



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2026

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 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 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, 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	Great American Cleanup 2026 – Community-Wide Waterways & Coastal Cleanups
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Keep Lee County Beautiful will coordinate the 2026 Great American Cleanup, engaging volunteers across Lee County to remove litter and debris from shorelines, waterways, parks, and neighborhoods. The effort will enhance wildlife habitat, improve local water quality, and foster environmental stewardship through hands-on action.
Contact Name and Title	Trish Fancher, Executive Director
Street Address	4300 Ford Street, Unit 108
City, State, ZIP Code	Fort Myers, FL 33916
Phone	239-334-3488
E-Mail Address	Trish@klcb.org
Organization Name	Keep Lee County Beautiful
Web address	Klcb.org
Amount requested	\$5,000
Total Cost of Project	\$18,000
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Keep Lee County Beautiful

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 2026: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years?[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☐ Yes (please describe below) ☒ 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.

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 the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <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
- ☐ 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____ |

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.

Click or tap here to enter text .

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
Cleanup Coordination (planning, site prep, staff coordination)	40+ event site logistics and coordination summary	\$1,500 (staff coordination & materials prep)	\$1,500 (volunteer coordination time)	\$3,000
Volunteer Supplies (gloves, bags, grabbers, signage, safety materials)	Supply receipts & distribution report	\$2,500	\$2,000 (donated supplies)	\$4,500
Media, Outreach, and Reporting	Event promotion, photos, and final report	\$2,500	\$2,000 (staff/volunteer time & media value)	\$4,500

Waste Hauling/Disposal	Waste tracking summary and invoices	\$1,000	\$1,000 (donated services from Waste Pro & WM)	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$7,500 total but requesting \$5,000	\$6,500	\$14,000

*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.](#)

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 organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2026.

Name (printed)	Trish Fancher
Signature	Trish Fancher
Date	11/5/2025

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

Applications should be submitted via email to Grants@chnep.org. Please include a copy of W-9 and 501c3 if applicable, with submission.

Questions can be submitted via email to: Grants@chnep.org or by calling the CHNEP main line (941) 833-6580.

Great American Cleanup 2026 – Project Timeline

The following timeline provides a month-by-month outline of Keep Lee County Beautiful's Great American Cleanup 2026. The project runs from January through September 2026 and supports CHNEP's mission of improving water quality, protecting habitats, and engaging the community in conservation action.

January 2026

Finalize event calendar, confirm cleanup locations, and secure permits. Outreach to municipal and nonprofit partners to confirm participation and identify priority cleanup sites.

February 2026

Launch volunteer recruitment and promotional campaign through media, social platforms, and community partners. Order and assemble cleanup materials including gloves, bags, grabbers, and signage.

March 2026

Kick off the Great American Cleanup with the first round of volunteer cleanups across Lee County. Events focus on coastal and inland waterways, parks, and neighborhoods.

April 2026

Continue cleanup events throughout the county. Track volunteer participation and debris data using NOAA Marine Debris Tracker. Conduct mid-project review to assess progress and identify additional sites needing attention.

May 2026

Conclude the main cleanup season with a final wave of volunteer events. Begin compiling debris totals, data summaries, and media coverage for the final report.

June 2026

Draft final report content, collect high-resolution photos, and compile partner acknowledgments. Begin preparing financial documentation for reimbursement.

July 2026

Review all project data with partners and CHNEP staff as needed. Prepare and organize reimbursement documentation and volunteer data summaries.

August 2026

Complete draft final report, refine deliverables, and prepare submission package for CHNEP review.

September 2026

Submit all final deliverables, reimbursement request, and project summary to CHNEP by September 1, 2026. Conduct debrief with key partners and begin planning for future cleanup initiatives.



