



# Sarasota Bay Water Quality Management Plan

December 2012

[Download complete plan \(966 pages, 62.7 MB\)](#)

[Download individual chapters below](#)

The Sarasota Bay Water Quality Management Plan (SBWQMP) is a regional initiative to develop and implement a watershed management plan for Sarasota Bay and its watersheds. It balances the goals of restoring natural systems, enhancing water quality, ensuring the sustainability of the water supply, and protecting against floods while expanding educational opportunities. It summarizes past, present, and future watershed conditions and contains recommendations for activities to help reach management goals and to progress toward sustaining and enhancing the health of the watershed. It discusses factors that affect water quality in the bay and its tributaries and the consequences of degraded water quality on natural resources.

[Exec. Summary, Front Matter](#) (1.32 MB)

[Chapters 1-3](#) (3.27 MB)

[Chapter 4](#) (2.70 MB)

[Chapter 5-6](#) (405 KB)

[Appendix A](#) (7.56 MB)

[Appendix B](#) (16.0 MB)

[Appendix C](#) (6.56 MB)

[Appendix D](#) (5.90 MB)

[Appendix E](#) (959 KB)

[Appendix F](#) (8.72 MB)

[Appendix G](#) (12.7 MB)

[Appendix H](#) (612 KB)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION/PROJECT BACKGROUND

### 2.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.0 SARASOTA BAY/WATERSHED

#### 3.1 CHARACTERIZATION

#### 3.2 WATER QUANTITY AND WATER SUPPLY

##### 3.2.1 Water Supply and Demand

##### 3.2.2 Water Budget

##### 3.2.3 Sarasota Bay Watershed Water Budget

#### 3.3 WATER QUALITY

##### 3.3.1 Estuarine Water Quality Status and Trends

##### 3.3.2 Hydrologic and Pollutant Loading

##### 3.3.3 Comparison of Ambient Water Quality to Regulatory Criteria and Management Levels of Service (LOS)

#### 3.4 NATURAL SYSTEMS

##### 3.4.1 Critical Estuarine Systems

##### 3.4.2 Freshwater Natural Systems

#### 3.5 FLOOD PROTECTION

##### 3.5.1 History of Flooding and Sarasota County Stormwater Program

##### 3.5.2 Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS)

##### 3.5.3 Planning Studies and Efforts

##### 3.5.4 Basin Master Planning

#### 3.6 SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

#### 3.7 SARASOTA BAY WATERSHED SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### 3.7.1 Project and Program Recommendations

### 4.0 SARASOTA BAY BASINS

#### 4.1 SARASOTA BAY COASTAL

##### 4.1.1 Characterization and Physical Setting

##### 4.1.2 Water Quantity

##### 4.1.3 Water Quality

##### 4.1.4 Natural Systems

##### 4.1.5 Flood Protection

##### 4.1.6 Sediment Management

- 4.1.7 Sarasota Bay Coastal South Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 4.2 WHITAKER BAYOU
  - 4.2.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
  - 4.2.2 Water Quantity
  - 4.2.3 Water Quality
  - 4.2.4 Natural Systems
  - 4.2.5 Flood Protection
  - 4.2.6 Sediment Management
  - 4.2.7 Whitaker Bayou Summary and Recommendations
- 4.3 HUDSON BAYOU
  - 4.3.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
  - 4.3.2 Water Quantity
  - 4.3.3 Water Quality
  - 4.3.4 Natural Systems
  - 4.3.5 Flood Protection
  - 4.3.6 Sediment Management
  - 4.3.7 Hudson Bayou Summary and Recommendations
  - 4.3.8 Project Recommendations
- 4.4 OTHER BASINS (MANATEE COUNTY)
  - 4.4.1 Water Quantity
  - 4.4.2 Water Quality
  - 4.4.3 Manatee County Basins Summary/Conclusions

## **5.0 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF LEVELS OF SERVICE
- 5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
- 5.3 COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
  - 5.3.1 Decision Framework for Comprehensive Water Quality Compliance Assessment

## **6.0 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE WATERSHED**

- 6.1 SEAGRASS PROTECTION
  - 6.1.1 Seagrass Protection Strategy
  - 6.1.2 Seagrass Protection Recommendations
- 6.2 OYSTER MONITORING
  - 6.2.1 Oyster Monitoring Strategy
  - 6.2.2 Oyster Monitoring Actions
- 6.3 MANGROVE PROTECTION
  - 6.3.1 Mangrove Protection Strategy
  - 6.3.2 Mangrove Stewardship Recommendations
- 6.4 HABITAT

- 6.4.1 Native Vegetation
- 6.4.2 Native Vegetation Actions
- 6.5 HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
  - 6.5.1 Habitat Enhancement Strategy
  - 6.5.2 Habitat Enhancement Actions
- 6.6 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
  - 6.6.1 Stormwater Management Strategy
  - 6.6.2 Stormwater Management Actions
- 6.7 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
  - 6.7.1 Operations and Maintenance Strategy
  - 6.7.2 Operations and Maintenance Actions
- 6.8 EDUCATION, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP
  - 6.8.1 Education, Involvement, and Stewardship Strategy
  - 6.8.2 Education, Involvement, and Stewardship Actions
- 6.9 LINKING ACTIONS AND GOALS

## **Appendices**

### **APPENDIX A – Project Background & Physical Setting**

### **APPENDIX B – Water Quantity**

### **APPENDIX C – Water Quality**

### **APPENDIX D – Natural Systems**

### **APPENDIX E – Flood Protection**

### **APPENDIX F – Sediment Management**

### **APPENDIX G – Project & Program Recommendations**

### **APPENDIX H – Bibliographies**