



Tampa Bay Estuary Program:

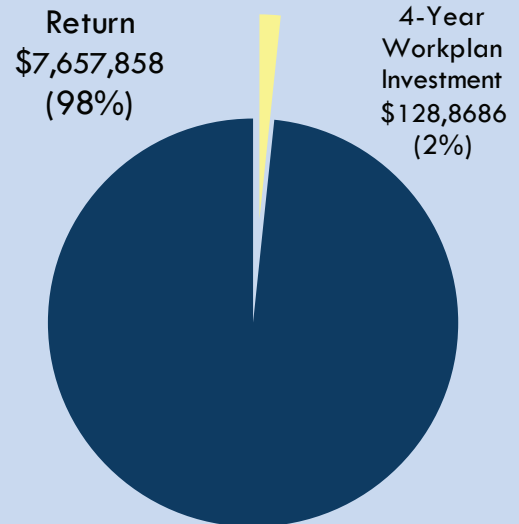
*Celebrating 20 years of Community
Partnership for a Healthy Bay*



TBEP is a good investment for your community!

For your annual Workplan support of \$32,217 over the past 4 years, TBEP has leveraged more than **\$7.6 Million** in additional grants and program funding to implement bay restoration and education projects.

*TBEP has a leveraging ratio of **59:1** for Manatee County Workplan contributions!*



TBEP Highlights and Accomplishments for 2010

Seagrass Increases

Seagrass continues to expand at a record pace in Tampa Bay. 2010 results show **32,897 acres of seagrass baywide**, an increase of 3,250 acres over the 2008 estimate. Impressively, there were gains in all bay segments with the largest increase in Middle Tampa Bay. This is the highest recorded seagrass acreage since the 1950s.

Reasonable Assurance

Nitrogen reduction targets developed by the Nitrogen Management Consortium, a unique public-private partnership, were adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in December 2010. This will pave the way for continued water quality improvements in Tampa Bay.

Habitat Master Plan

The Tampa Bay Habitat Master Plan Update was formally adopted in August 2010 and includes new restoration targets for priority coastal habitats (marsh, mangroves and salt barrens). The Plan also updates priority acquisition and restoration sites and develops a framework for a regional Habitat Restoration Partnership.



Accomplishments in Manatee County for 2010

Future of the Region

TBEP received three awards at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's 18th annual Future of the Region awards ceremony, which recognizes excellence in resource planning and management in the Tampa Bay region. TBEP honors include:

- 1st Place - Community Service: the Bay Mini-Grants program,
- 1st Place - Environment: the landmark Nitrogen Management Consortium, and
- 2nd Place - Public Education: the creative "Pooches for the Planet" regional education campaign to protect water quality.

Bay Mini-Grants

Over the past four years, the TBEP has awarded **\$142,448** in community grants for bay restoration and education projects that benefit Manatee County. Examples include:

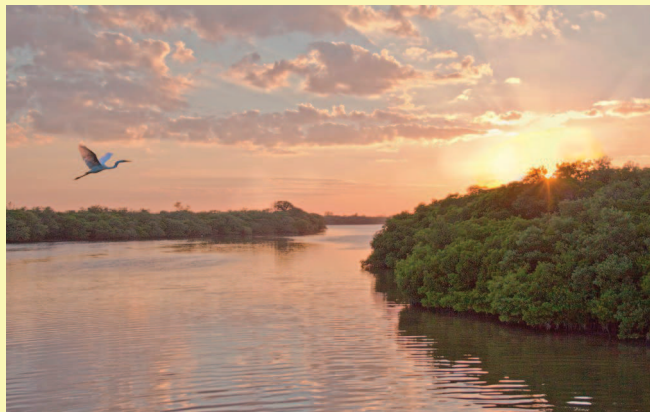
- Bay scallop enhancement at Terra Ceia,
- Watershed education in the City of Bradenton Beach,
- Manatee River stewardship programs, and
- "Turtle Talks" activity books.

Since 2001, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program has awarded more than \$1.2 Million in Mini-Grants from sales of its specialty license plate, the Tarpon Tag.

Pooches for the Planet

TBEP continues to provide innovative education about the need to properly dispose of pet waste to prevent water pollution. In 2010, TBEP coordinated the following:

- Special adoption promotions with animal shelters in Manatee and Pinellas counties, providing tote bags with information and donated pet supplies;
- Posters, rack cards and pledge cards to every veterinary clinic in all three counties; and
- The new AmbassaDogs program, launched at Manatee County's Robinson Preserve, to enlist dog owners and their canine companions, to talk about "scooping that poop."



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Photo Credit: Peter Lousberg

*The Tampa Bay Estuary Program is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2011.
Thank you for your continued support of this proven partnership program!*