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# MISSION ESTATES HOA

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## Neighborhood Grant Volunteer Opportunity!

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### What is the Neighborhood Grant Program?

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The neighborhood initiative grant program is one of the strategic initiatives adopted by the Sarasota County Commission to help residents enhance their neighborhoods' character, value, safety, health and infrastructure.

### How can I help?

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As our greater community grows and development increases, there will be more and more need to clean and retain stormwater for beneficial uses. This is your personal opportunity to be a part of the solution to replenish underground water supplies and treat stormwater before it leaves your property. Volunteering to help with the assembly and installation and maintenance of Floating Plant Islands for our ponds is a fun and easy way to fulfill your pledged volunteer hours!

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### What are Floating Plant Islands?

Floating plant islands are simply a variety of aquatic plants that are installed on a floating mat creating somewhat of a “floating wetland system”.

### So what is the benefit?

Floating aquatic plant islands provide the same benefits of vegetated littoral shelves without having to deal with problems associated with changing water levels. The plants help to produce oxygen, take nutrients and pesticides out of the water, and provide a habitat for fish and wildlife. The floating mats can be assembled in any size or shape. Plants may be any species of emergent aquatics and are inserted into pre-cut holes on the mats. The mats can then be attached to anchors or shoreline stakes. As plants grow and mature the plants can easily be removed and the mat can be replanted to increase nutrient removal. The installation of floating islands will provide residents with a great opportunity to fulfill their volunteer hours needed for the Neighborhood Grant Application and at the same time help to improve the quality of the water that flows from our stormwater system into Dona/Roberts Bay.

September 18, 2014



The floating plant mats consist of puzzle cut mats held together by nylon connectors. These mats may be assembled in any size or shape



After the mats are connected, plants are inserted into pre-cut holes. The plants may be any species of emergent aquatics. The mats can be attached to anchors or shoreline stakes.



Increased biomass equals increased nutrient removal! This floating island of aquatic plants provides the benefits of vegetated littoral shelves without having to deal with the problems associated with changing water levels. Using the interlocking mats, combined with aquatic plants in perforated pots, we can suspend a simulated shallow water environment. This not only takes care of fluctuating water levels, but also produces oxygen, takes nutrients and pesticides out of the water, and provides habitat for wildlife utilization. As plants grow, the excess nutrients in the water are taken up and stored in their tissues. Periodic harvesting of the mature plants prevents the stored nutrients from re-entering the water when the plants die and decompose.