



The Tampa Bay Estuary Program Hillsborough County Partnership

- For more than 10 years, TBEP has been awarding community grants from the Bay Mini-Grants Program. In the last three years alone, Hillsborough County has benefited from more than \$128,000 in community restoration and education grants. Some of the recipients include Cypress Creek Elementary, Hillsborough Community College, Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force, Hillsborough River State Park, Wilson Lake, and Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve.
- TBEP's grant writer was awarded a \$1.6 million grant for a new stormwater treatment facility at Hillsborough County's Hillgrove and Stearns on the Alafia River. It is anticipated that this project will reduce 70 tons of pollutants per year to the bay.
- TBEP received \$143,584 in grant funds to support development of six basin management action plans to restore six creek and river segments in the Hillsborough River watershed impaired by fecal coliform bacteria. TBEP has facilitated this program in cooperation with FDEP, Hillsborough County and its Environmental Protection Commission, City of Tampa and other local government and agency partners.
- During the past three years, TBEP has coordinated nine "Give A Day For The Bay" workdays at Hillsborough County's Mosaic, Fish Hawk Creek, E.G. Simmons, Camp Bayou, and Sun City Heritage Parks. More than 400 volunteers donated 2000+ man-hours in hands-on habitat restoration working in conjunction with county parks staff.
- TBEP staff developed and supports the Nitrogen Management Consortium, an innovative public/private partnership formed to help maintain water quality in Tampa Bay. The Consortium's Action Plan has been accepted by FDEP as meeting regulatory requirements for nitrogen reduction in Tampa Bay, thus relieving Hillsborough County and other Consortium partners from developing individual plans to meet requirements.



McKay Bay "Give a Day"

"The Tampa Bay Estuary Program's continuing support for local government grant writing assistance produced over \$10.8 million in 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.