



The Tampa Bay Estuary Program City of Clearwater Partnership



- For more than 10 years, TBEP has been awarding community grants through the Bay Mini-Grants Program. In the last three years alone, the City of Clearwater has benefited from more than \$58,600 in community restoration and education grants. Some of the recipients include St. Paul's School, Sand Key Park, Rainbow/Mars pocket park, and Dolly Bay Condo Assn.

- TBEP co-convened a workshop on March 29, 2007 to evaluate the technical and management issues associated with Clearwater Harbor/St. Joseph Sound, focusing on current and past natural resources, impacts to the areas, and resource management issues. This workshop was a vital first step in managing and protecting the natural resources.



St. Paul's School shoreline restoration

- TBEP was awarded two grants totaling \$333,100 to identify the potential causes of poor seagrass recovery in the Feather Sound, adjacent to Clearwater. The Feather Sound Seagrass Recovery Project was a multi-phase, multi-agency research project. The project team will expand on the management recommendations resulting from this 5-year study and develop a draft plan for Feather Sound.
- A \$149,500 grant awarded to TBEP will help determine the source of fine-grained, organic-rich sediments ("muck") in the Safety Harbor area of Old Tampa Bay. A better understanding of the distribution and origin of the muck is needed in order to determine whether muck removal is practical or necessary for improving environmental and recreational conditions.

"The Tampa Bay Estuary Program's continuing support for local government grant writing assistance produced over \$10.8 million in TMDL water quality restoration project dollars to the Bay community in 2006. The return on investment for the Tampa Bay Estuary in 2006 was significant. For every dollar spent by the Program to assist local governments in preparing grant proposals, \$223 was gained in grant awards. We are seeing success in Florida. If future funding for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program is cut, opportunities to secure necessary bay improvement dollars may be limited, and the momentum of implementation activities by local governments may be lost."

--Amy Adams, President, Cape Canaveral Scientific, Inc.