2022 Annual Report

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



Surface Water Improvement and Management Program



Cover photo: Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration
The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, pleas follow the grievance procedure located at WaterMatters.org/ADA.

Table of Contents

Purpose	4
Introduction	4
Other District Programs	5
Coastal Estuaries	5
Tampa Bay	7
Sarasota Bay	13
Charlotte Harbor	15
Spring Systems	19
Chassahowitzka River	21
Crystal River/Kings Bay	23
Homosassa River	25
Rainbow River	27
Weeki Wachee River	29
Lake Systems	31
Lake Panasoffkee	32
Lake Tarpon	33
Lake Thonotosassa	34
Winter Haven Chain of Lakes	35
Other Systems	37
Appendix A: Mans	38

Purpose

This report provides a summary of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program activities for the 2022 calendar year. This document is intended to fulfill reporting requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Introduction

In 1987, the Florida Legislature enacted the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act (Sections 373.451-.4595, Florida Statutes). They recognized water quality in surface waterbodies throughout the state had degraded or were in danger of being degraded, and important functions once performed by associated natural systems were no longer being provided. The functions to be maintained or improved are identified in the SWIM Act and include providing aesthetic and recreational pleasure for the state's citizens; providing habitat for native plants and animals, including endangered and threatened species; providing safe drinking water for the state's growing population; and attracting visitors and accruing other economic benefits. The Act requires each water management district identify and maintain a priority list of waterbodies of regional or statewide significance and develop plans and programs for the improvement of those waterbodies. Waterbodies identified by the districts are approved by the state, including the addition of new waterbodies or the removal of existing ones.

The District's Governing Board and the FDEP are required to approve the list of SWIM Priority Waterbodies every five years. The last update in 2020 approved the current list of twelve Priority Waterbodies. No existing SWIM Priority Waterbodies were removed from the list, and no new waterbodies were added. Of the twelve SWIM Waterbodies, three are coastal estuaries (Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor), five are first magnitude spring systems (Kings Bay/Crystal River, Rainbow River, Homosassa River, Chassahowitzka River, and Weeki Wachee River), and the remaining four are lake systems (Lake Panasoffkee, Lake Tarpon, Lake Thonotosassa, and the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes). Goals and objectives were developed for each waterbody and are used to guide programs and projects for maintaining or improving water quality, natural systems, and the other functions consistent with the SWIM Act. Essential to carrying out the SWIM Act is the cooperation between the District and local governments and agencies in developing and implementing effective SWIM Plans.

The work done by SWIM is highly recognized. Since 1987, SWIM Program projects and personnel have received a total of 65 awards. SWIM projects were recognized in at least 21 newspaper, newsletter, and internet articles during 2021. The Florida Public Relations Association recognized the District in 2022 at the state and local level for its Weeki Wachee River education campaign, vacation rental kits and vegetation video educating the public on how to protect the river. SWIM celebrated its 35th anniversary and was recognized at a Governing Board meeting. Also, a video and digital timeline were produced. In addition, the SWIM website was updated and social media information was posted.

Other District Programs

The District has a wide range of programs, initiatives, and actions that complement and enhance the objectives of the SWIM Act. The programs include planning, regulation, land acquisition, public education, and a cooperative funding program that provides the foundation for the District to accomplish its mission including the objectives of the SWIM Act. Regulating development and water use plays a key role in preserving water quality and habitat by ensuring that stormwater is properly treated, wetland impacts are minimized, and effects to the aquifer are monitored. Public education is a critical element because of the need for public support for these activities. And finally, the District's cooperative funding program provides a significant incentive to local governments and others by funding activities that help protect and restore these waterbodies.

Coastal Estuaries

There are three coastal estuaries in the SWIM Priority Waterbody list. Estuarine environments are a transitional zone from freshwater to saltwater. These fragile systems are dependent on the health of both the freshwater and coastal waters as this zone of interaction represents the base of the food chain and nursery habitat for both environmentally and economically important species. The SWIM coastal estuaries efforts are summarized below.

