

# A Chronicle of Florida's Gulf Coast



The Sarasota Bay  
National Estuary  
Program is dedicated  
to improving and



protecting the area's  
greatest and most  
important natural asset  
— Sarasota Bay.





This document is presented by the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program (SBNEP) to develop a spirit of stewardship and an appreciation of the assets and natural treasures of the area.

Congress established the National Estuary Program (NEP) through the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 in recognition of the importance of preserving and enhancing coastal environments. In 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Sarasota Bay as an estuary of national significance. The SBNEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs in the nation.

Five staff coordinate and facilitate program objectives, manage projects, and support community outreach activities.

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*A Chronicle  
of  
Florida's Gulf Coast*

Nature, History, Culture, Recreation

*A Project of the  
Sarasota Bay National  
Estuary Program*



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Stand on the beach and look to sea.  
You will see creatures as strange  
as the trees and plants - the rare  
and lonely manatee, the great sea  
turtles, the slowly turning dolphin,  
the flashing tarpon and the king.  
Then the old tales begin to take  
shape, tales of Spanish cavaliers, and  
smuggled drugs and Chinamen, of  
the wrecks when bitter lash of the  
northwester has struck the coast.  
The sun is setting. Look about you.  
The saying goes that if you once  
get the sand of the Coast in your  
shoes, you will itch forever after  
with the longing to return to bury  
your toes in the sand of this shore,  
to smell its morning winds, and gaze  
at its high blue sky.

-The Mangrove Coast  
Karl Bickel  
© 1989, Omni Print Media Inc.

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Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program encompasses Sarasota and Manatee counties.

## About the Bay

The Gulf Coast of Florida is a tropical paradise best known for its aquamarine waters and white sandy beaches. The area features outstanding fishing, boating and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Located on the Southwest Coast of Florida, The region encompasses numerous bays and rivers and is bordered by aquatic preserves, extending from Terra Ceia Bay to the north and Lemon Bay to the south. The crown jewel of the area, Sarasota Bay, is a small, subtropical estuary currently classified as an Outstanding Florida Water and an Estuary of National Significance.



The Sarasota Bay region is home to a wide variety of marine life, including: Dolphins, Manatees, Black Mullet, Red Drum, Spotted seatrout, Snook, Blue Crab, Stone Crab and Bait Shrimp. The endangered West Indian Manatees occupy Sarasota Bay during most months, and the large Bottlenose Dolphin population, which is largely comprised of permanent residents, calls Sarasota Bay home year round. In addition, the Gulf beaches along the bay's barrier islands support Loggerhead Turtles and their annual nesting activities. In 1998, more than 4,538 nests of loggerhead turtles were documented for the region.



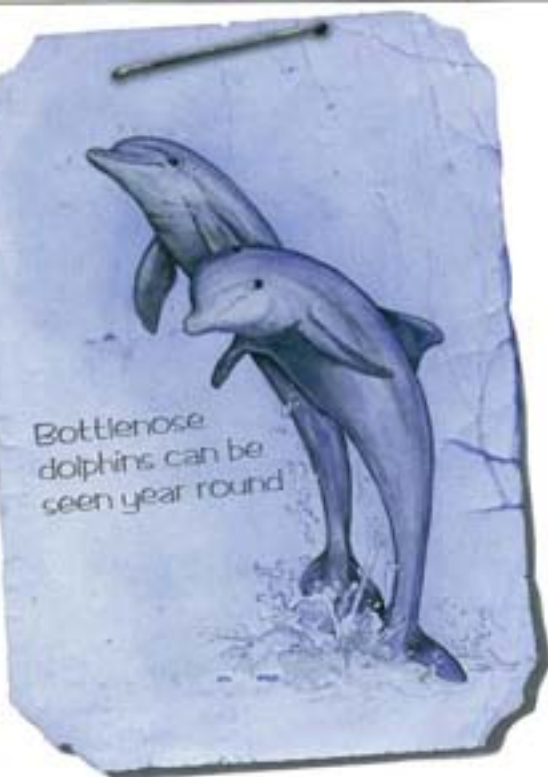
West Indian Manatees call Sarasota Bay their home.



An estuary is a coastal area where fresh water from rivers and streams mixes with saltwater from the ocean. Also known as "cradles of the sea", estuaries provide important spawning grounds and nurseries for at least two-thirds of the nation's fisheries. The area affords tremendous recreational fishing opportunities.

The Gulf Coast of Florida is also known as the Mangrove Coast. Historically, mangroves, sea oats, sea grapes, palmettos and cedars dominated the lands that lie along the miles and miles of white sandy beaches that make up the Gulf Coast. Healthy wetlands and mangroves (integral components of the estuary ecosystem) provide a number of essential benefits to Sarasota Bay. These habitats provide food and shelter for baylife, filter sediments and pollution and help to protect shorelines from erosion.

During the past 50 years, development has caused a decline in the quantity and quality of Sarasota Bay's wetlands. You can learn more about the importance of these vital wetland habitats, and what you can do to help, at one of the many wetland restora-



tion sites located on the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail. Each site offers boardwalks, nature trails, educational signage and brochures. Visit the Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key, Joan M. Durante Park, Quick Point Nature Preserve, Sarasota BayWalk, Bayfront BayWalk and Selby Gardens Shoreline Restoration Project.

Enjoy the view of Sarasota Bay at the Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key.



White Pelicans at Cortez in winter.



The system will link the areas cultural, natural and historical resources promoting a sense of place, enhancing stewardship and ecotourism for the region.



Mapping exercise at the 1997 Heritage Community Forums.





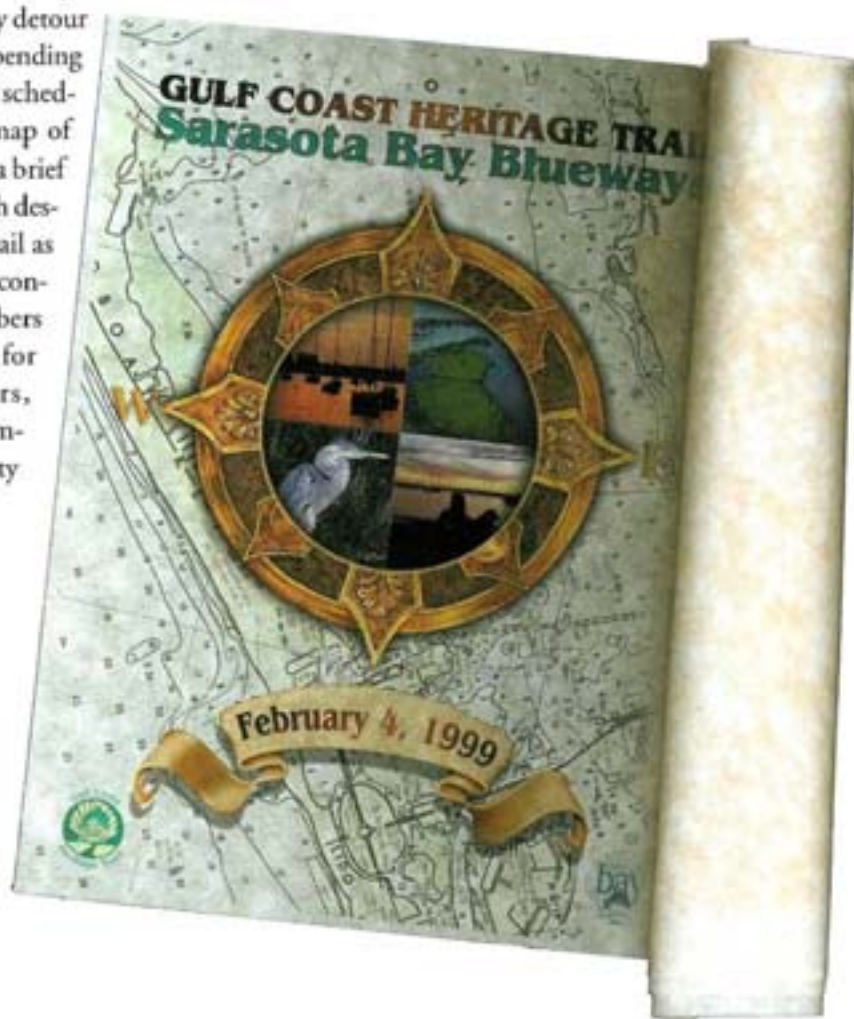
## About the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail

The Gulf Coast Heritage Trail (GCHT) is an auto tour route that integrates Sarasota and Manatee County's environmental, cultural, and historical points of interest through a color-coding system. There are 117 possible destinations to visit along this scenic vehicular route. Museums, visitor centers, art and cultural locations present many educational and recreational opportunities and are complimented by locations that offer nature walks and scenic trails, wildlife viewing sites, bicycling through natural areas, and kayak and canoe aquatic trails.

Because it would be difficult to travel the GCHT in a day, the route has been segmented into three areas, North, Central, and South. Each loop can be followed closely or one may detour to nearby sites depending on the traveler's schedule. A fold-out map of the trail includes a brief description of each destination on the trail as well as important contact phone numbers including those for visitor centers, chambers of commerce, and county and state parks.

Road signs have been installed along local, county, and state roads with arrows directing traffic to the GCHT destinations. Each of the 80 signs is clearly marked with the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail logo above easy-to-read directional arrows. By following road signs and with the map in hand, even the most novice explorer can visit all 117 points of interest proficiently.

The "Gulf Coast Heritage Trail Brochure" is a companion document to the "Blueways Guide" and "Chronicles of Florida's Gulf Coast." These publications offer additional information to Southwest Florida's ecology and marine environments.





Map of Southern Florida, 1885.

## *A Little Bit Of History*

The rich heritage of Manatee and Sarasota counties centers around the Manatee River and Sarasota Bay. Burial, midden, and temple mounds located along the river banks and bay shore have provided evidence of human habitation 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Over the centuries, waterfront locations continued to attract inhabitants. When settlers first arrived in the 1840s, Florida was not yet a state. The territory was populated by scattered fishermen who came from Cuba and established fishing camps called ranchos on the coast for use primarily during the fishing season. Seminole Indians, though restricted by the federal government to interior lands, mingled with the new arrivals.

At its founding in 1855, Manatee County consisted of 5,000 square miles and extended from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Okechobee and from Tampa Bay to Charlotte Harbor. In the 1870s, the notion of Sarasota Bay as a place for recreation originated. By that time the Webbs (early area homesteaders) were advertising the Webb Resort Hotel at Osprey and seasonal visitors began visiting the local bay area. A variety of schooners, some built locally, were used in the bays. In the early 1920s, all of Florida experienced a period of rapid growth. Within the first five years of that decade, the area's population more than tripled, and Sarasota County broke away from Manatee.

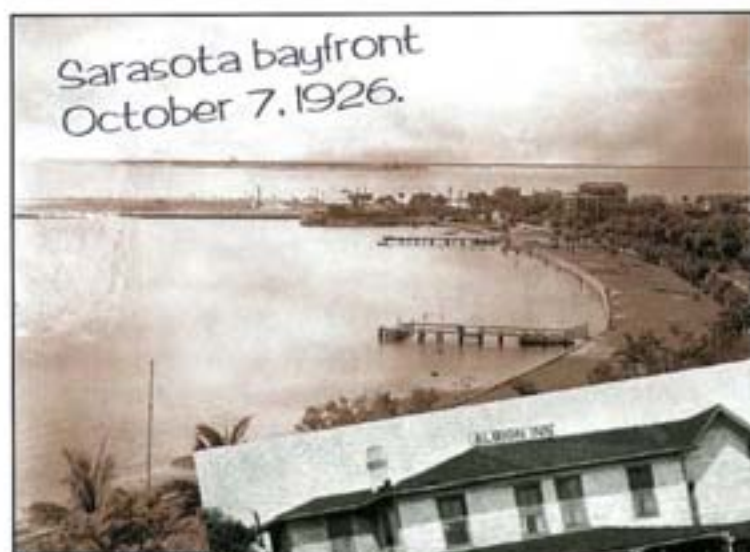


Beachcombers on Anna Maria Island in the early 1900s.

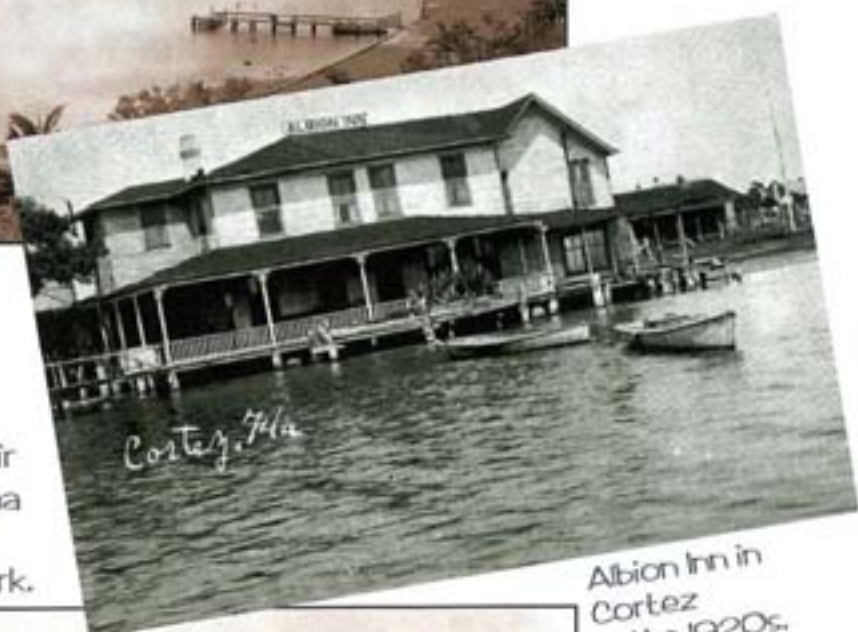


Always important industries— agriculture and fishing— eased the counties through the depression of the 1930s.

The region experienced a population explosion after World War II, with the accompanying growth in industry, shopping centers, schools and tourist attractions and accommodations. As they did decades ago, the scenic and bountiful waters of Manatee and Sarasota still draw new residents and visitors to its beautiful shores.

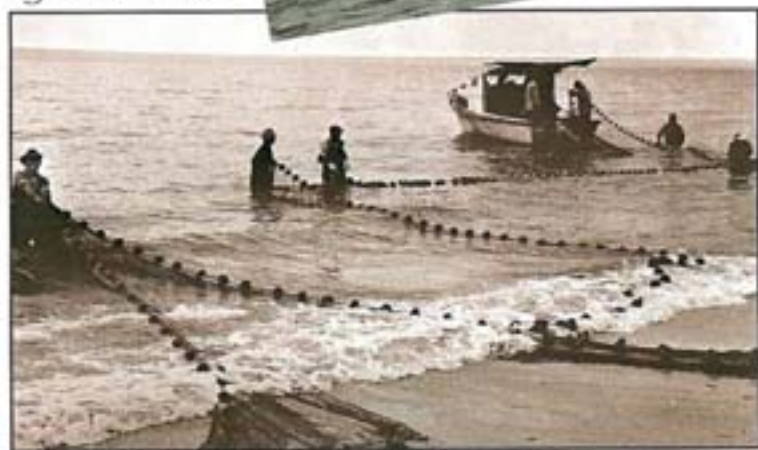


Sarasota bayfront  
October 7, 1926.



Cortez, Fla.

Cortez fishermen pulling in their nets off Anna Maria in Bayfront Park.



Albion Inn in Cortez in the 1920s, a popular winter resort. It is now the site of a Coast Guard station.



## Culture



The Gulf Coast Heritage Trail offers an array of cultural attractions, which range from visual and performing arts and nationally famous museums to internationally renowned festivals. Home to many writers, artists and patrons, Manatee and Sarasota counties present a year-round festival of the arts. Among the riches from which visitors may choose are productions on 12 theatrical stages, including six professional theater companies and three dinner theaters. At the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright Associates), you can see a full season of artistic performances. Music lovers can select from among a symphony orchestra, an opera company, choral groups, smaller orchestras, concert bands and numerous jazz ensembles. The region's cultural community also offers outstanding ballet and ballroom dance companies. Visual arts are enhanced by six community arts organizations, four college galleries and nearly 50 commercial art galleries. A world-class collection of Baroque art along with a Circus Museum and Venetian-styled mansion are part of the Ringling Museum, a gift of John and Mable Ringling to the people of Florida. Other sites and museums such



Sarasota Opera House  
in the 1920's and today.



Van Wezel  
Performing Arts Hall



Ringling Museum



as the Crosley Museum and De Soto National Memorial educate visitors about the area's history. Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium is a renowned marine research and educational facility with exhibits featuring sharks, manatees, sea turtles and other marine life that inhabit nearby coastal waters. The South Florida Museum triplex showcases Florida from the stone age to the space age, and also offers a planetarium and manatee aquarium. Many local towns and cities within the region celebrate with art fairs and annual festivals. The Gulf Coast cultural heritage is further heralded by a Confederate reenactment, a colorful parade, a historic fishing village celebration in the Village of Cortez, and Spanish Conquistador-themed events. Other options that draw enthusiastic audiences include film, jazz, new plays and chamber music, plus a six-month-long repertory theater festival. It is from all over the United States—as well as from many other parts of the world—that visitors and residents have traveled, each adding to and enjoying the cultural richness of this region.



Gamble  
Plantation.

Manatee  
County Arts  
Fest 1998.



Ca' d'Zan.



Heritage Park.



Spanish Point.



De Soto National Memorial.



Manatee Village  
Historical Park.



## Estuarine Habitats

Estuaries, where fresh water from rivers and creeks mixes with saltwater from the sea, are also known as "cradles of the sea." Estuaries provide important spawning grounds and nurseries for at least two-thirds of the nation's fisheries and are among the most biologically productive areas in the world. The two most locally important Bay habitats are seagrasses and mangroves.

### Seagrasses

Seagrass meadows characterize most of the shallow waters of the area. The most common species of grass in the area are shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*), widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*), turtlegrass (*Thalassia testudinum*), and manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*).

Seagrass beds are important to estuarine productivity in many ways. They contribute to the nutrient cycle through decomposition of leaf fragments. The grass beds provide protective nursery area for juvenile fish, shrimp, and crabs, and provide a surface for growth of algal epiphytes which serve as food for fish and crustaceans. Manatees feed directly on seagrasses. Seagrass roots also bind soils and reduce erosion and turbidity during strong tidal currents or storms.

