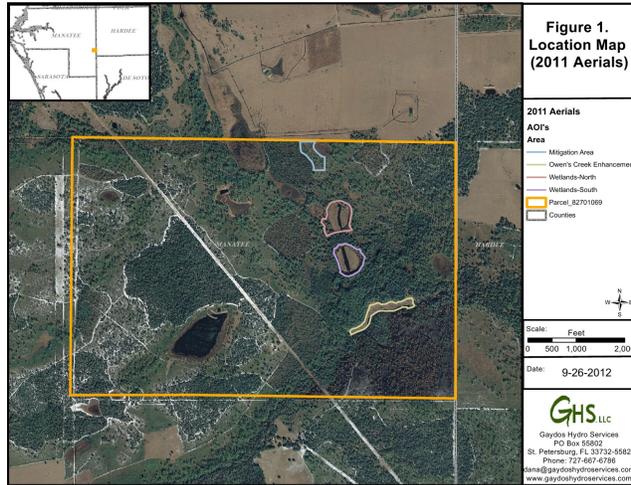


Geraci - Myakka Ranch

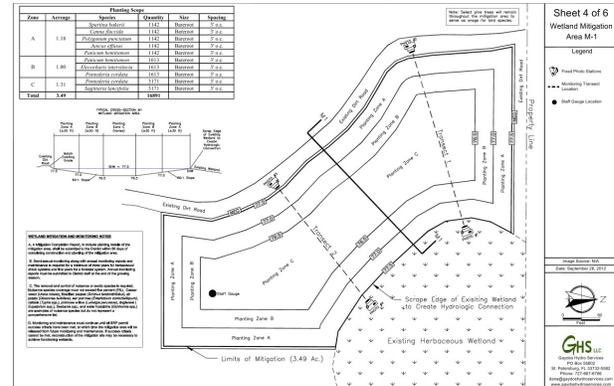
Mitigation Area Design, Planting & Monitoring

Gaydos Hydro Services, LLC (GHS) was contracted to work with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to restore and mitigate for wetland impacts. As part of this process, GHS evaluated the wetland impacts using the UMAM scoring technique and proposed the mitigation of approximately 2 acres and the restoration of over 8.5 acres of existing wetlands as well as an affected creek.



GHS evaluated the wetland impacts using the UMAM scoring technique and proposed the mitigation of approximately 2 acres and the restoration of over 8.5 acres of existing wetlands as well as an affected creek. The mitigation plan included the design of a 3.5 acre wetland that was located in a remote area to maximize wildlife utilization. The proposed wetland creation includes two herbaceous planting zones in shallower waters, deeper zones for plant recruitment, and small upland pockets to accommodate existing trees and shrubs.

The impacted wetlands were historically classified as shallow herbaceous wetlands and are dominated with maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakerii*), softtrush (*Juncus effusus*) and pine trees. The creek was historically classified as a meandering creek with eroded banks with vegetation consists of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and burhead sedge (*Scripus cubensis*).



GHS is contracted to perform regular maintenance of the created littoral shelves, mitigation area and the creek channel to depress exotic and nuisance species growth and facilitate vegetation growth of desired species.

GHS also prepared and implemented a two year monitoring plan that included the mitigation area, restored wetlands and the creek enhancement area. The monitoring included semi-annual qualitative events observing the changes in the created littoral shelves and the creek channel. Monitoring data includes vegetative, hydrologic, wildlife utilization and photographic documentation.