



Palm Bay to Receive State Funding for Bayfront Restoration Projects

Palm Bay - The City of Palm Bay is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$222,000 in State funding to be used for projects in Palm Bay's Bayfront. The funding request, sponsored by State Senator Debbie Mayfield, will support efforts to repair and restore shoreline in the City's Bayfront area. The project has garnered a great deal of support from local governmental officials to State-level representatives.

"I want to recognize our governmental affairs expert Ron Book & his team's tireless efforts. I also want to thank Representative Randy Fine, Senator Debbie Mayfield and Governor Rick Scott for supporting this good project.", said Palm Bay city councilman Tres Holton.

The primary goal of the project is to address the 2,000 linear feet of eroded harbor shoreline and near-shore sediment that was removed during Hurricane Matthew last year. Along with restoration efforts, native plants will be replanted along the shoreline and near-shore area of the Bay, promoting a healthy ecosystem and aiding efforts to protect the Indian River Lagoon from pollutants. In addition to the repair of the environmental aspects of the area, some of the awarded funding will go toward the preliminary stages of the reconstruction of an historic pier.

Palm Bay's Bayfront is an ongoing area of focus for new development within the City. The completion of the restoration of the Bayfront will aid in efforts to foster commercial development in the area by increasing public water access and priming the district for growth. The local economy has already seen the addition of 1,500 new high-tech jobs from regional employers such as Harris Corporation in the City's evolving technology corridor, which is adjacent to the shoreline restoration project site.

According to Palm Bay Bayfront Community Development Agency Administrator James Marshal, "Increasing the opportunities for our City to

attract and retain a competitive workforce focused on innovation is a top priority for Palm Bay. To be successful, we need to ensure that we can provide the kind of lifestyle that our talented workforce is looking for." Marshal continued, "Reconstructing our eroded shoreline while also increasing public access to the Bay and the Indian River Lagoon is a key first step in attracting renewed development to the region. Having a well maintained publicly accessible waterfront benefits all of the residents of Palm Bay."