Sarasota Bay lost about 30 percent of its seagrass beds between 1950 and 1990, with additional significant losses prior to 1950. Dredge-and-fill projects covered and removed grass beds, and pollution from wastewater and stormwater damaged or killed seagrass. This decrease in habitat, in turn, contributed to a decrease in the Bay's fishery production.

Recent improvements in wastewater and stormwater treatment have led to some recovery of seagrass beds. Between 1988 and 1996, seagrasses have increased by 18 percent for an additional 1,751 acres of seagrass meadows. The increase is correlated with a 47 percent reduction in nitrogen pollution.

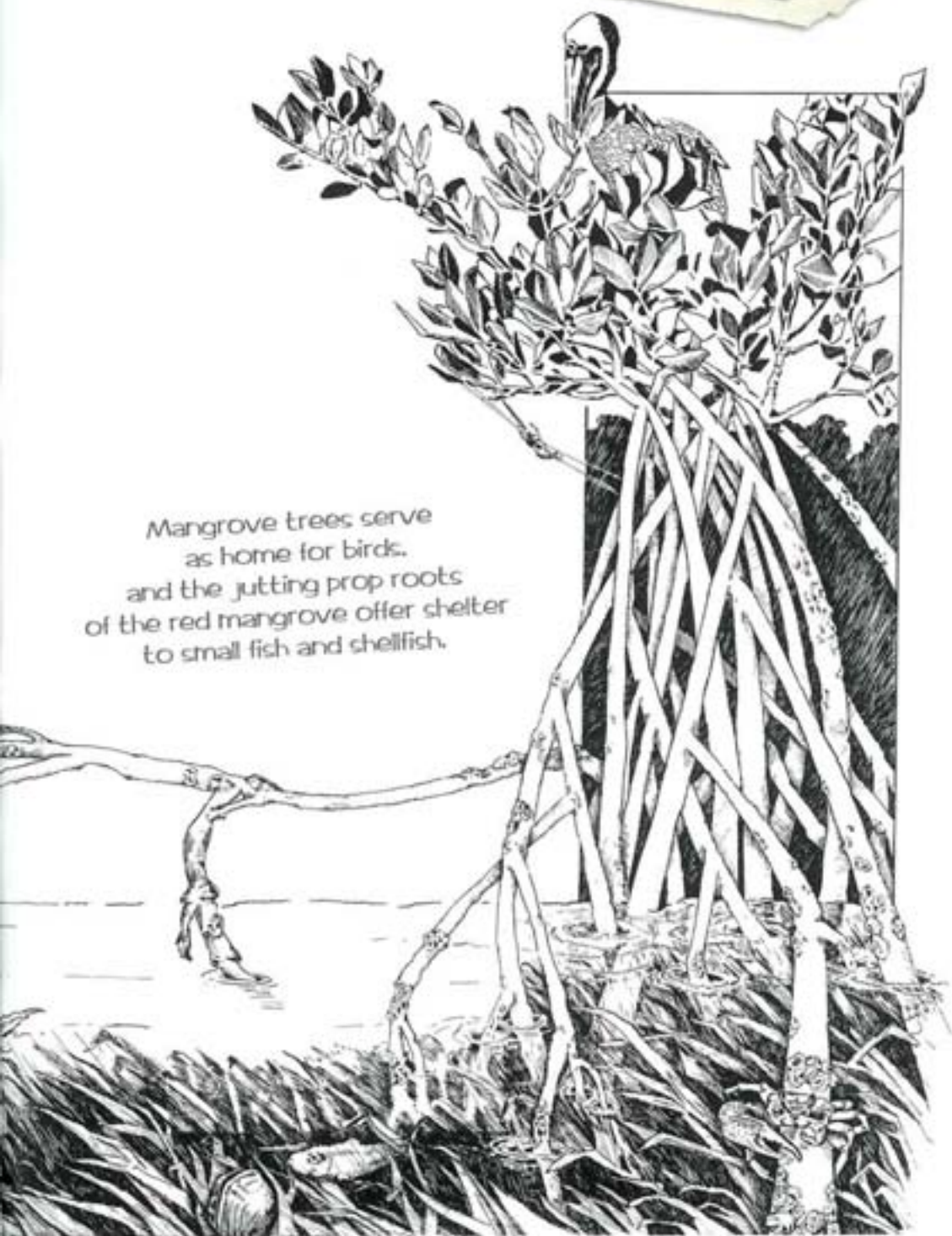




What does the recovery mean for Sarasota Bay? Ultimately, more seagrass means a healthier, cleaner Bay—and a better Bay means enhanced fisheries. The 1,751 acres of recovered seagrasses are estimated to provide habitat for an estimated 330 million more shrimp, 81 million more crabs, and 110 million more fish in Sarasota Bay.



Mangrove trees serve as home for birds, and the jutting prop roots of the red mangrove offer shelter to small fish and shellfish.

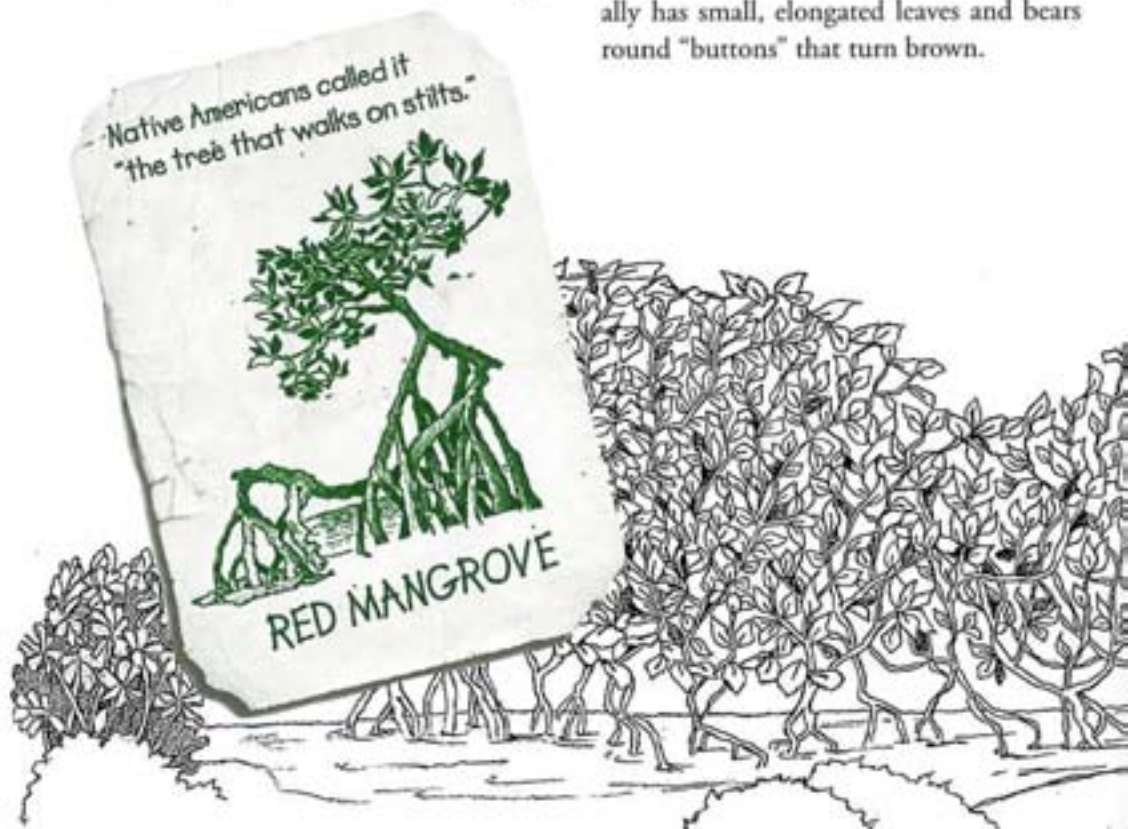


# Wetlands & Mangroves

Healthy wetlands and mangroves are an integral component of the estuary ecosystem. These habitats provide a number of essential benefits to Sarasota Bay— food and shelter to bay life, filtration of pollutants, and shoreline protection from erosion.

In the past 50 years, effects of development have caused a decline in quantity and quality of Sarasota Bay's wetlands. Since the 1950s, approximately 39 percent of mangrove forests and saltwater wetlands have been lost due to dredge and fill activities for creation of residential bayfront property and the Intracoastal Waterway. Exotic vegetation such as Australian pines and Brazilian pepper now dominate impacted areas. The decline has been reversed only recently. Since 1989, approximately 100 acres of this vital wetland habitat have been restored, and plans are in place to restore an additional 100 acres. Mangroves and wetland areas are an important natural resource because of their beauty, wildlife value, erosion protection, and importance to estuary ecology.

Floridians should work to protect them. Here are identification tips on the four different mangrove species found throughout the Bay area. Red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) are found closest to open water. They have arching prop roots and their seeds, or propagules, resemble green cigars. Their leaves are large and bright green. Black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*) are usually found growing landward of red mangroves. Black mangroves "sweat" salt from their leaves and send up twiggy projections from their roots called pneumatophores, which provide oxygen to the tree's roots. Their leaves are dull green with silver undersides. White mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) usually grow landward of or are interspersed with black mangroves. Their leaves are more rounded than those of other species, have a small notch at the tip, and are lighter in color. On each leaf stem at the base of the leaf is a pair of small bumps. Green buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), not a true mangrove, grows in the most landward location of the littoral zone. It generally has small, elongated leaves and bears round "buttons" that turn brown.







You can visit and learn more about the importance of these wetlands at one of the many restoration sites located on Sarasota Bay by referencing to the Sarasota Bay Blueways Guide. Each wetland site offers

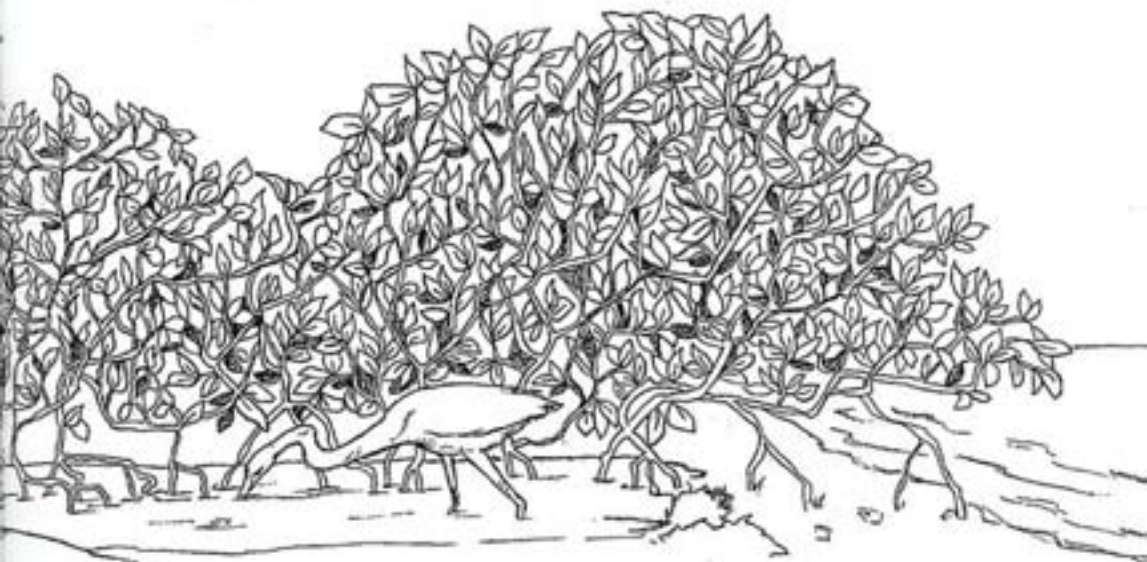
boardwalks, nature trails, educational signage and brochures. Sites such as Quick Point Nature Preserve, Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key and the Sarasota BayWalk are accessible by boat and land.

## *Other Types of Area Ecosystem Habitats*



In addition to the important saltwater wetland habitats of the Sarasota Bay Region, there are other equally significant habitats that make up the watershed: flatwoods, prairies, hammocks, and freshwater marshlands. These types of diverse habitats with

unique wildlife can be seen at state and county parks within the region. For a glimpse of "Old Florida," visitors should not miss the spectacular Myakka River State Park. The park includes more than 28,000 acres where Deer, Bobcat, Bald Eagle and the American Alligator roam free.



# Native Plants

Native plants create sustainable landscapes and drastically reduce maintenance costs. As natural communities are reduced or lost due to urbanization and agriculture production (necessary consequences of increasing populations), sustaining native vegetation becomes more important.

Preserving, protecting, and restoring—where possible—, the remaining half of Florida's land area that is not currently under urban land or agricultural use requires not only government regulations but efforts by land owners as well. These precautions promote water quality and quantity, protection and preservation of native plant and wildlife communities, historical significance, and unaltered fire and water flow processes.

The lists below suggest native species, but for best results in designing natural landscapes, it is best to consult your local native plant nursery, Cooperative Extension Services, and local chapters of the Native Plant



Society. Because natural plant communities attract native wildlife, the Florida Audubon Society is another source of advice for which flora will provide critical sources of food, shelter, and nesting material.

## Exceptional Florida Native Plants

### Trees

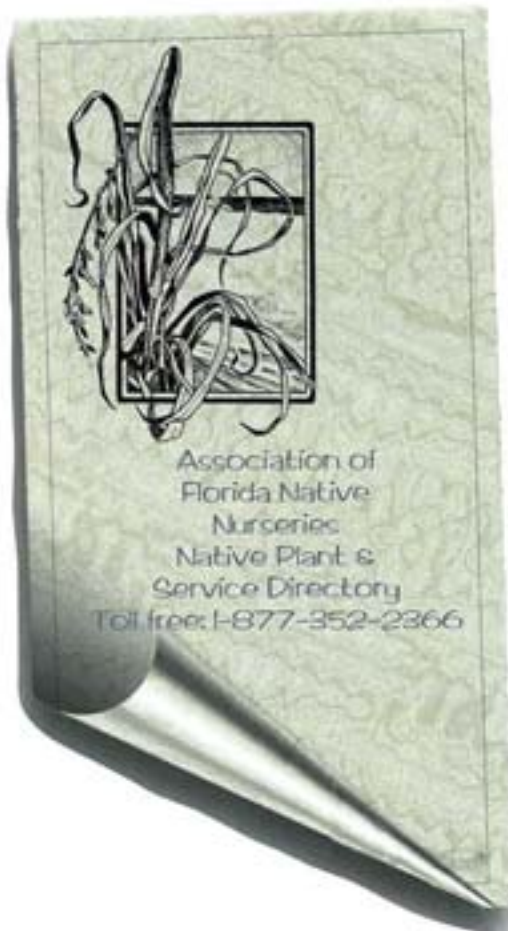
- Tough bumelia – *Siderocylon tenax*
- Summer hawthorn – *Crataegus flava*
- Crabwood – *Gymnanthes lucida*
- Black ironwood – *Krugiodendron ferreum*
- Swamp tupelo – *Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*
- Red Bay – *Persea borbonia*
- Swampbay or Redbay – *Persea palustris*
- Flatwoods plum – *Prunus umbellata*
- Pond cypress – *Taxodium ascendens*
- Bald cypress – *Taxodium distichum*
- Winged elm – *Ulmus alata*

### Shrubs

- Pipestem – *Agarista*
- Beautyberry – *Callicarpa*
- Florida privet or Wild olive – *Fovea segregata*
- Yaupon holly – *Ilex vomitoria*
- Shiny Iyonia – *Lyonia lucida*
- Twinberry stopper and Simpson stopper – *Myrcianthes fragrans*
- Walters viburnum – *Viburnum obovatum*

### Groundcovers

- Golden creeper – *Ernodea littoralis*
- Coontie – *Zamia pumila*





## Native plants include:

Beach bean  
Beach verbena  
Bluestems  
Ferns (bracken, wood , shield)  
Butterfly weed  
Cordgrass  
Creeper (Trumpet, Virginia)  
Firebush  
Florida elm  
Florida paintbrush  
Golden creeper  
Green buttonwood  
Green cocoplum  
Hibiscus  
(Swamp, scarlet, rose mallow)  
Holly  
(Dahoon, Carolina, yaupon, scrub)  
Inkberry/gallberry  
Jack-in-the-pulpit  
Jamaica Dogwood  
Leather fern  
Marsh elder  
Native sawgrass  
Oaks  
(Chapman, bluejack, turkey, laurel, sand live, dwarf)  
October daisy  
Palmetto  
Partridge pea  
Pignut hickory  
Plum (Chickasaw, flatwoods)  
Prickly pear cactus  
Railroad vine  
Red cedars  
Red maple  
Sage  
(red/tropical, blue, lyre-leaved, wood)  
Salt bush  
Salt wort  
Sea grape  
Sea oats  
Slash pine  
Strangler fig  
Sunflower  
Swamp dogwood  
Wax myrtle  
White indigo berry  
Wild coffee  
Wild lime  
Wire grass



Native-or indigenous-plants are not only well-adapted to their particular environment, but they also serve important functions in the overall ecologic scheme of things. Sea oats, for example, have miles of fine and interwoven roots that help to stabilize shifting beach sands.



*Pine flatwoods are common in the eastern, inland areas.*



## Exotic Plants



Brazilian Pepper

Many exotics were intentionally introduced into the native ecology for their showy foliage or quick-fix growth rates.

Non-native invasive plants are weeds of natural areas. Often referred to as exotics, this foliage should be removed from landscapes and replaced with native vegetation. Invasive exotic species are opportunistic and shade out more desirable shoreline stabilizing species. They are called "invasive" because of their aggressive nature. Lacking natural controls (predators), exotics flourish and grow faster than native vegetation can sustain itself.

Nuisance species often require more than one attempt at elimination. Fresh-cut branches and trunks must often be treated by spraying with compounds designed to stop re-growth. Many nurseries and Cooperative Extension Services are equipped for suggesting control measures that have proved successful and they can offer native vegetation ideas for replacing exotics.



