



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SARASOTA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**  
**ANNOUNCES BAY PARTNER GRANTS FOR 2011**

*Eligible organizations receive up to \$3,000 for local projects that benefit the Sarasota Bay watershed. Grants are for fully funded and partially funded projects.*

**SARASOTA, FL** – The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) welcomes applications for the 2011 Bay Partners Grants. The purpose of the annual program is to promote environmental education, awareness and stewardship that improve the overall quality of Sarasota Bay and its tributaries. Funding is available for projects that focus on Bay Education, Bay Restoration or Bay-Friendly Landscaping.

Businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, academic institutions, and civic associations located in Sarasota and Manatee counties are eligible. The watershed boundaries are from Anna Maria Sound south to the Venice Inlet as well as all of the barrier islands.

Bay Partners Grant applications must be received at the SBEP offices by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 to be eligible. Emailed applications will not be considered. Applications can be downloaded from the SBEP website on the Neighborhood Action page at [sarasotabay.org](http://sarasotabay.org). The website also lists the 15 grant projects funded for 2010.

Inquires are welcome at 941-955-8085 or [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org).

Note: Here is the online link for the application – <http://www.sarasotabay.org/nar-grants.html>

**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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