



SARASOTA

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021 3 days ago

PREV  
ARTICLE

# grass in Sarasota Bay drops to 12-year low

NEXT  
ARTICLE

SHARE



COMMENTS

0

Data show an 18% decrease in Sarasota Bay, or a loss of 2,300 acres of sea grass.

by: **Brynn Mechem** | Staff Writer

Following a variety of environmental and man-made factors, Sarasota Bay is

Search

Preliminary results from the Southwest Florida Water Management District show an 18% decline in seagrass across Sarasota Bay, Roberts Bay and Little Sarasota Bay from 2018 to 2020. The loss equates to a total loss of 2,300 acres of sea grass.



officials reported. Seagrass levels have not been so low since 2008.

Seagrass is an important indicator of water quality and ecosystem health because it serves a variety of purposes.

Seagrass act as a carbon filter and buffer against climate change by reducing pollutants from the water. It also supports 70% of commercial fish species in Florida and provides food and shelter for other marine organisms.

Although there are many reasons for the loss, factors such as red tide, Hurricane Irma and various human impacts have increased the level of harmful nutrients in the bay.

The aerial surveys that show the loss were done during the winter months of

PREV ARTICLE and 2020. Sarasota Bay Estuary Program executive director David NEXT ARTICLE

Tomasko said sewage spills near the bay or into its waters and the Piney Point discharge of nitrogen-rich water could make matters worse.

“We have an awful lot of work ahead of us and we could very well be set back further by potential impacts from the Piney Point spills,” Tomasko said in a press release.

Until 2016, the Bay was showing increased levels of seagrass recovery due to

Search





### YOUR INBOX!

SUBMIT

### MOST POPULAR

## Concept floated for St. Armands hotel

A developer wants the city to consider turning a St. Armands parking lot into a mixed-use hub anchored by a hotel. Could that one day become reality?



PREV ARTICLE <

NEXT ARTICLE >

READ MORE →

NEWS



## Florida setting the example on vaping regulations

Misinformation around vaping continues to

May 7, 2021 SHARE



READ MORE →

Search



OPINION

May 5, 2021 SHARE



# ordinance

An executive order from Gov. Ron DeSantis rendered consideration of a mask mandate moot, the city attorney said.



[READ MORE](#) →

NEWS



## Bobby Jones nature trails closing next week

Work begins to demolish buildings in preparation of renovation of property.

← [PREV ARTICLE](#)

[NEXT ARTICLE](#) →



[READ MORE](#) →

NEWS





# preliminary design

City officials expressed excitement about a proposal to widen sidewalks and eliminate angled parking, though some questions — including cost estimates — remain unanswered.



[READ MORE](#) →

NEWS



May 6, 2021 [SHARE](#)

## RELATED STORIES

[← PREV ARTICLE](#) **Commissioners hear from the town on future projects**

Topics that came up included maintaining the beach, improving roadways and mitigating flooding.



[NEXT ARTICLE →](#)

[READ MORE](#) →

..

MAY 10, 2021 [SHARE](#)

Search



**Foundation creates playbook to improve water quality**

The Gulf Coast Community Foundation created a playbook that highlights 43 activities that could keep Sarasota’s waterways clean and healthy.



[READ MORE](#) →

MAR 10, 2021 [SHARE](#)

News



City keeps parking management in-house — for now  
In addition to passing on options for teaming up with a private parking operator, the commission extended provisions allowing for expanded outdoor dining.



← [PREV ARTICLE](#)

[NEXT ARTICLE](#) →

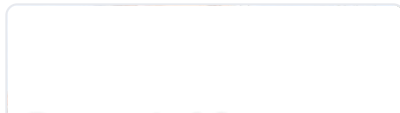
[READ MORE](#) →

MAY 7, 2021 [SHARE](#)

News



ALSO ON YOUR OBSERVER.COM



Search



The driftwood removal is part of the town's multi-million dollar plan to ...

The men are accused of burglarizing a home on Gulf of Mexico Drive.

A vocal critic government role in denyii



Comments are moderated for profanity and other inappropriate content. Please read our [Comment Policy](#) before commenting.



0 Comments

YourObserver.com



1 Login

Recommend

Tweet

Share

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

Be the first to comment.

PREV ARTICLE

Share Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add

NEXT ARTICLE

About

Contact Us

Classifieds

Advertise

Rack Locations

Subscribe

Jobs

Sponsorships

Privacy Policy

## CONTACT US

# YourObserver.com

1070 Main Street

Search



Phone: [941-366-3468](tel:941-366-3468)

Fax: [941-362-4808](tel:941-362-4808)

Email: [info@yourobserver.com](mailto:info@yourobserver.com)



**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS IN YOUR INBOX!**

## OUR SISTER SITES

[BusinessObserverFL.com](#)

[PalmCoastObserver.com](#)

[OrangeObserver.com](#)

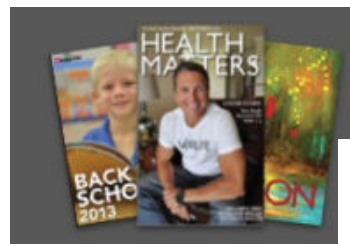
[OrmondBeachObserver.com](#)

[PortOrangeObserver.com](#)

[JaxDailyRecord.com](#)

[PREV ARTICLE](#)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS



[NEXT ARTICLE](#)

Browse a digital collection of our other publications, magazines and special sections such as Season Magazine, Health Matters, Holiday Gift Guide and more .

[VIEW ALL](#)

site created by: