



SARASOTA BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM
Restoring Our Bays

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Media Contact: Sara Kane
Public Outreach Coordinator
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
941-955-8085 / sara@sarasotabay.org
www.sarasotabay.org

The SBEP Awards 13 Bay Partner Grants

The SBEP recently awarded 13 Bay Partner Grants for the next fiscal year representing more than \$30,000 in funding support for projects that benefit the Sarasota Bay Estuary. All of the projects have an education component designed to build awareness for environmental stewardship.

Fully funded projects were awarded to the following organizations: City of Holmes Beach Parks and Beautification for landscape improvement; Cortez Village Historical Society to support the development of a film about fish harvesting; G.WIZ The Science Museum for a workshop focused on water quality; Nature's Academy for a hands-on marine science field trip program; New College of Florida for a summer youth educational program; Rogers Garden Elementary for a school eco-festival; and Sunbow Bay Condo Association for the retrofitting of existing turf in a Florida-friendly garden.

Partially funded projects were awarded to the following groups: Beachplace Association, Inc. for upgrading a stormwater detention pond; ELM West Coast, Inc. for an expo focused on Low Impact Development (LID); Mote Marine Laboratory for support of marine research by the Mote High School Internship Education Program; Palma Sola Botanical Park Foundation for enhancement of foot/wheel chair pathways; South Gate Community Association, Inc. for invasive plant removal along the shores of Philippi Creek; and Windward Bay Condominium Association for a major expansion of an existing saltwater bioswale.

Visit sarasotabay.org to learn more about SBEP Bay Partner Grants Program.

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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.