

## GLYNN KEY STORMWATER WETLAND

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The Glynn Key Stormwater Wetland was an idea that came about at the right time, in the right place, with the right people. In 2000, DEP met with the Bayou Chico Association's Lavern Matheson in an effort to identify a stormwater restoration project that could benefit Bayou Chico. That meeting resulted in the birth of a vision to transform a shopping center's stormwater pond into a county stormwater wetland park.

Over the next several months a core group of individuals representing DEP, Escambia County, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Bayou Chico Association and Southgate Plaza business owners met to refine the vision and create the plans for the Glynn Key Stormwater Wetland Park. Goals of the Glynn Key Stormwater Wetland include:

- To educate visitors about the important function wetlands play in filtering stormwater and the habitat they provide;
- To educate commercial developers about the value of creating a "natural stormwater treatment system" to treat stormwater (turns an eyesore into a value added feature to any development);
- To provide a recreational source to the Bayou Chico community - a place where citizens can get away from the traffic and enjoy a relaxing walk to and from the shopping center; and
- To provide additional treatment to the stormwater entering Jones Swamp Creek (DOT stormwater was redirected into the wetland and the wetland provides additional treatment in the form of nutrient uptake versus the pond that was here previously).



Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant Program managed by DEP, Escambia County local option sales tax dollars, Warrington Tax Increment Finance trust fund, donation of property from both Southgate Plaza and the Pensacola Housing Authority, and a private donation from the project's namesake, Mr. Glynn Key.



Mr. Key had donated \$20,000 to the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District to put towards a stormwater project that would raise awareness about the importance of treating stormwater and improve the environment. This gesture highlights Mr. Key's commitment to the community and the environment in which we live - *a glowing example of the kind of citizenship towards which we should all strive.*

