



Introduction

IDEAS For Us (IDEAS) is an Orlando-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and an accredited NGO of the United Nations. Our mission is to develop ideas, fund action, and scale solutions that solve the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Through this organization, thousands of volunteers have taken action in over 30 countries around the world and continue to evolve by specializing in helping cities advance sustainability at the local level through environmental projects, community action programs, and eco-enterprises.

The Problem & Solution:

Retention ponds are the basins needed in Florida to catch runoff from areas in higher elevation that can be contaminated by impermeable roadways and high traffic zones that pollute streets, and in effect wash into retention ponds that flow directly into the freshwater aquifers underground. By adding native plants and shrubs around the shorelines of retention ponds, you create a "riparian buffer" that can help collect contaminants and filter groundwater before reaching the aquifers. They also provide food for the native plant and animal life, and reduces shoreline erosion.

The IDEAS for Us Ecological Restoration of Florida Shorelines project aims to reduce the pollution of Florida's water supply by recruiting volunteers to plant native plants by a freshwater shoreline to create a riparian buffer that filters the water of contaminants while providing habitat for native plants and animals. These plants improves the water quality of freshwater bodies and gives IDEAS For Us an opportunity to educate a multi-generational group of community members including a majority of K-12 students, about Florida's aquatic environment. The completed ecologically restored shoreline will stand as a model of sustainable landscaping practices to support improved natural shoreline habitats.

Benefits to Shoreline Restoration Projects:

- Aquatic plants works to retain runoff caused by impermeable cement that infiltrates the water with toxins before releasing it into waterways, in effect reducing pollution
- Reduces shoreline erosion caused by runoff
- Riparian Buffers release the water at flow rates and frequencies that recreate the natural conditions which occur before the polluted runoff ruined the ecosystem.
- The flood volume held in a retaining pond reduces the impact on downstream stormwater systems.
- Riparian Buffers provide pollutant removal through biological uptake and filter freshwater back into the ecosystem which promotes a healthy habitat and increase biodiversity
- Fulfills the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 6- Clean Water and Sanitation, and 14- Life Below Water. This also serves the community around the retention pond as it gives them a fresh water supply.

Key Activities Over Three Years:

- Educate up to 50 individuals at “Think- Tank” IDEAS Hive monthly meeting on topics in sustainability in regards to water
- Lead a site assessment to determine the final plant design and initial water quality tests
- Engage K-12 students in hands-on planting in shoreline restoration site for the annual ecological restoration installation
- Lead 3 waterways cleanups a year of the area and any other surrounding waterbodies

Before



During



After



Plants to be Installed in Ecological Restoration Design:



Buttonweed



Pickerweed



Lizard Tail



Soft Rush



Golden Canna



Elderberry



Scarlet Hibiscus



Blue Flay Iris



Pond Cypress

Project Budget:

Description	Details	Per Year	Per Three Years
Educational Event	Venue fees needed to bring volunteers together and discuss the importance of ecological restoration for 9 IDEAS Hive events over 3 years	\$1500	\$4,500
Educational Supplies	Dry erase boards, PA system, writing materials, food, demonstration devices such as water testing kits and water works demonstration tables.	\$600	\$1,800
Waterway Expert Educator	Services of a professional in ecological restoration to come out to community think-and-do tank event The IDEAS Hive, lead the three waterway cleanups annually, and manage the annual ecological restoration project.	\$4,500	\$13,500
Aquatic Plants	250 Native Aquatic Plants including: Pickerelweed, Bulrush, Golden Canna, Duck Potato, Lizard Tail, Buttonbush, Pond Cypress, and Iris for 3 installations over 3 years	\$3,000	\$9,000
Tools For Installation	Shovels, hand trowels, buckets, anchors for aquatic plants, ecologically appropriate gravel and sand	\$800	\$2,400
Tools For Waterway Clean Ups	Trash grabbers, trash bags, bins, signage	\$250	\$750
Water Testing	Water testing kits for 3-4 sessions of testing including: Nitrogen & Phosphorus, pH, & Heavy Metals Testing	\$800	\$2,400
Administration	Ordering, scheduling, & administrative personnel fees	\$750	\$2,250
Total Ask	Support a Shoreline Restoration Project:	\$12,200	\$36,600

Local Schools Invited to Hives and Planting Events:

Name of School	Address	Age Groups Served
OCPS Academic Center for Excellence K-12 School (ACE School)	701 W. Livingston St, Orlando, FL 32805	5 years old - 11 years old
Carver Middle School	4500 Columbia St, Orlando, FL 32811	10 years old - 14 years old
Evan's High School	4949 Silver Star Rd, Orlando, FL 32808	13 years old - 18 years old
Catalina Elementary	2448 29th St, Orlando, FL 32805	5 years old - 10 years old
Parramore Kidz Zone	1030 W Kaley Avenue, Orlando, FL 32805	13 years old - 18 years old

Location of Events:

Name	Address	Owned By	Description
Lake June (Location A)	1221 19th Street, Orlando, Florida	Orange County Government	This is a 3.736 acre water-body that is located near all of the school entities mentioned in our proposal. The 250 plants will be planted along a 60 foot section of the shoreline. The stations for refreshments & plant staging will be on the East side of the water-body away from the neighborhood street.
Southwest Orlando Pond (Location B)	630 W Conroy St, Orlando, Florida	City of Orlando Government	This is a 0.876 acre water-body that is located near all of the school entities mentioned in our proposal. The 250 plants will be planted along a 60 foot section of the shoreline. The stations for refreshments & plant staging will be inside the fencing on the South- side of the water-body away from the neighborhood street.
Parramore Retention Pond (Location C)	1806 South Parramore Ave 32805	City of Orlando Government	This is a 0.676 acre water-body that is located near all of the school entities mentioned in our proposal. The 250 plants will be planted along a 60 foot section of the shoreline. The stations for refreshments & plant staging will be inside the fencing on the South- side of the water-body away from the neighborhood street.
The IDEAS Hive think-and-do tank	3201 Corrine Dr, Orlando, FL 32803	East End Market	This is a local community food hub in which IDEAS For Us rents the upstairs venue space.

