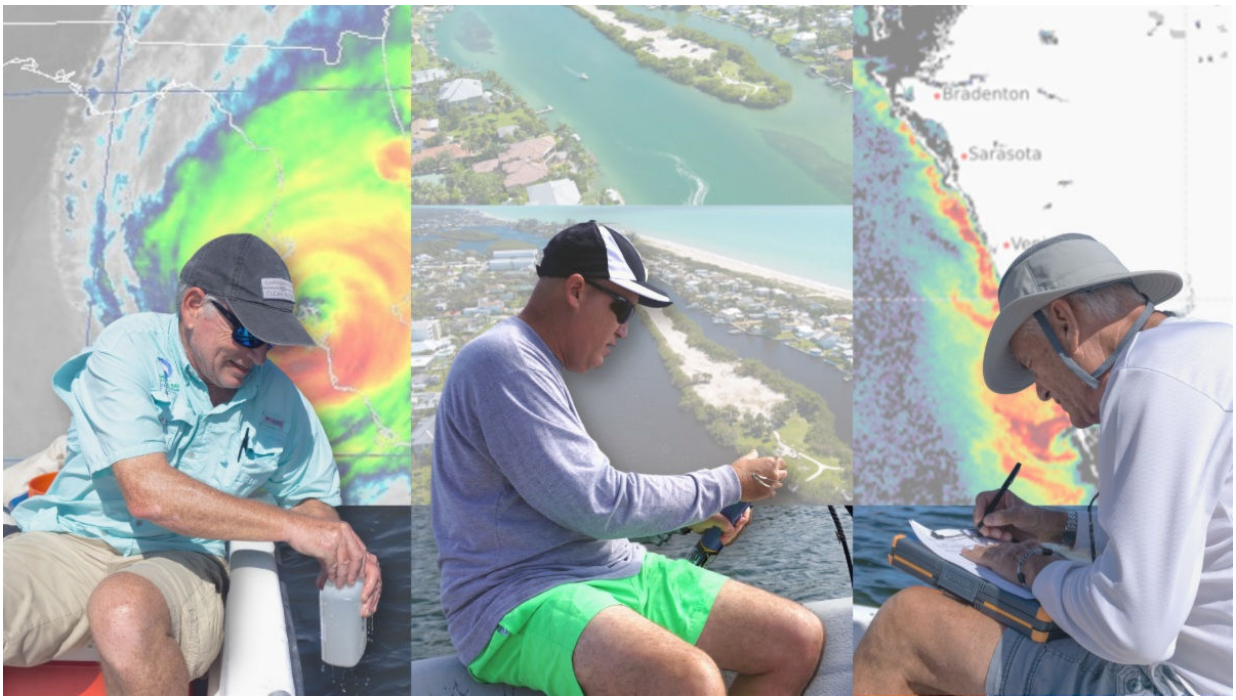


Hurricane Ian's Impact on Sarasota Bay



Hurricanes and large storm events can bring extreme change and devastation to coastal areas and estuaries. Not only do they move large amounts of water, but they can also cause extensive habitat loss. As the Gulf Coast continues to recover from Hurricane Ian, SBEP has been working

with Charlotte County, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Environmental Science Associates, and Benchmark Laboratories to design and implement a monitoring program that would measure the human health risks associated with impacts from Hurricane Ian, as well as the impacts to the health of Sarasota Bay, Lemon Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and the Peace and Myakka River watersheds.

Click here to read more about Hurricane Ian

We've got a new look!

What comes to mind when you think of Sarasota Bay? Teeming wildlife? Beautiful blue water? A scenic sunset? We've captured it all in our new SBEP logo. A lot has changed since we first began in 1989, but our mission to preserve and protect Sarasota Bay is the through line that connects us all!

Click here to view the brand in action!

