This project constructed the Government Street Regional Stormwater Pond at Corrine Jones Park to capture and treat stormwater runoff from 40 acres in downtown Pensacola that previously discharged untreated runoff directly into Pensacola Bay. The improvement included a two-tier treatment system with pretreatment units to remove debris and floatables and a wet detention pond. The pond takes an innovative approach to stormwater management by having multiple ecological benefits. In addition to water quality improvement, the pond serves as a wetland habitat for a variety of bird and other species.

Continued growth in the City of Pensacola and the adjacent suburban areas has increased the discharge of untreated runoff, causing increases in both sediment and nutrient loading that have had adverse effects on the ecology of Pensacola Bay. The Bay represents a significant habitat for 70 identified rare, imperiled, or threatened animal species and at least 68 rare, imperiled, or threatened plant species. The State of Florida seeks to improve the overall ecological health of the Bay by targeting investments to improve water quality and eliminate significant levels of this harmful runoff. The pond discharges directly into a coastal wetland that was restored as part of Pensacola Bay’s revitalization effort. By improving water quality flowing into the wetland, this project contributed to the long-term sustainability of the previously restored coastal wetland.

This project improved water quality in Pensacola Bay in the vicinity of previously restored wetlands by using an innovative stormwater treatment pond similar to the one at Admiral Mason Park above.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf