



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BAY GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS TO ADD PLANTS TO  
EMERSON POINT PRESERVE IN MANATEE COUNTY**

**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 plant native plants at Emerson Point Preserve on Saturday, June 4. Volunteers will be meeting 9am for the three hour project. Lunch will be provided to volunteers following the planting. Reservations to participate are required and volunteers can sign up on the SBEP website at [www.sarasotabay.org](http://www.sarasotabay.org).

The planting project is part of an ongoing effort to restore natural habitat at the popular preserve located in Palmetto. Collaborative projects since 2005 have restored mangroves, coastal uplands, and freshwater wetlands throughout the 365-acre preserve.

Emerson Point Preserve is located at the mouth of the Manatee River where it meets lower Tampa Bay. The unique history of the preserve includes the Portavant Temple Mound, southwest Florida’s largest Native American Temple Mound and the site of early Florida pioneers. Emerson Point Preserve also has multi-use trails and boardwalks that protect natural habitats. A canoe/kayak launch allows access to the tidal canals and Terra Ceia Bay. An observation tower provides an impressive view of the preserve and area waterways.

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. At least six volunteer outings are held each year. The Bay Guardians program is a fun way to volunteer while learning more about the Bay. Inquires are welcome at 941-955-8085 or [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org).

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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.*