



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SBEP'S BAY GUARDIANS TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS AT NEAL PRESERVE**

**SARASOTA, FL** – The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program's Bay Guardian volunteers will be working with Around the Bend Nature Tours and Manatee County Natural Resources to remove invasive plants at Neal Preserve on Saturday, March 26. The volunteer effort will run for two and a half hours beginning at 9am.

Neal Preserve is located at 12301 Manatee Avenue West in Bradenton. It's the newest preserve maintained by Manatee County's Natural Resources Department. Volunteers are encouraged to wear close-toed shoes, clothes that can get dirty, and work gloves.

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 attract volunteers interested in helping restore Sarasota Bay's habitat. The Bay Guardians program is a fun way to volunteer while learning more about the Bay. New volunteers will receive a tee shirt featuring the Bay Guardians logo.

Registration is required and it can be made through the SBEP website at [sarasotabay.org](http://sarasotabay.org). Inquires about Bay Guardians are welcome at 941-955-8085 or [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org).

*The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest natural asset—Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the United States that have been named by the U.S. Congress as an "estuary of national significance." Partners include*

*Sarasota County, Manatee County, City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, Town of Longboat Key, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

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