Integrating Community Involvement with Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration

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Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

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Washington, DC
Five-Year Habitat Restoration Plan

- Serves as the planning document for CCMP Action Item: Freshwater and Saltwater Wetlands
- “Restore the Balance” of historical habitats
- Prioritizes restoration activities
- Five year planning horizon (update scheduled in 2015)
Five Year Plan: Site Ranking Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS</th>
<th>HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Cost per acre</td>
<td>• Potential fisheries habitat</td>
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<td>• Proximity to preserved land</td>
<td>• Salinity classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Potential restoration magnitude</td>
<td>• Opportunities within tributaries</td>
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<td>• Partnership opportunities</td>
<td>• WQ improvements</td>
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<td>• Community support</td>
<td>• Shoreline enhancement</td>
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<td>• Construction feasibility</td>
<td>• Protected species benefits</td>
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<td>• Historic habitat improvements (“restoring the balance”)</td>
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Wetland Coordinator

- Competitively selected process
- Coordinates all aspects of habitat restoration for the SBEP, including concept and construction plans, permits and CEI
- Helps develop and implement the Five-Year Restoration Plan
Restoration Contractors

- Competitive process
- Request for Qualifications from local contractors specializing in restoration practices
- Selected five companies; keep under contract for five years
- They still compete on each project; selection based on variety of factors and not just cost
North Lido Beach

Creation of high and low marsh, tidal creek and dunes
North Lido Beach
North Lido Beach: Tidal Creek (2010 & 2014)
North Lido Beach: Dunes (2010 & 2014)
North Lido Beach: Graded Shoreline (2010 & 2014)
Bay Guardian Volunteers

- Sarasota Bay Guardians is a family-friendly volunteer program that SBEP manages in partnership with Around the Bend Nature Tours. The program was established to engage residents of all ages in the ongoing efforts to restore and protect Sarasota Bay.
- Since 2010, over 1,600 volunteers have helped plant native vegetation and remove invasive plants throughout the watershed.
- Sign up to become a volunteer: sarasotabay.org
Purpose

Engage adults and children to help with ongoing restoration projects. It also provides participants with an opportunity to learn and make new connections with other individuals who care about Sarasota Bay habitat and wildlife.
Types of Events

• Each Bay Guardians event is a unique learning opportunity. Before each event, there is an educational talk to go over event tasks and to learn about Sarasota Bay habitats, wildlife, and threats.

• Different events include; Florida Native Plantings, Oyster bagging, Invasive Plant Species Removal and Clean Ups.
Groups Involved

Local Schools
Local Universities
Neighborhood Associations
Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops
Summer camps and Environmental programs
Perico Preserve

Before:

One Year After:
Jiggs Landing

Before:

One Year After:
Bay Guardian Planting Event
Thank You!