period
  - Completion of scheduled in-house and certified laboratory testing
  - Proper deployment, use, and photographic documentation of volunteer sampling kits
  - Compilation of summarized water-quality data tables and validation results
  - Submission of a Final Project Report detailing methods, results, photos, and outcomes
- All results will be verifiable through sample logs, laboratory reports, photographs, and written summaries included in the Final Project Report.

## Project Outputs/Deliverables

A Final Report will be included in the ‘Deliverables’ for the project and is required for reimbursement. It will include a written summary of project and results, as well as any other documentation of outcomes proposed below. **Please include a description of what outcomes will be documented in this report and any other deliverables that will be provided at the close of the project.** These could be any of the following: a summary of data collected, or analyses conducted during a research project, photos from event or products created/areas restored, maps, event attendee lists, pamphlets, interpretative signs, etc. Describe why your organization will be successful at implementing your project. Feel free to attach pages, if necessary. An example Final Report can be found here: <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants>. In certain instances, Conservation Grant applicants have made presentations on their projects at CHNEP meetings, please let us know if your group would be interested or available to do so.

**At the close of the project, Calusa Waterkeeper will submit a Final Project Report documenting completion of all deliverables. The report will include:**

- **A written summary of monitoring activities and outcomes**
- **Tables summarizing fecal indicator bacteria results**
- **Documentation of certified laboratory validation testing**
- **Photographs of sampling activities and field equipment**
- **A brief narrative describing community involvement and public-health relevance**

**All deliverables will be submitted no later than September 1, 2026, in accordance with CHNEP requirements.**

## Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
<i>EXAMPLE: LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted</i>	<i>WQ Testing Results Report</i>	<i>\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)</i>	<i>\$300 (\$29.95/hr. ** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)</i>	<i>\$900</i>
Deliverable #1 – Fecal Indicator Bacteria Testing Supplies Purchased	Monthly marine and freshwater FIB dataset (Enterococci & E.coli)	<b>\$4,950 – IDEXX Enterolert and Colilert reagents, Quanti-Tray/2000 supplies, and sterile sample bottles required to conduct monthly bacteria testing during project timeframe (June-August)</b>	\$4,752 Cash Match  \$14,089.95 (In-Kind)  Volunteer field sampling and laboratory processing time (120 hours per month X 3 months of project for sample collection and 15 hours X 3 months for processing at \$34.79/hr)	\$23,791.95
Deliverable #2 – Certified Laboratory Validation Testing	Certified monthly bacteria testing results	<b>\$1,300 – Monthly certified</b>	\$347.90 (In-Kind) Volunteer coordination, sample transport and	

		<b>laboratory testing to supplement and verify in-house monitoring results</b>	QA/QC oversight (10 hours of volunteer time X \$34.79)	\$1647.90
Deliverable #3 – Volunteer Water Sampling Kits (Complete Kit Deployment)	Deployment of 30 standardized volunteer water sampling kits	<b>\$3,500 – Full cost of sampling kits, including telescoping sampling poles, joint adapters, coolers, reusable ice packs, gloves, salinity testers, and field screening supplies</b>	\$347.90 (In-Kind) Volunteer training, kit assembly and maintenance (10 hours of volunteer time X \$34.79)	\$3847.90
Deliverable #4 – Final Project Report	Final written report with datasets	<b>\$0-Reporting supported by Calusa Waterkeeper staff and volunteers</b>	\$695.80 (In-Kind) Volunteer time for reporting (20 hours X \$34.79)	\$695.80
TOTAL		<b>\$9,750</b>	<b>\$20,233.55</b>	<b>\$29,983.55</b>

\*Match is not required, but proposals showing matching fund commitment through in-kind services (such as volunteer hours), or direct funding (such as donations) will receive special consideration.

\*\*Volunteer Hours rate: [As of 2025, volunteer hours are valued at \\$34.79.](#)

## Attachments to include in submission email with application

- A one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- A project timeline
- A copy of W-9
- A copy of 501c3 if applicable

## Agreement and Signature

- By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. If a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to acknowledge CHNEP in any media related to my project, and include CHNEP logo on any signage, publications, social media posts etc. Additionally, if awarded, I will be asked to provide image/photo files that I have taken or that I have written permission to use (high resolution preferred). These photos will be credited to the