Estuary	Size (Square Miles)	Watershed (Square Miles)	Restoration /WQ Projects	Restored (Square Miles)	Treated (Square Miles)
Tampa Bay	373	2,200	124/105	11.5	132
Sarasota Bay	35	212	39/14	1.4	62
Charlotte Harbor	270	4,400	28/12	8.2	153

Seagrass Mapping

During 2022, SWIM's Seagrass Mapping program finalized seagrass habitat maps for the Suncoast, which includes the estuaries of Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Lemon Bay, and Charlotte Harbor. Seagrass in the Suncoast region are mapped on a two-year cycle and the next map is scheduled for 2024. In 2021, SWIM's Seagrass Mapping Program completed its most recent seagrass habitat maps for the Springs Coast region which includes the nearshore coastal waters from Waccasassa Bay south to Anclote River and the estuarine portions of the following SWIM Priority Waterbodies: Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa River, Chassahowitzka River, and Weeki Wachee River. The Springs Coast is mapped every four years with the next map scheduled for 2024.

The SWIM Program maps seagrass habitat to "take the pulse" of these estuaries to help guide resource management actions and projects designed to maintain and improve the health of these priority waterbodies. Approximately 70% of the recreationally and commercially important species of fish, crabs, and shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico spend at least a portion of their lives in seagrass meadows. Seagrasses are a major source of food for both manatees and sea turtles, help maintain good water quality, and

minimize impacts from storms and boat wakes. Because seagrasses are sensitive to water quality changes, impacts from red tide, hurricanes, and other episodic events, they make excellent barometers of overall estuarine health.

Restoration Site Assessments

Since 2021, SWIM has performed Restoration Site Assessments to evaluate a subset of completed SWIM restoration projects. An adapted methodology of the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) is utilized to score site conditions and restoration success. Site information is available within an ArcGIS dashboard, the SWIM Restoration Geodatabase, and via reports compiled for cooperators. Results from these assessments will be used for CFI project metrics, contractual compliance, and project planning.

In 2022 a second round of site assessments commenced, with ten sites completed by the end of the year. The focus of assessments over 2022 and 2023 are completed sites in the southern counties.

Tampa Bay

Background

Tampa Bay was declared an estuary of national significance in 1990 through its inclusion in the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. Tampa Bay is Florida's largest open water estuary and includes portions of Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties. More than two million residents live in the Tampa Bay watershed. Three seaports are located along Tampa Bay's borders, including Port Tampa, Port St. Pete, and Seaport Manatee. Combined these ports generates more than \$21 billion to the local economy and supports over 110,000 jobs. The largest of these, the Port of Tampa, consistently ranks among the busiest ports in the nation.

Tampa Bay is also a focal point of the region's premier industry – tourism. The bay and surrounding barrier islands attract nearly 5 million visitors a year. Visitors and residents utilize the bay for sport fishing, boating, kayaking and wildlife observation. Tampa Bay provides critical nesting habitat to diverse colonies of wading, shorebird, and seabird species. In 2021 surveys by Audubon Florida, 26 species of wading and shorebirds with over 24,000 breeding pairs were documented in Tampa Bay. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated an average of 50,000 pairs of nesting seabirds annually. One-sixth of the Gulf Coast population of Florida manatees seek refuge during winter near power plants bordering the bay; and more than 200 species of fish utilize the Tampa Bay estuary.

Since 1950, approximately 50 percent of the bay's natural shoreline has been lost to development. Most of the wetland loss occurred before 1970, prior to more stringent protection efforts. The combination of wetlands protection, wetland restoration projects, and improved water quality is responsible for recent increases in coverage estimates for these important fish and wildlife habitats.

Tampa Bay National Estuary Program

The Tampa Bay National Estuary Program Interlocal Agreement established the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) as an independent special district in 1998. The District partners with TBEP for their Annual Workplan to provide funding and participates in three main areas. First, the District's SWIM program carries out projects that will address water quality and habitat restoration within the bay. Second, the District has contributed funding to the TBEP since 1990 to carry out the administration and implementation of projects identified in the TBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Finally, the District provides staff to sit on the technical, management and policy (Governing Board Member) boards, the Nitrogen Management Consortium and the newly established Habitat Restoration Consortium, described below.

