

Lake Apopka – Demonstration Project

Pursuant to a prime contract that originated through the State of Florida's Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC"), the University of Florida ("UF") successfully completed a demonstration project in June, 2013, evaluating rapid dewatering technology and beneficial reuse methods for bottom sediment in non-vegetated areas of Lake Apopka. The demonstration project was fully funded through grants from the State of Florida. UF monitored and studied all aspects of the demonstration project (i.e. dredging, rapid dewatering and disposal). UF contracted with Clean To Green, Inc., a Florida based company specializing in environmental restoration and remediation of waterbodies, to provide the labor, supervision, expertise, materials and equipment needed to conduct the demonstration project, which included, but not limited to dredging, dewatering and disposal of dredge materials. The demonstration project was centered around the dredging of the boat ramp and area along the dock in Magnolia Park to enhance the launching and docking of boats. Prior to the project, the boat ramp was unusable to most recreational watercraft due to the deterioration of lake conditions, and even proved to be a challenge for research boats launching and docking from the facility.

The project yielded important findings to positively impact restoration efforts not only in Lake Apopka but other water bodies throughout the State of Florida. The demonstration project is part of a larger effort initially spearheaded by the University of Florida working in concert with FWC, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District and various other state and local agencies to expand the study of various approaches to restore water quality in nutrient rich freshwater lakes in the State of Florida for environmental and/or aquatic habitat purposes, which entail the removal of organic detrital material. Lake Apopka has been identified as a freshwater lake in the State of Florida with organic detrital material that has degraded water quality and inhibits restoring aquatic habitat requiring the implementation of dredging program and establishment of a comprehensive aquatic plant management program.

For more detailed information see attachment.

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by Robert Hendrick