

Project: Large Scale DRI

Project overview:

The Villages is a 21,000-acre retirement community located in Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties. It is a Development of Regional Impact (DRI)/Florida Quality Development (FQD).

Modica & Associates was retained to provide all ecological consulting services. Coordination of this project included DRI application support, ERP and development permitting through multiple jurisdictional agencies, species-specific wildlife surveys and impact/relocation permitting, wetland assessment and impact permitting, mitigation design, construction, installation, monitoring and maintenance. Project development resulted in significant wetland impacts. Modica & Associates designed and successfully implemented a mitigation plan consisting of over 300 acres of wetland creation and enhancement.

We developed a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the wetland and upland conservation/mitigation areas, and the listed species contained therein. We secured a relocation permit for the protected Burrowing Owl, and successfully conducted one of the largest relocation efforts within the state.

Additionally, our team assisted in design and permitting of a major road network, including County Roads and major local thoroughfare. We were also responsible for surface water quality monitoring and groundwater quality monitoring.

Field Work & Surveys

- Wetland Delineation
- Gopher Tortoise Survey & Relocation
- Burrowing Owl Survey & Relocation
- Bald Eagle Surveys & Monitoring
- Southeastern American Kestrel Survey
- Wetland Impact Assessment—WRAP

Monitoring & Management Services

- Wetland Mitigation Monitoring
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Maintenance of Wetland Preservation & Creation Areas
- Maintenance of Stormwater Management Ponds

GIS/Mapping Services

- Vegetation & Soils Mapping—AutoCAD
- Wetland Creation Design—ArcGIS, AutoCAD
- Wildlife Mapping—GPS/GIS

Permits/Applications

- Formal Wetland Determination—SWFWMD, USACOE
- Application for Development Approval—ECFRPC, WRPC
- FQD Permitting Support
- Environmental Resource Permits & Modifications—SWFWMD, USACOE
- Gopher Tortoise Relocation Permit—FFWCC
- Burrowing Owl Relocation Permit—FFWCC