Pink Tree  
also called "cajeput" or "melaleuca"

Air Potato



Australian Pine



Twenty-nine percent (about 1,200) of the self-sustaining plant species in Florida are non-native (Atlas of Florida Flora, R.P. Wunderlin) and are very expensive to control. Some recent figures obtained from the University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Service (Circular 1204; 3/98), indicate the following:

- U.S. farmers spend \$8 billion annually to manage weeds; nevertheless, crop losses caused by weeds amount to \$10 billion annually.
- Dade County Parks and Recreation Department has spent \$2.8 million since 1993 on removal of invasive plants from 500 acres of upland natural areas.



- Since 1986, partial control of melaleuca and Australian pine in the East Everglades has required 14,000 labor hours and \$546,000 in herbicide and helicopter costs.
- \$12 million was budgeted to control hydrilla and water hyacinth in Florida's waterways in 1995.
- Millions of dollars are spent in efforts to locate natural enemies of non-native invasive plants in their native ranges. These enemies are then released here to act as biological controls of specific non-native plants.

Five of the more common invasive exotic species in southwest Florida are:

- Australian pine.
- Brazilian pepper.
- Carrotwood.
- Cattail.
- Melaleuca (sometimes called punk tree).

Not only do exotic species choke native vegetation, they cause destruction in other ways. For example, the Australian pine has a wide, shallow root system. When faced with strong winds, these trees will topple over taking large amounts of ground cover with them. Shoreline areas become unstable and erosion occurs.



Exotic, or non-native plants, are detrimental to the natural ecology in a number of ways: they often are very aggressive growers and spreaders, displacing the native plants, but with none of the native's positive traits.

Natural areas with native vegetation promote wildlife habitat, bio-diversity of plant species, control stormwater runoff and promote sediment control, not to mention public opportunities for passive nature-based recreation.



The origins of some non-native plants transported to Florida, either by accident or intentionally.

# Popular Fishes

The Bay supports a delicious array of fish and crustaceans such as Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, Snook, Flounder, Blue Crab, Pompano, Mullet, Stone Crab and Shrimp. More than 80 percent of the fish we catch for food or fun depend on estuaries for all or part of their lives.

The West Coast of Florida offers some of the finest shallow-water fishing in the world. Beautiful clear flats studded with mangrove shoreline, large expanses of seagrass meadows, oyster bars, and sand bars are the homes and hangouts of some of the best gamefish Florida has to offer. Snook, Redfish, Pompano, and Trout inhabit these waters, with an occasional Tarpon in spring and summer.

Under the right conditions, they can be fished in a number of ways: cruising under the mangroves, schooled-up in a pothole or moving across a grassflat so shallow that they will "tail," their backs breaking the surface of the water. Redfish will be feeding off the bottom of a grassflat in water so shallow that their tails can be seen above the surface as the fish hunts for small crabs and shrimp. Schools of Jack and big Snook bust on schools of baitfish. From mid May through July, Tarpon will be rolling right off our beaches. Schools of these large creatures will move within casting distance and will usually inhale bait, artificial lures or flies when presented properly. These fish may weigh 100 pounds and are not uncommon in the 150-pound range.

By boating safely and responsibly, and with enhanced awareness of the region's natural resources, you can help protect Sarsota Bay and the sea life that depends on the estuary for its survival.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING

### COMMON NAME FLOUNDER



### RED DRUM (REDFISH)



### SHEEPSHEAD



### SNOOK



### SPOTTED SEATROUT





## LEGAL SEASON

All year.

All year.

All year.

All year except:  
Dec. 15-Jan. 31  
& June, July, Aug.  
Closed.

All year except:  
Nov. & Dec.  
Closed.

## HABITAT

Channel edges on sandy bottoms, near tidal passes and docks.

Near docks and pilings, deeper holes and channels during warmest and coolest months, also around grassbeds and oyster bars.

Near bridges, docks, seawalls and pilings.

Canals, tidal creeks and other deep, warm waters in cool months; tidal passes and the Gulf in warmer months.

Seagrass beds when water temperatures are moderate and deeper waters adjacent to beds during warmest and coolest months.

## FISHING TIPS

Use live shrimp, sand fleas, sardines, pinfish or jigs bounced along bottom as you drift.  
Minimum size limit: 12".

Use live shrimp fished on bottom or free-lined, or use soft-bodied jigs bounced slowly on bottom, or small gold spoons.  
Minimum size limit: 18" or no more than 27".  
Daily bag limit: one.

Use live shrimp, sand fleas, or hermit or fiddler crabs on small hook. Fish just off the bottom. On the first tug, lower the rod and then strike hard.  
Minimum size limit: 12".

Use live pinfish, small mullet, shrimp or sardines free-lined or fished with a bobber or use jigs and minnow-like lures. Beware of the snook's razor-sharp gills.  
Minimum size limit: 26" or no more than 34".  
Daily bag limit: 2.

Use live shrimp or pigfish (grunts) fished near bottom by free-lining or under a popping bobber, or use soft-bodied and fish-like lures. Cast with jigs or surface plugs as you drift.  
Minimum size limit: 15", no more than 20".  
Daily bag limit: 5.





## RECREATIONAL FISHING

COMMON NAME  
SPANISH MACKEREL



MANGROVE SNAPPER



GROUPE (Red)



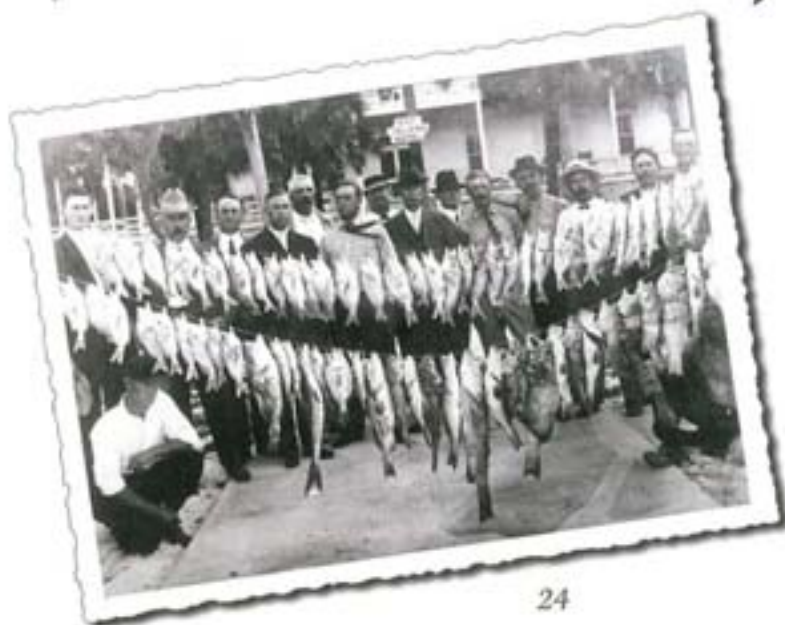
GROUPE (Black)



FLORIDA POMPANO



Many a tall tale of record catches and notorious fishing tournaments persist to this day.



The Bay Island Hotel, built in 1912 adjacent to Hansen's Bayou. The Bay Island Hotel was one of the area's finest.



## LEGAL SEASON

All year.

## HABITAT

Open water,  
artificial reefs,  
deep grass flats.

## FISHING TIPS

Small jigs and spoons,  
small bait fish, shrimp  
Minimum size limit: 12".

All year.

Hard bottom,  
rock reefs and  
structure.

Shrimp and small fish.  
Minimum size: 10".

Check regulations.

Rocky bottoms,  
reefs, inlets.

Heavy tackle, fish bottom  
with pinfish, shrimp or  
sardines.  
Minimum size limit: 20".

Check regulations.

Rocky bottoms,  
reefs, inlets.

Heavy tackle, fish bottom  
with pinfish, shrimp or  
sardines.  
Minimum size limit: 20".

All year.

Sandy beaches,  
oyster bars,  
grass flats.

Small jigs,  
tipped with shrimp.  
10"-20" slot limit.



Tarpon fishing is a  
sport fisherman's  
delight. 'Catch &  
release' is the  
norm today.

# Manatees, Turtles & Dolphins

## Manatees

The Florida manatee, a subspecies of the West Indian manatee, is Florida's official marine mammal. Florida Department of Environmental Protection officials estimate there are about 2,400 of these gentle, harmless, fascinating mammals living in Florida. These gentle giants can grow to a length of 10 feet and can weigh up to 3,000 pounds as adults. Locally, manatees can be found around the fringes of the Bay from April to December. Their numbers are lowest during January and February, when they leave Sarasota Bay to find warm-water refuges elsewhere at power plants and springs. Their distribution in Sarasota Bay corresponds to areas of good seagrass coverage. Seagrass coverage is denoted on the reverse side of the Sarasota Bay Blueways Guide.



The manatee, which is also called the "sea cow," was once mistaken as an alluring mermaid by ancient mariners too long at sea.

Unfortunately, a leading cause of death among Florida manatees is human-related from collisions with boat hulls and propellers, entanglement in float and fishing lines and ingestion of foreign objects, such as garbage thrown from boats. You can be part of the solution to ensure these gentle giants make a comeback in Florida.

## HELP SAVE THE MANATEE!

- Observe all manatee regulatory zones and caution areas.
- Stay in designated channels. Channel depth reduces the likelihood of killing or injuring manatees. Use idle speed whenever you are outside channels or in shallow water.
- Avoid shallow seagrass beds, where manatees forage.
- Wear polarized sunglasses to reduce the glare on the water, which will assist you in seeing manatees.
- If you fish, don't discard fishing lines, hooks or nets in the water. The refuse can harm manatees as well as other marine life.
- It is illegal to harass, hunt, capture, kill, or feed any marine mammal, including manatees. Anything that disrupts a manatee's normal behavior is a violation, punishable under federal law by up to a \$50,000 fine, one-year imprisonment or both.
- Remember, we must learn to peacefully co-exist with the wildlife that inhabits our area and state. Manatees have just as much right to enjoy the Bay and the Florida waterways as we do.
- Save the manatee... your children, and your children's children, will thank you for it!

Manatees were originally depleted through overhunting for meat, oil, and leather.



## Sea Turtles

The Gulf beaches along the bay's barrier islands support loggerhead turtles and their nesting activities during May through October, the nesting season. Five species of sea turtles inhabit the Gulf Coast region: loggerhead, green, hawksbill, leatherback, and Kemp's Ridley. However, loggerhead turtles, which are classified as threatened, are the predominant species on our beaches.

### YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT SEA TURTLES!

- Never approach sea turtles coming ashore or disturb nesting sea turtles or hatchlings. Biologists estimate that only about one out of every 2,500 hatchlings survive to the age of sexual maturity.
- Beachfront property owners should turn off exterior lights in areas where nesting takes place. Bright artificial lights discourage nesting sea turtles from coming ashore and disorient hatchlings, preventing them from reaching the sea.



Approximately  
100 dolphins,  
including four  
generations  
of related  
individuals, reside  
year-round in  
Sarasota Bay.



## Dolphins

During the spring and summer, mothers and calves can be found in the shallow waters of Palma Sola Bay and Anna Maria Sound. This is where they enjoy a plentiful meal of pinfish, pigfish and striped mullet. Additionally, the newborns are safer in the shallow coastal waters away from such predators as adult Bull Sharks, which swim in the Gulf offshore in the summer. In the fall and winter, dolphins are more frequently found in the passes and along Gulf shorelines.

The dolphin population of Sarasota Bay suffers from boating collisions and disturbances and littering of marine debris such as fishing line and plastic bags. These injuries and deaths are senseless and can be prevented. Please follow safety cautions to ensure protection for our region's longterm resident dolphin community.



## Birds of the Area

- Enjoy viewing bird rookeries from at least 100 yards away. These rookeries harbor nesting colonies and flocks of feeding birds. Boaters and operators of personal watercraft should slow down in order to reduce wakes in these birding areas. Bird islands and mangrove areas are being eroded by boat wakes and boating noise and high speeds are disruptive to the wildlife.
- Report injured seabirds that need assistance. Consult the Sarasota Bay Blueways Guide Resource Directory for contact information.
- Pick up marine debris if you find it and don't discard any fishing line or other trash, which can be lethal to seabirds and other marine life.
- Enjoy the beauty and rare elegance of these magnificent water birds, and remember the best opportunity for viewing is by being quiet and moving slowly.

Some common birds in this region that you might see include: Great Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, White Ibis, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Wood Stork, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Bald Eagles and the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay. Refer to page 60 for suggested bird viewing areas.

### Endangered Bird Life

Most of the Florida Scrub-Jay habitat in Southwest Florida has been fragmented and replaced by development. The scrubby flatwoods habitat preferred by Florida Scrub-Jays is also favored by humans for habitation. It is typically the highest and driest land near the coast, usually consisting of scrub oak-dominated vegetation with scattered patches of bare sand and a few widely dispersed pine trees. Loss of habitat is becoming a threat to all birds and to all the species that inhabit the Gulf Coast.

Be on the lookout for the Florida Scrub-Jay at such parks as Oscar Scherer State Park, Shamrock Park, Service Club Park, Duette Park and Rye Wilderness Park.



Please do your part  
to protect bird habitat!





## KEEP OUR BAYS AND WATERWAYS CLEAN

- Stow it, don't throw it. Littering degrades our environment and is unsafe for marine life. Please keep trash from blowing overboard and take in what you take out.
- Be careful fueling up. Don't overfill your tank. Toxic pollutants are harmful to birds, fish, dolphins, and manatees and people.
- Don't dump, use the pump. Use marine pumpout facilities to dispose of vessel sewage. A partial listing of pumpout facilities is provided in the Sarasota Bay Blueways Guide.



## Months:

SPECIES	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Common loon	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3				
Pied-billed grebe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Horned grebe			4	4	4	4	4	4				
Brown booby			4	4	4							
Northern garnet			3	3	3							
Am. white pelican	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4				
Brown pelican	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Double-crest cormorant	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Arhings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Mag. frigatebird	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	
American bittern	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
Least bittern	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	*
Great blue heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Great white heron	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Great egret	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Snowy egret	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Little blue heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Tricolored heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Reddish egret	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Cattle egret	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Green heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Black-crown night heron	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Yellow-cr. night heron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
White ibis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Glossy ibis	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Rosate spoonbill	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Wood stork	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Fulvous whistling duck		4	4	4	4							
Bl. bellied whistling duck	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	*
Snow goose			4	4								
Muscovy duck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Wood duck	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Green winged teal		3	3	3	3							
Mottled duck	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Mallard	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Blue-winged teal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3			
Northern shoveler	3	3	3	3	3							
American wigeon	4	4	4	4	4							
Canvasback	4	4	4									
Redhead	4	4	4	4								
Ring-necked duck	3	3	3	3	3							
Lesser scaup	2	2	2	2	2	4						
Hooded merganser	4	3	3	4								
Red-breasted merganser	2	2	2	2	2	2	4					
Ruddy duck	4	4	4	4	4							
Black vulture	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Turkey vulture	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Osprey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Am. swallowtailed kite			3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
White-tailed kite	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Bald eagle	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Northern harrier	2	2	2	2	2	2						
Sharp-shinned hawk	3	3	3	3	3	3						
Cooper's hawk	4	4	4	4	4							
Red-shouldered hawk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Broad-winged hawk	4	4	4	4								
Short-tailed hawk	4				4			4				
Red-tailed hawk	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Crested caracara	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
American kestrel	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	*
Merlin	4	4	4	4	4	4						
Peregrine falcon	4	4	4	4	4	4						
Wild turkey	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Northern bobwhite	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Clapper rail	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*

## Checklist of Sarasota's Birds



This checklist presents, in summary form, a complete list of birds of Sarasota County, together with the months of occurrence and relative abundance throughout the year.

Nomenclature follows the ABA checklist of North American Birds, 1990. The list includes all species recorded more than once in Sarasota County since 1987. Accidental species are not listed.

## Months:

SPECIES	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Sora	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Purple gallinule	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Common nighthawk	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
American coot	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	*
Limpkin	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Sandhill crane	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Black bellied plover	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	
Snowy plover	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Wilson's plover	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Semipalmated plover	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	
Piping plover	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Killdeer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Am. Oystercatcher	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Black-necked stilt	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	
Greater yellowlegs	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3			
Lesser yellowlegs	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3			
Willet	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	*
Spotted sandpiper	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4			
Wimbrel				4	4	4	4					
Ruddy turnstone	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4			
Red knot	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
Sanderling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	
Semipalmated sandpiper	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	
Western sandpiper	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3		
Least sandpiper	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	
Dunlin	3	3	3	3	3	2	2					
Short-billed dowitcher	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	
Common snipe	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	
Parasitic jaeger			4	4								
Laughing gull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Bonaparte's gull			4	4	4							
Ring-billed gull	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3				
Herring gull	2	2	2	1	1	3	3					
Gr. black-backed gull			3	3	3	3						
Caspian tern	4	3	3	3	3	3						
Royal tern	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	*
Sandwich tern	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	
Common tern	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Forster's tern	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	4			
Least tern							1	1	1	1	1	*
Black tern	4							4	4	4	4	
Black skimmer	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	*
Rock dove	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Eurasian collared dove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Mourning dove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Common ground dove	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Monk parakeet	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Black-headed parakeet	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Red-masked parakeet	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*





The Florida Scrub-Jay  
Endangered!

The months of occurrence and relative abundance are updated as of June 1997. We hope this checklist will stimulate observers to report well-documented records to be used in future editions.

