

# SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

## Description

The Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program (SBNEP) began in June 1989 and continues to receive annual contributions from participating organizations; the City of Sarasota sponsors the Program. In 1993, the program completed the most comprehensive technical assessment conducted on any estuarine system in the State of Florida with resources provided by US EPA, local governments, Water Management District and other federal and state agencies. In 1995, a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was approved by the Governor and EPA Administrator with specific actions supported by the technical work. The CCMP contains six Action Plans: wastewater treatment and reclamation, stormwater treatment and prevention, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, fisheries and other living resources, recreational use, and governance. Since 1995, the mission of the program has been to financially support implementation of the CCMP and report on progress which has been achieved in implementing the plan and in restoring the Bay.

Today, Sarasota Bay is much different than it was a decade ago due to actions taken by the agencies and governments participating in restoration. Nitrogen pollution has been reduced by approximately 47%, primarily as a result of improved wastewater treatment and reuse of wastewater, and seagrass coverage has increased by 1751 acres (18%) as a result of reduced pollution. Twenty-five (25) wetland and twenty (20) artificial reef projects have been initiated to increase fish and wildlife habitat, and the Bay is estimated to support 110 million more fish, 71 million more crabs, and 330 million more shrimp than in 1988. The Sarasota Bay Program continues to support community efforts to improve the Bay through research, environmental education and action projects. A Citizens Action Plan is being implemented to promote Bay stewardship and to increase community awareness of actions taken to restore and protect Sarasota Bay.

**Beginning Fund Balance** \$262,691

## Revenue Summary

Title	Total
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	776,000
INTEREST	10,000
Totals	786,000

## Department Expenditure Summary

Title	Continuation	Issues	Total
SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM	820,354	0	820,354
SPECIAL EVENTS - NEP	1,000	0	1,000
Totals	821,354	0	821,354

**Ending Fund Balance** 227,337

CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA  
SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

	Actual 2000-01	Budget 2001-02	Amended Budget 2001-02	Estimated 2001-02	Budget 2002-03
Available Fund Balance	\$ 362,227	\$ 140,563	\$ 248,837	\$ 248,837	\$ 119,952
<u>Revenues</u>					
EPA Grant	446,224	340,000	340,360	340,360	510,000
State/Local Grants	(41,218)	-	-	-	-
SWFWMD Contribution	215,065	233,000	415,110	415,782	133,000
Manatee County Contribution	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Sarasota County Contribution	34,938	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
City of Sarasota Contribution	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
Interest Income	17,412	9,241	9,241	9,241	10,000
Transfer From Non-Federal Portion	123,478	-	-	-	-
Other Contributions	13,319	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	892,218	715,241	897,711	898,383	786,000
Estimated Funds Available	1,254,445	855,804	1,146,548	1,147,220	905,952
<u>Expenditures</u>					
Administration					
Personnel Services	251,682	284,852	316,598	305,458	313,550
Other Operating Costs	86,880	100,389	110,469	99,656	103,804
Local Funding					
Projects	543,568	330,000	622,163	622,154	404,000
Match of Federal Portion	123,478	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	1,005,608	715,241	1,049,230	1,027,268	821,354
Projected Ending Balance	\$ 248,837	\$ 140,563	\$ 97,318	\$ 119,952	\$ 84,598

# **SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM**

## **Mission Statement**

To improve and protect the area's greatest and most important natural asset - Sarasota Bay. The Sarasota Bay Program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for user and enjoyment by the public.

## **Description of Operations**

The Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program (SBNEP) was formally designated as a National Estuary Program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1989. Between 1989 and 1993, the SBNEP conducted a series of studies characterizing the condition of the Bay and the sources of pollution. These studies were synthesized in the Framework for Action (FFA) report released in 1993. The FFA also included recommendations for improvement which were refined based on community review and placed in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) approved by the Governor of Florida in 1995. The CCMP contained six Action Plans: wastewater, stormwater, wetlands, fisheries, recreation and Bay management.

Nitrogen is the principle pollutant of concern in Sarasota Bay. Since 1988, nitrogen pollution has been reduced 47% primarily as a result of enhanced wastewater treatment and the increased use of reclaimed water; additional reductions in nitrogen loading are anticipated as sewers are constructed in northern Sarasota County and more wastewater is reclaimed. Nitrogen pollution peaked at about 490% of pristine in 1988 and is about 250% above pristine today.

