



The Tampa Bay Estuary Program: A Partnership for a Healthy Bay



- TBEP has awarded \$82,960 in community grants for bay restoration and education to organizations in Manatee County over the last three years. Recipients include Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, Manatee School for the Arts, Braden River Middle School, Kinnan Elementary, Terra Ceia Homeowners Association and the Manatee County Extension Service.
- At Manatee County's request, TBEP co-sponsored and facilitated a stakeholder meeting to discuss a proposed boat ramp on the south side of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. This fact-finding meeting focused on the need for the ramp, ecological features, and environmental benefits of the ramp, possible adverse environmental effects, and ways to mitigate for environmental impacts.
- TBEP has provided \$10,000 per year to Manatee County to fund sediment analysis work as part of a comprehensive regional bay monitoring program.
- TBEP is coordinating a \$620,000 multi-agency research effort to quantify the importance of tidally-influenced tributaries, including the Manatee River, to the overall health of the bay. TBEP subsequently issued a \$36,000 contract to Manatee County's DEM for database management work associated with the *Tidal Tributaries* project.
- TBEP Staff coordinated planning, on-site logistics and volunteer recruitment for two "Give a Day for the Bay" workdays at Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve. About 100 volunteers donated a total of 400 hours removing Brazilian pepper trees, picking up litter and planting native plants along a tidal creek that flows into Terra Ceia Bay.

Tampa Bay is Getting Better!



- **More than 6,000 acres of seagrasses have been restored since the 1980s**
- **Water quality has met targets in all bay segments for two years in a row**
- **3,730 acres of critical bay habitats were protected or restored between 2005-2007**



- **Record number of Bay Scallops found in 2007 (500+)**

TBEP is a Good Investment

For an annual contribution of **\$32,217** (plus **\$4,800** to support the Nitrogen Management Consortium) over the past 3 years Manatee County has received more than **\$827,760** return in projects and grants.

Overall, TBEP brings in \$9 for every \$1 invested

