

2026

# Sponsorship Proposal

## *RAINBOW RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT*



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# About Our Organization

One Rake at a Time, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting Florida's Rainbow River. Our work began two decades ago with a single rake, when our founder saw the damage caused by invasive algae and aquatic weeds and began removing them by hand. What started as a personal effort has grown into a community-driven movement to restore balance to one of Florida's most treasured waterways.

Today, our volunteers and partners continue that work by removing invasive plants and algae, hand-raking problem areas, and replanting native vegetation such as eelgrass to bring back the river's natural ecosystem. We work side by side with scientists, agencies, and community members to ensure that the Rainbow River not only survives, but thrives for generations to come.



## Letter from Our Founder

Dear Community Partners,

The Rainbow River is one of Florida's most beautiful spring-fed rivers, but it is now under serious threat from *Hydrilla* and *Lyngbya*—two invasive species that can overwhelm and destroy this fragile ecosystem.

*Hydrilla* grows rapidly, suffocating native eelgrass and taking over large portions of the river. *Lyngbya*, a cyanobacteria, creeps across the river bottom in dense mats that smother eelgrass, reduce fish habitat, tangle with swimmers and boats, and release a strong musty odor as they decompose. Herbicides do little to stop *Lyngbya*, and *Hydrilla* spraying leaves behind silt and decay that further degrade the river.

There is a better way forward. By removing muck/detrital material, clearing invasive growth, and replanting native eelgrass, we can restore balance. Once established in a sandy bottom, eelgrass can prevent *Hydrilla* and *Lyngbya* from forming dense meadows, allowing the river to recover.

Your sponsorship makes this possible. Contributions fund equipment, trained crews, and community-based restoration. Sponsors are recognized at events, featured in communications, and celebrated as leaders in protecting one of Florida's most iconic treasures.

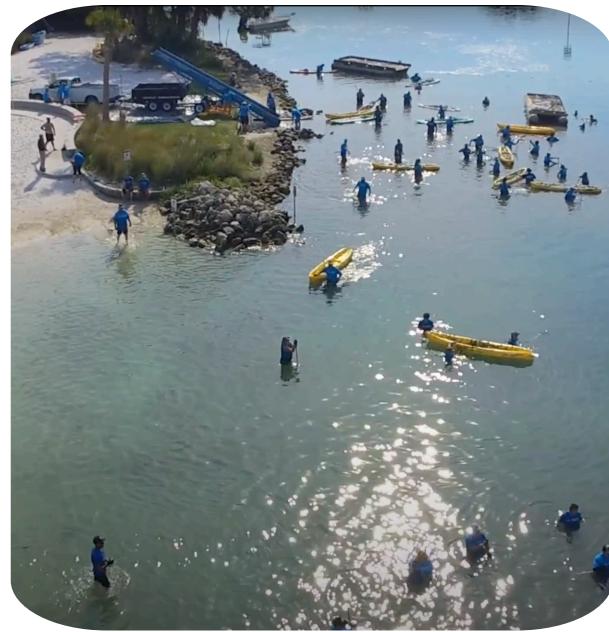
Every dollar is multiplied through volunteer hours, partnerships, and the long-term benefits of a thriving river—clean water, stronger tourism, healthier wildlife, and a legacy of natural beauty for future generations.

But time is short. With each season, invasive growth spreads further and restoration costs rise. We must act now—before the damage becomes irreversible. Please consider becoming a sponsor and helping us return the Rainbow River to the crystal-clear paradise it was meant to be. Together, we can save it.

Thank you,  
Art Jones  
President and Founder



Together, we  
can turn a simple  
rake into the  
most powerful  
tool for change.



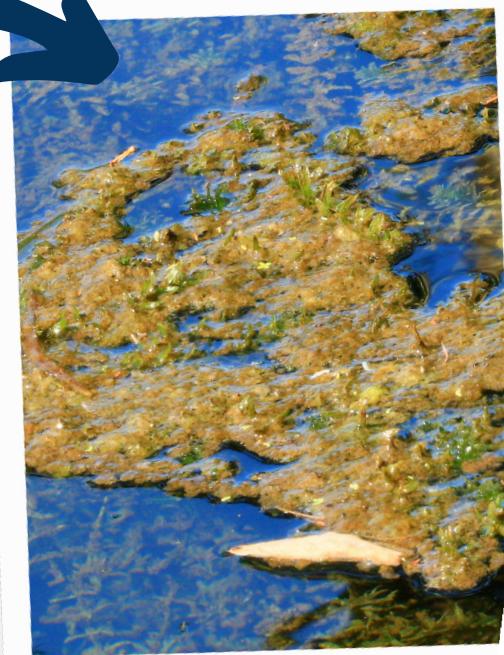
## The Process

One Rake at a Time is a hands-on, grassroots project dedicated to the health of the Rainbow River. Our work begins with volunteers using long-handled rakes to carefully pull invasive *Hydrilla* from the riverbed, opening space for sunlight to reach the bottom and giving native plants a chance to grow. For larger, more technical removal, our partner, Sea & Shoreline, uses diver-held vacuum systems to lift out mats of *Lyngbya* and excess muck—always without chemicals or heavy machinery that could harm the ecosystem. Once the riverbed is cleared, Sea & Shoreline plants nursery-grown eelgrass, a native species that stabilizes sediment, filters the water, and provides food and shelter for fish, turtles, birds, and countless other species. This step-by-step, community-powered approach is simple, sustainable, and proven to bring rivers back to life—truly, one rake at a time.

# Why Your Help Matters

The Rainbow River is a treasured natural wonder and a cornerstone of local recreation, tourism, and community pride. By sponsoring One Rake at a Time's restoration project, you're investing in clean water, healthy habitats, and the long-term vitality of the community where you live, visit, or do business. Your support keeps the river healthy and inviting, boosting ecotourism, supporting local businesses, and bringing together volunteers, schools, and families. Sponsors also gain lasting visibility through event recognition, signage, and outreach, while proudly aligning their brand with conservation, sustainability, and positive local impact.

From  
This



To  
This





EIN: 47-4344063

Address: 12163 Palmetto Way, Dunnellon, FL 34432

Phone Number: (727) 642-7659

### Sponsorship Form

Please send us this completed form along with a high resolution image of your logo (if you have one). Email it to: [Info@onerakeatatime.org](mailto:Info@onerakeatatime.org)

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

**Who should be acknowledged for this contribution:**

Please make checks payable to **One Rake at a Time**

Friend: \$25

River Champion: \$2,500

Friend for Life: \$100

River Legacy Partner: \$5,000

River Guardian: \$500

River Legacy Leader: \$10,000

River Steward: \$1,000

River Visionary: \$25,000

Leave a Legacy: - check this box if you would like more information about including One Rake at a Time in your will, helping us continue our mission of restoring and preserving Florida's rivers.

Visit [onerakeatatime.org/donate](http://onerakeatatime.org/donate) to explore more ways you can support the restoration of the Rainbow River.

- Check
- PayPal
- GoFundMe
- GiveLively
- Cryptocurrency



We thank you for  
standing with the  
River.

One Rake At A Time's.



Rainbow River Restoration