Comparative abundance in known habitats is indicated by numbers:

1. ABUNDANT (always seen)
2. COMMON (usually seen)
3. UNCOMMON (sometimes seen)
4. RARE (seldom seen)

\* denotes breeding in Sarasota County

SPECIES	Months:											
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Yellow-billed cuckoo	3	3	3					3	3	3	3	*
Mangrove cuckoo	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Common barn owl	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
E. screech owl	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Great horned owl	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Burrowing owl	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Barred owl	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Common nighthawk	4	4				2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Chuck-wills-widow					2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Whip-poor-will	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Chimney swift	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Ruby-thr. hummingbird	3				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Belted kingfisher	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Red-headed woodpecker	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Red bellied woodpecker	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Yellow bell. sapsucker	4	3	3	3	4	4						
Downy woodpecker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Hairy woodpecker	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	*
Northern flicker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Pileated woodpecker	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
E. wood pewee	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
E. phoebe	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
Gt. crested flycatcher					2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
E. kingbird					2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Gray kingbird					2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Purple martin					4	4	1	1	1	1	1	*
Tree swallow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
N. rough-winged swallow	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					
Barn swallow	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3				
Blue jay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Scrub jay	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
American crow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Fish crow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Tufted titmouse	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Carolina wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
House wren	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					
Sedge wren	4	4	4	4	4	4						
Marsh wren	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4				
Ruby crowned kinglet	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	
E. bluebird	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	*
Veery	3	3					4	4				
Gray-cheeked thrush	4	4	4				4	4				
Swainson's thrush	3	3	3				3	3				
Hermit thrush	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
Wood thrush	4	4			4	4	4					
American robin	2	1	1	1	1	1	2					
Gray catbird	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
N. mockingbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*

SPECIES	Months:											
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Brown thrasher	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
American pipit	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Cedar waxwing			2	2	2	2	2					
Loggerhead shrike	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
European starling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
White eyed vireo	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Solitary vireo	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
Yellow-throated vireo		4	4	4	4	4	4					
Red-eyed vireo	3	3					3	3	3	3	3	
Blue-winged warbler	4	4					4	4				
Golden-winged warbler							4	4	4			
Tennessee warbler	3	3	3					3	3			
Orange-crowned warb.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					
Nashville Warbler	4	4	4				4	4				
Northern parula	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	*
Yellow warbler	4	4	4	4				4	4			
Chestnut-sided warbler	3	3					4	4				
Magnolia warbler	3	3					3	3	3			
Cape May warbler	3	3						2	2			
Black-thr. blue warbler	3	3						3	3		3	
Cerulean warbler								4			4	
Yellow-rumped warbler	2	1	1	1	1	2	2					
Black-thr. green warbler	3	3						3	3			
Blackburnian warbler	3	3						3	3			
Yellow-throated warbler	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	
Pine warbler	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Prairie warbler	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	*
Palm warbler	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2				
Blackpoll warbler	4	4					2	2				
Black & white warbler	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	
Am. redstart	2	2	2					2	2	2	2	
Prothonotary warbler	2	3						3	3	3		
Swainson warbler	4							4				
Worm-eating warbler	3	3						3	3			
Overbird	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Northern waterthrush	3	3						3	3			
Louisiana waterthrush	4	4						4	4			
Common yellowthroat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	*
Kentucky warbler	4	4						4			4	
Hooded warbler	3	3						3	3		3	
Canada warbler	4										4	
Summer tanager	3	3						3	3			
Scarlet tanager	3	3						3	3			
Northern Cardinal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Rose-breasted grosbeak	3	3						3	3			
Indigo bunting	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2				
Painted bunting	4	4	4	4	4	4	4					
Rufous-sided towhee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Bachman's sparrow	4							4	4	4	4	*
Chipping sparrow	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
Savannah sparrow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				
Song sparrow	4	4	4	4								
Swamp sparrow	3	3	3	3	3	3						
Bobolink								3	3			
Red-winged blackbird	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Eastern meadowlark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Boat-tailed grackle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Common grackle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Brown-headed cowbird	3	3	2	3	3	3	3					
Orchard oriole	3	3					2	2	2			
Northern oriole	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3				
American goldfinch	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
House sparrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*
Other												

# Human Impacts on Bay Ecology

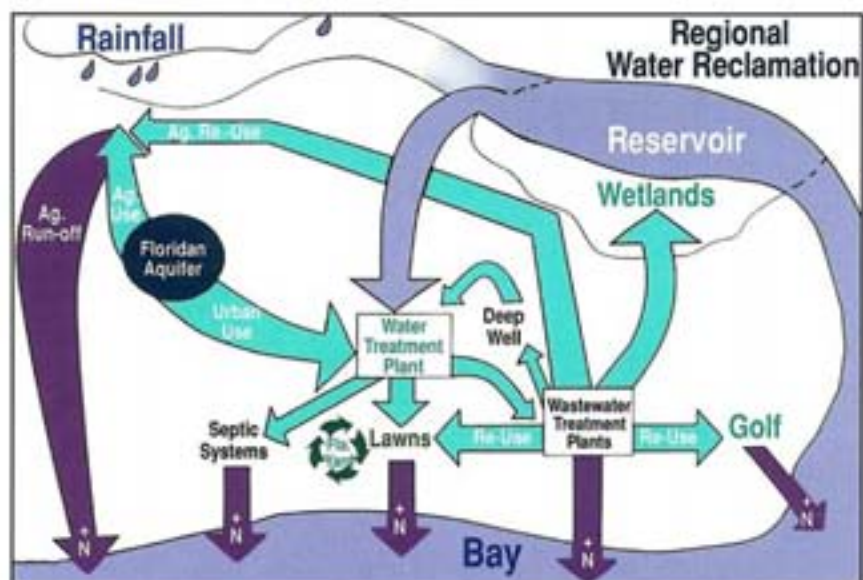
Studies have revealed that the principle pollutant of concern in Sarasota Bay is nitrogen. Too much nitrogen in Bay waters accelerate the growth of small plants called algae which are detrimental to marine life. Algae inhibits light penetration to submerged plants which is needed for their survival. Without a light source, seagrasses will die. Submerged plants may also be coated with algae, causing the same effect. At night, algae decays and this decaying process depletes oxygen in Bay water, creating low oxygen or no oxygen conditions. Since fish, like humans, need oxygen to survive, fish kills occur. Simply stated, the amount of nitrogen entering the Bay is a measure of Bay health.

Computer modeling conducted in 1992 indicated that nitrogen loading levels had increased by 480 percent since the 1800s. Human-induced sources of nitrogen are wastewater (including small and large wastewater treatment plants), groundwater (from septic systems and small treatment plants) and stormwater (including fertilizers from lawn care and agriculture). Nitrogen also gets into Sarasota Bay via rainfall.

The Sarasota Bay Program has been working with the community to cost-effectively limit and control the amount of nitrogen entering the Bay and then monitoring Bay responses to selected options. Since 1990, nitrogen loading has been reduced by approximately 47 percent Baywide. This reduction in nitrogen pollution has improved water clarity baywide, approximately .4 meters or 1.5 feet to date.

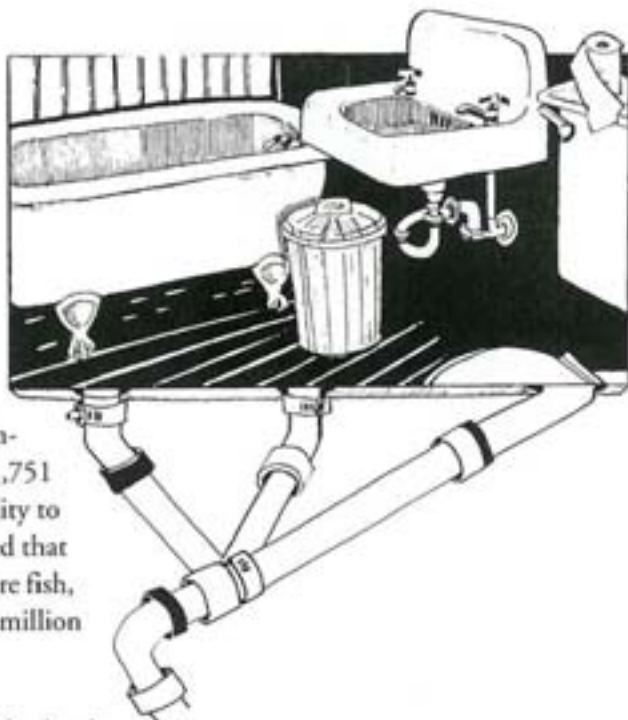
The amount of seagrass and wetlands and other habitats in a marine system generally relates to overall productivity. In this light, the Sarasota Bay Program has embarked on a series of projects to enhance habitat related to seagrasses, wetlands, and artificial reefs.

Studies completed in 1993 indicated that seagrass had declined by 30 percent since 1950 in Sarasota Bay due to increases in nitrogen pollution and historic dredge and fill activities that covered and filled Bay bottom. Seagrasses are extremely important habitats as each square meter of seagrass in Sarasota Bay can support 15 fish, 10 crabs, and 46 shrimp. In comparison, barren Bay bottom provides comparatively little habitat for these species.





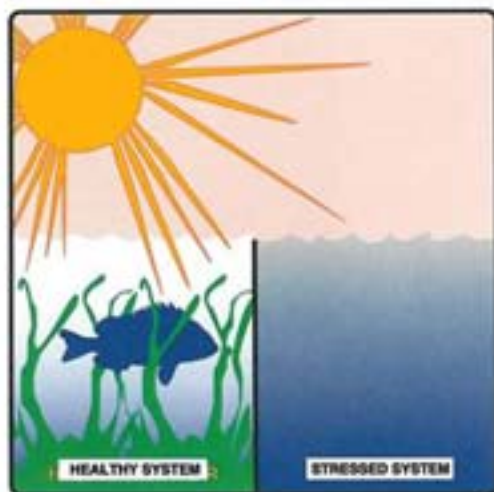
The Sarasota Bay Program established a goal to reduce nitrogen pollution to the Bay by 41 percent, thus allowing for an increase in seagrass habitat coverage. Progress is being made. Since 1988, seagrass acreage has increased by at least 18 percent, or 1,751 acres, increasing the Bay's capability to support marine life. It is estimated that the Bay supports 110 million more fish, 71 million more crabs, and 330 million more shrimp than in 1988.



Wetlands are also essential in the food web of Sarasota Bay. The amount of wetlands available for habitat also impacts the Bay's capability to support and sustain life. Studies completed in 1993 by the Sarasota Bay Program documented a 39 percent loss of saltwater wetlands in the Bay. Based on this research, the Sarasota Bay Program has helped initiate substantial wetland enhancement projects to increase fishery habitats. More than 130 acres of wetlands have been improved or restored since 1990 - an eight percent increase from wetlands lost since 1950.

Nitrogen comes from many common sources, including our own homes. From household detergents, leaking automobile fluids and yard fertilizers, it all adds up to problems for the health of the bay.

Many areas of the Bay have been dredged to create navigable waterways and new home sites. In fact, more than 50 miles of shoreline was created in the Sarasota Bay area during the 1950s and 1960s. Large areas of Bay bottom were covered and others are now too deep for seagrasses to grow.



# Dredging and Waterfront Development

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) provides direct passage through the Sarasota Bay system, linking natural deep water sections through a series of man-made channels, canals and cuts. The ICW was originally intended to facilitate commercial shipping to and along the southwest Florida coast and to join the region with the rest of the intracoastal network that now stretches from Maine to Texas. Today, however, the vast majority of the Gulf ICW's functionality is devoted to recreational activities: power boating, sailing, fishing, water skiing, kayaking and canoeing.

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began dredging in 1890 what would eventually become the ICW, they would hardly have imagined the ultimate extent of the

task they had commenced. Alterations to the waterway continue today from Tampa Bay to Gasparilla Sound. The channel, which once hopscotched from one bay to another along sparsely populated mainland shores and virtually deserted barrier islands, punctuated by shallows, oyster bars, mangrove thickets and other barriers originally impassable, would eventually form a continuously navigable waterway for sizable vessels. Shallow parts of the estuary bottom were dredged and redeposited to enlarge existing islands or create new islets and in many cases cove ring bay habitats. This newly created shoreline ultimately became highly valued waterfront home sites for thousands of people. At the same time, it altered the environmental characteristics of the estuary.



Dredge and dike. Low, oblique aerial view north from Manasota Beach, taken circa 1964-65. Manasota Key Bridge is in the midground. This photo shows dredge (a), pipeline (b), dike or containment wall (c) and back-filled spoil (d). This phase of dredging the Intracoastal Waterway, with the use of back-filling land along the shoreline, differed from the early dredging where spoil was side-cast in strips or islands parallel to the route taken by the dredge.



Dredge "Charleston."  
This equipment was  
used beginning in  
August 1966.



#### Historical Synopsis of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Southwest Florida

1895	First federal intracoastal navigation project in southwest Florida; Congress appropriated \$5,000 for dredging a 5-foot-deep by 100-foot-wide channel to run south from Tampa Bay to Sarasota Bay.
1896	Modification of initial Sarasota Bay project extended an improved channel 3 feet deep by 75 feet wide south to Casey's Pass.
1907	Project extended farther to Venice.
1917	By this year, two-thirds of the 3,841 tons (brick, canned goods, groceries, cement, corn, feed, fertilizer, fish, flour, grain and hay, ice, lumber, refined oils, shingles and miscellaneous merchandise) transported on this waterway moved between Sarasota and Tampa.
1919	Congress provided for a relocated 7-foot-deep channel above Sarasota.
1939	Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors recommended an intracoastal project, 9 feet deep by 100 feet wide, reaching from the Caloosahatchee River (Pt. Myers) north to the Anclote River (Tarpon Springs). World War II delayed funding until 1945.
1945	Congress authorizes and funds a deepened and widened Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
1948	Modifying legislation revised cost-sharing arrangements between the federal government and local interests; alternate route studied.
1959	Terms of local compliance resolved.
1960	Dredging begins on C-1 alternate route, five-mile alternate passageway inland of the city of Venice, connecting Lemon Bay with the original route north of Venice to Sarasota.
1962	Channel deepened (9 feet deep by 100 feet wide); dredge begins at "The Bulkhead" (lower Tampa Bay) and works southward, completes improvements to Venice in 1965.
1964	Channel improvement of Intracoastal Waterway begins in Gasparilla Sound; dredge completes 9-foot-deep by 100-foot-wide channel through Lemon Bay to Red Lake by 1965.
1967	Dredging is completed on the C-1 route between Red Lake and Roberts Bay.

# *Dredging of Access Channels and Residential Canal Development*

As the main intracoastal waterway channel was improved to connect lower Tampa Bay and Sarasota, little time was wasted before local land-development interests learned that dredging could create valuable waterfront home sites. Earliest dredge-and-fill work occurred in the pre-World War I years on the mainland in Sarasota, on Phillippi Creek, from Post Office Point to Hudson Bayou, Cedar Point, Stephens Point and on north Sarasota (Siesta) Key at Bayou Louise and Bayou Hansen.

A second phase of activity, during the land boom of the 1920s, was associated with Calvin Payne and John Ringling, who transformed the barrier islands between Big Sarasota Pass and New Pass. Payne had the channel at New Pass dredged, creating City Island in the process; the deep-water har-

bor on the mainland (due east of the pass) was created to accommodate Sarasota's growing marine industry. Known as Payne's Terminal, this facility has housed boat construction and maintenance yards, provided fuel sales and served the boating public for decades.

Lido Key and St. Armands Key illustrate some of the most dramatic changes resulting from dredge-and-fill activities in the Sarasota area. Those keys, as such, did not exist 100 years ago; instead, a loose group of small islets called the Cerol Isles were west of the mainland. During the 1920s, Ringling converted Lido Key into a continuous island, and in 1925 he built a causeway from the mainland to serve it. A feeder causeway was extended to Bird Key, and the first ambitious island home was built there in 1914. Ringling and partner Owen Burns dredged channels and filled land as part of the proposed Ringling Isles development. For a time, they operated a dredge from Otter Key; the wrecked remains of the vessel's boilers are a popular fish haven today.

Ringling's dream failed in the real estate crash of 1929, but the boat channels adjoining the filled land on Lido, St. Armands, Otter and Coon Keys have left an indelible imprint of land and water changes. Dredged potholes and back-and-fill scars can be detected on the Sarasota Bay bottom to this day.



The regional waterways have been tremendously altered by the devices and desires of man - be it for navigation, commerce or development.



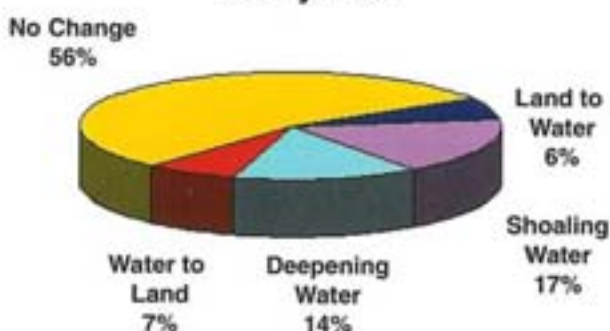


Condition of the south sector of Big Sarasota Bay - 1927.



Bird Key/ Big Pass 1990.

### Study Area



This pie chart summarizes relative (percentage) depth changes from the pre-development 1890s era to the 1990s for the entire region. Big Sarasota Bay (from Cortez Bridge on the north to Siesta Key Bridge to the south) and Little Sarasota Bay (Stickney Point Bridge at the north to Blackburn Point Bridge on the south) show the least change, largely because of the large bay areas where depths have remained the same. On the other hand, the most dramatic changes in the Sarasota Bay system have occurred in the Venice area (Albee Bridge on the north to Hatchett Creek Bridge to the south). There, 81 percent of the water area has been transformed by deepening, shoaling or the creation of land by fill or natural deposition.

The other boating regions follow the same overall trend. Where changes have occurred, the predominant processes in the boating regions have been through deepening of water, found in Anna Maria Sound, Big

Sarasota Bay and Roberts Bay. Changes spurred by shoaling of water have occurred in the Roberts Bay, Little Sarasota Bay, Blackburn Bay and Lemon Bay; water-to-land transformation has taken place in the Venice area.

Another, and by far the most extensive, phase of residential canal development began in 1945 after World War II, accelerating in the 1950s and 1960s. Grand Canal, a 10-mile-long waterway system on Siesta Key, was created early in this period. Dredging on Curry Creek by the U.S. 41 bridge began in the 1940s as well. In the early and mid-1950s canal construction in the Grove City area was underway, and north Longboat Key was being dredged. Bimini Bay on north Anna Maria Island was deepened in the early 1960s, and the canal community of Key Royale transformed the former School Key. By 1969, work on the South Creek and Grand Canal (Siesta Key) systems appears to have been completed.