Explore SBEP's new, interactive Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan



Our region's identity, economy, and quality of life rely on a healthy Bay. SBEP works with **our partners**, **Boards and Committees**, and the public to recognize this value by investing essential time and resources into the Bay. The success of these investments is evident. Last year, the water quality in Sarasota Bay was better than it's been in the last five years, and in many locations, in over a decade. We celebrate this success while also planning for the road ahead. Current and future challenges, including hurricanes, population growth, and climate change will push us to be proactive and strategic in new ways. As said by SBEP Executive Director, Dr. David Tomasko, "For us to continue to preserve and protect Sarasota Bay, we are going to have to do more than what we've been doing the last 20 to 30 years."

So, what's the plan? We encourage you to find out. SBEP's priorities, actions, and objectives for the next five to ten years are mapped out in our 2022 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP serves as a blueprint to guide future decisions and actions and addresses a wide range of environmental protection issues and opportunities including water quality, habitat, wildlife, and public access to Bay resources. The CCMP was made possible by over 100 scientists, engineers, resource managers, resource users, volunteers, community members, and elected officials.

Now, our Plan is accessible to the public through an interactive StoryMap. The StoryMap showcases a myriad of Sarasota Bay's picturesque views and iconic wildlife while highlighting the core action plans of the CCMP. A full-length, searchable version of the CCMP is accessible through the StoryMap. We hope you find our plan informative, encouraging, and engaging. As outlined in our StoryMap, we all play a role in the health of Sarasota Bay. Once you're done exploring our plan, we hope you ask yourself "what's mine?"

Click here to explore the Plan

Bay Partners Grant Applications Open January 1, 2023



Calling all bay enthusiasts, environmentalists, and community leaders! Do you belong to a non-profit, for-profit, school, or government organization located within the greater Sarasota Bay watershed? We want to encourage you to apply to our Bay Partners Grant Program. The mission of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program's Sarasota Bay Partners Grants program is to improve the overall quality of Sarasota-Manatee area bays, their tributaries, and their watersheds and to promote environmental education and community involvement in SBEP's mission. To further these goals, funding is available for projects that focus on habitat restoration and water quality and/or Bay-related environmental education and community stewardship. Eligible projects may focus on either or both themes. Get ready; applications open on January 1! Be on the lookout for more important details, coming soon.

Watch the Video to Learn More About the Program and Past Projects



Click here to learn more about the Bay Partners Grants Program

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Restoration Site Refresh

SBEP has several exciting restoration projects in the pipeline for the coming year! One of the initiatives we've been working on is to spruce up some of our oldest restoration sites. Keep an eye out for some new additions at three locations in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Thank you to all the partners who are helping to make these projects possible!

Quick Point Preserve – tucked away on the south end of Longboat Key, the 34 acre preserve offers a walking trail through mangroves, lagoons, bay overlooks, and uplands. This site will receive new wayfinding and educational signs at the parking area and along walking trails.



Leffis Key – located on Anna Maria Island, across from Coquina Beach, the 30-acre spoil island offers a 360-degree view of Sarasota Bay with extensive trails weaving through different coastal habitats. New chickee shade structures, a picnic table and a bench have been added to the hilltop viewing areas, and this past August, roughly 40 volunteers came out to help plant native shrubs, groundcovers, and trees on the hillsides. New educational signage will also be added to represent how the preserve's habitats have changed over time as sea level has risen.

