

2010 Annual Awards Program
Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 12, 2010

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- ☐ Community Health and Safety
- ☐ Community Partnership
- ☒ Community Sustainability
- ☐ Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program Casselberry Blueway Trail
being nominated:

Jurisdiction(s) where City of Casselberry
program originated:

Jurisdiction 25,000
population(s):

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2009, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: December Year: 2008

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in San José, California, October 2010. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Barbara Lipscomb

Title: City Manager Jurisdiction: City of Casselberry

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator / Primary Contact

Name of contact: Kristen Chamberlain

Title: Special Projects Coordinator Jurisdiction: City of Casselberry

Street address: 95 Triplet Lake Drive

City: Casselberry State/Province: Florida

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Casselberry Blueway Trail

Community Sustainability Award

PROGRAM NEED

Located in Central Florida, the City of Casselberry's most treasured assets are its twenty-three picturesque lakes spread over 7.4 square miles. As such a rich resource for the community, the City's comprehensive plan clearly identifies the importance of recreational use of lakes within the City. Usage of these lakes was originally intended for both motorized and passive use. However, many issues surfaced in regards to the environmental and social impacts motorized vessels had on the lakes, such as noise, speed, boater safety, and water quality. Accordingly, the City determined it to be in the best interest of the community to modify its boating ramps to passive and non-motorized only. To further encourage preservation and conservation of the lakes, the Commission authorized City staff to develop a blueway trail on the Triplet Chain of Lakes.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & COSTS

The Casselberry Blueway Trail is a paddling trail for kayaks and canoes on the five lakes throughout the Triplet Chain of Lakes. Consisting of approximately 215 acres, the Triplet Chain of Lakes includes North Lake Triplet, Middle Lake Triplet, South Lake Triplet, Lost Lake, and Queens Mirror Lake. In order to carry out this vision, the City applied for grant funding through the Seminole County Boating Improvement Program. The City was awarded \$45,000 to make improvements to North Lake Triplet and Middle Lake Triplet. This project included canal dredging to provide enhanced connectivity between these two lakes. The dredged dirt was then piped into geo tubing to help stabilize the banks of the canal and prevent further erosion. A segmented retention wall was installed at the canal bridge to prevent erosion and improve the shoreline. To further promote non-motorized

Casselberry Blueway Trail

Community Sustainability Award

boating, the launch site was retrofitted to accommodate passive boating only and a canoe & kayak rental program was implemented (pictured below). Funding also went towards designing and installing interpretative signage to provide the public with educational information and an overview of the Blueway Trail System. By December 2008, the North and Middle Lake Triplet Improvement Project was complete and the Casselberry Blueway Trail was open to the public.



To further improve the connectivity of the waterways and create a safer area for boaters, the City applied for additional funding in 2009 from the Seminole County Boating Improvement Program and was awarded \$15,000. As part of this project, more geo tubing was installed along the shorelines of North & Middle Lake Triplet. This provided improved connectivity between the lakes and contributed to a healthier shoreline (pictured below).



Casselberry Blueway Trail

Community Sustainability Award

The project also included boater safety improvements at the canal between Middle Lake Triplet and South Lake Triplet, which intersects with the 18th hole of the Casselberry Golf Course. To protect boaters from stray golf balls, a protective screening was installed along the eastern shoreline of the canal.

The City also contributed \$8,000 of its own funds to complete the North Lake Triplet Shoreline Revegetation Project. Located adjacent to the launch site, this project consisted of restoring the shorelines to a more natural state by removing invasive species and replacing them with native flora (pictured below).



As a result, this process created a native habitat for aquatic animals, birds, and other wildlife. It also acted as an additional buffer from stormwater runoff, slowing the water flow, providing erosion protection, and helping remove additional pollutants. A grant through the Urban & Community Forestry Program provided partial funding for the trees that were planted as part of this project.

PROGRAM RESULTS

With approximately \$60,000 in grant funding, the City was able to make major improvements to the Triplet Chain of Lakes. The installation of geo tubing stabilized the

Casselberry Blueway Trail

Community Sustainability Award

shoreline and reduced the risk of erosion. The dredging of canals enhanced connectivity between the lakes and improved water flow. Revegetation and removal of nuisance plants restored the shorelines to a more natural state.

Throughout the implementation of the Blueway Trail System, the City fostered numerous partnerships with local organizations, including Travel Country Outdoors, Friends of the Park, Hands on Orlando, and the Eagle Scouts. The City worked with the local outdoor adventure store, Travel Country Outdoors, to obtain all the equipment for the canoe & kayak rental program at a discounted price. Travel Country Outdoors also sponsored a free Canoe & Kayak Clinic at the City's launch site on North Lake Triplet (pictured right).

Residents, City officials, and boating enthusiasts were invited to learn boating safety and skills as well as experience the Blueway Trail first-hand.

The City also received support from Friends of the



Park, a volunteer group of Casselberry residents that contributes their time and resources towards building community awareness of Casselberry parks. This organization frequently participates in shoreline clean-up events that involve picking up trash and debris on and around City lakes. University of Central Florida students and Hands on Orlando have also participated in these clean-up events. Hands on Orlando, a volunteer organization that serves the Central Florida area, also planted over 150 trees along the shorelines of the Triplet Chain of Lakes. The Eagle Scouts Troop 787 contributed to the Casselberry Blueway Trail by building the canoe/kayak rack that is located at the North Lake Triplet launch site.

Casselberry Blueway Trail

Community Sustainability Award

Another outcome of the Casselberry Blueway Trail is increased quality recreational activities for residents. As part of the canoe & kayak rental program, the City provides equipment rentals with hourly rates, maps & brochures, a launch site, and facilities. This program benefits the community by promoting a healthy, environmentally-conscious outdoor recreation that is family-friendly and economical. The canoe & kayak rental program also helps residents become greater outdoor enthusiasts with increased appreciation for good stewardship practices that may include getting involved in lakeshore clean-ups, habitat restoration, and other activities that will improve the quality of the lakes. Overall, the Casselberry Blueway Trail exemplifies excellence in community sustainability as it has resulted in improved preservation of City lakes as well as provided residents with recreational activities that are both economical and educational.

LESSONS LEARNED

- ***Partnerships enhance City services.*** By working with partners such as Seminole County and Travel Country, the City was able to secure funding and provide residents with equipment that have afforded unmatched enhancements to the Blueway Trail.
- ***Collaboration fosters sustainability.*** Collaboration of City departments addressed the various needs of the community. While Public Works ensured environmental viability, Parks & Recreation satisfied citizens' social and cultural needs.
- ***Innovation generates opportunities.*** Motorized boats are detrimental to the shallow Triplet Chain of Lakes. Rather than prohibit all boating, the City seized an innovative opportunity to promote non-motorized boating that allows citizens to enjoy the lakes without environmental harm.