In August 2020, TBEP adopted the updated Habitat Master Plan (HMP) which establishes 2030 protection and restoration targets and longer term 2050 goals for critical habitats from the open waters of Tampa Bay to the headwaters and uplands of the Tampa Bay watershed. As described within the HMP, the Habitat Restoration Consortium (HRC) was established as a subcommittee of the TBEP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide a framework for coordinating habitat restoration activities throughout the Tampa Bay watershed. It consists of representatives from regulatory agencies; the private sector; and local, regional, state and federal land managers or restoration practitioners. The purpose of the HRC is to implement the HMP through encouraging the sharing of technical information, creation of new partnerships, watershed-level planning, identification of potential projects (and

potential funding sources), and reporting on annual progress toward managing Tampa Bay's habitats. The HRC may also review proposed projects for consistency with the TBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (2017 Update) and the HMP. SWIM staff currently serve as a co-chair of the TBEP HRC.

Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund

The District cooperatively funds the Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (TBERF). TBERF was established to fund restoration, water quality, research and education initiatives in Tampa Bay. The following projects are currently being managed and funded through TBERF: Mobbly Bayou is in permitting phase; Boyd Hill Freshwater Wetland Restoration project completed design & permit phase; Pinellas County Philippe Park Living Shoreline has Phase 2 completed and Phase 3 is underway; the District's Kracker Avenue is on hold pending additional permits; Hillsborough County's Lower Green Swamp Preserve Freshwater Wetland Hydrologic Restoration completed monitoring and is drafting the final report; Eckerd College Living Shoreline has completed Phase 1; Philippe Bay Stormwater Quality Improvements is behind schedule; Robinson Sportfish Emigration Tracking completed Phase 1; Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition Impacts on WQ in TB has completed Phase 2; Shark Status and Trends is in the data collection process; Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Plan continues with data collection. TBERF projects completed in 2022 include: Audubon FL Sunken Island Habitat Restoration and SPC Living Shoreline project. Additionally, six of eight agreements for FY2022 have been executed.

Seagrass

Seagrass acreages in Tampa Bay declined approximately 40 percent between 1950 and 1982. Much of this loss was due to indirect impacts associated with degraded water quality primarily resulting from nitrogen over-enrichment and related increases in algae concentration, causing light limitation to seagrass survival and growth. In 1980, all municipal wastewater treatment plants were required to provide Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) for discharges directly to the bay and its tributaries. In addition to the significant reductions in nitrogen loadings from municipal wastewater treatment plants, stormwater regulations enacted in the 1980s also resulted in reduced nitrogen loads to the bay. Estimates for average annual total nitrogen loadings to Tampa Bay in 1976 are more than 2.5 times as high as current estimates.

In response to projects funded and managed by SWIM and other nutrient load reduction efforts, water quality has measurably improved in all segments of the bay over the past 30-plus years. However, recent water quality declines in Old Tampa Bay, and other bay segments, resulted in a 16% loss of mapped seagrass between 2018 and 2020. During the 2022 seagrass mapping cycle Tampa Bay experienced another 12% loss bringing the total seagrass acres for Tampa Bay to 30,137 acres. Despite these losses, seagrass acreage in Tampa Bay still remains well above 1982 totals.

SWIM Plan

The kick-off meeting for the Tampa Bay SWIM Plan Update was held in February 2021 with Tampa Bay Estuary Program and the consultant. In 2021, water quality and natural systems issues and drivers were identified and water quality and habitat status and trends were summarized and presented at Technical Stakeholders meetings in 2021. Water Quality and Habitat action plans were presented at the Third and final Technical Stakeholders meeting in Spring 2022. A draft of the Tampa Bay SWIM plan was completed by the consultant when it was determined to delay completion of the draft plan to present

and discuss the 2022 seagrass mapping results for Tampa Bay. The draft SWIM plan is planned to be presented at a public workshop in 2023.

SWIM Projects

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 124 restoration projects and 105 water quality projects for Tampa Bay, totaling over 7,300 acres of restored habitats and nearly 85,000 acres of treated watershed.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Anna Maria BMPs Phase K – The City of Anna Maria led stormwater retrofit project for treatment of 53 acres of stormwater runoff is complete except for final invoices. Construction was completed in September 2022.

Anna Maria BMPs Phase L – A cooperatively funded project with the City of Anna Maria consisting of design, permitting, and construction of stormwater retrofits to treat 26 acres of stormwater runoff. Construction began in May 2022 and was completed by October 2022.