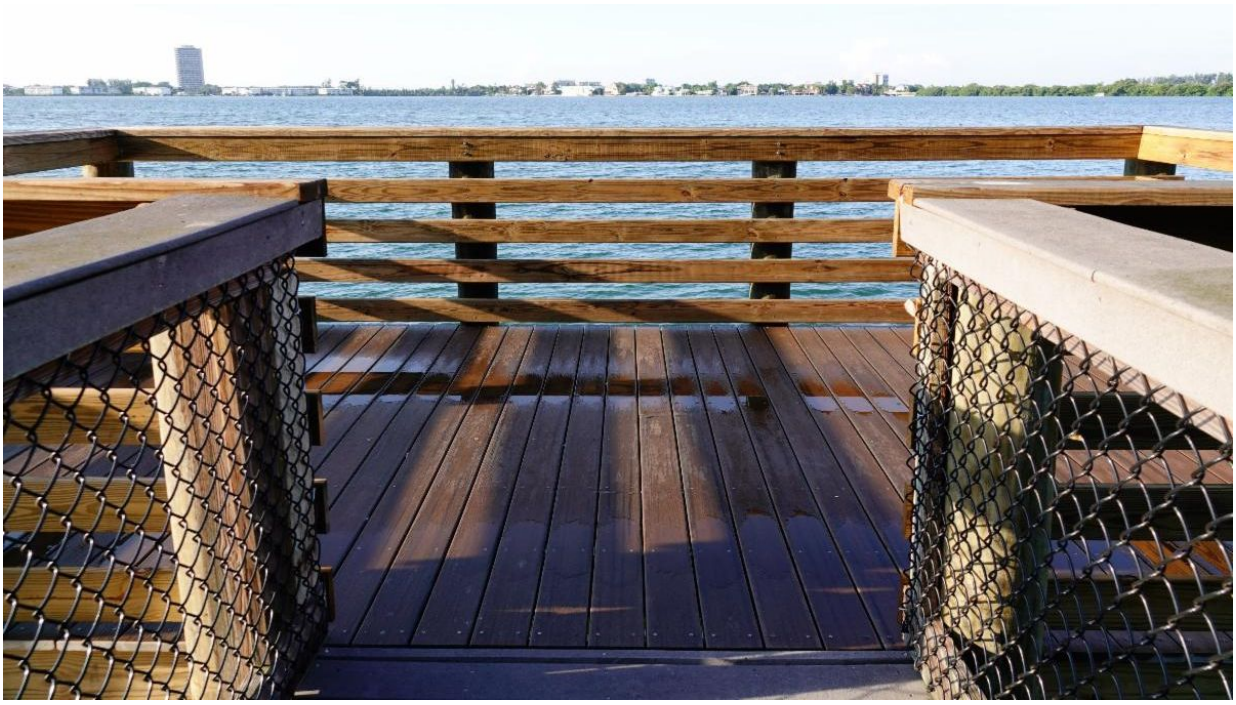








Sarasota Bay Walk at City Island– located across from New Pass Grill and behind Mote Marine Laboratory, the site features a boardwalk trail through the mangroves leading out to an overlook of Sarasota Bay. SBEP plans to add new wayfinding and educational signs.



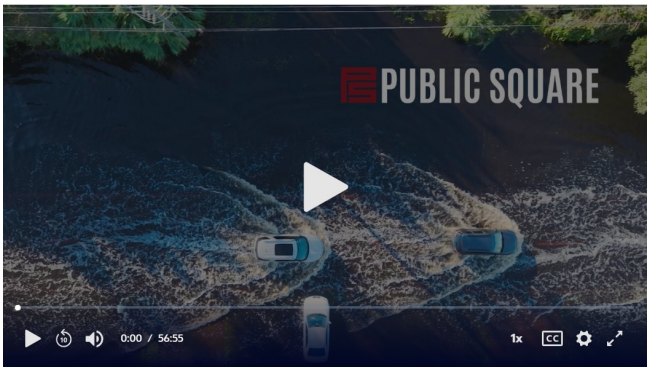
Lights, Camera, Action!

SBEP in the News

Communication is vital to the protection and restoration of the bay. Check out the latest clips and articles featuring SBEP efforts.



Talk of the Town
Longboat Key's Town Manager, Tom Harmer speaks with Dr. David Tomasko, Executive Director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.



WEDU Public Square: Climate Change in West Central Florida
Climate experts say the most important thing we can do to fight climate change is talk about it. Host Justin Shaifer guides a discussion that ultimately leads back to you. Learn more about how you can help fight the impacts of climate change here in West Central Florida.

