



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Photo showing the new tributary at North Lido Beach Park  
Please credit Bob Thill if you use the photo

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**BAY GUARDIANS TO PLANT NATIVES AT NORTH LIDO BEACH JULY 9**

**SARASOTA, FL** – The SBEP Bay Guardian volunteers in cooperation with Around the Bend Nature Tours and the City of Sarasota will be planting 500 native plants at North Lido Beach Park on Saturday, July 9. The plants are being donated by the American Littoral Society.

The new tidal tributary at North Lido Park was completed in March. The restoration project improved 30 acres on the 70 acre site. The effort removed non-native vegetation, excavated the tidal wetland, contoured the upland area, created dunes, and planted thousands of native plants.

The tidal wetland was created to provide essential habitat for estuarine dependent fish species, according to Jay Leverone, PhD, SBEP's staff scientist. "The restoration also provides improved habitat for birds, reptiles and other wildlife," he added.

Florida Native Nursery planted more than 8,000 plants on the newly created shores in the spring. Major funding for the restoration project comes from Southwest Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Individuals and organizations supporting the project include the Lido Shores Property Owners

Association, Lido Key Residents Association, Sarasota Audubon Society, and Captain Jeffrey Karr with the Sarasota Police Department, and Sarasota County.

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. Inquires 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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