

Through the Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI), the Florida Coastal Management Program makes federal (NOAA) funds available, on a competitive basis, to Florida's 35 coastal counties and all municipalities within their boundaries that are required to include a coastal element in their comprehensive plan. Florida's public colleges and universities, regional planning councils, national estuary programs and nonprofit groups may also apply for CPI funds if an eligible local government agrees to participate as a partner. CPI grants provide financial support to communities for the implementation of local projects that protect, enhance, and improve the management of natural, cultural, and historical coastal resources, and increase the sustainability, resiliency, and preparedness of coastal communities.

The Coastal Partnership Initiative was developed to promote the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources in four specific priority areas:

Resilient Communities: The goal of this priority area is to help coastal communities prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change, natural hazards and disasters. Project examples include conducting vulnerability analyses and risk assessments; developing post-disaster redevelopment plans and strategies; restoring coastal wetlands; developing energy strategies; and improving communities' resiliency to coastal hazards.

Coastal Resource Stewardship: To promote stewardship and appreciation of fragile coastal resources, applicants may request funds for community-based projects that involve citizens, volunteers and the local government. Project examples include dune and wetland restoration; exotic plant control; coastal clean-ups; and environmental awareness initiatives, events and field trips.

Access to Coastal Resources: Communities are encouraged to accommodate public access to coastal and marine resources while protecting fragile and overused environments. Access projects could include developing plans for land acquisition and management; developing site plans for nature trails; developing recreational surface water use policies; exotic species removal and restoration of native species; and small-scale capital improvements such as dune walkovers, boardwalks, and canoe/kayak launches.

Working Waterfronts: Waterfront communities may wish to revitalize, renew and promote interest in their waterfront districts. Some examples of projects include: developing and implementing a vision plan for a waterfront district; developing architectural standards for waterfront areas; small construction projects such as a boardwalk, observation platform, welcome center or information kiosk; restoring shorelines and wetlands; or implementing other measures that mitigate the effects of natural hazards.

Through a 2013 Coastal Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant, the Jupiter Beach Park was upgraded to include ADA-compliant picnic tables, bike racks and over 1,400 linear feet of ADA-compliant six-foot-wide concrete sidewalks and associated crosswalks. This pathway commences at the park entrance and extends the length of the park. The grant also improved the natural areas of the park through enhancing dune vegetation and removing 18 mature invasive Australian pines (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), replacing them with native, shade-producing vegetation.

CPI projects make a difference in the state of Florida every day. Many cities in Florida have used CPI grant funds to complete projects that have exponential benefits to the state. For more information about CPI grants, please visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/grants/fcpmgrants.htm>. To read more about CPI projects funded in FY 15- 16, please visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp/grants/files/FY_15-16_CPI_Abstracts.pdf.