### Mangrove and Saltwater Marsh Area Bordering the Sarasota Bay System: Pre-Development Era and 1990s

	Pre-Development*	1990s**	Change
Mangrove	4.2 sq. mi.	3.1 sq. mi.	26-percent decrease
Salt marsh	1.8 sq. mi.	0.15 sq. mi.	92-percent decrease

Sources:

\*U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, T-Sheets No. 1517a, 1517b, 1518a, 1518b

\*\*Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1994





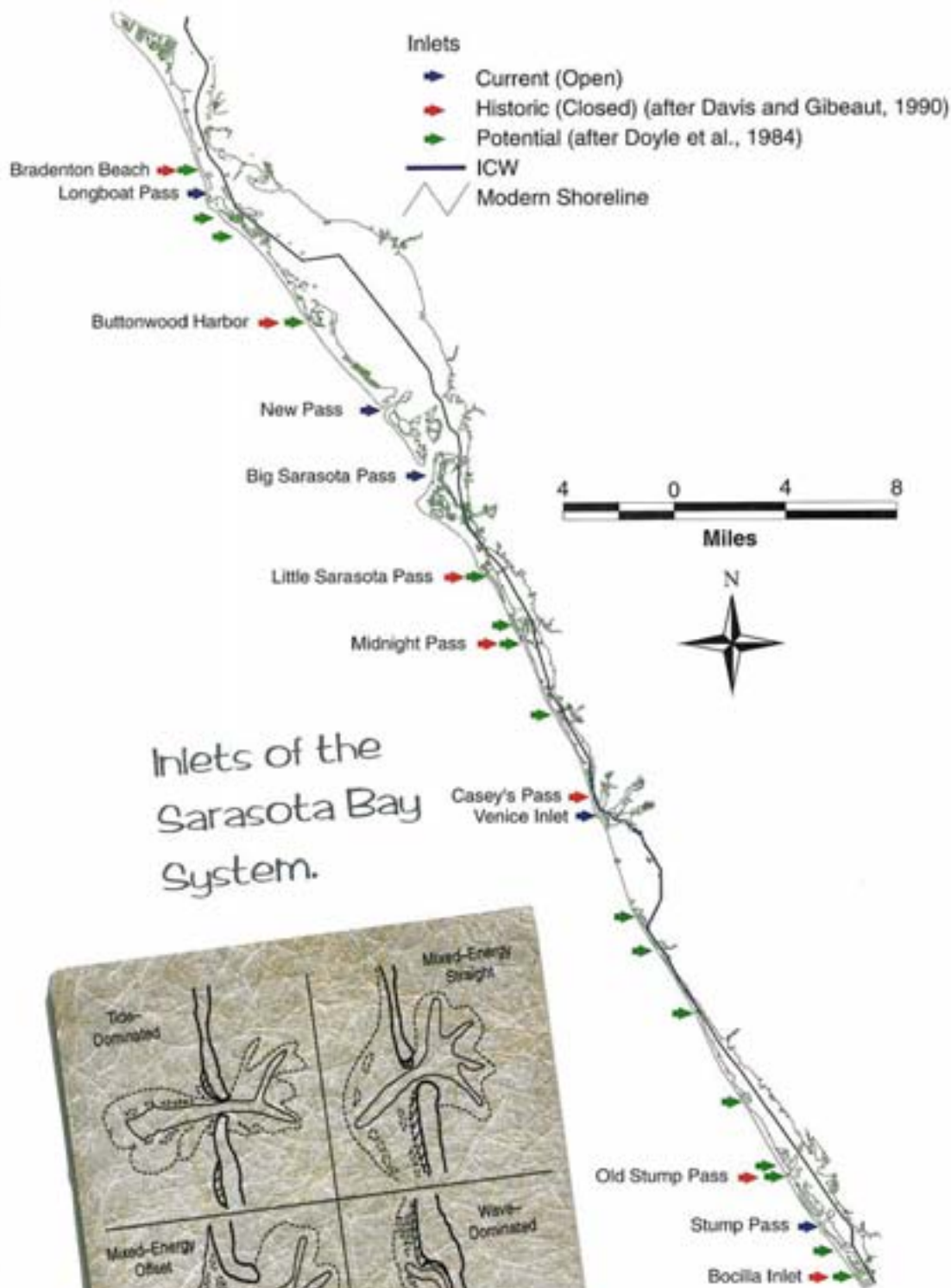
The above photo shows Otter Key, St. Armands and Lido Key in the 1920s.



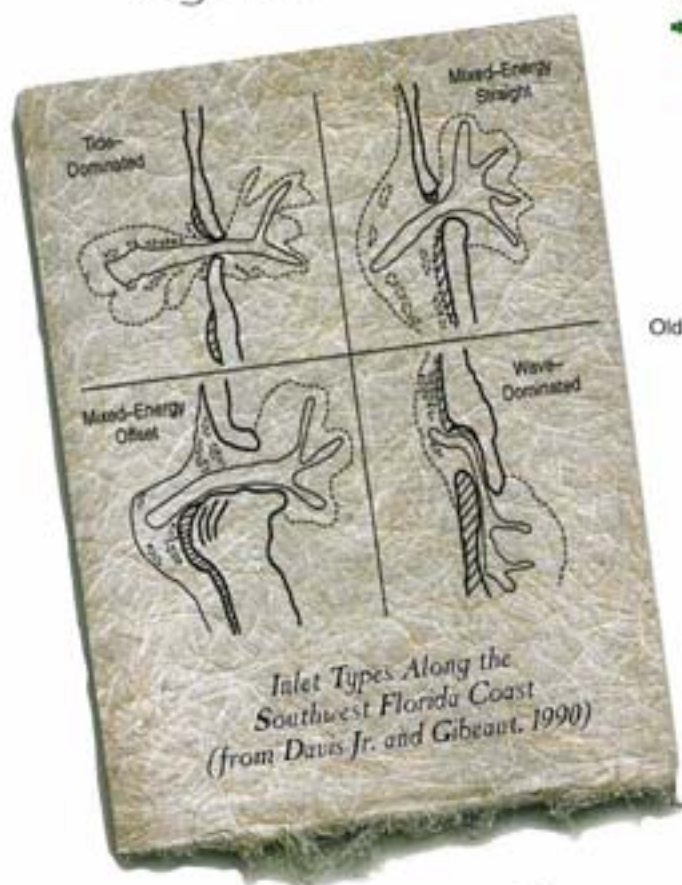
St. Armands and Lido Keys in midground. Coon Key (lower right) and Otter Key (lower left).

A major residential waterfront development of the 1960s was financed by the Arvida Corporation, which purchased the southern half of Longboat Key, most of Lido and all of Bird, Otter and Coon Keys from the Ringling estate for \$13.5 million. Bird Key was transformed into a waterfront community with five miles of interconnected canals; eight miles of residential canals and basins were dredged on south Longboat Key. In 1971, Arvida proposed an exclusive development on Otter Key (Map 5), but that effort failed and Sarasota County in 1974 purchased the land, including South Lido, and created a public park there. Otter Key has been left undisturbed.

By the early 1970s, public concern about this form of dredge-and-fill coastal development prompted legislation to control dredging and protect the environment. In 1972, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act, which effectively put a halt to dredge-and-fill activities and alteration of bay habitat. However, by that time approximately 26 percent of mangroves and 92 percent of salt marsh had been lost in the Sarasota Bay system.



## Inlets of the Sarasota Bay System.





# Inlet Dynamics

Tidal inlets — Floridians sometimes call them passes — are highly dynamic and visible features of Southwest Florida's geography. Inlets provide strategic points of entry and egress between the Gulf of Mexico and the inland waterways, but can be intimidating to navigate because of their shifting nature, strong ebb and flood currents and wave action — including breakers, which may extend clear across the inlet mouth even in a buoyed channel.

Waves propagating into an opposing current experience an increase in height and a decrease in length, resulting in steeper waves that are more difficult to navigate. Offshore shoals continually shift because of the moving beach sand, and it is sometimes not feasible to keep buoys in the best water. Local boaters, under such conditions, often leave the buoyed channel guided by their knowledge of local conditions and of the dynamic history of inlet development, which enables them to pick the best depth and avoid uncharted obstructions.

## Inlet Locations and Status

Five inlets are currently used by boaters to transit between Gulf and bay waters in the Sarasota Bay system: Longboat Pass, New Pass, Big Sarasota Pass, Venice Inlet and Stump Pass.

Longboat Pass, New Pass and Venice Inlet are federally maintained waterways between the Sarasota Bay system and the Gulf. They are periodically surveyed and, when shoaling occurs to a point where actual depths are less than the designed project depths, are dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND). Big Sarasota Pass and Stump Pass are not federally designated inlets, although Stump Pass was dredged by the WCIND in 1998.

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains aids to navigation at all the inlets except Stump Pass, which as of the summer of 1998 was unmarked on the Gulf side.

Two inlets — Longboat Pass and New Pass — have single-span lift bridges situated near the inlet mouths. The bridge at Longboat opens on demand for boaters from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and afterwards on three hours' notice. The New Pass bridge has restricted openings for boaters from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the hour and every 20 minutes.

Six inlets have closed during the past century on this reach of the Florida coast: Bradenton Beach, Little Sarasota Pass, Midnight Pass, Casey's Pass, [Old] Stump Pass and Bocilla Inlet. Another historic inlet probably existed at Buttonwood Harbor prior to 1883.

Both current and historic inlets have formed, closed and reopened over their life spans, due to natural processes as well as human intervention. Such events directly affect the amount of water flowing through an inlet during a tidal cycle, referred to as a tidal prism. Dredging inlet "A" can rob some of the tidal prism from inlet "B," situated several miles down the coast. Similarly, the tidal prism of an inlet may be affected by changing the area of the bay adjacent to it; an inlet may close due to an abundance of sediment and strong longshore drift coupled with a small tidal prism.

Considerable debate continues regarding the effects of the dredging and filling of mangrove and marsh environments along bay margins on decreasing the tidal prism and the related closing of inlets. Little disagreement exists, however, about the potential for storm overwash of the barrier islands and the creation of new inlets. Sixteen sites along this stretch of the coast are particularly vulnerable to storm overwash. These locations are prone to overwash because of the narrow width of the barrier island, low elevation and orientation to storm-wave attack.

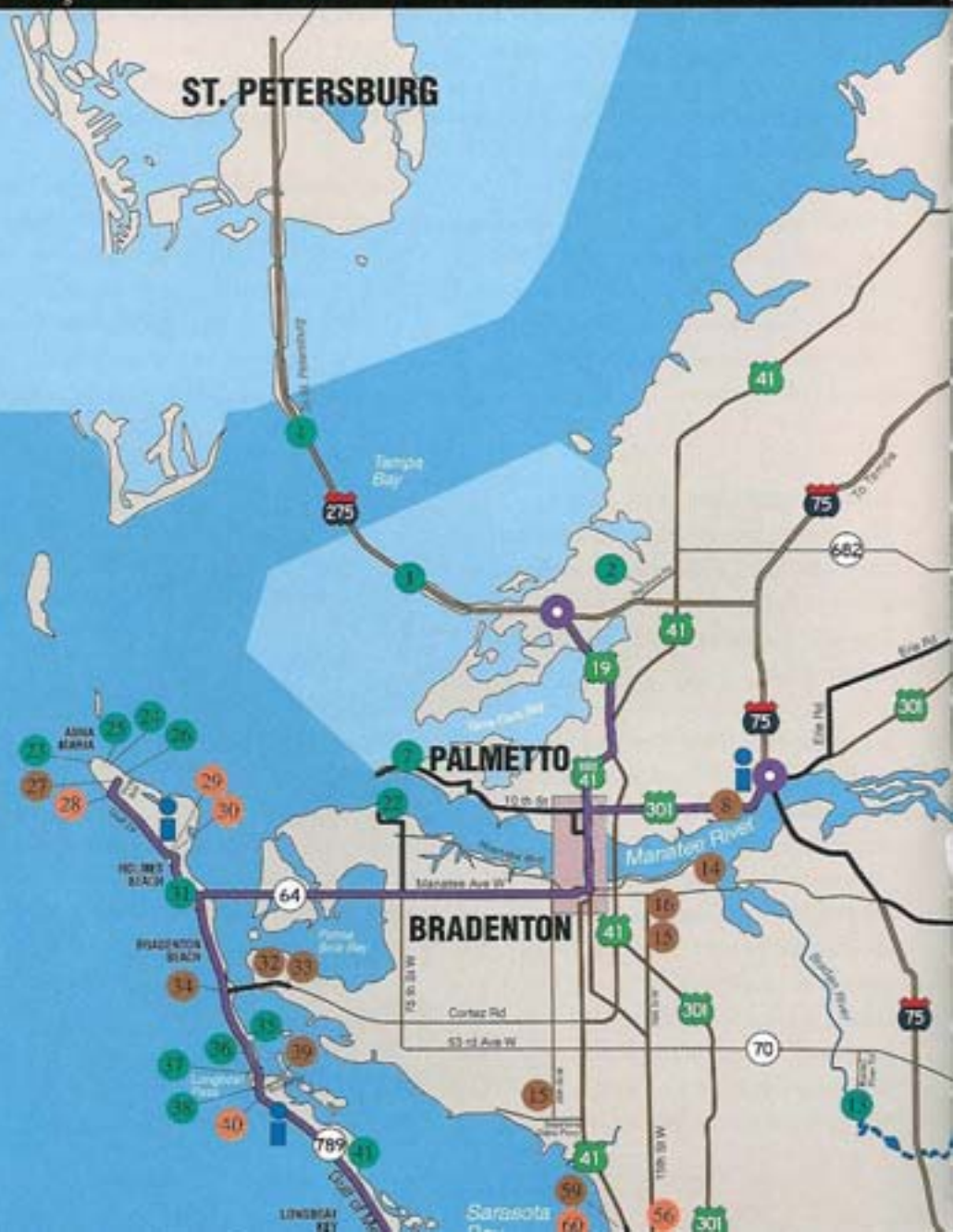
# Places to See & Things to Do

The Gulf Coast of Florida is a tropical paradise with its aquamarine waters, white sandy beaches and fantastic fishing and boating opportunities. The area is also rich in his-

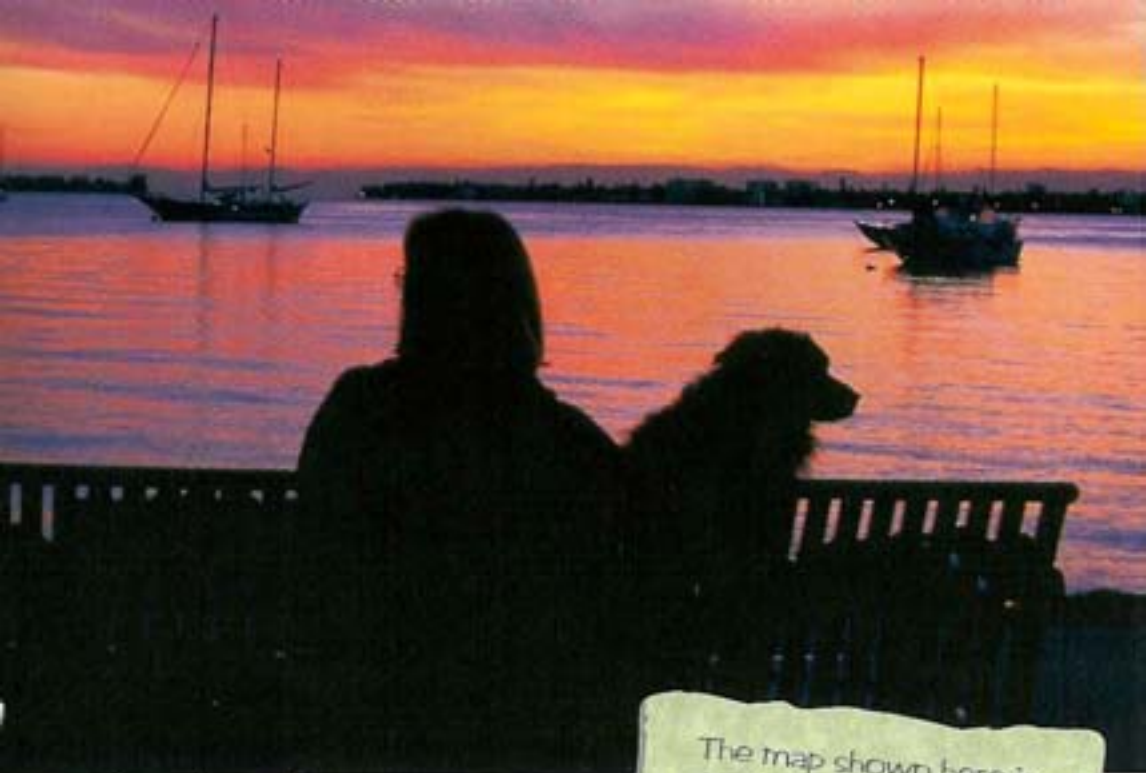
tory, culture and the arts; it provides a wide range of unique destinational experiences for everyone. Enjoy discovering paradise...



## Sarasota Bay Gulf Coast Heritage Trail







The map shown here is a reduced version of a poster-size map.

For more information, brochures are available at the Tourist Information centers. See the Resource Directory on pages 62 and 63.



Remaining portion of Heritage Trail map on following pages.



Sarasota Bay – 1995

*Gulf of Mexico*





70

700

72

11

Lago Vista

Myakka River Scenic Drive

Little Myakka

Myakka River State Park



Myakka River

Carbon Reserve

Dixie Rd

15

Trigunawee Rd

75

To Manatee

VENICE

Manatee Ave

51

Myakka River

W. River Rd

41

Evans Rd

16

Old Hwy

Evans Rd

NORTH PORT

776

MORRISON KEY

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

ENGLEWOOD

776

775

Myakka State Forest

Old Englewood Rd

Evans Rd

W. River Rd

Myakka River

# North

● **1 Sunshine Skyway Fishing Piers:** (Skyway Br.) at the north and south end; among the longest piers in the world offering spectacular views.

● **2 Frog Creek Campground:** (8515 Bayshore Rd.) quiet area, offering fishing and canoeing.

## Palmetto Historical District

● **3 Palmetto Historical Park:** (10th Ave. W. and 6th St. W.) the site of Palmetto's first settlement, which now includes restored buildings, parks, businesses, shops, community clubs, a library and Heritage Park, Palmetto's first post office built in 1880.

