



SARASOTA BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM
Restoring Our Bays

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Two Attached Photos:
Images of the living shoreline restoration project at Herb Dolan Park.

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**SBEP AND LOCAL PARTNERS COMPLETE
LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT AT HERB DOLAN PARK**

SARASOTA, FL – Woodruff & Sons, a local construction company working with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, recently completed a restoration project at Herb Dolan Park located in the City of Bradenton Beach. The “living shoreline” project, the first of its kind in Sarasota Bay, involved removing existing concrete rubble and replacing it with a fortified, yet naturally sloping shoreline. The project was completed by planting native vegetation. A kayak and canoe launch was also built to allow public access to the Bay.

“Over the years, the shoreline around Sarasota Bay has been hardened by seawalls, rock revetments and other ecologically unfriendly structures,” said Dr. Jay Leverone, SBEP staff scientist. “Replacing these man-made structures with natural shoreline features enhances the Bay in so many ways. We hope the project inspires area residents to consider reverting their own seawall to an environmentally friendly shoreline.”

The Southwest Florida Water Management District and the US Fish and Wildlife Service were major supporters of the project. Scheda Ecological Associates prepared the plans and coordinated construction with support from Lynn Townsend & Associates based in Bradenton.

Since its inception in 1989, SBEP has been involved with more than 200 projects related to habitat or water improvement within the Sarasota Bay watershed spanning Sarasota and Manatee County. A dozen projects are currently in planning, permitting or construction phase.

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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