

**Project Name:** C&SF: CERP Lakes Park Restoration (OPE)  
**Project ID:** 2302 (CERP Project WBS # 94)  
**Lead Agency:** USACE / Lee County  
**Authority:** WRDA 2000 (Programmatic Authority < \$25 M)  
**Funding Source:** Federal/County

**Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed:** 2-A.3

**Measurable Output(s):** 40-acre marsh flowway, 11 acres of uplands, 9 acres of littoral zone

**April 1999 Project Synopsis:** Includes the construction of a 40-acre marsh/flow way in an abandoned rock mine, removal of exotic vegetation, and planting native vegetation on 11 acres of uplands and 9 acres of littoral zone. This feature is located in the Lee County Lakes Regional Park, upstream of Estero Bay.

**Current Project Synopsis:** The purpose of this feature is to enhance surface water runoff quality by creating a meandering flowway with shallow littoral zones to enhance pollution removal and oxygen content, removing aquatic and upland exotic infestation while allowing public access into upland areas of improved native habitat. The restoration will provide immediate habitat and water quality benefits at Lakes Park and improve downstream conditions in Hendry County and the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. The project adheres to the original concept described in the Restudy. In addition, water quality is being impacted by the growing number of birds using the area as a rookery.

**Current Status:** Federal efforts on this project are being discontinued. The South Florida Water Management District has advised that they will work with the non-federal sponsor (Lee County) to accomplish this project with non-federal resources to expedite design and construction outside of the CERP. Jacksonville District received a letter from Lee County requesting the project "close-out" process begin. Lee County, working with SFWMD, retrofitted two control structures to stop salt water intrusion and constructed detention areas to improve water quality along the eastern edge of the park, upstream of the control structures (Phase I and Phase II). Lee County has moved forward with the design and permitting for an additional treatment area consisting of a 40-acre filter marsh and flowway (Phase III): to address the offsite stormwater issues. Construction of the filter marsh and the flowway is anticipated to begin in FY2011.

**Est. Cost:** \$ 6,567,000

**Project Schedule:** TBD by Sponsor

**Detailed Project Budget Information (rounded):**

Lakes Park Restoration	Expenditures Thru 2009	FY
USACE		\$656,239
Lee County		\$176,108
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$832,347</b>

**Hyperlink:** [http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj\\_94\\_lakes\\_park.aspx](http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_94_lakes_park.aspx)

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**Source:** Original project description summarized from the *Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) (1999)*. Cost estimate information is updated to reflect current price levels in October 2009 dollars. Actual expenditures include all federal expenditures through FY09 (Sept, 2009) and sponsor verified and recorded in kind credit through 4th quarter FY07. Additional information was summarized from the PMP (2005).

**Additional  
Information:**

Lakes Park is located east of Cape Coral in Lee County, just west of Highway 41. Lee County has developed this area as a regional park with a bathing area along shores of mining pits developed as lakes. The pits capture runoff from the surrounding developed area (commercial, industrial, and residential), and county monitoring has indicated a decline in water quality in the lakes. The lakes are infested with hydrilla, and adjacent uplands and islands are covered with exotic plant species such as Australian pine and Brazilian pepper.

Adjacent to the developed area, the remaining natural habitat contains pine flatwoods with some cypress heads. This project is expected to restore surface water runoff quality by creating a meandering 40-acre flow way with shallow littoral zones and removing aquatic and upland exotic vegetation. The littoral zone will be harvested periodically to remove excess nutrients from the system. Exotic vegetation will be removed and replaced with native vegetation.

