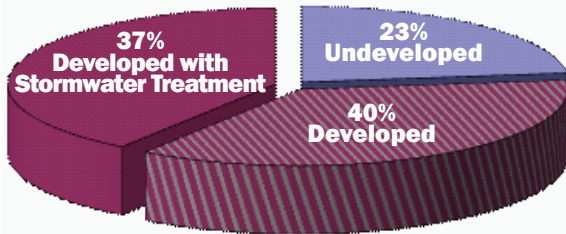


Roberts Bay North Percent of Land Developed, Undeveloped and Developed with Stormwater BMPs



Watershed Improvement

One of the challenges in the Roberts Bay North Watershed is that it is almost 80% developed with only 37% of that developed area treating stormwater runoff. That means over 40% of the older developments do not have any stormwater treatment to hold back and clean stormwater before pollutants are carried into our creeks and Roberts Bay North.

Our goal is to increase the amount of land that has stormwater runoff treated by doing projects throughout the watershed.

You can help by starting a NEST in your neighborhood, retrofitting your property with LID techniques, capturing stormwater on your property with cisterns or rain barrels, planting a rain garden, and reducing your irrigation.



4th Street Fire station cistern



Storm drain markers



Cistern collecting rainwater for watering plants



Rain garden (foreground)
Cistern (background)



Low flow water fixture

How you can help!

NEST

The Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) promotes neighborhood involvement in environmentally friendly projects to protect and restore our water resources. NEST program projects focus on providing watershed education and getting neighbors involved in activities that improve their neighborhoods and enhance their watershed.

How you can help:

Become a champion for the watershed you live in. Get better educated and more involved in managing and protecting your water resources by starting a NEST group today. Call (941) 861-5000 to find out how.

Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management approach that aims to replicate the natural hydrologic functioning of the predevelopment landscape. LID can allow rainwater to filter into the ground and reduces the amount of stormwater leaving properties. LID practices, such as cisterns or rain barrels, rain gardens or bioswales, green roofs, and pervious paving, can be distributed throughout your property and integrated as a treatment train (i.e., in series) to get the most benefit.

How you can help:

Install LID techniques in your yard to minimize the amount of stormwater and pollutants leaving your property.

Water Conservation

Water conservation starts both inside and outside your home. By using water wisely you can reduce the amount of water that is wasted in your daily activities. Reducing water use eases demand on our drinking water supplies and saves electricity needed to produce, treat and transport the water to your home.

How you can help:

- Check for water leaks inside and outside your home or business.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators, shower heads and toilets.
- Purchase high-efficiency Energy Star appliances (example: washer and dryer).

For more information on using water wisely call (941) 861-5000 and ask for the NEST or Sustainability programs.

Rain Gardens

Any natural or constructed low area in your yard where rain water gathers and the soil remains moist could be converted into a rain garden filled with water loving flowers and plants. The rain garden and plants reduce pollution and stormwater run-off by intercepting some of the water running off your property and allowing it to percolate into the ground.

How you can help:

Consider installing a rain garden as your personal way of reducing stormwater pollution. By directing rain from roof run-off or natural flow into this area and you can create a lush verdant oasis right in your own yard.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

A Florida-Friendly Landscape is not only beautiful, it is also environmentally friendly. It stabilizes soil, prevents erosion, filters pollutants, and reduces harmful runoff. All of these contribute to preserving Florida's unique natural resources. From the fertilizers you apply to the water you use, your gardening choices can have an impact on land, water, and wildlife.

How you can help:

What you do in your landscape matters. Learn how you can create a Florida Friendly Yard and how to obtain Florida Friendly Yard Recognition. Call (941) 861-5000 and ask for the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program.

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REPORT CARD

ROBERTS BAY NORTH WATERSHED



How we measure up.



Habitat

Mangroves provide benefits to people and the environment because:

- Roots and trunks resist and prevent shoreline erosion
- Food and habitat is provided for the marine food chain, including fish we like to consume
- Stormwater is filtered as it runs off the land helping to maintain the quality of our coastal waters
- Homes are protected from severe wind damage

The goal is to increase mangroves along shorelines providing greater benefits to a larger area of the coastline.

In the 2008 survey, nearly half of the parcels surveyed had mangroves present along more than 30 percent of the shoreline, but we need to do better. Maintaining existing mangrove areas is important and encouraging mangroves to grow is a less expensive and more effective way of preventing both erosion and property damage from tropical storms. The analysis of the 2010 mangrove survey was not complete to see if there was an improvement.

Fresh Water Wetlands provide many services for the watershed, including flood control, recreation, water quality improvement, and habitat for plants and animals. This is a highly urbanized area, with a loss of 85 percent of pre-development wetlands. We can help by protecting and improving the 14 percent of pre-development wetlands that remain in the watershed.

Tree Canopy is important for the watershed because it intercepts rainfall and helps reduce stormwater runoff.

Only 16% of the Roberts Bay North watershed remains covered by tree canopy. This reduction in tree canopy is mostly due to the urbanization of the area. The goal is to increase the tree canopy coverage throughout the watershed to help reduce stormwater runoff and provide habitat for wildlife.

Tidal Creeks are unique ecosystems that provide habitat for marine and plant life and function as a link between the watershed and the bay by delivering freshwater and nutrients. The Tidal Creek Condition Index (TCCI) is an ecologically-based tool that measures the biological health of county tidal creeks.

The Roberts Bay North Watershed has two tidal creeks; Phillippi Creek which drains the 56 square mile Phillippi Creek Basin, and Matheny Creek which drains the 2.7 square mile Matheny Creek Basin. On our TCCI measurement scale of 1–3, the Roberts Bay North Watershed scores 2, which is categorized as FAIR.

Water Use (conservation)

How much water do we use in our homes and on our landscaping? Our county goal is to use no more than 86-gallons of water per person, per day. In 2009, Sarasota County met that goal by only using 83-gallons of water per person, per day.

Sarasota County began selling rain barrels to the public in 2009 to help reduce potable water use outdoors. This year 541 rain barrels were sold County-wide with 251 in the Roberts Bay North watershed.

What about reusing our treated waste water? Our goal is to use 75% of treated waste water for irrigation, however, during 2010 we used only 64%.