Anna Maria BMPs Phase M – A cooperatively funded project with the City of Anna Maria consisting of design, permitting, and construction of stormwater retrofits to improve water quality discharging to Tampa Bay. The funding agreement was executed in November 2022 and design underway. Design anticipated to be completed in Spring 2023.

Anna Maria North Island BMPs Phases H and J – A cooperatively funded project with the City of Anna Maria consisting of design, permitting, and construction of stormwater BMPS to treat 75 acres of urbanized stormwater runoff prior to discharging to Tampa Bay was completed in May 2022.

Bluff Restoration and Erosion Abatement – A cooperatively funded feasibility study with the Town of Belleair that will investigate the erosion of the bluff shoreline along Bayview Drive due to wave activity and groundwater discharge and develop options to address these issues maximizing natural system restoration opportunities and improving water quality through nutrient reduction BMPs. Agreement was executed in 2022.

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve – This natural system restoration project is in cooperation with St. Petersburg with the District as the lead. Design was completed in 2022 and bidding preparation is underway.

Central Holmes Beach Basins 6 and 7 – A cooperative funding project with the City of Holmes Beach. Design for Phases F, G, and H to treat approximately 30 acres of stormwater runoff began in 2022.

Channel 1A2 Stormwater Quality Improvements – A cooperatively project with Pinellas Park Water Management District to install stormwater BMPs to treat about 23 acres of stormwater runoff was completed in 2022.

Delaney Creek Improvements – Cooperatively funded project with Hillsborough County. Construction began for stormwater BMPs to treat 130 acres of highly urbanized watershed draining to Delaney Creek.

East Treasure Island Causeway BMPs – This is a cooperatively funded project with the City of Treasure Island. This project included construction of stormwater retrofits, to reduce pollutant loads to Boca Ciega Bay. The drainage area includes approximately 8 acres of urbanized watershed within the City of

St. Petersburg and right-of-way controlled by the City of Treasure Island. Construction completed as of June 2022.

Frog Creek Wetland Restoration at Terra Ceia – A District Initiative for hydrologic and natural systems enhancement and restoration of approximately 100 acres of interconnected borrow pits located on the approximately 129-acre District owned Frog Creek Tract in Manatee Count. Enhancements include the creation of littoral zones and the removal of exotic species. During 2022, 60% design was completed.

Gully Branch Upland Restoration – A District Initiative includes upland natural system restoration of 444 acres within the District owned Little Manatee River Corridor. The Contractor prepared the area for seeding in 2022.

Ibis Stormwater Pond Retrofit – Pinellas County completed construction of stormwater retrofits including baffle boxes, a littoral shelf with submerged aquatic vegetation, and rain gardens to reduce pollutant loads from 12.8 acres of residential watershed draining to Boca Ciega Bay.

Kracker Avenue Restoration – This is a District lead natural system restoration project on a 23-acre former fish farm. The Contractor paused construction in 2022 to acquire permits.

Lake Seminole Dredging Project – This cooperative project with Pinellas County includes the design, permitting and dredging of approximately 903,000 cubic yards of muck from Lake Seminole. Dredging was complete in 2020 and in 20222 closeout of the dredge material management area was ongoing with dewatering and site filling.

Little Manatee River Corridor: Area 8 Hydrologic Restoration – This is a District Initiative to restore natural systems on about 1,423 acres of District owned property on the Little Manatee River. In 2022, the final updated conceptual plan was approved in September and design began.

McIntosh Park Integrated Water Master Plan – This project includes design, third-party review, permitting, and construction of a 100-acre treatment wetland that will accept at least 1.5mgd reclaimed water to improve water quality discharging to Blackwater Creek, the Hillsborough River, and Tampa Bay. In 2022, the 60% design was completed and work began on the 90% design.

Mobbly Bayou – The Mobbly Bayou Preserve is comprised of 396 acres located in the City of Oldsmar, at the extreme northern end of Upper Tampa Bay. The Preserve is co-managed by the City of Oldsmar and Pinellas County. This project focuses on restoration and enhancement of tidal creeks and tidal habitats by recontouring using a technique known as hydro-blasting to reduce the spoil mounds allowing new mangrove habitat to become established and restoring tidal movement and duration of tidal inundation. In 2022, design and permitting were completed.

Nutrient Source Tracking – Review existing watershed data and conduct additional sampling to assess nutrient loading into the McKay Creek, Allen's Creek, and Curlew Creek watersheds using isotope analysis and development of a conceptual plan to reduce the nutrient sources. This cooperative study with Pinellas County completed data collection in 2022.