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2026

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 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 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, 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	Expansion of Youth Leadership and Marine Camp – Sarasota Bay Watch – Southern District (SBWSD)– Serving Robert, Dona and Lyon Bay (Venice, Florida)
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	SBWSD has broadened its after-school Marine Camp Program to serve underserved and disadvantaged children. SBW needs extra equipment and supplies for new camp expansions.
Contact Name and Title	Ronda Ryan, Executive Director
Street Address	P.O. Box 1141
City, State, ZIP Code	Osprey, Florida 34229
Phone	941-232-2363
E-Mail Address	rondaryan@sarasotabaywatch.org
Organization Name	Sarasota Bay Watch
Web address	Sarasotabaywatch.org
Amount requested	\$3,315.00
Total Cost of Project	\$4,513.00 (includes volunteer hours of SBW leadership and Youth Leaders)
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Sarasota Bay Watch

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 2026: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Has the CHNEP provided financial support to you or your organization in the past 5 years?[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

☐ Yes (please describe below) ☒ No

Date		Award Amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Teaching Skulls and Jaws – total of 8	\$1440.00
	Shark Jaws, Skeletons and Turtle Skulls Local species-(variety of types of turtles)	
Click or tap to enter a date.		\$1200.00
	12 Pairs of Binoculars - For Birding Studies (Vortex Bantam) 6.5 X 32	
\$Click or tap to enter a date.		\$250.00
	12 Dissecting Trays with Wax	

Click or tap to enter a date.		\$350.00
	Laminator Machine and printing supplies	
Click or tap to enter a date.		\$75.00
	Rolling Collapsible Storage Pack n Roll	

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 the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <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
- ☐ Other (please state) _____

Geographic Area (check all that apply)

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

- ☒ Dona & Roberts Bays
- ☐ Myakka River
- ☐ Lemon Bay
- ☐ Peace River
- ☐ Charlotte Harbor
- ☐ Pine Island Sound
- ☐ Caloosahatchee River
- ☐ 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.

- ☒ CHNEP Website
- ☐ CHNEP Facebook
- ☐ CHNEP Instagram
- ☐ CHNEP Email Newsletter
- ☐ CHNEP Outreach Event
- ☐ Colleague/Word of Mouth
- ☐ Previous Applicant
- ☐ Other (please state) _____

Attachments included in submission email with application

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

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.

Sarasota Bay Watch has expanded their Youth Leadership Program (YLP) into their newly created Southern District serving Roberts, Dona and Lyon Bays. Youth Leaders at the eighth grade and high school levels learn facts and skills and share this information for 8 week after-school marine camps supervised by teachers/coaches and SBW leaders. Expansion started on September 29, 2025 at Garden Elementary (Venice) with additional program being requested for the spring. Camps are planned for Foster Children on January 19th and February 16, 2026. Additional classes will be scheduled throughout 2026

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

Targets are eight graders, high school students and 4th and 5th graders in Venice and Charlotte County. The grant will be used to purchase educational materials that enhance environmental knowledge and awareness. Students are educated in solutions to help stop pollution and offer preventive methods. Models provide understanding through experience and hand-on demonstration. Binoculars enhance the learning of local birds. Our greatest value is our volunteers that draw the community together around a shared interest in our waters and coastlines. These marine camps will provide us with marine stewardship for the future. Camp size is 24 students. All staff requirements are met by volunteers.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Outputs and deliverables will consist of event photographs, accompanied by data on the number of children who are participating. Post camp surveys from the elementary students and from the youth leaders teaching experience guide the program for improved content, delivery, understanding, and enjoyment. SBW's effective implementation of this program highlights the demand for expansion and prompts the lack of allocation from Federal funding to schools and agencies. These camps are offered at no charge to the students.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total
Marine Camps	# of students involved along with photos of students working on their projects. Dates and time of the camps will be provided	\$3315.00	\$1,198.00 (40 hours of Volunteer Time)	\$4,513.00
Deliverable #1 – XXX	If grant is received will expand additional camps for spring and fall timeframes	\$3315.00	\$1198.00	
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		\$3315.00	\$1198.00	

*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.](#)

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 organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2026.

