

CITY OF SEBASTIAN
COMMUNITY OYSTER GARDEN PROJECT
Statement of Work
December 2018

I. INTRODUCTION/ BACKGROUND

Oysters are filter feeders, who remove algae and nutrients from the water making it cleaner for marine life and seagrasses. One adult oyster alone can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. In addition to improving water quality, oysters also form communities that serve as habitat for other aquatic species and provide wave protection for shorelines. For this reason, oysters have been identified as a keystone species to the health of the Indian River Lagoon and its biota. Therefore, introducing oysters to the Indian River Lagoon was identified by the City Council as a goal for the Natural Resource Board (NRB).

In November 2014, potential sites for an oyster reef installation project were evaluated by NRB members and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Based on this assessment, five potential locations were identified within the City of Sebastian. Fisherman's Landing was selected as the preferred site at a public workshop held in August 2014. After consulting with specialists with the Brevard Zoo, it has also been determined that the selected site is within an area known for optimum oyster growth and recruitment.

By October 2017, the NRB had been approved for a grant from the Indian River Lagoon Council for an oyster bag installation project. The site had been surveyed and all the appropriate permits had been acquired. However, by December 2017, the project site had become dominated by a sandbar and unfit for the project. Also, a proposed shoreline restoration project threatened to delay the project's timeline. Therefore, a Community Oyster Garden Project was proposed and approved by the NRB which included oyster baskets to be hung from the sides of the municipal dock and incorporation of a Living Dock design. The project's end product had now been shifted from ecological restoration to education/outreach! In February, 2018, the project's redesign was officially approved by the IRL Council. As of December 2018, the project has been initiated and received positive feedback from the community. The City of Sebastian proposes to continue the momentum by requesting a No-Cost Extension to the grant contract for one year, January 2019-December 2019.

The project site, known as "Fisherman's Landing", is a municipal working water front along the Indian River Lagoon which was acquired and rehabilitated in 2009 with assistance from the FCT Working Waterfronts Grant. The purpose of this site is to promote fishing and aquaculture activities, as well as to educate visitors on the history and culture of fishing and the aquatic species in the area. The Community Oyster Garden Project compliments the outreach goals of the City's Working Waterfront while providing an interactive educational experience for participants and visitors.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are:

- Continue the recruitment of volunteers and volunteer groups from the area to assist and/or participate in the establishment of the interactive educational program.
- Continue with improvements to the design and materials for the construction of both the oyster baskets and the system that will hang and secure the baskets.
- Initiate and assist with the design and materials for the installation of the Living Docks system promoted by Florida Institute of Technology.
- Continue with the maintenance and data collection of the Community Oyster Garden Project and Living Docks system.
- Design and install interpretive signage on the dock and inside Fisherman's Landing providing education on oysters and their benefit to the Indian River Lagoon.
- Continue the bi -monthly data collection events which are a hands-on learning experience for volunteers and participants throughout the grant cycle.
- Promote at home oyster gardening.
- Donate full grown oysters into local oyster reef restoration projects.

III. SCOPE

The City of Sebastian and the NRB will provide the technical and organizational support for this project. The City's Environmental Technician will serve as the project's organizational leader. A local aquaculturist will be utilized as the source for juvenile oysters. A team consisting of City staff and volunteers will provide assistance with performing regular maintenance on the installations, as well as data collection.

In addition, the City will provide and supervise an informational booth at local outreach events. Information on the progress of the Community Oyster Garden will be posted on the website and emailed to residents and volunteers upon their request. The ongoing educational campaign will include an oyster lesson plan to prepare visiting students and organizations. Interpretive aqua cultural signage will be installed at the data collection site. An interpretive tour will be scripted which incorporates the fisherman's museum inside Fisherman's Landing and culminates with oyster data collection. Integral to the educational campaign will be the promotion of at home Oyster Gardening and Living Docks.

IV. TASK IDENTIFICATION

Task 1: Organize and log the recruitment of volunteers, volunteer groups and staff.

Task 2: Organize and log the established interactive educational program.

Task 3: Monitor and record improvements to the design and materials of the oyster baskets to promote at home oyster gardening.

Task 4: Install and monitor the Living Docks system promoted by Florida Institute of Technology.

Task 5: Monitor and record data collected as part of SWOT parameters for the Community Oyster Garden Project and Living Docks system.

Task 6: Complete the design and installation of interpretive signage.

Task 7: Evaluate project and submit annual report.

V. TIMEFRAMES AND DELIVERABLES

All deliverables shall be delivered to the **Indian River Lagoon Council:**

**1235 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958**

Task 1: Organize and log the recruitment of volunteers, volunteer groups and staff.

Deliverable: log of volunteers and activities June 2019, final log and activities December 20, 2019

Task 2: Organize and log the established interactive educational program.

Deliverable: log and description of educational activities June 2019, final log and activities December 20, 2019

Task 3: Monitor and record improvements to the design and materials of the oyster baskets to promote at home oyster gardening.

Deliverable: record of activities and improvements June 2019, final record December 20, 2019

Task 4: Install and monitor the Living Docks system promoted by Florida Institute of Technology.

Deliverable: record of activities and improvements June 2019, final record December 20, 2019

Task 5: Monitor and record data collected as part of SWOT parameters for the Community Oyster Garden Project and Living Docks system.

Deliverable: record of activities and improvements June 2019, final record December 20, 2019

Task 6: Complete the design and installation of interpretive signage.

Deliverable: record of activities and improvements June 2019, final record December 20, 2019

Task 7: Evaluate project and submit semi-annual and annual report.

Deliverable: June 28, 2019 and December 20, 2019

VI. BUDGET

Task	Description	IRL Council Funding	Cost-Share Funding	Cost-Share Source
1 and 2	Obtain assistance from Volunteers and Staff		\$3000	Cash Volunteers
3 and 4	Materials, maintenance and installation of oyster garden and living dock habitat	\$10,000	\$10,000	Cash Volunteers
6	Educational Campaign Brochures, materials and signage	\$14,000	\$8428	Cash Volunteers
5 and 7	Data processing and Final report		\$2500	Cash Volunteers
	Total	\$24,000	\$23,928	
	Total Project Cost	\$47,928		

The City shall submit and invoice at the completion of Task 5 and a final invoice at the completion of Task 7.

Time for staff will be logged and assessed at the individual's hourly rate plus benefits. The final report will include staff time and assessment details.

The value of volunteer time shall be \$22.14 per hour. The City shall include in the final report the names of all volunteers and the dates, as well as beginning and ending times. The sum of all volunteer hours shall be multiplied by \$22.14 per hour to arrive at the total in-kind contribution for the volunteer in-kind match component.