Click here for SBEP in the News

2022 Eyes on Seagrass Results are In!



The Eyes on Seagrass Program wrapped its second year of sampling up this past July. The program, which expanded to Sarasota Bay in 2021 to fill a **gap in macroalgae (aka seaweed)**

patterns and trends on the Gulf Coast, invites citizen scientists to survey macroalgae and seagrass and collect macroalgae samples twice a year in the spring and summer. The data collected also contribute to the **Sarasota Bay Ecosystem Health Report Card**, which is updated annually and assesses the water quality and overall status of the bay. This past July, a total of 45 sites were visited from Palma Sola Bay down to Blackburn Bay. Surveys found that sites in the upper bays, like Palma Sola and Big Sarasota Bay, had more macroalgae coverage than the lower bays. Looking at 2022 samples from both April and July, overall macroalgae coverage was higher in the spring, but not overly abundant in either season.

Click here to learn more about seagrass & algae monitoring

SBEP Welcomes New Citizens Advisory Committee Members!



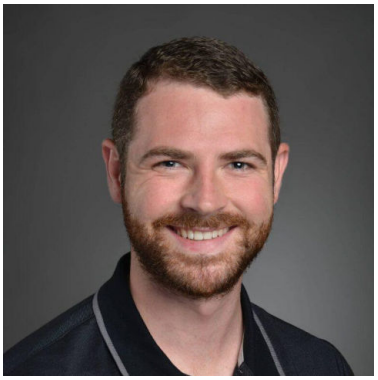










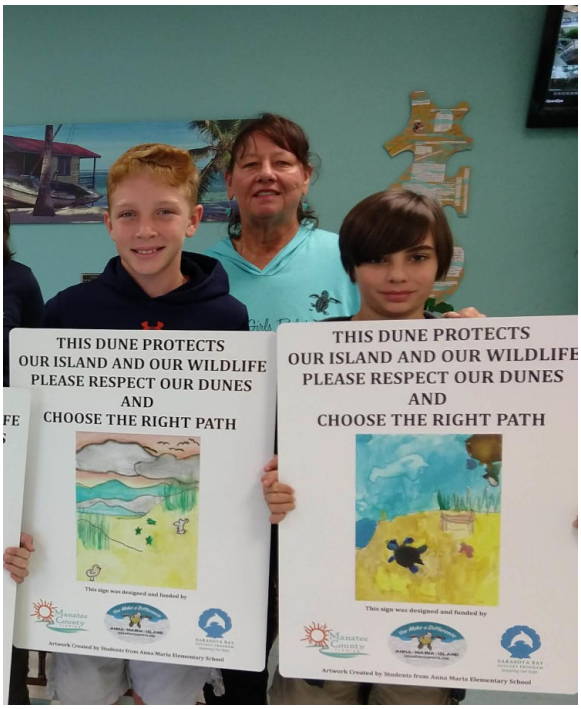


SBEP is excited to welcome several new members to the CAC this year! Since the Spring, Larry Lackey, William Woodworth, Michael D'Imperio, Alia Garrett, Cliff Lundin, Ross Johnston, Shaun Swartz, and Aaron Zimmerman have joined the board. We are very excited and grateful to have their unique perspectives and expertise to help guide the program!

Click here to learn more about the Citizens Advisory Committee

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In Memory of Suzi Fox



Our community is deeply saddened by the recent loss of Suzi Fox, the former Director of AMI Turtle Watch. Suzi moved to Anna Maria Island with her family in 1987. Shortly afterward, she started volunteering for AMI Turtle Watch, eventually becoming their director in 1996. She was incredibly dedicated to protecting the waters and wildlife surrounding her home and work. In 2011, Suzi joined the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee, devoting her time and energy to SBEP as the only organization she choose to volunteer for during her time on the committee. Suzi's contributions have greatly enhanced the environmental efforts of our entire community. She was an incredible example of compassion, care, and stewardship of marine wildlife and the places they call home. We will miss her enormously. **Click to read the article in AMI Sun**

Save the Date



Join SBEP, TBEP, Manatee County, and Wayne Adventures for a special full moon paddle along

the mangrove shorelines of Robinson Preserve followed by a s'mores social at the pavilion. Registration opens December 19th.

