



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2024

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 our Strategic Plan, the [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#). Before applying, please read through specifications outlined in this cover sheet.

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 projects in communities that have been historically underserved by CHNEP grants as well as new applicant and projects.

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 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.

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. The timeline for our Fiscal Year 2024 is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. There are application dates in the Summer (8/1/23), Winter (12/1/23), and Spring (4/1/24), please see remaining dates for this grant cycle below. Projects should conclude by or before Sept. 1, 2024.

Reimbursement for Conservation Grants are based on 'Deliverables' or 'Outcomes' provided through the project, rather than cost receipts. Deliverables will include a final report that includes photos, metrics for measuring success, etc. which will be reviewed and approved by CHNEP staff to ensure they meet the specifications provided through the initial application.

Once your application is received, it will be evaluated based on the information provided. CHNEP staff will notify you via e-mail once the application is received and will contact you again regarding the status of your application and/or award notification in May 2024.

- **Spring Deadline is April 1, 2024 for a May 2024 award notice**

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on the due date for that cycle. Questions can be submitted via email to: 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".

Contact Information

Project Title	Stewardship Funding for Neighborhood Land Management
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Stewardship Funding would be expended on restoration/maintenance of land parcels acquired by The Environmental Conservancy of North Port And Surrounding Areas in North Port (Sarasota County) which are protected in perpetuity focusing on the removal of invasive plants such as Brazilian pepper and Caesar's weed and reduction of aggressive native grapevine by volunteers and by hired landscape crew(s) depending on the severity of the job on the parcels in our inventory where it is needed.
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. dba The Environmental Conservancy of North Port and Surrounding Areas
Web address	www.ecnorthport.com
Amount requested	\$1,500.00
Total Cost of Project	\$1,500.00
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 30, 2024: <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 2/4/2021	Project Description	Award Amount
	Scrubby Flatwoods Lot Restoration Project (Restoration of our 11,741 sq.ft. vacant lot in an active Florida Scrub-jay neighborhood of North Port with Scrub-jay friendly trees and local native plants. 5 Sand live oak and 2 Myrtle oak were planted, along with 31 native plants. This was a matching grant.	\$665.00
Click or tap to enter a date.		
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.

Link to CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

Check **ALL** the appropriate descriptions of how the project benefits the CHNEP in efforts to further the CCMP. You are welcome to mention other project benefits here. Visit <https://www.chnep.org/conservation-grants> to learn more.

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Target community(ies) historically underserved by CHNEP Grants
- ☒ Other (please state) Educate the public about invasive plants, why removing them is important, and how it is done; also educate regarding aggressive native plants that can take over a parcel where managed fire/controlled burns are not able to be done.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Myakka River | <input 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 |

Attachments included in submission email with application

- Please attach a one-page resume for the project lead or organization.
- Please attach a Project Timeline

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.

Our nonprofit works to acquire and permanently protect natural lots as greenspace in neighborhoods. In other words, we save nature in neighborhoods. As of 3-31-24 we own 17 - ¼ acre parcels in North Port (some host gopher tortoises; almost all are in a Florida Scrub-jay zone. Several need invasive Brazilian pepper or Ceasar's weed removed, some need overgrowth of invasive grapevine reduced or removed from trees. Volunteers can do some of the work, but we need to hire qualified chainsaw operators to assist with some of the larger pepper trees. Hauling away the cut/removed debris will come at a cost as the City of North Port will not pick up debris from vacant lots with no residence attached. It is difficult to project how much debris/the cost of hauling as each lot is different and the work has not yet been done so we would approach use of this grant on a lot-by-lot, load-by-load removal basis, one lot at a time, using volunteers, hired help, or both, for as long as the grant money lasts. At \$300 per lot, we project completing invasive removals on at least 5 lots to total the grant amount being applied for. This work will be part of an ongoing project of long-term land management of our properties.

Project results (outcome)

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? such as: "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

The results of this land management work will be to provide the healthiest habitat possible for use of wildlife and the continued thriving of native plants and trees over time on our properties. Restoring the properties to their pre-invasive-plant or pre-overgrowth-of-natives due to lack of fire - state will be a teaching tool for the public in accordance with the education arm of our mission.

Project products (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 will photograph and document all of the before-and-after work, record the amount of debris removed and include the educational data we collect in presentations about our mission as well as in articles in our newsletter and stories on social media. Educational signs will also be installed on at least 2 of the properties. The public will be given the opportunity to see the before-and-after work in person by registering for guided walks at our properties. We have volunteers with experience in land management work and others who want to learn as well as Board members who already do land management on our properties on a frequent basis. We are hopeful we will begin seeing Scrub-jays frequenting our properties more often after this land management work has been initiated, completed and then maintained.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
LaMotte Water Quality (WQ) Testing Kits Purchased and Volunteer WQ Sampling Conducted	WQ Testing Results Report	\$600 (\$60 per test kit X 10 kits)	\$300 (\$29.95/hr. ** x 10 Hours of Volunteer Time)	\$900
Removal of invasive plants	Number of loads removed and number of lots cleared of invasives	\$1500 (5 lots at \$300 per lot)	\$600 (\$29.95/hr x 20 hours of volunteer time (5 volunteers/4 hours each)	\$2100


Deliverable #2 – Final Report	Click or tap here to enter text.	\$Click or tap here to enter text.	\$Click or tap here to enter text.	\$
TOTAL		\$1500	\$600	\$2100

*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 2023, volunteer hours are valued at \\$29.95.](#)

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, you will be asked to agree to acknowledge CHNEP in any media related to your project, and include CHNEP logo on any signage, publications, social media posts etc. Additionally, you will be asked to provide image/photo files upon request (high resolution preferred) and allow CHNEP to use those images and photos in its communications.
- Awardees will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on your organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2024.

Name (printed)	Barbara Lockhart
Signature	 <small>click or tap here to enter signature</small>
Date	4/1/2024

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org, by 5:00 pm on April 1, 2024.

Once your application is received, it will be evaluated based on the information provided. CHNEP staff will notify you via e-mail once the application is received and will contact you again regarding the status of your application and/or award notification in May 2024. Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

Please include a copy of W-9 and 501c3 if applicable, with submission.