

# Broward County Natural Resources Division Coastal Dune Grant Program 2024 Grant Announcement



## I. Overview

Beaches and dunes are important coastal features which provide critical habitat for our native plants and animals while also supporting significant economic activity, attracting tourism, and enhancing real estate values throughout Florida. A healthy beach and dune system also provides crucial natural defense against the impacts of hurricanes and other severe storms, as well as the more subtle effects of sea level rise. While extensive sand placement during beach nourishment has been the focal point for shoreline protection strategies for many coastal communities, coastal dunes planted with native vegetation have often been overlooked or neglected in favor of featureless, wide open expanses of beach. However, healthy dune vegetation helps trap sand that would otherwise be blown away by the wind, binding existing sand within extensive root systems and creating a sand reservoir that helps minimize erosion and recover from storm damage. Recently, more focus has shifted towards preservation and restoration of coastal dunes as their importance in protecting coastal infrastructure and property is becoming more widely recognized. This coastal protection strategy will become increasingly important as we expect more frequent storms and more powerful hurricanes.

Broward County is home to 24 miles of beaches which are actively managed and receive occasional renourishment through local and regional projects. However, our most recent assessment showed around 30% of our beaches have degraded, missing, or even intentionally removed dunes. These beaches with unvegetated, degraded, or missing dunes provide weaker defense against storms as waves and storm surge will quickly erode the loose sand. These degraded areas present a higher risk to upland structures and local infrastructure, reduce the shore protection ability and integrity of the County beach and dune system, and reduce the benefits of our beach nourishment projects.

## **II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Coastal Dune Grant Program is to promote the restoration or creation of dunes where they are absent or degraded and to enhance and preserve the quality of existing dunes along Broward County's shoreline. In addition, the program helps build community awareness about the importance of nature-based shore protection methods as essential and cost-effective management practices that significantly contribute to coastal protection and shoreline resilience.

## **III. Objectives**

1. Promote dune restoration to strengthen Broward County's natural shoreline defenses against storms, beach erosion, and sea level rise.
2. Increase community awareness and participation in dune restoration projects to help build resilient coastal communities.
3. Enhance the quality of sea turtle nesting habitat by using dunes to reduce shorefront lighting impacts on nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings.
4. Improve quality and availability of native wildlife habitat.

## **IV. Approach**

Broward County will provide grant funding on a reimbursable cost-share basis to support new dune restoration and enhancement projects. The grants will be available to coastal municipalities, coastal property owners, condominium associations, civic associations, and non-profit organizations. Each grant award will not exceed \$5,000 and will require a 50% cost share of the total grant amount with cash and/or in-kind services. Community participation and partnerships are strongly encouraged. Projects must be completed within one year of the grant award. Reimbursement of the applicant's verified expenses will be made upon project completion and acceptance by Broward County staff.



**APPLICATION FORM**  
**Coastal Dune Grant Program**

**I. PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Matched: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that all parts of the application package have been read and understood; that all application requirements have been met; and that all information submitted herein is true and correct and represents the desire and intent of the applicant to install and maintain the proposed project according to the plans, specifications and costs attached herein. I further understand that any expenditures made prior to a formal "Notice to Proceed" from Broward County shall not be eligible under this grant program. Additionally, I certify that I will take active measures to ensure the continued maintenance of the project in order for the dune to develop and provide the utmost storm protection and environmental benefits for as long as practically possible.

Authorized Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit complete application package by email to **CoastalDunes@Broward.org** by **January 31, 2024**. If you prefer to submit a hard copy of your documents, please mail to: Coastal Dune Grant Program, Broward County NRD, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 329-H, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301. Applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of the grant application.

### **III. APPLICATION CRITERIA AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:**

**A. PROJECT PLAN:** Detail your plan to complete the dune restoration project; provide the qualifications of the key personnel that will be involved.

**B. PROJECT SITE:** Each application must be accompanied by a planting plan or other documents depicting the location and design of the project. Drawings shall be to scale and no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches. Include project site address if different from that listed in Section I or II.

**C. PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE:** Detail your project budget, including an itemized description of how grant funds will be spent. Explain your cost-share commitment and provide an expected project timeline.

**D. PHOTOGRAPHS:** Provide three to four (3-4) color images from various angles of existing site conditions at the time of application at the address where the restoration project is planned to take place.

**E. EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT:** Attach no more than three (3) pages of evidence of public and/or private support of the project that may include: written endorsements from elected officials, homeowner associations, civic organizations, adjacent businesses, Chambers of Commerce, or a resolution from local government, etc. Endorsements must be written and included in the application package.

**F. EXPERIENCE:** Describe any involvement you or the project manager have in completing similar projects.

**G. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Describe any community outreach plans for the project, providing a brief description of the efforts to be made and anticipated benefits to participants.

**H. PARTNERSHIPS:** Describe any partnerships or collaborative efforts that will be formed or undertaken to complete the project.

**I. MEDIA OUTREACH:** Describe any media outreach plans, including traditional and social media platforms.

**J. STATEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:** Attach a statement of property ownership or right-of-use by the property owner. This may include, but is not limited to, a copy of the original deed, an Affidavit of Ownership, or a statement from the property appraiser.

