

Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant Program

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Name: RIVENDELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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The following must be provided with the application:

- One (1) original Neighborhood Grant Application Packet (3 hole punched and paper clipped).
- Eleven (11) copies of the Grant Application Packet (3 hole punched and paper clipped).

* If 2 or more pages are needed in a section, please label the extra pages with a letter. DO NOT USE PAPER DIVIDERS. Example: 3, 3-A, 3-B, 3-C, 3-D, etc.

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ORGANIZATION/CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Title Landscaping for Birds & Butterflies, plus Invasive Removal

1. Organization Information:

Organization Name Rivendell Community Association, Inc.

Address 899 Woodbridge Drive, Venice, FL 34293

Organization Type: Homeowners Association Neighborhood Association
 Other Ad Hoc

2. Leadership Information:

Grant Contact Person Michael Bergman

Address 669 Rivendell Blvd, Osprey FL 34229

Home Phone 966-1489 Work Phone 480-1889 Fax 480-1740

E-Mail address mbbergman@aol.com

President's name or official representative Mark Adler

Address 714 Shadow Bay Way, Osprey, FL 34229

Home Phone 918-1300 Work Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail address: mark@rivendellassociation.com

3. Neighborhood Information:

Name of Neighborhood Woodlands at Rivendell, Osprey, 34229

Boundaries:

North Park Trace Development South Willowbend Development, Oscar Scherer

East Oscar Scherer State Park West Old Venice Road, PineView School

Number of homes 498 Number of association members 1000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Description - Please be specific (attach photos if applicable):

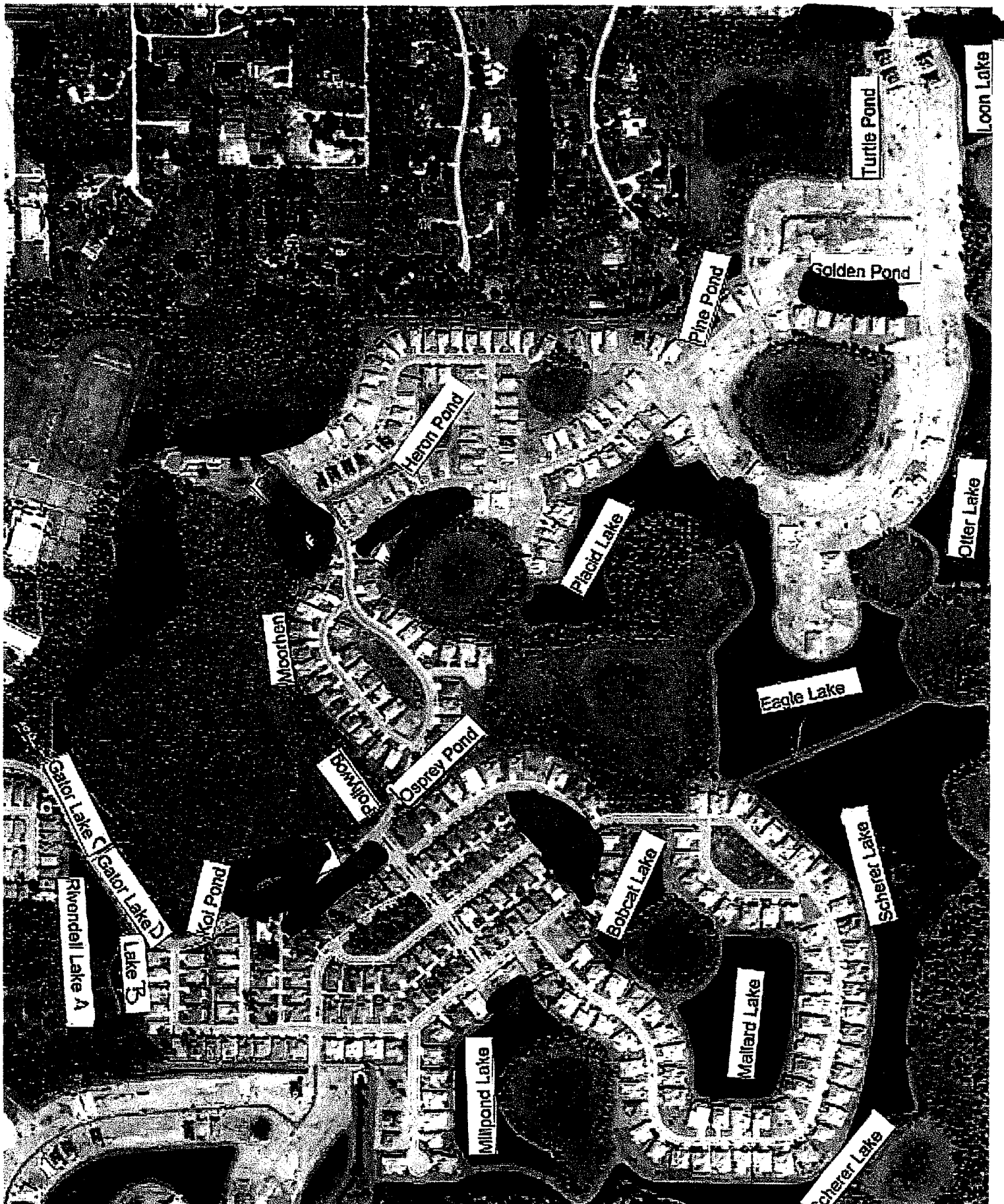
There are **two parts** to this environmental improvement project. The first is the creation of 10 foot "**No Mow, No Irrigation, No Fertilization,**" **lake buffer zones** around six of our community's accessible storm-retention ponds. We will plant these areas from the season high water level (SHWL) to the top of the bank with easily sustainable Florida native or Florida friendly plants. We will apply **Melaleuca mulch** to protect these plants. The Water Management District, Sarasota County, University of Florida limnology department, and Department of Environmental Protection all encourage **Lake Buffer Zones**. This is designed to model the desired county fertilizer usage plan. The planting project will be designed by professionals. Community volunteers will perform the planting and mulching, and will hand-water until the plants are established. Please see attached maps and appendixes for details.

Secondly, we are going to **remove invasive plants** from 5 locations of our common area:

- Adjacent to the nature trail bordering Pine View School
- Crescent Park
- Rivendell Park
- Another area adjacent to the school at the trailhead
- The wooded area at our border with Park Trace community (see map).

These are upland, non-preserved areas. There are Brazilian Pepper Trees, Melaleuca Trees, Chinaberry, and invasive Climbing Fern that are threatening to overwhelm the native species. Professionals following Best Management Practices, defined by Exotic Pest Plant Council, the Department of Forestry and/ or IFAS, will manage this part of the project.

Our goal is ecological sustainability. We seek to improve our habitat and beautify our neighborhood in a way that has the least negative impact on our environment. We will use plants that require no special irrigation, fertilizers or weed killers, thus impacting the smallest ecological footprint possible on our environment. **Our project will reduce the levels of harmful chemicals in fertilizers and weed and insect killers that run off into our retention ponds.** Our storm water effluent runs through the Willow Bend community to our south, through **Oscar Scherer State Park**, into the South Creek, and finally into **Sarasota Bay**. We want to do our part in preserving the quality of our waterways.



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FLORIDA YARDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS LANDSCAPE INFORMATION

Organization Name: Rivendell Community Association

Square footage of the areas to be landscaped: 12,885

Soil pH: 5.9 – 6.5 (Annemarie Post tested the soil a year or 2 ago.)

Plant list:

QUANTITY	SIZE	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	AREA
5	3G	<i>ACROSTICHUM DANAEIFOLIUM</i>	LEATHER FERN	50
200	1G	<i>ASCLEPIAS LANCEOLATA</i>	MILKWEED	400
10	3G	<i>CALLICARPA AMERICANA</i>	BEAUTY BERRY	100
400	1G	<i>COREOPSIS LANCEOLATA</i>	LANCE TICKSEED	800
200	1G	<i>COREOPSIS LEAVENWORTHII</i>	TICKSEED	400
50	1G	<i>FLAVERIA FLORIDANA</i>	YELLOW TOP	100
400	1G	<i>GAILLARDIA PULCHELLA</i>	BLANKET FLOWER	800
10	3G	<i>HAMELIA PATENS</i>	FIRE BUSH	250
100	1G	<i>HELIANTHUS ANGUSTIFOLIUS</i>	SWAMP SUNFLOWER	200
200	1G	<i>IPOMOEA IMPERATI</i>	BEACH MORNING GLORY	3,000
20	1G	<i>LOBELIA CARDINALIS</i>	CARDINAL FLOWER	40
300	1G	<i>MIMOSA STRIGILLOSA</i>	MIMOSA	4,500
300	1G	<i>RUDBECKIA HIRTA</i>	BLACK-EYED SUSAN	600
300	1G	<i>SALVIA COCCINEA</i>	MEXICAN SAGE	600
400	1G	<i>SISYRINCHIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM</i>	BLUE EYED GRASS	400
30	BR	<i>SPARTINA BAKERI</i>	SAND CORDGRASS	180
20	1G	<i>TRIPSACUM</i>	DWARF FAKAHATCHEE	120
10	BR	<i>TRIPSACUM DACTYLOIDES</i>	FAKAHATCHEE GRASS	120
50	1G	<i>VERNONIA GIGANTEA</i>	IRONWEED	150
5	3G	<i>VIBURNUM OBOVATUM</i>	WALTER'S VIBURNUM	75
3,010	TOTAL PLANTS		PLANTING AREA IN SQUARE FEET	12,885

Type of irrigation, provide brand name or other details*: Hand watering or "home made" solar powered micro-irritation

Source of the irrigation water: stormwater ponds

Type of mulch: Melaleuca

The landscape will be maintained by: Volunteers

Rivendell

Lake Buffer - Planting Areas by lake

length	%	Lake	Location	Width	Area
150		Lake 1 & 2	Front	3	450
150		Lake 1 & 2	Back	5	750
250		Lake 6	Front	3	750
550		Lake 6	Back	8	4,400
100		Lake 10	Front	3	300
100		Lake 10	Back	6	600
300		Lake 12	Front	3	900
350		Lake 12	Back	7	2,450
100		L13/14	Berm - Mimosa only	15	1,500
250		Lake 20	Front	3	750
2300				Total SF	12,850
Total Linear Feet					

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The project must have a valid public purpose. In completing the Public Benefit Statement ask the following questions, but do not limit yourself to just these:

Does the project **add to the value of surrounding neighborhoods**? Does the project enhance the safety of all citizens? Does the project provide a **more attractive environment** for the community? Is the project **on public/common land**? Is the project **accessible to the general public**? Does the project improve the health and general welfare of the public?

The Woodlands at Rivendell is a 400-acre **non-gated community** bordered by several other communities, PineView School and Oscar Scherer State Park. We are stewards of 100 acres of wetland preserve and woodlands, and 100 acres of ponds. **Our conservation efforts within this area impact all of these surrounding neighbors. Our roads are accessible to the public**, and shared by residents of nearby developments. Our nature path is adjacent to PineView School, and shared by some of these students and their families.

We will plant a variety of “bay friendly” native species from the water line to the top of the slopes around some of our community accessible storm-retention ponds. These plants will need **no fertilizer or herbicides, nor insecticides**. Once established, they will **not require routine watering**. There will be **no need to mow** around these ponds, thus **keeping grass clippings out of the water**. By controlling what goes into our ponds, we can help **improve the water quality all the way out to the bay**. Our goals are to:

- **Reduce nutrient and sediment load** into the lakes.
- **Improve wildlife**, especially bird and butterfly habitat.
- Create **environmental learning experiences** for Rivendell community residents.
- Create a **model lake buffer** that other Sarasota County residents can observe and learn from.
- **Foster a sense of community pride**. We will use **volunteer community labor** to do a large share of the planting, mulching and initial watering in of the plants. Volunteers from a **local Girl Scout troop** will help us with these endeavors.
- **Educate the public** on the benefits of lake buffer zones, and the use of Florida native or friendly plants. We will **publicize** this project in our community newsletter, the *Woodland Word*, the *Observer*, the *Herald Tribune*, and will invite the local TV stations to show our project to the public.
- **Reduce the spread of invasive plants** in our and adjacent communities by systematically removing them.

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COMMUNITY NEED

&

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION STRENGTHENING

Community Need

List the most important needs, issues or concerns of your neighborhood and how the grant will address these needs. Why does the neighborhood need the grant funding to accomplish the proposed project? Please be specific.

Our community was laid out around a series of about 23 storm drainage ponds that originated as barren holding areas. We have planted many hundreds of emergent and shoreline plants, and stocked the ponds with midge-larvae-eating fish. We have planted butterfly gardens on the upland areas near these ponds and nearby park areas. We are using solar power to pump pond water for irrigation in one common area, and due to its success, we are planning to replicate this in other areas. We are also using solar to heat our community pool. As part of a continuum of **environmental stewardship**, we now wish to **plant a low-maintenance zone of shrubs, flowers, groundcovers and native grasses** from the waterlines up the slopes of several of these ponds. We will **maintain these plants** by hand watering for several months until they become self-sustainable. **We are hoping to showcase these areas to educate the community and other Sarasota residents about esthetically attractive natural means of controlling pollutants from entering our waterways.** We are working within a very limited budget and would appreciate a Neighborhood Grant to supplement our funds and volunteer labor for this project.

Community Association Strengthening

Explain how the proposed project will strengthen and improve the neighborhood. List the *specific goals* that you wish to achieve. Please be specific.

This project will help strengthen our Association and our community. The Board of Directors is behind our efforts to use recommended guidelines to protect our waterways while beautifying our neighborhood. They have agreed to fund our undertaking. The neighbors are supporting us with their affirmation signatures and by volunteering to help with the planting and maintenance of the aforementioned plants and wildflowers. They have seen what neighbors working together can do from our past successful grant projects, and are mindful that it was community support that won the day. We have over **120 signatures** and **370 volunteer hours** pledged for this endeavor. **Volunteers will help with the planting and mulching, and with hand watering and until the plants are established.** In addition, some girls from **Girl Scout Troop 449** will help us with the planting, and present an enviroscape demonstration about protecting our waterways. We hope that the example set by these Girl Scouts will encourage the young people in our neighborhood to join in future community endeavors. We feel that working together to beautify our development, our residents will feel a real sense of community. They will see that there is strength in working together to improve our neighborhood.