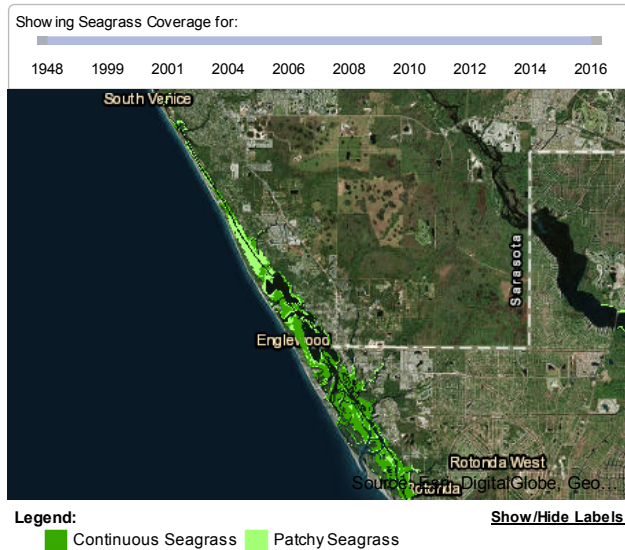


Seagrasses

Among the most important habitats in Florida's estuarine environments, seagrass beds are indispensable for the role they play in cycling nutrients, supplying food for wildlife, stabilizing sediments, and providing habitat for juvenile and adult finfish and shellfish. Use the interactive map below to observe the size, density and location of seagrass beds from year to year. The graph shows how the total amount of seagrass in the bay has changed over time.



Seagrass Acreage Variation within Lemon Bay*



*Note: Seagrass acreage values shown above are for Lemon Bay in its entirety. The target for seagrass acreage for Upper Lemon Bay is 1,010 acres; for Lower Lemon Bay it is 2,880 acres.

Land Use / Land Cover

Land use within a bay's watershed has a major effect on its water quality. In general, less development means better water quality. Land Cover/Land Use classifications categorize land in terms of its observed physical surface characteristics (upland or wetland, e.g.), and also reflect the types of activity that are taking place on it (agriculture, urban/built-up, utilities, etc.). Florida uses as its standard a set of statewide classifications which were developed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Upper Lemon Bay is located within the Lemon Bay Watershed. The chart below shows the land use / land cover characteristics for Lemon Bay Watershed within the boundary of this Water Atlas. [View details about the Lemon Bay Watershed »](#)

2011 Land Use / Land Cover for Lemon Bay Watershed

as a percentage of land area for this watershed