**K. PROOF OF INSURANCE:** Submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance (COI), or similar, with 'Broward County' listed as the certificate holder at this address: 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 329-H, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

**L. W-9 FORM:** Include a current 'Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification' form (W-9) from the Internal Revenue Service.

#### **IV. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

**A. ELIGIBILITY:** Coastal municipalities, coastal property owners, condominium associations, civic associations, and non-profit organizations in Broward County; one grant per applicant, per cycle, or as deemed appropriate by the grant administrator.

**B. GRANT AMOUNTS:** The 2024 Grant Announcement is supported by Broward County's Beach Management Program. The maximum amount requested for each grant application may not exceed \$5,000.

**C. COST-SHARING:** Applicants are required to provide a minimum 50% match of the grant amount requested in cash, public, private or corporate contributions, and/or direct in-kind services. For example, to receive \$5,000 in grant funds the match needs to meet or exceed \$2,500.

**D. GRANT AGREEMENT:** Funds will be distributed by the County as provided for in an executed agreement between the County and the applicant. Only projects started after a formal 'Notice to Proceed' has been issued by the County are eligible for reimbursement. The applicant must complete the project within one year of the final execution date on the grant agreement. Agreement extensions may be granted with approval from the grant administrator.

**E. CODES, ORDINANCES, and PERMITS:** The applicant shall meet and comply with all applicable codes and ordinances and shall obtain all necessary permits prior to beginning work. A Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) field permit is required for dune creation or restoration projects and a copy of the permit must be provided to Broward County prior to starting the project. To apply for a field permit please visit the FDEP Coastal Construction Control Line Program at the following web address: (<https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coastal-construction-control-line/content/apply-coastal-construction-control-line-cccl>).

**F. SCHEDULE:** Grant applications must be received by midnight on **January 31, 2024**. After review by Broward County, applicants will be notified by February 28, 2024 of their award status. Once notified, please allow 3 months for the agreement to be fully executed and the formal 'Notice to Proceed' sent out.

**G. CLOSE-OUT REPORT:** The applicant shall submit a final close-out report summarizing project activities and identifying how the grant funds were spent. This must include an itemized list of expenses, associated receipts, and a final version of the budget (revised from the original as needed) that clearly identifies which expenses are attributed to the cost-shared portion.

**H. REIMBURSEMENT:** The applicant may apply for reimbursement after project completion, final inspection and written acceptance by Broward County, and submission of the close-out report. Eligible expenses for reimbursement include the following: permitting fees, site preparation, plant seedlings (sea oats and other approved diversity plants), delivery and installation of plants, invasive species removal (*Scaevola*, etc.), materials and supplies (shovels, hoses, other tools), administrative or managerial oversight, labor (part-time or full-time), addition or relocation of sand (if needed), post and rope fencing, and educational signage. Other items may be eligible pending approval by the grant administrator. Volunteer time is not eligible for reimbursement, but it may be used as part of the 50% cost-share at the appropriate volunteer compensation rate; currently listed as \$31.80/hour (<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>).

**I. PLANTS AND INSTALLATION:**

1. Only native sea oats and native dune plants shall be used.
2. Relative plant composition shall be 80% sea oats / 20% native frontal dune plants, or as deemed appropriate by the grant administrator.
3. All plants purchased and installed shall be of the highest quality (i.e., robust living plant tissue free of disease or fungal infection).
4. Sea oats shall be 8 inches to 16 inches in height as measured from the top of the root ball to the top of the shoots.
5. Sea oats shall be planted at a minimum of 6 inches deep as measured from the top of the root ball to the sand surface.
6. Plantings shall be made in shore-parallel rows.
7. Plant spacing shall be 12 inches to 18 inches apart.
8. The planting area shall be fenced with posts and ropes and must meet the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission guidelines for protection of marine turtles (i.e., must have  $\geq 3$  feet of vertical clearance above sand and  $\geq 7$  feet of horizontal clearance between vertical supports) ([http://www.filmiami.org/pdf/2011/Marine\\_Turtle\\_Protection.pdf](http://www.filmiami.org/pdf/2011/Marine_Turtle_Protection.pdf)).
9. Three (3) high resolution color images of the project site from various angles shall be provided after the plants are installed.

**J. WARRANTY:** The applicant shall warranty all plants for a period of six (6) months after planting. At six months, the project shall be considered a success if 80% survival of installed plantings is achieved.

## **V. GRANT APPLICATION RANKING**

**A. RANKING** The grant applications will be reviewed by staff from the Broward County Natural Resources Division and ranked according to the criteria outlined below.

<b>Review Criteria</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
Quality of Proposal	1-10
Matching Funds	1-10
Cost Effectiveness	1-10
Partnerships and Local Support	1-10
Experience Completing Similar Projects	1-10
Environmental Education and Community Outreach	1-5
Media Outreach	1-5
<b>Maximum Score</b>	<b>60 Points</b>

**B. BONUS POINTS AND TIE-BREAKER:** If two or more applications receive the same score, they will be further ranked according to the following:

1. The Director of the Natural Resources Division may award five (5) Bonus Points to applications that exhibit exceptional qualities.
2. Ranking shall be prioritized by date and time of grant application submittal.