

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Nanette O'Hara  
[nanette@tbep.org](mailto:nanette@tbep.org)

### Ceremony Salutes Bay Restoration Grant Program

An innovative public-private grant partnership was honored Friday for providing more than \$1.4 million in grants since 2015 for important restoration, applied research and education projects in the Tampa Bay watershed.

Sponsors and recipients of the **Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund** will be recognized in a special ceremony at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach.



The grant program is being managed jointly by the Estuary Program and Restore America's Estuaries (RAE), who have pledged to work together to recruit financial donors and achieve measurable conservation outcomes from the funded projects.

In 2015, seven agencies and organizations received \$675,000 in grants for projects that restored more than 100 acres of coastal upland habitat, 200 acres of seagrass, and created 9,420 feet of oyster reefs. Nearly \$725,000 in grants is being awarded this year to nine recipients.



Sponsors of the 2016 Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund include the Southwest Florida Water Management District; The Mosaic Company Foundation; Florida Department of Transportation; Hillsborough County; Pinellas County; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Tampa Electric Company; and Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission.

Past award recipients, as well as the public and private sector sponsors of the Fund, will be recognized in the September 23 ceremony at Apollo Beach.

For more information about the Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund, visit <https://www.estuaries.org/tampa-bay-environmental-restoration-fund>.

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