



Little Sarasota Bay Water Quality Management Plan

December 2012

[Download complete plan \(1114 pages, 35.6 MB\)](#)

Download individual chapters below

The Little Sarasota Bay WQMP discusses factors that affect water quality in the bays and tributaries, and the consequences of degraded water quality on natural resources. Specific activities completed in developing the WQMP included:

- Summarizing existing water quality characteristics of Little Sarasota Bay, Blackburn Bay, and their tributaries.
- Comparing existing water quality (nutrients and dissolved oxygen [DO]) to regulatory criteria and management targets.
- Estimating current and projected future pollutant loading levels to the bay and identifying “hot spots” in the bay and tributaries.
- Establishing water quality Levels of Service (LOS) standards for the bay and tributary tidal creeks.
- Presenting potential projects for the improvement and protection of water quality in the bay and tributaries.

[Executive Summary and Front Matter](#) (1.37 MB)

[Chapter 1-3](#) (1.69 MB)

[Appendix A](#) (3.00 MB)

[Appendix D](#) (5.52 MB)

[Appendix G](#) (5.12 MB)

[Chapter 4-8](#) (3.44 MB)

[Appendix B](#) (5.56 MB)

[Appendix E](#) (535 KB)

[Appendix H](#) (836 KB)

[Appendix C](#) (8.85 MB)

[Appendix F](#) (2.27 MB)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & FRONT MATTER

CHAPTER 1 – Introduction

CHAPTER 2 – Goals and Objectives

CHAPTER 3 – Little Sarasota Bay Watershed

3.1 CHARACTERIZATION

3.2 WATER QUANTITY AND WATER SUPPLY

3.2.1 Water Supply and Demand

3.2.2 Water Budget

3.3 WATER QUALITY

3.3.1 Estuarine Water Quality Status and Trends

3.3.2 Hydrologic and Pollutant Loading

3.3.3 Comparison of Ambient Water Quality to Regulatory Criteria and Management Levels of Service (LOS)

3.4 NATURAL SYSTEMS

3.4.1 Critical Estuarine Systems

3.4.2 Freshwater Natural Systems

3.5 FLOOD PROTECTION

3.5.1 History of Flooding and Sarasota County Stormwater Program

3.5.2 Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS)

3.5.3 Planning Studies and Efforts

3.5.4 Basin Master Planning

3.6 SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

3.7 LITTLE SARASOTA BAY WATERSHED ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7.1 Project and Program Recommendations

CHAPTER 4 – LITTLE SARASOTA BAY BASINS

4.1 ELLIGRAW BAYOU

4.1.1 Characterization and Physical Setting

4.1.2 Water Quantity

4.1.3 Water Quality

4.1.4 Natural Systems

4.1.5 Flood Protection

4.1.6 Sediment Management

4.1.7 Elligraw Bayou Basin Summary and Recommendations

- 4.2 HOLIDAY BAYOU BASIN
 - 4.2.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 4.2.2 Water Quantity
 - 4.2.3 Water Quality
 - 4.2.4 Natural Systems
 - 4.2.5 Flood Protection
 - 4.2.6 Sediment Management
 - 4.2.7 Holiday Bayou Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 4.3 CLOWER CREEK BASIN
 - 4.3.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 4.3.2 Water Quantity
 - 4.3.3 Water Quality
 - 4.3.4 Natural Systems
 - 4.3.5 Flood Protection
 - 4.3.6 Sediment Management
 - 4.3.7 Clower Creek Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 4.4 CATFISH CREEK BASIN
 - 4.4.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 4.4.2 Water Quantity
 - 4.4.3 Water Quality
 - 4.4.4 Natural Systems
 - 4.4.5 Flood Protection
 - 4.4.6 Sediment Management
 - 4.4.7 Catfish Creek Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 4.5 NORTH CREEK BASIN
 - 4.5.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 4.5.2 Water Quantity
 - 4.5.3 Water Quality
 - 4.5.4 Natural Systems
 - 4.5.5 Flood Protection
 - 4.5.6 Sediment Management
 - 4.5.7 North Creek Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 4.6 LITTLE SARASOTA BAY COASTAL BASIN
 - 4.6.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 4.6.2 Water Quantity
 - 4.6.3 Water Quality
 - 4.6.4 Natural Systems
 - 4.6.5 Flood Protection
 - 4.6.6 Sediment Management
 - 4.6.7 Little Sarasota Bay Coastal Basin Summary and Recommendations

CHAPTER 5 – BLACKBURN BAY WATERSHED

- 5.1 CHARACTERIZATION AND PHYSICAL SETTING
- 5.2 WATER QUANTITY

- 5.2.1 Blackburn Bay Water Budget
- 5.3 WATER QUALITY
 - 5.3.1 Estuarine Water Quality Status and Trends
 - 5.3.2 Hydrologic and Pollutant Loading
 - 5.3.3 Comparison of Ambient Water Quality to Regulatory Criteria and Management Levels of Service (LOS)
- 5.4 NATURAL SYSTEMS
- 5.5 FLOOD PROTECTION
- 5.6 SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT
- 5.7 BLACKBURN BAY WATERSHED SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 - 5.7.1 Project and Program Recommendations

CHAPTER 6 – BLACKBURN BAY BASINS

- 6.1 SOUTH CREEK BASIN
 - 6.1.1 Characterization and Physical Setting
 - 6.1.2 Water Quantity
 - 6.1.3 Water Quality
 - 6.1.4 Natural Systems
 - 6.1.5 Flood Protection
 - 6.1.6 Sediment Management
 - 6.1.7 South Creek Basin Summary and Recommendations
- 6.2 BLACKBURN BAY COASTAL
 - 6.2.1 Water Quantity
 - 6.2.2 Water Quality
 - 6.2.3 Natural Systems
 - 6.2.4 Flood Protection
 - 6.2.5 Sediment Management
 - 6.2.6 Blackburn Bay Coastal Summary and Recommendations

CHAPTER 7 – WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF LEVELS OF SERVICE
- 7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
- 7.3 COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING
- 7.4 DECISION FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 8 – RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE WATERSHED

- 8.1 SEAGRASS PROTECTION
 - 8.1.1 Seagrass Protection Strategy
 - 8.1.2 Seagrass Protection Recommendations
- 8.2 OYSTER MONITORING
 - 8.2.1 Oyster Monitoring Strategy
 - 8.2.2 Oyster Monitoring Actions

- 8.3 MANGROVE PROTECTION
 - 8.3.1 Mangrove Protection Strategy
 - 8.3.2 Mangrove Stewardship Recommendations
- 8.4 HABITAT
 - 8.4.1 Native Vegetation
- 8.5 HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
 - 8.5.1 Habitat Enhancement Strategy
 - 8.5.2 Habitat Enhancement Actions
- 8.6 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
 - 8.6.1 Stormwater Management Strategy

- 8.6.2 Stormwater Management Actions
- 8.7 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
 - 8.7.1 Operations and Maintenance Strategy
 - 8.7.2 Operations and Maintenance Actions
- 8.8 EDUCATION, INVOLVEMENT, & STEWARDSHIP
 - 8.8.1 Education, Involvement, and Stewardship Strategy
 - 8.8.2 Education, Involvement, and Stewardship Actions
- 8.9 LINKING ACTIONS AND GOALS

Appendices

APPENDIX A – Project Background and Physical Setting

APPENDIX B – Water Quantity

APPENDIX C – Water Quality

APPENDIX D – Natural Systems

APPENDIX E – Flood Protection

APPENDIX F – Sediment Management Plan

APPENDIX G – Project and Program Recommendations

APPENDIX H – Bibliographies