● **4 Olympia Theatre:** (10th Ave. W.) built in 1926, originally served as a theatre and the Palmetto Bakery which remained in operation until the 1950s. Today, it is under renovation for use as a performing arts and community center.

● **5 Lamb House:** (Riverside Dr.) built by Julius A. Lamb in 1899, and purchased in the 1920s by J. Pope Harlee (son of Palmetto's first settlers). The beautiful home has been restored and is now a private residence. Viewing only, no tours available.

● **6 Green Bridge Fishing Pier:** (Green Br.) built for \$1,000,000 in 1927; named for E.P. Green who first petitioned for the new bridge that spanned the Manatee River. Bike the Historic District and/or nearby Emerson Point Park.

● **7 Emerson Point Park:** (Emerson Point Rd.) 195-acre public park offering woodland trails, boardwalks and scenic vistas; along with a sheltered canoe/kayak launch and archaeological exhibits on Native Americans and early Florida settlement life. (Full facilities opening in the year 2000)

● **8 Gamble Plantation:** (3708 Patten Ave.) built in 1844, was one of the most successful sugar mill plantations in Florida. This confederate memorial offers a guided tour depicting old Florida living. Also, located on the grounds are the Sugar Mill Ruins.



Gamble Plantation

● **9 Rye Wilderness Park:** (905 Rye Wilderness Trail) offering camping, nature trails, horseback riding trails, wildlife observing (such as deer and bobcat), fishing and canoeing along the upper Manatee River.

● **10 Ray's Canoe Hideaway:** (1247 Hagel Park Rd.) near Rye Wilderness Park, offers facilities for canoeing, fishing and swimming.

● **11 Duette Park:** (2649 Rawls Rd.) offers miles of nature trails, horseback riding trails, camping and hunting.

● **12 Lake Manatee State Recreation Area:** (20007 S.R. 64) offers a 60-acre camping area, boat ramp, swimming, fishing and wildlife viewing.

● **13 Braden River Canoe Trail at Jiggs Landings:** (6106 Braden River Rd.) offers bait, tackle, canoes, or fishing boats for a quiet day exploring the river.

● **14 Braden Castle:** (St. Rd. 64 and 27th St. E) once the site of Dr. Joseph A. Braden's Sugar Plantation. View tin can tourist houses and the remains of Braden's home made of tabby.

● **15 Family Heritage House:** (1707 15th St. E. & 5840 26th St. W.) resource for the study of African American achievements; video, audio tapes and literature let you explore the strengths of a people.

● **16 Manatee Village Historical Park:** (15th St. E) National Historic Site that offers a look at the heritage of the area's settlers. Special attractions include the Village of Manatee, the Cracker Trail, the Bunker Hill School, the Wiggins General Store, a smokehouse and a sugar cane mill.



Manatee Village Historical Park

## Bradenton Riverfront Cultural Center

● **17 South Florida Museum, Bishop Planetarium, Parker Manatee Aquarium:** (201 10th St. W.) explores Florida from "Astronomy to Zoology" with exhibits on the area's cultural and natural history, astronomy and laser shows and the aquarium's manatee, Snooty, the oldest manatee "born and raised" in captivity. Great for kids!



South Florida Museum

● **18 Manatee Players Riverfront Theatre:** (102 Old Main St.) offering fine entertainment for over 45 years with humor, memorable music and captivating stories. renovated 1920s hotel, (a former getaway for the Chicago gangsters) which now offers fine dining, a pleasant stay and a breathtaking view of the Manatee River and the downtown area.



● **19 Art League of Manatee County:** (209 9th St. W.) a long-standing creative presence offering art with exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

● **20 Riverpark Hotel:** (309 10th St. W.) newly renovated 1920s hotel, (a former getaway for the Chicago gangsters) which now offers fine dining, a pleasant stay and a breathtaking view of the Manatee River and the downtown area.

● **21 Carnegie Library:** (1405 4th Ave. W.) built in 1918 and houses Manatee County's early records.

● **22 De Soto National Memorial:** (North End 75th St.) 27-acre National Memorial offering nature trails, a living history camp and visitors center, and museum with educational films and artifacts. Bike scenic Riverview Blvd.



De Soto  
National  
Memorial



● **23 Bean Point Beach:** (N. Shore Dr. & N. Bay Blvd.) the first homesteader landed here 100 years ago. A walkover provides a spectacular view (perhaps the most dramatic) of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.

● **24 Bayfront Park:** (N. Bay Blvd.) offering picnicking, walking and biking to nearby Bean Point Beach and the local fishing piers.

● **25 Rod and Reel Pier:** (875 North Shore Dr.) built in 1947, the old style Florida pier offers fishing, casual dining and spectacular sunsets.

● **26 Anna Maria City Pier:** (100 Bay Blvd.) originally built in 1911 as a dock for excursion boats from Tampa, the 736-foot pier attracts many sightseers and anglers.

● **27 Anna Maria Island Historical Society Museum:** (402 Pine Ave.) built in 1920 as an ice house, the museum houses rare photos of settlers and artifacts such as shells, fossils, sharks teeth and antique quilts. Old City Jail: (Next to museum) built in 1927, this landmark is a favorite for photographers.

● **28 Island Players:** (10009 Gulf Dr. N.) founded in 1948, offers community stage productions.

● **29 Anna Maria Island Art League:** (5312 Holmes Blvd.) offers an exhibit gallery and art classes including watercolors and clay sculpting.

● **30 Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island:** (5414 Marina Dr.) members include artists, actors, writers and musicians; with local artwork for sale including pastels, oils, watercolors and posters.

● **31 Manatee County Beach:** (Gulf Dr.) 10-acres of white sand with a playground, picnic tables, refreshments and rest rooms.

● **32 Cortez Fishing Village:** (123 St. and Cortez Rd.) built in the 1880s, this quaint community has preserved the local heritage and offers walking tours and restaurants.

● **33 Cortez School House:** (119 St. W.) built in 1912, the brick schoolhouse is defined by classically inspired wooden piers; the building retains its original floor plan, architectural detailing, and character.

● **34 Historic Bridge Street:** (Bridge St.) quaint shopping and commercial district and location of the Bridge St. Fishing Pier, the first bridge to Anna Maria Island, built in 1920.

● **35 Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key:** (Gulf Dr.) spectacular 30-acre nature park with trails, wildlife education and panoramic vistas.

● **36 Coquina Beach:** (Gulf Dr.) 96-acres of white sand accommodating more than two million visitors a year; picnic tables, grills and rest rooms.

● **37 Beer Can Island:** (111 N. Shore Rd.) perfect for secluded beach walks, brilliant sunsets and wildlife viewing opportunities. (Over 200 species of birds have been spotted here.)



Beer Can  
Island

● **38 North Shore Rd. Beach Access:** (100 N. Shore Rd.) pristine beach providing access to Beer Can Island.

● **39 Historic Longbeach Village:** (Broadway) walk or ride your bike to see where the first house was built on the Key, and visit the old town dock overlooking Sarasota Bay.

● **40 Longboat Key Art Center:** (6860 Longboat Dr. S.) in operation for more than 40 years offering exhibits and art classes in sculpture, pottery, copper enameling, jewelry, photography and more.

# Central

- **41 Joan M. Durante Park:** (5560 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) offers nature trails and boardwalks through a wetland and mangrove system; also includes gazebos, playgrounds and picnicking.
- **42 Bicentennial Park:** (Gulf of Mexico Dr.) 1/2-acre park offering picnicking and a Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape.
- **43 Quick Point Nature Preserve:** (100 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) 34-acre nature park offering trails, boardwalks, tidal pools, scenic vistas and wildlife viewing. Bike beautiful Gulf of Mexico Drive, City Island and nearby Lido Key.
- **44 Overlook Park/New Pass Fishing Pier:** (101 Gulf of Mexico Dr.) provides access to Quick Point Nature Preserve.

## City Island Enviro Park



- **45 Mote Marine Aquarium:** (1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) allows visitors to get a close-up look at the creatures that inhabit nearby coastal waters. Come face-to-face with a shark, touch a horseshoe crab or enjoy watching manatees gliding through the water. Great for kids! Sarasota Bay Explorers at Mote takes visitors on a wonderful tranquil cruise around Sarasota and Roberts Bay, experience the local wildlife and marine life as your adventure is narrated by an on-board naturalist. Also offered is the Explorer Kayak Adventures which takes you on a serene guided tour of area bays.
- **46 Sarasota BayWalk:** (1550 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) 4.5-acre wetland restoration site offering wildlife viewing and nature trails.
- **47 Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary:** (1708 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) sanctuary for more than 200 species of injured birds; learn about native birds and what you can do to protect them.
- **48 Ken Thompson Park:** (1700 Ken Thompson Pkwy.) 84-acre park offering picnicking, fishing, canoeing or kayaking and a unique bird rookery.
- **49 Sarasota Jungle Gardens:** (3701 Bayshore Rd.) Sarasota's oldest attraction (1936); featuring 10 acres of beautiful gardens and jungle trails; bird and reptile shows; Kiddie Jungle; educational programs; shell museum; eco-safaris; and animals from around the world.
- **50 St. Armand's Circle:** (St. Armand's Cir.) where John Ringling started his real estate dreams, now offers world renowned dining and shopping pleasures.

- **51 North Lido Beach:** (400 Ben Franklin Dr.) beautiful beach offering a nature trail and guarantees outstanding sunsets.
- **52 Lido Beach:** (400 Ben Franklin Dr.) popular and active beach providing concessions, a gift shop, playground equipment, swimming pool and rest rooms.
- **53 South Lido Park:** (2201 Ben Franklin Dr.) this bays to beaches park provides expansive views of the Gulf of Mexico, Big Pass and downtown Sarasota. The park also offers a nature trail, a self guided canoe trail, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, volleyball court, horseshoe court and rest rooms.
- **54 Bird Key Park:** (200 John Ringling Causeway) offers scenic vistas and recreational pursuits such as wind surfing and fishing (pets welcome).
- **55 Causeway Park:** (420 John Ringling Causeway) offers the Tony Saprito Fishing Pier, a bait shop (Hart's Landing) and a boat ramp.
- **56 Gulf Coast Wonder & Imagination Zone:** (8251 15th St. E.) (Moving to 63-late 1999) offers more than 60 hands-on natural and physical science exhibits (great for kids). The Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape and Butterfly Garden offers a showplace of native Florida plants, a cistern, and a turtle and fish pond.
- **57 Sarasota Classic Car Museum:** (5500 N. Tamiami Tr.) third oldest car museum in the U.S. featuring 100 years of world-class automotive art and history including John Ringling's motorcar collection.
- **58 John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art:** (5401 Bayshore Rd.) State art museum of Florida featuring 22 galleries with 500 years of European art; the Ringling complex also features the Ringling Mansion (Ca'd'Zan) and the Circus Museum.



Ca'd'Zan

- **59 Crosley Museum:** (1 Seagate Dr. / 8374 N. Tamiami Tr.) home of Powel Crosley, the entrepreneur (especially known for soap operas). This historic home, overlooking Sarasota Bay, has towering walls of cast stone, hand carved wooden doors, a stone portico, custom windows, fireplaces and a grand compass room.



Crosley Museum



● **60 Asolo Center for the Performing Arts:** (5555 N. Tamiami Tr.) offers two theaters featuring professional artists and Florida State University students. The Sarasota Ballet of Florida attains the highest international standards by performing mixed repertoires of treasured classics, contemporary and modern ballet.

● **61 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park:**

(2523 Coconut Ave.) quiet park offering picnicking near the historic Newtown community.



### City of Sarasota Cultural District

● **62 Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall:** (777 N. Tamiami Tr.) designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, this landmark has featured world-class music, dance and theater since 1970 and hosted such artists as Luciano Pavarotti, Willie Nelson and Julio Iglesias.



Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall & Sarasota Bayfront BayWalk

● **63 Bayfront BayWalk:** (Next to Van Wezel) in the heart of downtown, take a stroll along the Sarasota bayfront while enjoying wildlife viewing.

● **64 Sarasota Garden Club:** (1131 Blvd. of the Arts) enjoy native plants, a butterfly garden, a 1/2-acre pond with turtles and ducks, and other wildlife viewing opportunities including wild parrots and herons.

● **65 Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources:** (701 N. Tamiami Tr.) research the past through its varied collections of photographs and historical documents. Collections consist of late 19th and 20th century photographs, architectural drawings, maps, business and personal papers, newspapers and other archaeological artifacts.

● **66 Sarasota Visual Arts Center:** (707 N. from "Astronomy to Zoology" with exhibits on the area's cultural and natural history, astronomy and laser shows and the aquarium's manatee, Snooty, the oldest manatee "born and raised" in captivity. Great for kids!

● **67 Florida West Coast Symphony:** (709 N. Tamiami Tr.) featuring classical music, pops, children's concerts and resident chamber ensembles; celebrates its 50th season in 1999, under the direction of the artistic director, Leif Bjaland.

● **68 Centennial Park:** (1059 N. Tamiami Tr.) largest boat ramp facility in Sarasota.

● **69 Players of Sarasota:** (838 N. Tamiami Tr.) oldest community theater with auditions open to everyone.

● **70 Whitaker Gateway Park:** (N. Tamiami Tr.) provides picnicking, a playground and a great vista of Sarasota Bay.

● **71 Sarasota Opera House:** (61 N. Pineapple St.) listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings and the League of Historic Theaters; celebrates its 40th season in 1999.

● **72 Theatre Works:** (1247 1st St.) "actor driven theater" presenting productions in the historic Palm Tree Playhouse.

● **73 Florida Studio Theatre:** (1241 Palm Ave.) one of the leading avant garde theaters in the area.

● **74 Golden Apple Dinner Theatre:** (25 N. Pineapple Ave.) offers cocktails, candlelight dining and a professional Broadway show.

● **75 Palm Avenue:** (Palm Ave.) artistic highlight showcasing several top art galleries on this quaint street.

● **76 Burns Court:** (Burns Court) unique shopping cluster of 1925 Mediterranean Revival bungalows, offering antique stores, jewelry, clothing, restaurants and the Burns Court Cinema.

● **77 Towles Court Artist Colony:** (Adams Lane and Morrill St.) includes working artists and artisans living in a renovated, picturesque downtown setting. Open studios and classes.

● **78 Island Park:** (Bayshore Rd.) offers spectacular Bay views, children's and dolphin fountains and unforgettable sunsets on Sarasota Bay. Bike nearby Palm Ave. to downtown and/or along the bayfront to nearby Selby Gardens.



Selby Botanical Gardens

● **79 Marie Selby Botanical Gardens:** (811 S. Palm Ave.) on Sarasota Bay, offers 20 distinct garden areas that showcase plant species from all over the world. Take a stroll through the butterfly garden, the bamboo pavilion, koi pond, banyon grove, palm grove, shoreline restoration and the baywalk. Selby Gardens also offers a collection of more than 6,000 orchids and a museum showing more than 20,000 colorful plants.

● **80 Pinecraft Park:** (1420 Gilbert Ave.) 15-acre park offering wildlife viewing.

● **81 Lakeview Park:** (7150 Lago St.) on Lake Sarasota, offers fishing and recreational activities.

● **82 Siesta Public Beach:** (948 Beach Rd.) recognized as one of the most beautiful beaches anywhere and as having the whitest sand in the world (99% pure Quartz); offering concessions, picnic shelters, tennis courts, pavilion, ballfield, volleyball courts, fitness trail, a safety building and rest rooms.



Siesta Public Beach

● **83 Turtle Beach:** (8918 Midnight Pass Rd.) bays to beaches park with a tidal lagoon connecting to Little Sarasota Bay; offering a large picnic shelter, volleyball court, horseshoe courts, dune walkovers and rest rooms.

● **84 Palmer Point Park:** (1/2 mile south of Turtle Beach) secluded bays to beaches park and popular spot for boaters and canoeists.

● **85 Phillippi Estates Park/Edson Keith House:** (5500 S. Tamiami Tr.) 60-acre park with Indian middens dating back 2000 years. The Edson Keith House was built in 1916 in classic Italian renaissance style. Phillippi Creek was named after Felipe Bermudez, a fisherman from Cuba, who had an area rancho in the 19th century.

● **86 Florida House Learning Center:** (4600 Beneva Rd. 316-1200) futuristic house demonstrating sustainable designs and technologies for living in southwest Florida; also offers a Florida Yard Demonstration Landscape.

● **87 Myakka River State Park:** (13207 St. Rd. 72) experience "Old Florida" in Florida's largest land-based state park (28,876-acres) featuring fishing, canoeing, hiking, bicycling, nature trails, horseback riding, boat and tram tours and exceptional wildlife viewing.



● **88 Crowley Museum and Nature Center:** (16405 Myakka Rd.) 185-acre park with nature center, wildlife sanctuary, education facility, nature trails and pioneer museum.

● **89 Potter Park:** (8587 Potter Park Dr.) offers picnicking, nature trails and tennis and basketball courts.

## South

● **90 Osprey Fishing Pier:** (West End of Main St.) local fishing pier.

● **91 Historic Spanish Point:** (337 N. Tamiami Tr. and Seaman Rd.) features pioneer homestead buildings (from the late 1800s), beautiful gardens, prehistoric Indian Middens (dating from 1250 BC) and nature trails.



Spanish Point

● **92 Blackburn Point Park and Bridge:** (800 Blackburn Point Rd.) historic one lane bridge with an adjacent park offering picnicking and fishing. Bike to nearby North Jetty Park.



Blackburn Point Bridge

● **93 Oscar Scherer State Park:** (1843 S. Tamiami Tr.) offers nature and hiking trails, camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, canoeing, and bicycling. Look for the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.

● **94 Nokomis Beach:** (901 Casey Key Rd.) Sarasota County's oldest public beach, with a pavilion, picnic shelters, a boardwalk and rest rooms.

● **95 North Jetty Park:** (100 Casey Key) one of the best surfing beaches on the gulf coast of Florida and is popular for fishing; provides a bait stand, picnic shelters, volleyball courts, a concession stand, dune walkovers and rest rooms.



## Venice Cultural and Heritage Park



● **96 Heritage Park:** (Venice Ave.) linear walking path along Venice Avenue in historic downtown Venice, offering history of pre-historic times, native Americans and fisherman who lived in the area.