Click here to register for the Full Moon Paddle starting December 19th



Join SBEP and partners in celebrating environmental and community health! A morning paddle cleanup of Whitaker Bayou and a workday at Orange Blossom Community Garden will be followed by a free BBQ, the Newtown Farmers Market, and community resources available at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Sarasota. Hope to see you there!

Click here to register for Whitaker Bayou Ecommunity Day



2022 has been an incredible year for volunteer efforts and accomplishments. After having to put many events on hold in recent years because of covid, SBEP is so grateful to those who came out with such dedication and enthusiasm for this year's Bay Guardians. Thank you to all volunteers and partner organizations. We couldn't have done it without you!

- **10 events**
- **45 sites monitored for seagrass and macroalgae**
- **176 volunteers**
- **1,800 lbs of trash removed**
- **2,120 native plants installed**

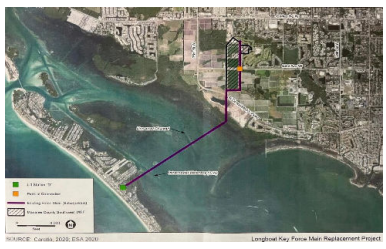
Jobs & Funding Opportunities

- **Captain of the Carefree Learner - Sarasota**
- **Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium: multiple positions**
- **State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota: Adjunct Instructor**
- **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council: Disaster Recovery Coordinator**
- **USF: Environmental & Conservation Greenspace Director - Tampa**
- **Florida Aquarium: multiple positions - Tampa**
- **National Wildlife Federation: Outreach Associate, Gulf Program - Tampa**
- **Geosyntec Consultants: Early-Career Water Resources Engineer or Scientist - Tampa**
- **Audubon: Senior Coordinator, Climate Science - remote**

Bite Sized Bay News



Mangroves Are Powerful





Slicks, sickness and

Coastal Guardians

"Beyond their inherent value as living organisms, mangrove trees are vital when it comes to protecting healthy waters and fisheries —and even human development.'"

Read more

Construction begins on mainland portion of sewer main project

"The town of Longboat Key has identified a more cost-effective solution to its parallel sewer main project, and work has begun on initial stages on the mainland side of the pipeline."

Read more

solutions: How the BP spill impacted dolphins' health, and future science

"Twelve years after the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, bottlenose dolphins continue to face heart and lung conditions, low reproductive success and other devastating health impacts. But the disaster also led to unprecedented innovations and insights in dolphin science."

Read more

Water Reading From Around the Web

Scientists Intrigued by Sharks That Can Walk on Land for Two Hours

"According to a press release from Florida Atlantic University, the low-oxygen nature of the epaulette shark's Great Barrier Reef home is likely why it's able to go up to two hours out of water."

Read more



Egg Whites Remove Nearly 100% Of Microplastics From Water, Princeton Researchers Discover

"Princeton researchers have successfully used egg whites to create a lightweight and porous aerogel material that can be used in several ways, including water filtration, energy storage, and sound, as well as insulation."

Read more



From under to on the rocks: Invasive crabs become whiskey

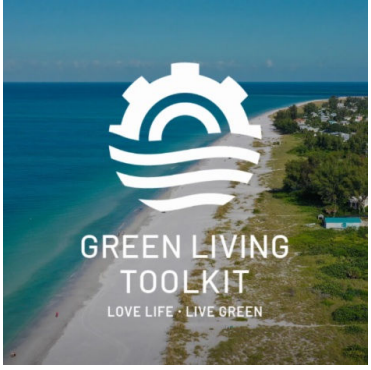
"A New Hampshire distillery has come up with its newest concoction called “Crab Trapper” — whiskey flavored with invasive green crabs."

Read more



Community & Partner Events

Check out upcoming green events from over 100 local organizations on the NEW **Green Living Toolkit Community Events Calendar!**



Book a Speaker from SBEP

SBEP staff members regularly speak to homeowners, neighborhood, and community groups and upper-level classrooms about Sarasota Bay ecology and restoration. Weekday and evening presentations are now being scheduled through Fall 2022.

Click here to request a speaker from SBEP

Follow us

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