

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (ENV-2)

Project Type: County

Project and Background Description:

Encourage property owners living on the waterways in the Nokomis Center to make appropriate improvements to non-conforming shoreline structures such as seawalls, docks and private boat ramps.

Numerous existing shoreline structures along Shakett and Curry Creeks were constructed before 1985, when the County adopted the Sarasota County Water and Navigation Control Authority Ordinance No. 72-084, as amended. These concrete seawalls, docks and private boat ramps do not meet current County environmental standards for water dependent structures. State and local statutes no longer allow new seawalls. Opportunities for shoreline improvements include:

- Retreating from existing hardened shoreline.
- Sloping shoreline instead of existing vertical walls.
- Planting appropriate shoreline vegetation.

Incentives, educational materials, and guidelines are needed to educate the public on how to make appropriate shoreline improvements, rather than more regulations. Demonstration projects on public lands can help residents learn how to make appropriate shoreline improvements on their property. Project locations can be located on public owned property, possibly at the Nokomis Community Park, along U.S. 41 at Shakett Creek, and Lyons Bay access.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

Educational Brochures		\$ 7,500
Demonstration Projects	(\$50 – 100 per LF to be determined on a case by case basis)	\$ 12,500
<i>Total Estimated Cost</i>		<i>\$ 20,000</i>

Potential Funding Source(s):

County Reforestation Funds, County Pollution Control Recovery Trust Fund, Department of Community Affairs Coastal Zone Management

Implementation Time Frame: Mid term, two to five years.

Responsible Parties:

Development Services Resource Permitting

Steps Required to Implement:

- Update coastal permit and variance applicant handbooks for new shoreline improvements (i.e., docks, shoreline alterations, dredge and/or fill projects, tree protection, earthmoving, nuisance vegetation removal, and upland coastal projects).
- Add sections in the handbooks for problems in specific areas, including the Nokomis Center.
- Seek funding sources.
- Allocate in-kind services such as exotic plant removal and donations of appropriate plant materials.
- Develop and fund demonstration projects for the shoreline improvement program.

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. Determine a priority evaluation and ranking procedure. For example, priority can be given to the most offending areas or to projects that offer the greatest environmental improvement.
2. Identify in-kind services (e.g., killing exotic plants on shoreline, providing plant materials for planting) that County can provide.