● **97 Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection:** (351 S. Nassau St.) built in 1927, for winter visitors; serves as a city museum.

● **98 Venice Little Theatre:** (140 W. Tampa Ave.) in the charming downtown district, offering stage presentations from comedies to musicals.

● **99 Venice Art Center:** (390 Nokomis Ave.) offers free year-round exhibits of local artists' work and classes for all ages.

● **100 Venice Beach:** (100 The Esplanade) best known for collecting sharks teeth, enjoy diving on a reef containing fossilized material located a quarter mile offshore. Also offers a pavilion, picnic tables, volleyball court, dune walkovers and rest rooms. Bike nearby Harbor Drive to Caspersen Beach.

● **101 Venice Fishing Pier:** (1600 Harbor Dr. S.) local fishing pier with wildlife viewing.



Service Club Park

● **102 Service Club Park:** (1190 Harbor Dr. S.) includes boardwalks, native scrub habitat, a secluded beach, picnicking and rest rooms. Look for the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.

● **103 South Brohard Park:** (South of Service Club Park) offers dune walkovers, boardwalks and quiet beach walks.

● **104 Caspersen Beach:** (4100 Harbor Dr. S.) recognized as one of the most enjoyable shelling beaches and a great place to find pre-historic sharks teeth; this bays to

beaches park offers nature trails, wildlife viewing, dune walkovers and rest rooms.



Caspersen Beach

● **105 Shamrock Park and Nature Center:** (3900 Shamrock Dr.) explore nature trails, picnic or attend instructional classes at this former homeland of Native American Indians.

● **106 Manasota Beach:** (8570 Manasota Beach Rd.) this bays to beaches park is a wonderful place to take a quiet stroll, collect shells, or fly a kite; providing picnic shelters, dune walkovers and rest rooms.

● **107 Blind Pass Beach/ Hermitage:** (6725 Manasota Key Rd.) the Hermitage, one of the oldest structures in Englewood, is located at this bays to beaches park offering a playground, a nature trail, a picnic shelter, dune walkovers and rest rooms.

● **108 Englewood Beach/Chadwick Park:** (Beach Rd.) offering picnicking, a playground and rest rooms.

● **109 Cedar Point Park:** (SR 775, Placida Rd.) 88-acres of hiking trails through southwest Florida pine flatwoods, oak scrub, salt flats and the mangrove fringe of Lemon Bay.

● **110 Lemon Bay Playhouse:** (96 W. Dearborn St.) community-based theater hosting a variety of entertainment.

● **111 Green St. Church and Museum:** (Green St.) built in 1926, was the first church in the Englewood area.

● **112 Indian Mound Park:** (210 Winson Ave.) five-acre park featuring a short educational trail showing Florida's native flora and fauna including a prehistoric Indian mound site (dating from 1000 BC).

● **113 Lemon Bay Park Environmental Center:** (570 Bay Park Blvd.) 195-acres including nature trails, a butterfly garden, an environmental center and a canoe trail.

● **114 Venice Area Audubon Rookery:** (Annex Rd.) highly used nesting spot by egrets, herons and anhingas.

● **115 T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve:** (1800 Carlton Parkway) consisting of 24,565-acres featuring nature trails, wildlife viewing and environmental education about Florida's native habitat.

● **116 Warm Mineral Springs:** (12200 San Servando Ave.) natural watering hole and world renowned spa (temperature of the lake holds a year round 87°F) forms a lake flowing with million gallons of water per day.

● **117 Myakkahatchee Park** (6968 Reisterstown Rd.) consisting of 131-acres providing picnicking, wildlife viewing and fishing.

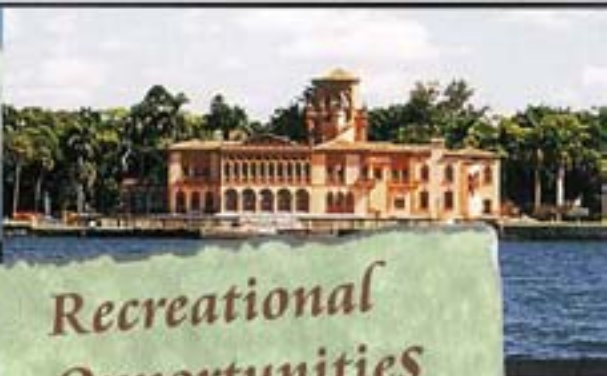


# Sarasota Bay Blueways



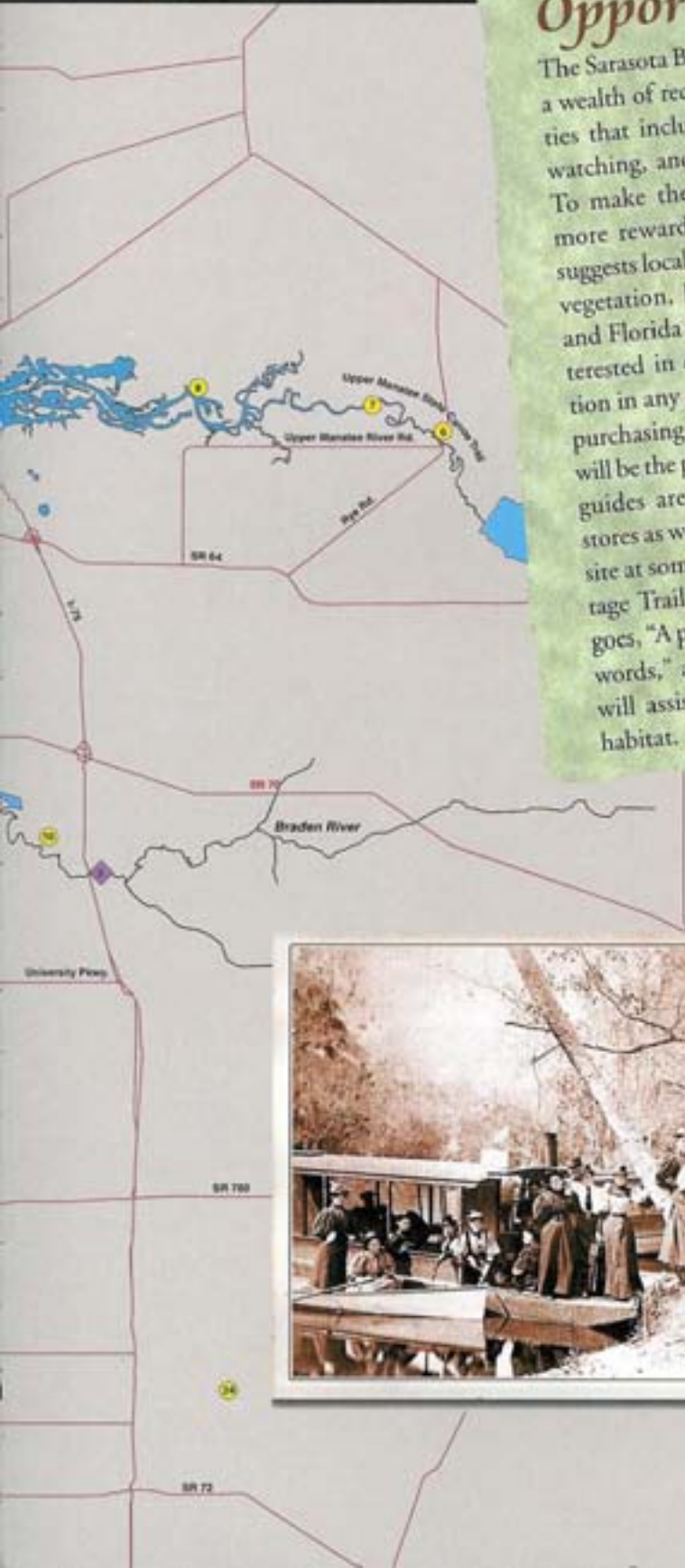
The remaining portion of the Sarasota Bay Blueways map is on the following pages.

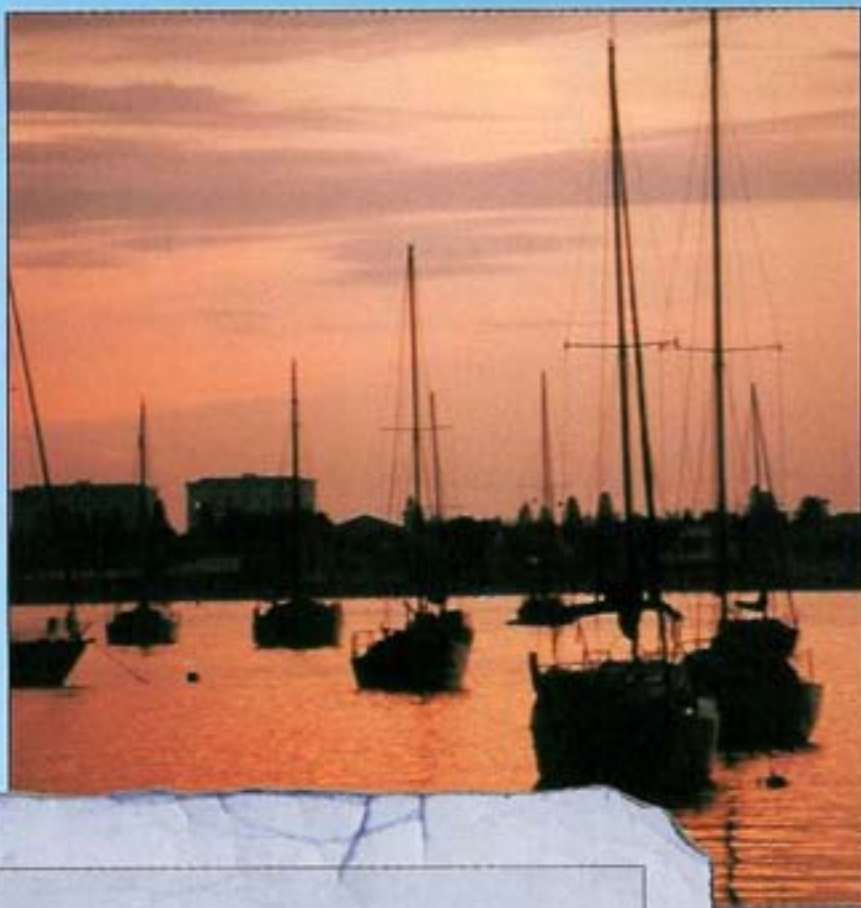
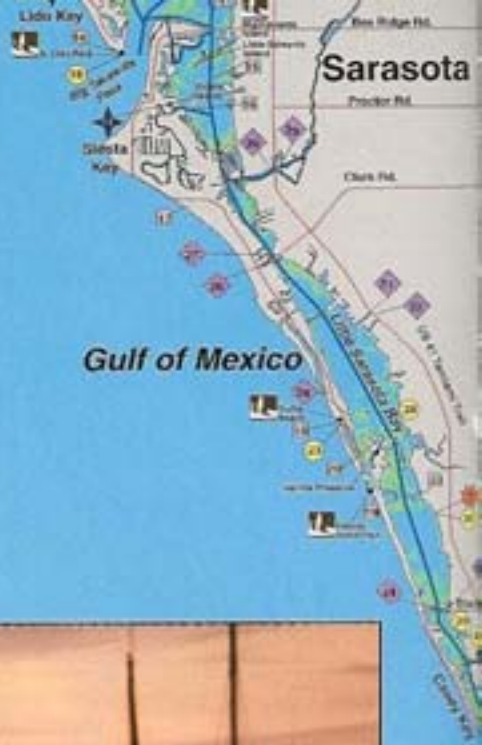




## Recreational Opportunities

The Sarasota Bay community offers a wealth of recreational opportunities that include fishing, bird watching, and nature walks. To make these experiences more rewarding, this guide suggests local native and non-native vegetation, local recreational fish, and Florida bird lists. For those interested in enhancing their education in any one or all of these areas, purchasing appropriate field guides will be the perfect companion. These guides are offered at most bookstores as well as giftshops located on site at some of the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail locations. As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and the field guide visuals will assist with identification and habitat.








The map shown here is a reduced version of a poster-size map.

For more information, brochures are available at the Tourist Information centers. See the Resource Directory on pages 62 and 63.



## Marinas & Dockside

No.	Name/Location Phone Number/Marker Number (area code 841)	MARINA	DOCKSIDE	PUMP OUT	FUEL	BAIT	BOAT
1	Regatta Pointe Marina - Palmetto 729-6021 Marker 19	•	•	•	DI, G	•	
2	Twin Dolphin Marina - Bradenton 747-8300 Marker 21,22	•	•	•	DI, G		
3	Linger Lodge - Bradenton River 755-2757		•				
4	Trailer Estates Marine - Bradenton 758-3645 Marker 16,17	•			G	•	
5	Bowlees Creek Marina- Bradenton 753-5040 Marker 16,17	•					
6	Holiday Marina/Yacht Basin - Bradenton 355-2781 Marker 16,17	•	•		DI, G		
7	Galati Perico Harbor Marina- Bradenton 795-2628 Marker 52	•			G		•
8	Levitrock's Seafood House- Bradenton 794-8900		•				
9	Holmes Beach Marina - Anna Maria 778-2255 Marker 62	•			G	•	•
10	Captains Marina - Anna Maria 778-1977 Marker 62	•			G		•
11	Island Marine - Anna Maria 778-1260 Marker 67,68	•			G	•	•
12	Galati Marine - Anna Maria 778-0755 Marker 67,68	•	•		DI, G	•	
13	Roben Ralph's - Anna Maria 778-3963		•				
14	Bradenton Beach Marina - Anna Maria 778-2288 Marker 49	•		•	DI, G		•
15	Bridge Tender Inn - Anna Maria 778-4849		•				
16	Shrimp Louie's - Anna Maria 779-9797		•				
17	Seafood Shack - Cortez 794-3788 Marker 49,50	•	•	•			•
18	Star Fish Co. Cortez 794-1243 Marker 49		•				
19	Cove Sound Moorings - Cortez 795-4852 Marker 49,50	•					
20	Moore's Stone Crab - Longboat Key 383-1748 Marker 39		•				
21	Mar Vista - Longboat Key 383-2391		•				
22	Cannons Marina - Longboat Key 383-1311 Marker 33	•			G		•
23	Buccaneer Inn Marina - Longboat Key 383-4468 Marker 33	•	•				
24	Poseidon - Longboat Key 383-2500 Marker 19		•				
25	Longboat Key Moorings - Longboat Key 383-8383 Marker 16	•	•	•	DI, G		•
26	Boathouse on Longboat Key - Longboat Key 383-7781 Marker 15	•			G		•
27	Dry Dock - Longboat Key 383-0102		•				
28	Chart House - Longboat Key 383-5593		•				
29	Gulfwind Marine - City Island 389-4411 Marker 11	•		•	G		•
30	Old Salty Dog - City Island 389-4311 (access to Sarasota BayWalk)		•				
31	The Yacht Center - Sarasota 365-1770 Marker 13	•					
32	Gulfwind Marine - Sarasota 366-9279	•					
33	Marina Jack - Sarasota 955-9488 Marker 8 A,10	•	•	•	DI, G		•

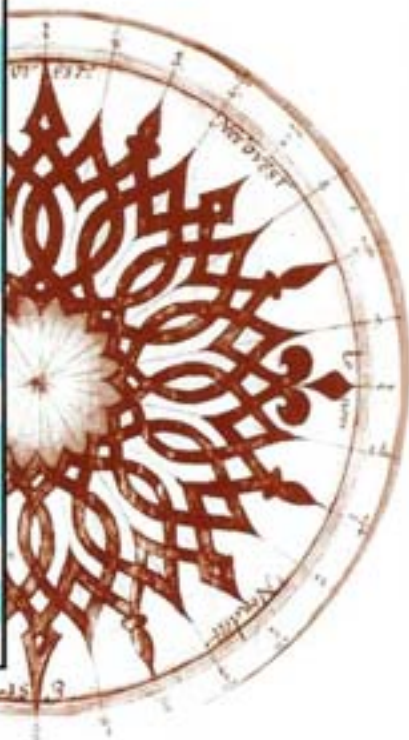


Sunset on the gulf is  
a beautiful way to  
end the day.



