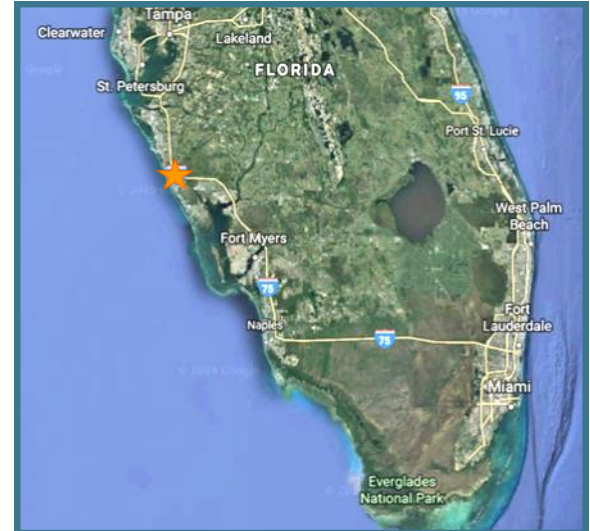


# Alligator Creek Stream Restoration Project

## HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION



### Summary

The environmental status of Alligator Creek in Venice, Florida has suffered greatly in past years due to man-made alterations that eliminated the connection to its historic floodplain and adjacent wetlands. Along with this, nuisance/invasive species have replaced native stream and shoreline vegetation, resulting in a degraded natural habitat for wildlife and water quality. The over-excavation of this waterway created steep-sloped edges prone to excessive erosion which carry sediment downstream into Lemon Bay.

The overall objective of this project is to restore approximately 40 acres of the Alligator Creek corridor by removing nuisance/invasive vegetation, planting native and Florida-friendly vegetation, reshaping banks, and enhancing historical wetlands.

CHNEP is providing funding for the design and permitting of the Alligator Creek restoration, this will include surveying of the area and hydrologic modeling of natural and existing conditions to inform the design phase. This step is crucial to the construction of a conceptual project plan to begin the restoration of this waterway.

**Location:** Sarasota County, FL

**Partners:** Southwest Florida Water Management District, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Sarasota County

**Implemented:** 2019

**Status:** Completed

**CHNEP Cost:** \$130,900

**Funding Source:** Environmental Protection Agency

**2019 CHNEP Plan Activity:** 

Hydrological Restoration 1.1: Conduct data collection, modeling, and analysis of historical, current, and projected hydrologic conditions to identify needs and guide hydrologic restoration.

# COASTAL & HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP



## Anticipated Results and Benefits

### Reduced Bank Erosion:

This project will build and restore water passages to create shallow, broad, vegetated, and winding components that also restore floodplains. This will produce less bank erosion and sediment pollution as well as improve the mangrove habitat along Alligator Creek.

### Improved Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat:

The vegetation surrounding Alligator Creek will be enhanced with native species to improve the shoreline and increase the fisheries habitat for local sportfish such as snook and tarpon. Additional habitat for prey species of fish will create a more natural and stable ecosystem.

### Recreational and Economic Benefits:

This project will restore freshwater and estuarine wetland areas to create a more hospitable environment for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Restoration will provide better flood protection as well as improve water quality in Alligator Creek and downstream Lemon Bay. These results will be beneficial for many recreational activities in the area including kayaking, canoeing, and fishing.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife*