



## NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

# Neighborhood Environmental Project Case Study Form

Neighborhood/Community Name    Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club

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## **PROJECT INFORMATION: *Track 2 Water -Trace Metal Analyses of Rampart Pond Sediments***

**Please provide an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?**

The principal source of water to the five largest Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club (MLG&CC) ponds is from storm water runoff from an inflow located on the northern property line adjacent to Rampart Avenue. Sediments from the initial receiving pond (Rampart Pond) will be analyzed for trace metals. This is part of an ongoing program by MLG&CC Natural Resources Committee (NRC) to characterize storm water impact on pond water quality and establish a set of baseline data for future assessments. MLG&CC has a history of water quality complaints with Charlotte County and Southwest Florida Water Management District over the impairment of storm water discharged into park ponds. Such data collection is needed to differentiate between external and internal inputs.

The Rampart Avenue storm sewer system was re-constructed in 2013 and expected to improve storm water quality. Visual observations would indicate that the anticipated improvement does not seem to be occurring. Prior to 2014 the Corporation had no chemical data to dispute impairment from external sources. In 2015 the Corporation performed a nutrient study. This will now be complemented with a trace metal data study.

**Please list your goals for this project:**

- Collect 3 sediment samples
- Analyze for (50) trace metals
- Review data, form an opinion and produce a report
- Establish a baseline data set
- Inform Corporate Board
- Place report on NRC website
- Present data at homeowner meeting

**What specific steps did you take to implement your project? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require? (Please give sufficient detail so that someone interested in duplicating this project could do so.)**

- Attended local meetings and meet with staff from Environmental agencies
- Arranged for park staff to obtain samples during a dredging operation
- Prepared and delivered samples for analysis.
- Review data.
- Prepare report
- Advise NRC Committee on further actions

**Describe the results you achieved. What were the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results (i.e., numbers of acres naturalized, new species observed, or number of fledglings).**

The golf course at MLG&CC is an Audubon sanctuary site. It provides habitat for a large variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles. The viability of this habitat relies on the water quality of the watershed within Park boundaries. We have significant concern over the impact storm water has on this watershed. Storm water runoff is not subject to any environmental regulation. However, Florida SWIM legislation seeks to improve water quality of all water bodies were achievable. Our efforts to characterize the MLG&CC water resource and the impairment of it, is necessary to negotiate improvements with local agencies. We believe past complaints did factor in the design outcome of the Rampart Avenue storm sewer reconstruction. Future efforts to limit the amounts of oil, debris, nutrient and chemical compounds will require scientific data in support of our complaint filings.

**How did people respond to the project? How did you communicate your actions and results?**

There has been significant community support for water quality improvement. The Corporation provided funding for the nutrient study. The Corporation Board through the General Manager has had multiple contact with local environmental agencies regarding impairment issues. We will communicate our results through a report, posting information and newsletters on our NRC website and by presentation at one of our homeowner meetings.

**What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again? What would you recommend to others implementing this project?**

It would have been beneficial if we could have obtained properly taken core samples, rather than grab samples. This would have helped in determining the actual period of deposition. This project is part of a larger effort to define our watershed. Effecting change through federal, state and local agencies is a long-term process. Petitioning and meeting with elected officials is a necessary part of the process.

**How much did it cost to implement this project?**

The sample collection required staff time of approximately 2 hours. Sample preparation and delivery required 5 volunteer hours. The analytical testing will be donated and costed at \$350. Data interpretation, review and reporting will require 10 hours of volunteer time. Reporting and distributing the data will likely take a further 5-8 volunteer hours.

**What are your anticipated or actual financial savings?**

The estimated overall savings based on volunteer hours and analyses would be in the order of \$4000 if these tasks were contracted out.