



## NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

# Neighborhood Environmental Project Case Study Form

Neighborhood/Community Name    Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club

Project Coordinator: Mike Smith

Phone Number    941 249-4278

E-mail: doncaster319@gmail.com

## **PROJECT INFORMATION: *Track 3 Education* -Development of a Website for Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club Natural Resources.**

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

Prior to 2016 Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club had no centralized or coordinated system of recording and documenting environmental records. In 2016, a committee (Natural Resources Committee) composed of executive, staff and resident members was formed with the objective to promote stewardship and encourage natural resource projects.

Development of the NRC website is a key component of a communication strategy to inform and notify residents about issues on water quality, water conservation, habitat restoration, Florida friendly landscaping, best management practices, invasive species, plant disorders, grass diseases, beautification practices and related park policies. The website addresses topics on birds, plants, trees, palms, water, wildlife, and Audubon. Each topic has an Introduction, Background, Document, Reference links and Photo Gallery section. The Committee publish (1-2) articles annually on environmental and conservation subjects that impact our Park. The website features a Newsletter and Notice Board tab. The Notice Board has Park rules on water and fertilizer use, home safety measures and landscaping information. A main objective of the Project is to retain and conserve historical environmental information, previously lost due to time and storage methods.

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

- Create and maintain an archive of critical documents
- Improve data loss during back-up of sensitive documents
- Introduce techniques that will increase website visits
- Promote website at homeowner meetings, in Park Newsletter and on Park TV Channel
- Publish articles on relative issues (rising sea levels)
- Finish Wildlife Introduction section
- Improve log in/log off buttons
- Obtain new software
- Continue to add and upgrade picture slide decks
- Add project information to Audubon section
- Input information

**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.)**

- Find person(s) with related computer knowledge
- Design and maintain website page
- Engage experienced volunteers on website topics for technical input and content display
- Input data and information
- Attend meetings and promote website
- Publish articles in park Newsletter
- Liaison with Board of Directors
- Interact with WEB development contractor

The website requires a considerable amount of ongoing time for the input of data and improvement in the operation of the site. A switch to new software will require further time to become familiar with its formats. The web site is continually evolving and needs constant oversight. There is a threat of hacking. The site is linked to the Corporate site which entails other safety precautions.

**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).**

Website development is 95% complete. Provides a historical record of Park natural resources, pictures of birds and animals, articles on water, trees, and plants. The site contains many links to associated materials as well as documents on water analysis, quality, management, and levels. The stored information is valuable in assessing and determining reasons for change, plant disease, bird deaths and as a management tool for future decisions. Currently the Park is in the planning stage of replacing the golf course and residential irrigation systems. The golf course replacement is approved.

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

There has been community support for the project. We have difficulty motivating senior residents to use computers and the internet as their information source. We promote the site at resident meetings, in newsletters, on the local TV channel and at various Club events.

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

Too early to say.

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

To date there has been no cost to implement the project. It has required over 100 hours of volunteer time.

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

Cannot estimate this function.