



The Tampa Bay Estuary Program Pinellas County Partnership

- For more than 10 years, TBEP has been awarding community grants through the Bay Mini-Grants Program. In the last three years alone, Pinellas County has benefited from more than \$219,000 in community restoration and education grants of which \$33,000 went directly to the County's government. Some of the recipients include Science Center of Pinellas County, DEM, Pinellas County Parks Dept., Ft. DeSoto and Weedon Island.
- TBEP was awarded two grants totaling \$333,100 to identify the potential causes of poor seagrass recovery in the Feather Sound region of Old Tampa Bay. 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 the Feather Sound.
- TBEP accepted and managed \$76,000 EPA grant on behalf Pinellas County DEM to study sediment quality and contaminants in Cross Bayou Canal and Joe's Creek.
- A \$149,500 grant award 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.
- TBEP coordinated four "Give A Day For The Bay" workdays in Pinellas County. Two events were held at Lake Seminole, one at John Chestnut Sr. Park and one on Pinellas Bayway. More than 300 volunteers donated 1500+ man-hours in hands-on habitat restoration working in conjunction with county parks staff.
- TBEP co-convened a workshop on March 29, 2007 to evaluate 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 in the Harbor and Sound.



Lake Seminole "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.