Name (printed)	Ronda Ryan
Signature	<i>Ronda Ryan</i>
Date	11/25/2025

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

Project Time Line for Sarasota Bay Watch
CHNEP Conservation Grant
Application FY 2026

<u>Time Line</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Location</u>
Fall 2026	8-week after School Marine Camp	Garden Elementary – Venice, Florida
January 19, 2026	Marine Camp	Twig – (Foster Kids) – Venice, Florida
February 16, 2026	Marine Camp	Twig – (Foster Kids) – Venice, Florida

Melinda Short
Sarasota Bay Watch
11/25/2026



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2026

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 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 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, 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	Restoration of the Chipley Sand Patch Chicken Farm
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Calusa Land Trust has recently purchased a 5.45 acre parcel from the Chipley Family on 11/3/2025. It is our intention to remove the invasive plants/trees and restore the property to its original landscape. Clearing for trails from the south end to the northwest corner, and eventually creating picnic areas for local residents.
Contact Name and Title	Cheryl King, President
Street Address	PO Box 216
City, State, ZIP Code	Bokeelia, FL 33922
Phone	(239)699-9058
E-Mail Address	Kredfish58@netzero.net
Organization Name	Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island
Web address	Calusalandtrust.org
Amount requested	\$9999.00
Total Cost of Project	\$20,000
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 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? Click or tap here to enter text.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Date		Award Amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Project Description	Click or tap here to enter amount.
	Click or tap here to enter description.	
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	Click or tap here to enter description..	Click or tap here to enter amount.

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.

[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 the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <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
- ☐ 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHNEP Email Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state) _____ |

Attachments included in submission email with application

- Please attach a one-page **resume** for the project lead or organization. (**Attachment #1**)
- **Project Timeline** (**Attachment #2**).
- **501 c3** (**Attachment #3**)
- **W-9** (**Attachment #4**)

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 **Calusa Land Trust (CLT)** recently purchased 5.45 acres of upland called the Chipley Sand Patch. This property was last inhabited in 1963 (<https://www.pineisland-eagle.com/news/community-news/2025/11/clt-purchases-historic-chipleys-sandpatch-property/>). The land, which lies at an intersection of two large roads and is across from the Bokeelia post office, has been abused by passersby with lots of litter. Many large trees were downed during the hurricanes of the past 20 years and the property has become completely overgrown.

CLT, along with community volunteers and paid heavy equipment operators, **plan to restore the Chipley Property habitat over the next 3-5 years**. The first phase will entail clearing access to the back of the property from the south side along Barrancas to the northwest corner. We will remove litter (tires, a boat, Styrofoam, plastic, wire, bottles, cans, remnants of a building), and clear underbrush and downed trees. We will identify invasive plants and trees for removal, along with providing opportunities for the community to participate in research, monitoring and restoration practices. We will identify native plants & animals, as well as animal habitats for protection during the restoration process. We will utilize community volunteers/work parties to assist in marking trees/plants for saving and for removal. This project will start in January 2026, to begin implementing conservation landscaping techniques. The CLT Board has committed \$10,000 for CY 2026. Receipt of this CHNEP grant would allow us to accelerate our time line and thus shorten the time until public access.

Timeline: See Attachment #2

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

Calusa Land Trust has acquired this 5.4-acre parcel and plans to **restore, protect and manage it to perpetuity**. The community has committed to adhering to the Pine Island Plan **limiting development for the future**. The property to the north is

already slated for future housing developments. This project will create more outdoor space (trails, benches, a Tiki), **protects, enhances and restores native habitat**, and **highlights the history** of the Chipleys 110-year legacy in Bokeelia. An 18-mile long bike path runs north-south on Pine Island and is directly across Stringfellow Road. Our Chipley Preserve will be a destination for the bikers traveling from St. James City to Bokeelia. The progress of this restoration will be documented in formative evaluations and photos posted regularly on our website and Facebook page/group. Our long-term goal is to have a completely restored natural habitat with a building/classroom to enhance the community and provide an **educational learning center** to foster appreciation of our environment and history to students and the greater Pine Island community.