## Marinas & Dockside CONTINUED

No.	Name/Location Phone Number/Marker Number (area code (941))	MARINA	DOCKSIDE	PUMP OUT	FUEL	BAIT	BOAT
26	Siesta Key Marina - Siesta Key 349-8880 Marker 62	•			DI, G	•	•
27	Coasters - Siesta Key 825-0300 Marker 62		•				
	Midnight Pass Marina - Siesta Key 349-9449 Marker 48	•			G	•	•
28	Midnight Pass Pub - Siesta Key 349-2280		•				
	Turtles Restaurant - Siesta Key 346-2207		•				
29	Landing Marina - Sarasota 922-0668 Marker 72	•	•		G		•
	Philippi Creek Oyster Bar - Sarasota 925-4444						
30	Philippi Shores Marina - Sarasota 924-8864 Marker 72	•			G		
	Marina at the Landings - Sarasota 922-6100	•			G		
31	South Pointe Marina - Sarasota 924-9693 Marker 51	•					
32	Hidden Harbor Marine - Sarasota 925-9110 Marker 51	•			G		
	Casey Key Marina - Osprey 966-1730 Marker 33	•	•		G		•
33	Osprey Marine Center - Osprey 966-3657	•	•		G	•	•
	Flying Bridge Restaurant - Osprey 966-7431		•				
34	Blackburn Point Marina - Osprey 966-3735 Marker 33	•					
	Old Salty Dog - Osprey 966-6094		•				
	Gulf Harbor Marina - Nokomis 488-7734 Marker 10	•			DI, G	•	
35	Urbanek Fish Co. & Restaurant - Nokomis 488-2941		•				
	Pelican Alley Restaurant - Nokomis 485-1893		•				
36	Dona Bay Marina - Venice 483-3713 Marker 38	•	•			•	•
	Fisherman's Wharf - Venice 484-9246 Marker 4	•	•		DI, G	•	•
37	Gulf Liner Marine - Venice 488-5150	•					
38	Crow's Nest Marina - Venice 484-7661 Marker 1,3	•	•		DI, G		
	Gullwind Marine - Venice 485-3388 Marker 4	•	•		DI, G	•	
39	Crawdads Restaurant - Venice 484-3515		•				
40	Snook Haven Inn - Venice 485-7221		•				
41	The Boatworks - Englewood 475-7100 Marker 25	•	•		G		
42	Royal Palm Marina - Englewood 474-1420 Marker 24	•			DI, G		
	Englewood Boat House - Englewood 475-4511 Marker 22	•			G	•	•
43	Mad Sam's - Englewood - 475-9505		•				
44	Ainger Creek Marina - Englewood 474-2487 Marker 21A	•			G		
45	Kevin's Place - Englewood 475-4905 Marker 21A	•				•	•
46	Stump Pass Marina - Englewood 697-3600 Marker 17A	•	•	•	DI, G	•	•



## Boat Ramps & Canoe, Kayak Launches

No.	Name and Location	BOAT RAMP	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH
1	Frog Creek Campground Terra Cota		●
2	Crab Trap Boat Ramp Terra Cota	●	●
3	Palmetto Boat Ramp Palmetto	●	
4	Emerson Point Park Snead Island		●
5	Highland Shores Boat Ramp Ellenton	●	
6	Rye Wildness Park Rye		●
7	Ray's Canoe Hideaway Rye	●	●
8	Ft. Hamer Site Rye	●	
9	SR 64 Boat Ramp Bradenton	●	
10	Jiggs Landing Bradenton		●
11	SR 70 Boat Ramp Bradenton	●	
12	Warners Bayou Park Bradenton	●	
13	Palma Sola Causeway Palma Sola	●	●
14	Kingfish Boat Ramp Anna Maria	●	●
15	*Coquina Boat Ramp Anna Maria (access to Coquina BayWalk at Lettis Key)	●	
16	Liney Street Boat Ramp Longboat Key City Island Boat Ramp (access to Sarasota BayWalk)	●	●
17	South Lido Park Lido Key		●
19	Bird Key Park Bird Key		●
20	Causeway Park Sarasota	●	
21	*Centennial Park Sarasota	●	
22	Pinecraft Park Sarasota		●
23	Turtle Beach Siesta Key	●	●

## Boat Ramps & Canoe, Kayak Launches

CONTINUED

No.	Name/Location Phone Number/Marker Number (area code 941)	BOAT RAMP	CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH
23	Turtle Beach Siesta Key	●	●
24	Lakview Park Sarasota		●
25	Myakka River State Park Sarasota		●
26	Osprey Fishing Pier Osprey		●
27	Oscar Scherer State Park Osprey		●
28	Vamo Canoe Launch Osprey		●
29	Blackburn Point Bridge Park Osprey	●	●
30	Shoreland Park Osprey		●
31	Nokomis Beach Nokomis	●	
32	North Jetty Park Nokomis		●
33	Higel Park Venice	●	
34	Snook Haven Inn Venice		●
35	Caspersen Beach Venice		●
36	Manasota Beach Manasota Key	●	
37	Blind Pass Beach Manasota Key		●
38	Lemon Bay Boat Ramp Englewood	●	
39	*Indian Mound Park Englewood	●	●
40	Lemon Bay Park Englewood		●
41	Cedar Point Park Englewood		●
42	Dallas White Park North Port	●	
43	Marina Park North Port	●	
44	Butler Park North Port		●
45	Myakkahatchee Park North Port		●

\* High use boat ramp facility.

Centennial Park  
Boat Launch.





 **Bay Artificial Reefs**

No.	Name and Location	Locat-C 7980-W 7980-Y	LATITUDE (N) LONGITUDE (W)	DEPTH (FT.)	MATERIALS
1	Deamus Hart N. Sarasota Bay, E. of ICW	14181.3 44440.7	27°22.075 82°34.477	10'	Concrete, FPL insulators Reef balls
2	Pop Jantzen N. of Bird Key Park	14176.8 44421.1	27°19.709 82°33.849	7'	Concrete, FPL insulators Reef balls
3	Jim Evans S. of Ringling Causeway	14177.6 44417.9	27°19.727 82°33.452	10'	Concrete, FPL insulators
4	Bully Powers W. of Otter Key	14174.8 44419.7	27°18.855 82°34.317	12'	Concrete, FPL insulators
5	Rose Coker N. of Siesta Drive Bridge	14176.9 44404.0	27°18.698 82°32.537	7'	Concrete, FPL insulators
6	Sport Fishing Anglers Club North/Central Sarasota Bay	14175.9 44446.2	27°21.080 82°35.883	12'	Reef balls
7	'O.D. Miller City Island Fishing Piers	14176.5 44430.0	27°20.190 82°34.546	9' 21'	Concrete rubble
8	*Tony Saprito Fishing Pier Causeway Park	14178.9 44419.0	27°20.030 82°33.372	2-7'	Reef balls

\*Only fishing from land.



A PVC artificial enhancement module ready for deployment.



Deploying the module.



Reef balls lined up and ready for placement.

 <b>Fishing Piers</b>		BAIT onsite
No.	Name and Location	
1	Green Bridge Fishing Pier Palmetto	●
2	Rod and Reel Pier Anna Maria	●
3	Anna Maria City Pier Anna Maria	●
4	Historic Bridge Street Pier Anna Maria	●
5	Overlook Park Longboat Key	●
6	Tony Saprito Fishing Pier Sarasota	●
7	Osprey Fishing Pier Osprey	●
8	North Jetty Park Nokomis	●
9	South Jetty Park Venice	●
10	Venice Fishing Pier Venice	●
11	Tom Adams Bridge Pier Englewood	●



 <b>Bird Viewing</b>		HOT SPOT	ROOKERY
No.	Name and Location		
1	Passage Key Passage Key	●	●
2	Crab Trap Boat Ramp Terra Ceia	●	
3	Dot Dash Dit Key Bradley River		●
4	Emerson Point Park Snead Island	●	
5	Palma Sola Causeway Palma Sola Bay	●	
6	Bayfront Park Anna Maria	●	
7	Cortez Key Cortez		●
8	Cortez Fishing Village Cortez	●	
9	Coquina BayWalk at Lettis Key S. end of Anna Maria	●	
10	Beer Can Island Longboat Pass	●	
11	Whale Key Whale Key		●
12	City Island Boat Ramp City Island		●
13	North Lido Beach Lido Key	●	
14	South Lido Park South Lido Key	●	
15	Roberts Bay Islands Roberts Bay		●
16	Skiers Island Roberts Bay		●
17	Siesta Public Beach Siesta Key	●	
18	Turtle Beach South Siesta Key	●	
19	Palmer Point Park North Casey Key	●	
20	Neville Preserve Little Sarasota Bay	●	
21	Pinecraft Park Sarasota	●	
22	Myakka River State Park Sarasota	●	
23	Historic Spanish Point Osprey	●	
24	Oscar Scherer State Park Osprey	●	
25	North Jetty Park Nokomis	●	
26	South Jetty Park Venice	●	
27	Caspersen Beach Venice	●	
28	Manasota Beach Manasota Key	●	
29	Lemon Bay Park Englewood	●	
30	Myakkahatchee Park North Port	●	



Historic Bridge Street Pier.



Venice Jetty Park.



Tony Saprito Fishing Pier.



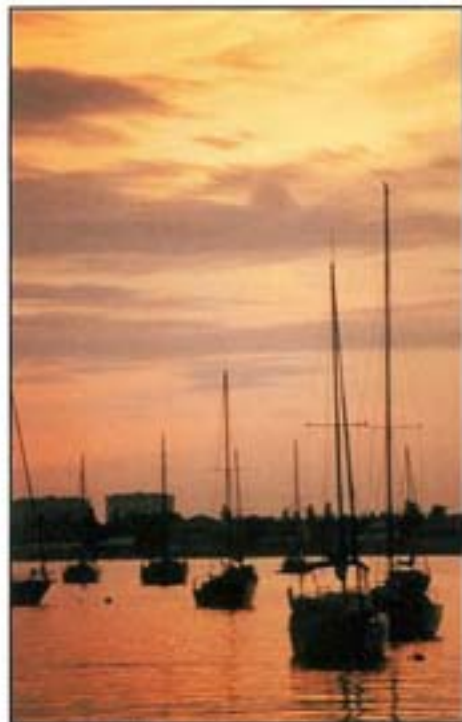


## Anchorage

No.	Name	SCENIC	TRANQUILITY	HOSPITALITY	ISOLATION	CAMP/RAIDERIE	CLEAN	MARINA	PARK	BEACH-	ROWING	SKIING	DAY SAILING	SWIMMING	FISHING
1	Terra Ceia	good	good		●		●					●	●		●
2	Mckay Point	fair	poor					●							
3	Hooker Point	fair	fair												●
4	Bradenton	poor	poor					●				●	●		●
5	Palmetto	poor	poor					●	●				●		●
6	Manatee River/ De Soto Pt.	fair	poor			●			●		●		●	●	
7	Longbeach/ Longboat Pass	fair	poor	●		●	●				●		●	●	●
8	New Pass/ Sands Point (access to Gulf Pt. Nature Preserve)	fair	poor			●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●
9	Sarasota/ Island Park	fair	poor	●		●		●	●		●		●		
10	Big Pass/ Otter Key	fair	poor								●				●
11	Roberts Bay	fair	poor										●	●	●
12	Venice/ Higel Park	poor	poor						●		●				
13	Lemon Bay	poor	poor				●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
14	Englewood Beach	fair	poor								●		●	●	●



Cortez Fishing Village.



Sarasota Island Park Anchorage.

# *Recommended Beaches*



Coquina Beach



Turtle Beach



Caspersen Beach



Englewood Beach



Coquina Baywalk at Leflic Key



Anna Maria Beach

Holmes Beach

Cortez & Coquina Beaches

Longboat Beaches

Lido Beaches

Siesta Beach

Turtle Beach

Nokomis Beach

Caspersen Beach

Englewood Beach





# Resource Directory

## Arts/ Cultural Interests

Arts Hotline

(941) 745-ARTS

Sarasota County Arts Council

(941) 365-5118

## County Parks

Manatee County

(941) 749-7123

Sarasota County

(941) 316-1172

## Department of Historical Resources

Manatee County Department of Historical Resources

(941) 741-4070

Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources

(941) 316-1115

## Florida Marine Patrol

1-800-DIAL-FMP

Division of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that enforces saltwater fishing and boating laws and regulations.

Call to report any manatee harassment, injury or death.

## Florida Marine Research Institute

(727) 896-8626

Estuarine and marine scientific research; a division of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

## Florida Sea Grant College Program,

(352) 392-1837

## University of Florida Marine Extension Service

(941) 722-4524

For educational information on Florida's coastal zone and marine resources.

## Gulf Coast Heritage Trail

(941) 359-5841

Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program

## Hart's Landing

(941) 366-TIDE

A 24 hour hotline for the latest tides and fishing information.

## Manatee and Sarasota County Environmental Departments

Sarasota County Natural Resources Department

(941) 378-6142

Manatee County Division of Environmental Management

(941) 742-5980

## Manatee, Sarasota and Venice Audubon Society

(941) 364-9212

Local chapters of the National Audubon Society.

## Mote Marine Aquarium and Laboratory

(941) 388-4441

A private, non-profit marine research and education facility.

## Weather

(941) 388-1908

Provides an automatic weather monitoring station for current wind speed and direction, water and air temperature.

## NOAA Weather Service Broadcast

(813) 645-2506

24 hour weather and marine forecast

## WX-1 162.550 MH on VHF marine radio

## Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary

(941) 388-4444

A sanctuary for more than 200 species of injured birds. Contact the sanctuary to report injured wildlife.



### Power Squadrons

Sarasota (941) 953-7565

Anna Maria Island (941) 792-0394

Venice (941) 484-6889

Local boating organizations promoting and offering the public classes on boating skills and safety.

**Sarasota Anglers Club & Sport Fishing Club** (941) 923-7100

A family-oriented recreational fishing and community service organization. Sponsors sportfishing tournaments.

**Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program** (941) 359-5841

Government partnership and citizen-based network, working together to implement a long-range Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the restoration and management of Sarasota Bay.

### State Parks

Myakka River State Park (941) 361-6511

Oscar Scherer State Park (941) 483-5956

### Tourist Information

Manatee County Tourist Information Center (941) 729-7040

Sarasota County Tourist Information Center (941) 957-1877

Anna Maria Chamber of Commerce (941) 778-1541

Manatee Chamber of Commerce (941) 748-3411

Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce (941) 383-2466

Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce (941) 955-2508

Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce (941) 349-3800

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce (914) 488-2236

Englewood Chamber of Commerce (941) 474-5511

### U.S. Coast Guard

Boating safety hotline for information and to report possible safety defects in boats and emergencies.

**Emergency** (941) 794-1261

Non-Emergency (941) 794-1607

Toll Free 1-800-232-0154

### U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Sarasota (941) 366-5595

Manatee (941) 753-9473

Longboat Key (941) 388-1982

Venice (941) 488-1900

The civilian service branch of the U.S. Coast Guard offering the public classes on boating skills and safety.

**West Coast Inland Navigational District** (941) 485-9402

For information on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.



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Page 37- Big Sarasota Bay and Bird Key/Big Pass in 1900: "A Historical Geography of Southwest Florida Waterways".

Page 39- Otter Key/St. Armands Key and St. Armands and Lido Keys: "A Historical Geography of Southwest Florida Waterways".

Page 40- Map and Drawing of inlet types: "A Historical Geography of Southwest Florida Waterways".

Page 42 & 43- Map: SNEP file, Sarasota Bay shoreline: Reed Photography, aerial view: J. Elka.

Page 46- Gamble Plantation, Manatee Village Historical Park, South Florida Museum: Reed Photography.

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Page 48- Mote Marine Aquarium: Mote Marine Laboratory, Ca'd'Zan and Crosley Museum: Reed Photography.

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Page 51- Heritage Park and Service Club Park: Reed Photography, Caspersen Beach: T. Williams & E. Dunkleberger.

Page 52- Map: SBNEP file, Sister Keys: J. Elka Photography, Osprey: SBNEP file.

Page 53- Boat, C' d'Zan, Sarasota Island Park Anchorage: SBNEP file.

Page 58- Centennial Park Boat Launch: Reed Photography, Canoe: Tom Cross.

Page 59- Artificial reef photos: Jaime Doubek-Racine.

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Page 61- Cortez Fishing Village: Reed Photography, Sarasota Island Park Anchorage: SBNEP file.

Page 62- Beer Can Island, Turtle Beach: Reed Photography, Lido Park: SBNEP file, Caspersen Beach: T. Williams & E. Dunkleberger, Englewood Beach: Reed Photography, Coquina BayWalk at Leffis Key: SBNEP file.

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## Field Notes



Many coastal-dwelling Native Americans have ancient tales of Little People of the wetlands and marshes. These Pudwudgees are thought to be magical beings that build their homes in the high shore grasses and entangled tree roots along the bayshore.

Perfectly in tune with their environs, they work with the forces of nature - benefitting both.



## Field Notes

Seashells are hard but  
are no match for the  
restless waves.  
Gradually they are  
ground down and  
worn away, and the  
substances from which  
they are made are  
returned to the sea.






## Field Notes



Seagrass leaves provide excellent protection for young marine animals from larger open-water predators. Some animals, such as manatees, eat seagrass blades. Other animals derive nutrition from eating algae and small animals that colonize seagrass leaves. These colonizing organisms provide an additional link in the marine food chain.

# Field Notes



Beautiful on land.  
Lovely in the air.  
But birds of the water.  
Of all are most fair.

- Anonymous





## Field Notes

It is the male sea horse that gives birth to the baby sea horses. The female deposits her eggs in a special pouch on the male in which they are incubated. When the time arrives, hundreds of miniature baby sea horses emerge.





THE SMITH MARVELLED OVER THE SPINNING  
IN THE WORLD AS STAFFED ALONG ALL  
OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COASTS



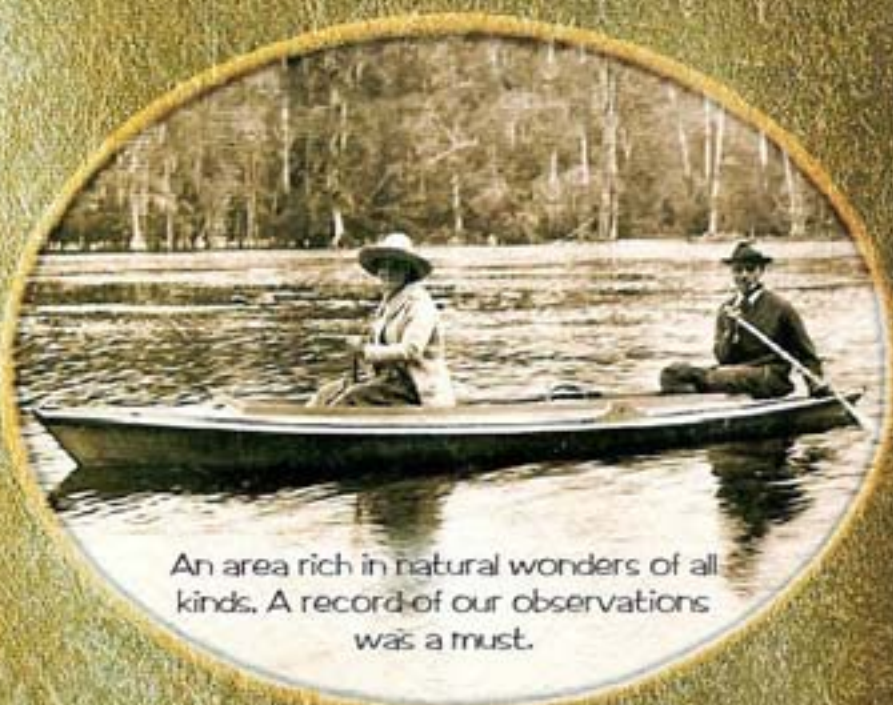




Chronicle of  
Florida's Gulf Coast  
NATURE & HISTORY  
CULTURE & RECREATION



The Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program  
strives to improve water quality, increase habitat  
and enhance the natural resources of the area  
for use and enjoyment by the public.



An area rich in natural wonders of all  
kinds. A record of our observations  
was a must.