SBNEP research has indicated that atmospheric contributions of nitrogen are relatively small in relation to the other sources. Stormwater presently contributes 56% of the total nitrogen and this percentage will increase as wastewater nitrogen loading is reduced. The SBNEP is engaged in studies with the University of Florida addressing nitrogen removal efficiencies in landscapes since research conducted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has indicated that nitrogen removal efficiencies of wet detention systems are low.

Reduced nitrogen load has resulted in improved water clarity (about 1.5 feet) and an increase of sea grass habitat. The program is actively involved in twenty-three (23) wetland enhancement projects and the construction of twenty (20) artificial reefs in the bay to create habitat and recreation opportunities. The increases in sea grass, wetlands and reefs are increasing overall fishery productivity; next year the program will be pursuing canal reefs for habitat.

The SBNEP continues to support environmental education and the promotion of the Heritage Trail to develop environmental stewardship.

## **Goal - Healthy Neighborhoods and Businesses**

The Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program is dedicated to improving and protecting the area's greatest natural asset - Sarasota Bay. The vitality of Sarasota Bay is critical to the economic vitality and visual appeal of the City of Sarasota.

## **Objectives**

Improve water transparency by reducing nitrogen pollution through improved wastewater treatment, construction of reclaimed water systems and storm water management.

Increase the number of wetlands, reef and sea grass habitats to restore and sustain fish and other living resources.

Provide levels of increased managed access to the Bay.

Maintain an appropriate institutional structure for Bay activities.

## SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

### Performance Measures

Description	Unit	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003
<b>Output Measure</b>					
Water clarity report	Number	1	1	1	1
Nitrogen loading report	Number	1	1	1	1
Wetland/reef projects	Number	4	6	6	6
Technical studies	Number	6	7	7	3
Bayfront park designs	Number	3	3	3	2
Policy Committee meetings	Number	2	2	2	3
<b>Effectiveness Measure</b>					
Available habitat in acres	Number	1,775	1,825	1,875	1,925
<b>Efficiency Measure</b>					
FTE's per 10,000 population	Number	.085	.083	.082	.081

### Department Expenditures by Cost Center

	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Budget	FY 2003 Continuation	FY 2003 Issues	FY 2003 Totals
351000 SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY I	403,854	384,241	820,354	0	820,354
351001 EPA PROJECTS - 2001 (25% MATCH)	55,052	0	0	0	0
351002 ALL PROJECTS - 2002	0	330,000	0	0	0
351010 EPA PROJECTS - 2000 (25% MATCH)	49,006	0	0	0	0
352000 NON FEDERAL - NEP	217,980	0	0	0	0
352001 NON FEDERAL - 2001	67,912	0	0	0	0
352010 NON FEDERAL - 2000	166,081	0	0	0	0
353000 SPECIAL EVENTS - NEP	0	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
353001 SBNEP - SPECIAL EVENTS - 2001	550	0	0	0	0
354000 FEDERAL PROJECTS - EPA FUNDED 100%	27,530	0	0	0	0
354001 FEDERAL PROJECTS - EPA FUNDED 100%	17,640	0	0	0	0
Totals	\$1,005,605	\$715,241	\$821,354	\$0	\$821,354

### Department Expenditures By Category

	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Budget	FY 2003 Continuation	FY 2003 Issues	FY 2003 Totals
Personal Expenditures	319,224	284,852	324,350	0	324,350
Non Personal Expenditures	516,696	403,821	462,023	0	462,023
Capital Expenditures	24,892	4,400	12,370	0	12,370
Transfer Expenditures	144,793	22,168	22,611	0	22,611
Totals	\$1,005,605	\$715,241	\$821,354	\$0	\$821,354

### Personnel Summary

Actual Positions	5.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
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### Revenue Summary

	Total
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	776,000
INTEREST	10,000
	\$786,000

# SARASOTA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

## SUMMARY OF 2002-03 PROJECTS

### Funded by SBNEP

<b><u>Wetlands</u></b>	
Wetlands Planning/restoration	\$ 50,000
<b><u>Fish and Other Living Resources</u></b>	
Artificial Reefs	50,000
<b><u>Monitoring and Research</u></b>	
Hydrology	100,000
Oyster Reef Creation	50,000
<b><u>Public Outreach</u></b>	
Citizen Action Plan	140,000
Public Outreach and Education	<u>14,000</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 404,000</u></u>

### Funded by Public Works

<b><u>Matching Funds</u></b>	
Aquifer Storage and Recovery	<u><u>\$ 226,000</u></u>