Measurable outcomes include:

- the number of volunteer hours
- the weight/type of removed trash
- the types of invasive plants removed
- the types and number of native plants identified
- the types of native animals/habitats identified

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.

The Calusa land Trust is committed to preserving land and restoring native habitat on Pine Island. We will submit a final report and written summary by August 31, 2026. This will include **receipts, volunteer sign-in sheets, before & after aerial and ground level photos**, as well as **a map** of the property after this phase of clearing downed trees, underbrush, and chipping is done. We will create and install **a property identification sign**. Calusa Land Trust will be successful at restoring this historical and environmentally sensitive land as we have before with our Wigert-Baron, Taylor-Willow, St. Jude Nature Trail and Nancy Weir Preserves on Pine Island. We would be interested in presenting our work to CHNEP at the appropriate time.

Requested Amount by Deliverable and Budget Justification

Task Description	Deliverable	Requested Amount & Justification	Cash Match or In-Kind*	Total

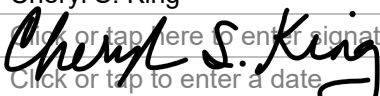
<i>Restoration of the historically & environmentally sensitive Chipley Sandpatch in Bokeelia.</i>	<i>Photos, aerial maps, sign-in sheets, weight/types of trash, receipts</i>			
Deliverable #1 – Removing trash & hurricane debris from the property to prepare for clearing/mulching.	Volunteer sign-in sheets, weight/type of trash, Honc Industries dumpster rental	Dumpster: \$700	120 volunteer hours = \$4174.80	
Deliverable #2 – Clearing downed trees & underbrush Deliverable #3- Identification sign Deliverable #4- Forestry mulching	Aerial photos, ground photos, Facebook/webpage, Gerard's Tree Service receipts. Sign receipt	\$2000/day X 4 days Total: \$8000 Identification signs: \$271.54 Mulching: \$1200/day X 6 days = \$7200	\$5000 match from Calusa Land Trust 1/31/2026-8/31/2026	
\$		\$16,471.54	\$9174.80	

*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.](#)

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 organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2026.

Name (printed)	Cheryl S. King
Signature	
Date	November 30, 2025

Thank you for completing the CHNEP Conservation Grant application!

CHNEP/Conservation Grant Application FY2026

Project Timeline

Year 1- Feb.1,2026-December 31,2026- Budget \$20,000 – Clear driveway entrance and path to back of property, underbrush, downed trees and any visible invasive plants from half (south side along Barrancas Ave.) Chip up all plant debris.

*HONC dumpster rental (\$600 + \$100/month)

*Gerard's Tree Service/\$2000 per day for equipment & crew of 4. (4 days)

* Forest Mulching/\$1200/day (6 days)

Year 2- Budget \$10,000- Clear underbrush, downed trees and any visible invasive plants from the back half (north side). Chip up any plant debris. Partnering with the Pine Island Garden Club, begin to mark plant/trees to save in the front (south) half that has been cleared of underbrush.

Year 3 – Budget \$10,000- Pine Island Garden Club will continue to mark trees/plants to preserve in the north half after it has been cleared of underbrush. Cut down any unwanted trees/shrubs and chip up.

Year 4 – Budget \$12,000 – Final cleanup of property. Lay out walking path. Locate potential building site(s). Create driveway, and design concept of a CLT building. Begin Fundraising activities for future building/classrooms.

These annual budgets are for contractor expenses, and we predict many volunteer hours (\$34.79/hr.) along with grant acquisition. Also, this timeline could be accelerated with grant approval.



