



2019 – STORMWATER PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARDS APPLICATION



City of Clermont – Victory Pointe An Urban Stormwater Park

Victory Pointe is a regional, multi-basin stormwater filtration project combined with an urban passive park in downtown Clermont, Fla.

The City of Clermont is a community of 36,000 people in Lake County. Clermont has experienced significant growth in the past 15 years, evolving from a small agricultural-based community to an energized suburb of Orlando. The community was founded in 1884 between lakes Minneola and Minnehaha. Both lakes are on Florida’s list of “Outstanding Florida Waterways” and are critical to Clermont’s character. Preserving the clean lake waters is a significant citizen priority.

In 2015, the City held a series of “visioning meetings,” and the \$30-million, award-winning Downtown Waterfront Master Plan was born. Residents’ main request was to revitalize Clermont’s historic downtown. As a key component, the idea for a stormwater filtration project began in order to attract new shops, restaurants and other businesses interested in developing downtown’s west end; it allows them to develop up to 15 percent more of their property and cuts costs of creating stormwater filtration on their properties. The park also shifts foot traffic downtown to bring businesses more customers. New boutique shops, breweries and craft food spots have already lined up to take advantage of the perks.

Victory Pointe opened in July 2018 as a 10-acre, \$10.4-million project. Its cutting-edge stormwater treatment blends with a passive park, including trails, interruptive signage, a 40-foot observation tower, restrooms, drinking fountains and special event space.

The first stage of stormwater treatment occurs off-site with newly constructed bioswales. These bioswales are designed to capture the first flush of a storm, filtering solids and debris before the water enters the collection system. The next layer of treatment is a Suntree model 8-16 Nutrient Separating Baffle Box designed to intercept additional floatables and sediments before they reach the retention ponds. At that point, the stormwater enters the next stage of treatment as it discharges into the south retention pond. There it slowly moves to the north pond and eventually into the final stage of treatment – the inundated marsh and filter marsh. After the required 21-day residence time, water continues into the discharge creek and into Lake Minneola.

The process removes an estimated 63 percent of the nitrogen and 77 percent of the phosphorous from the water.

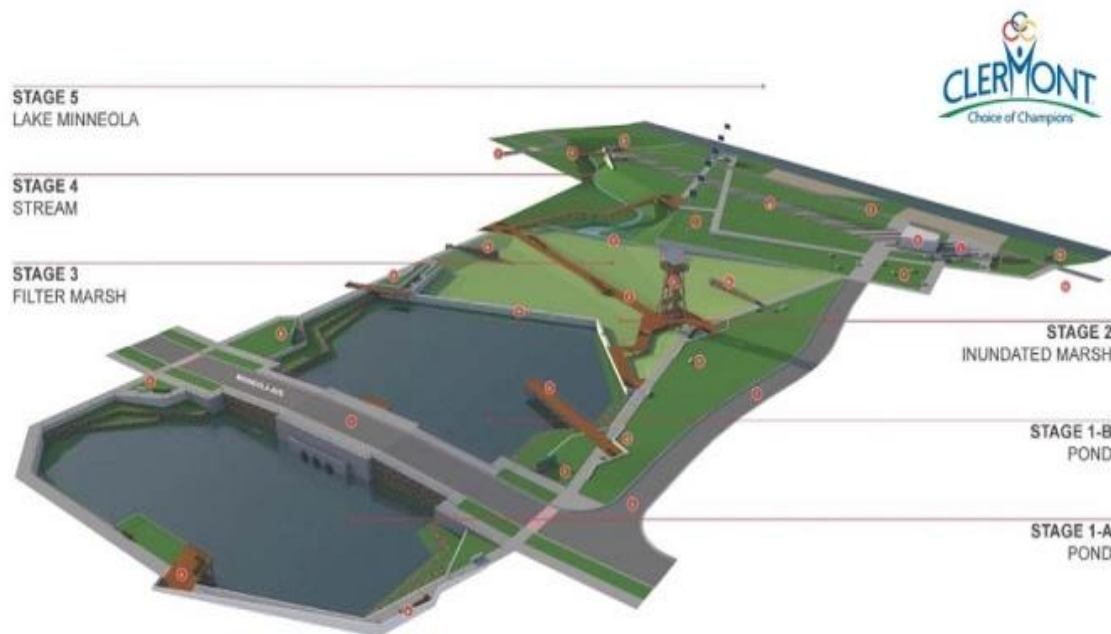
Because of the project’s creative nature, the City partnered with five agencies, acquiring 11 grants to help fund \$4,168,698 of the project. The remaining \$6.2 million came from low-interest loans tied to the newly approved 1-percent sales tax increase.

Victory Pointe’s maintenance is shared by two City departments. The stormwater ponds and filtration marshes are maintained by the Environmental Services Department’s Stormwater Division. The Stormwater Division has a staff of eight people and an annual operating budget of \$435,361. General park maintenance is provided by the Public Works Department’s Grounds and Landscape Division.

Overall, Victory Pointe preserves and protects Lake Minneola and the Clermont Chain of Lakes; supports vibrant, walkable and bikable spaces; helps the private sector thrive; and makes Downtown a destination.

Victory Pointe Project Funding

Grants	Amounts
FDEP – LP35142	\$500,000
Lake County Water Authority	\$643,030
SJRWMD – 28760	\$940,608
FDEP – LW651	\$200,000
FDEP – NF014	\$412,060
Lake County TDC – 2014	\$400,000
State Cultural Facilities- #18.c.cf300.307	\$500,000
State FDEP Recreational Trails - #T1713	\$200,000
State FDEP Florida Communities Trust - #UA007	\$165,000
State Agriculture & Consumer Services - #25082	\$8,000
State FDEP Land & Water Conservation – LW670	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total Grants =	\$4,168,698
 Low Interest Loans =	 \$6,231,702
 Total Project Cost =	 \$10,400,000



Victory Pointe Treatment Process

STAGE 1 - POND

Stormwater, which originates from all over the City, enters the small pond on the south side of Minneola Avenue. After passing through a set of three, twelve-foot diameter pipes that cross beneath the street and connect to the second, larger pond. In this stage, many of the solid debris and trash picked up during rain events begins to settle and fall to the pond bottom or is collected and eventually removed from the water surface and disposed of.

STAGE 2 – INUNDATED MARSH

As the pond water level rises during a rain event, the water will pass over the large concrete wall through a set of specially designed “weirs” into stage two, the inundated marsh. This stage consists of a shallow pond full of aquatic plants that actively help clean the pollutants out of the water. At this point, water will be scrubbed of litter, large debris, and many types of pollutants ranging from automotive oil, toxic chemicals, and harmful levels of plant fertilizer.

STAGE 3 – FILTER MARSH

After water rises to a level that allows it to flow beneath the boardwalk it will enter stage three, the filter marsh. This is the last checkpoint where the water is absorbed into the soil and plant life and the remaining harmful levels of pollutions are removed. Following this stage, successfully treated stormwater is conveyed out of the system through a meandering stream and into Lake Minneola.

Victory Pointe



Existing Conditions & Start of Victory Pointe

Victory Pointe



Construction of the Site

Victory Pointe



Project Completed