

The Bay Conditions pages serve as a kind of annual report card on coastal water quality. Selected water quality measures are summarized, graphed, and compared to benchmarks in order to show current status and historical trends, with nutrient pollution the primary focus. You can find the Bay Conditions pages at www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/bay-conditions/

Learn About Bay Geography

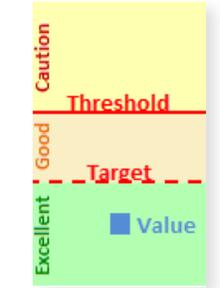
- Explore 7 bay systems, 3 extending beyond Sarasota County: Northern Sarasota Bay and Palma Sola Bay are in Manatee County, while southern Lemon Bay is in Charlotte County.
- A map on each bay's page like the one below shows the location of the bay in relation to nearby inlets and creeks.



- Palma Sola Bay
- Sarasota Bay
- Roberts Bay
- Little Sarasota Bay
- Blackburn Bay
- Dona/Roberts Bay
- Lemon Bay

- Chl-a Chlorophyll a
- N Nitrogen, Total
- P Phosphorus, Total

View Water Quality Ratings

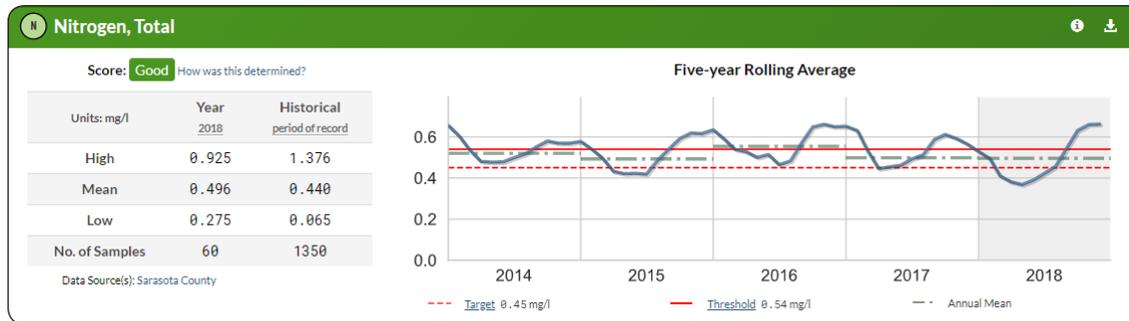


- A bay's water quality is rated "Pass" or "Caution", depending on levels of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, and of chlorophyll *a*, an indicator of algae abundance. The annual average concentration of all three of these water quality measures must be below specified "threshold levels" in order for the bay to earn a "Pass" rating.
- Each of the three measures is also compared to a "target level" established for it. Concentrations below these targets are predicted to produce good water clarity necessary for healthy seagrass habitat.

- Each water quality measure gets a rating of "Excellent", "Good", or "Caution", depending on whether its average annual concentration is below the target level, between the target and threshold levels, or above the threshold level, respectively.

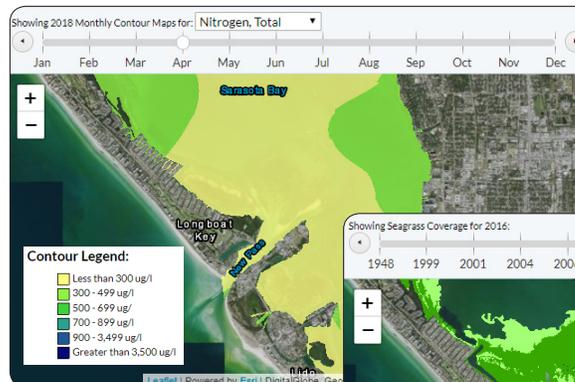
Explore Water Quality Changes

- View graphs to how water quality differs month-to-month and year-to-year.
- Compare recent values to historic highs, lows, and means.
- Download annual reports, individual graphs, or raw data.



Visualize Water Quality Data

- Use the interactive **Bay Contour Maps** on each page to see how water quality varied in space and time throughout the year.
- Seagrass is a primary biological indicator of water quality in our bays. The interactive **Seagrass Viewer** lets you see how the size and location of seagrass beds have changed through the years.



← Bay Contour Map

↓ Seagrass Viewer

What We Do on Land Affects Water Quality

- In urban communities, more paved areas mean more stormwater runoff. The **Impervious Features** section shows the degree to which a bay's watershed is covered with roads, buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.
- The **Land Use/Land Cover** section shows the ways the land in a bay's watershed is being used, and how those uses have changed over time.



Legend: Continuous Seagrass, Patchy Seagrass. Show/Hide Labels