CHNEP Conservation Grant Application FY2026

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 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 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, 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	Water Ways Science Festival
Short Description of Project (2-3 sentences)	Inclusive, community-wide outreach event to educate the public about local, regional, and global water issues, bring together local environmental public, nonprofit, and educational organizations, and encourage community action on environmental issues through hands-on activities, games, and art.
Contact Name and Title	Michael Bednar Grant Writer/Coordinator
Street Address	1015 Cultural Park Boulevard
City, State, ZIP Code	Cape Coral, FL, 33990
Phone	(239) 574-0436
E-Mail Address	mbednar@capecoral.gov
Organization Name	City of Cape Coral
Web address	Capecoral.gov
Amount requested	\$9,999.00
Total Cost of Project	\$49,999.00
Name of Entity that will accept Conservation Grant reimbursement (W-9 form is required)	City of Cape Coral

Critical questions

I agree to complete the project and submit the final report before September 30, 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? Click or tap here to enter text.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please describe below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Date		Award Amount
Click or tap to enter a date.	Project Description	Click or tap here to enter amount.
	Click or tap here to enter description.	
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 the CHNEP Conservation Grants webpage at <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
- ☐ 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 type="checkbox"/> Pine Island Sound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Bay | <input checked="" 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) _____ |

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.

Project Description: Water Ways Science Festival**Date:**

Saturday, February 7th, 2026

Time:

10:00a-4:00p

Location:

Cultural Park

528 Cultural Park Boulevard

Cape Coral, FL 33990

The City of Cape Coral Environmental Resources Division will be putting on its 3rd annual Water Ways Science Festival at Cultural Park on Feb. 7th, 2026. The Water Ways festival is the ERD's flagship community outreach event to educate the public about local, regional, and global environmental issues and encourage good environmental practices. It is a community-wide inclusive and neurodivergent-friendly event for all ages that has grown in attendance each year, creating a need for expansion. This year, the festival will bring together even more local government agencies, non-profits, and educational organizations for environmental outreach. The event will also feature ERD educational stations about Cape Coral's waterways, a native landscaping and plant give away clinic, fun hands-on activities, games, and art, and a community engagement corner for volunteer opportunities with local environmental groups.

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

Project Results (Outcome)

The success of the 2026 Water Ways Science Festival will be based on attendance, assuming that each attendee is leaving more educated about environmental issues, more knowledgeable about how they can help, and more engaged in local environmental events. With an expanded festival and increased marketing effort this year, the 2026 Water Ways Science Festival is expected to have an attendance of >2500.

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 plan to track event attendance, vendor attendance, and guest feedback from attendees to deliver festival impact results.

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
Deliverable #1 – Plan and expand the 2026 Water Ways Festival to support an attendance of 2500	Attendance and feedback report; Event photos and videos	\$9,999 (Support Festival Growth Costs)	\$40,000 (Additional festival costs)	\$49,999.00
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		\$Click or tap here to enter text. 9,999.00	\$Click or tap here to enter text. 40,000.00	\$ 49,999.00

*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.

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 organization name on this application, unless specified otherwise. By signing this application, I authorize CHNEP to use all images provided in its outreach communications and publications.
- I acknowledge that if a Conservation Grant is awarded, I will be asked to agree to complete the project and submit the Final Deliverable(s)/Report and Invoice on my organization letterhead (see example attached) requesting reimbursement by September 1, 2026.

Name (printed)	Michael Bednar
Signature	Click or tap here to enter signature.
Date	12/1/2025

Exhibit A

Project Timeline

#	Task	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
1	Secure location, date, time and obtain event permits + Reserve event equipment						
2	Contact previous and new environmental org. partners to register for event						
3	Create marketing plan and materials + Promote event						
4	Recruit and register event volunteers						
5	Plan and develop city-organized education stations, games, activities, and art						
6	Book paid vendors, food trucks, sound stage, entertainment, event workers						
7	Create site plan and event map						
8	DAY BEFORE: final logistics, event set up						
9	DAY OF EVENT, FEB 7, 2026						