Restoring Sarasota Bay

- Sarasota Bay was named an estuary of national significance by the U.S. Congress in 1987 and the Program began June 1989.

- SBEP is one of America’s 28 National Estuary Programs.
Community Partnership

- Manatee County
- Sarasota County
- City of Bradenton
- City of Sarasota
- Town of Longboat Key
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Many More Public & Private Organizations

SBEP: Independent State Agency
Accomplishments – water quality

- Significant water quality improvements – 64% total nitrogen reduction.

- Resulting in improved clarity - >.5 meters; no impaired waters for nutrients

- Seagrass coverage has increased 46 percent to 28 percent above 1950.

Management: Eliminating wastewater discharge (reclamation), water conservation (FYN) and treating stormwater
SEAGRASS TOTAL AREA


Area: 0, 2,000, 4,000, 6,000, 8,000, 10,000, 12,000, 14,000
SBEP Bay Segments - Targets

Bay Segment specific targets were developed for:

• Seagrass
• Chlorophyll
• Nutrients
# Sarasota Bay Seagrass Targets

## Table III-1. SBEP seagrass coverage and targets. Unit of measure= acres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bay Segment</th>
<th>Historical (1950)</th>
<th>Current 2004-2006 Average</th>
<th>Seagrass Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palma Sola</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>7,269</td>
<td>7,041</td>
<td>7,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Sarasota</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,739</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,552</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,997</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on Proposed Estuarine Criteria the Table Shows When Bays Met the Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Palma Sola Bay</th>
<th>Sarasota Bay</th>
<th>Roberts Bay</th>
<th>Little Sarasota Bay</th>
<th>Blackburn Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>2002</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accomplishments

- **Wetlands** - Created 30 ecological parks restoring 650 acres of wetland habitat.

- **Reefs** - Deployment of 3,000 habitat modules on 9 new sites; plus 3 oyster re-colonization projects.

- **Education** - Comprehensive public education – more than 40,000 local students through PIER Program.

- **Grants** - More than $150,000 in grants to 90 local groups.
Engaging the Public

Notable progress in 2011:

- New SBEP Website & Enhanced E-Newsletter.
- Online Creative Expressions Photo Art Gallery.
- *Sarasota Bay Today* – Region’s first Bay-centric blog featuring interviews with area professionals focused on water quality, restoration, research, education, conservation, and policy planning.
New for 2012

- Sarasota Bay Awards Program April 4 at Crosley Mansion featuring presentation of the Blue Dolphin Awards.
- Sarasota Bay Water Festival October 6.
- Public outreach to enhance relationships with key community groups – local marinas, fishing organizations, business groups and social service organizations.
Established Outreach Programs

- Bay Guardians
- Bay Wise Kayak Tour
- Education & Teacher Training
- Community Events
- Presentations to diverse groups
2012 Priorities:

- Numeric Nutrient Criteria – Tidal Tributaries
- Restore local tributaries and watersheds
- Implement LID – Expo March 23
- Promote and create living shorelines
- Continue wetland restoration
- Continue shellfish recovery (oysters & scallops)
- Complete Economic Value Study
- Begin preparation for future sea level rise
Into the Future

- Reclaimed water will become a more valuable commodity.

- Stormwater will also become a component of our supply systems utilizing low impact design.

- Gulf/Bay water quality and infrastructure will set Manatee apart economically.