Philippe Bay Stormwater Quality Upgrades – This cooperatively funded project with the Philippe Bay Neighborhood Association includes the construction of stormwater retrofits to improve water quality discharging to Safety Harbor from approximately 27 acres of urban residential watershed. The cooperative funding agreement was executed in 2022.

Roosevelt Creek Channel 5 Improvements – Cooperative funding project with Pinellas County, agreement executed in 2022. Preliminary dredging and follow-up survey were completed for the 12 acres natural systems restoration on Channel 5 in the Roosevelt Creek watershed. Bid document finalization was underway in 2022.

Rubonia Subdivision Stormwater Management Improvements – This cooperative project with Manatee County involves construction of an enhanced stormwater management system to include wet ponds and baffle boxes providing enhanced treatment above permitting requirements for currently untreated runoff from the historic Rubonia subdivision to McMullen Creek in Manatee County, which flows into Tampa Bay. The drainage area includes approximately 41 acres of urbanized watershed. Construction was completed in December 2022.

Southeast Riverside Water Quality Improvements – The City of Palmetto is treating approximately 62 acres of stormwater runoff. Installation of the stormwater pond and associated structures commenced in 2022.

Starkey M10 Stormwater Facility Quality Improvements – This cooperative project with Marion County includes the construction of stormwater BMP retrofits to improve water quality discharging from 58 acres of residential watershed. The cooperative funding agreement was executed in 2022, with construction expected to start in 2023.

Study: Pearce Drain/Gap Creek Water Quality Plan – A cooperatively funded study with Manatee County for assessment of nutrients and to propose conceptual BMPs including stormwater improvements with an emphasis on Low Impact Development (LID) and/or natural system restoration projects in support of reducing nutrient loads in the 10 square mile watershed which discharges to Tampa Bay, a SWIM priority water body. This study was completed in July 2022.

Terra Ceia Huber and Frog Creek Upland (Terra Ceia Phase 2) – This project restored and enhanced approximately 83 acres of uplands on the Huber Tracts and 29 acres on the Frog Creek Tract. Restoration activities, including earthwork and native plantings, were completed in November 2020 and during 2022 the second year of maintenance for exotic and nuisance vegetation continued.

Weedon Island Tidal Marsh Restoration – This cooperative project with Pinellas County involves design, permitting, and construction of a natural system (hydrological) restoration project in Weedon Island Preserve. Works involve elimination of stagnant ditches, dredging of existing ditches to improve circulation, and restoration of diurnal sheet flow by removing spoil mounds. Design and permitting was completed in 2022. The construction contract is expected to be advertised in May 2023 with award by August.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

The District sponsored the Manatee County Water School, which educated approximately 20 attendees with a focus on water quality. In Hillsborough County, 13,500 sixth-grade students and 700 teachers and chaperones attended a three-day field trip program at Nature's Classroom. The facility is located along the banks of the Hillsborough River in the District's Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve.

- In addition, 160 students grades 4—7 attended Nature's Classroom's water-resource summer camp. Nature's Classroom also hosted a week-long workshop focused on the Hillsborough River Watershed for 16 Hillsborough County School District educators.
- In Pinellas County, 5,200 fourth-grade students and more than 840 teachers and chaperones attended field trip programs at either the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve or the Brooker Creek Environmental Education Center at the Brooker Creek Preserve. Students experience one of these watersheds by learning about the flora and fauna as well as participating in water quality testing, dip netting and more.
- In Manatee County, 12 educators from the Manatee County School District participated in a
 training with Around the Bend Nature Tours. The training took place at Emerson Point and
 mimicked the dip net estuary study field trip programming offered to students. Also, seven
 students and one teacher participated in the Manasota Regional Envirothon competition, where
 students were tested on a variety of topics, including water resources.

Sarasota Bay

Background

Sarasota Bay was identified as an estuary of national significance in the Water Quality Act of 1987. The District was the initial local program sponsor and played a major role in shaping the restoration plan. Subsequent to approval of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) in 1995, Sarasota Bay was added to the District's SWIM Priority List.

The Sarasota Bay restoration strategy focuses on improving juvenile fish habitat and restoring wetlands and seagrasses that were lost as a result of historic dredge and fill operations and pollution. Projects completed by the SWIM Program and other agencies have restored tidal and freshwater wetlands; created coastal upland habitats; and created bay bottom habitat.

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) Comprehensive Management Plan Development and Implementation is a project to coordinate the partnership between the SBEP and the District. The District has assisted in the implementation of the SBEP since its inception in 1989. The District participates in three main areas. First, the District's SWIM program carries out projects that will address water quality and habitat restoration within the Harbor. Second, pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, adopted in 2004, the District provides annual funding through the Annual Workplan Agreements with the SBEP to carry out the administration and implementation of projects identified in the SBEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Finally, the District provides staff to sit on the technical, management and policy (Governing member) committees of the program.

Seagrass

Seagrass acreages in Sarasota Bay have been declining since 2016. From 2020 to 2022 the bay lost more than 500 acres of seagrass, the greatest loss was in Sarasota Bay Proper. With this loss during the 2022 mapping cycle, Sarasota Bay reached a 15-year low of 9,962 acres; however, it is still well above the 1988 minimum of 8,712 acres. Field verification has proven that some areas are starting to recolonize but too sparse of coverage to be included during aerial imagery mapping. The next mapping cycle will be in 2024.

SWIM Projects

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 39 restoration projects and 14 water quality projects for Sarasota Bay, totaling more than 900 acres of restored habitat and over 39,000 acres of treated watershed.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Bradenton Beach BMPs Avenues B and C – This cooperative project with City of Bradenton Beach includes the design, permitting and construction of stormwater BMPs to treat 34 acres of urbanized stormwater runoff discharging to Sarasota Bay. Design and permitting were completed in 2020 and during 2022 construction was underway and 50% completed.

City of Sarasota Created Wetlands System – This cooperative project with the City of Sarasota for construction of an 18-acre wetland system that will treat runoff from 5,800 acres of urbanized

watershed. Construction began in 2022 and most earthmoving was completed. Planting will be undertaken in summer 2023.

Sarasota County Denitrification Study – This is a cooperatively funded project with Sarasota County assessing groundwater nutrient statuses and identifying areas with the greatest opportunity for groundwater nutrient reductions. During 2022, a consultant was selected by the County.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- In 2022, the District launched a new Southern Coastal Virtual Watershed Excursion with coordinating teacher's guide that educates the public about the journey water takes into Sarasota Bay and the surrounding area.
- In Sarasota County, 1,584 fifth-grade students and over 185 teachers and chaperones attended
 field trip programs led by Around the Bend Nature Tours to learn about Sarasota Bay at either
 Ken Thompson Park or Bay Preserve. Activities included water quality testing, dip netting, nature
 walks and more. Also, 52 students and five teachers participated in the Manasota Regional
 Envirothon competition, where students were tested on a variety of topics, including water
 resources.

Charlotte Harbor

Background

Charlotte Harbor is a District SWIM Priority Waterbody and has also been declared an estuary of national significance through its inclusion in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program (USEPA) in 1995. As a result of this designation, the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program (CHNEP) (formerly known as the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program) was established to assist the region in developing a comprehensive plan for the restoration and protection of Charlotte Harbor.

Charlotte Harbor is Florida's second largest open water estuary and is considered one of the most productive estuarine systems on the west coast of Florida. Because of its productivity, it has become a world-class destination for recreational fishing. Significant habitat losses within the harbor and its watershed have been documented and have been attributed to a variety of human activities. In the headwaters of the Peace and Myakka Rivers, large tracts of pine flatwoods, sandhill scrub, and other habitat types have been converted to agricultural land uses. In the Upper Peace River, much of the watershed has also been converted to phosphate mines. In the lower Peace and Myakka Rivers, oncelarge expanses of salt marsh and mangrove habitats have been drained and filled and replaced by residential housing in finger-fill canal communities. Charlotte Harbor is the home for more than forty species of animals listed by the state as either endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program

Partners in the CHNEP include the Southwest Florida and South Florida Water Management Districts, USEPA, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, other state and federal agencies, and local governments from the watershed. The goals and strategies for the Harbor are identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Charlotte Harbor which provides guidance to each entity on their contribution to restore the Harbor. The District participates in three main areas. First, the District's SWIM program carries out projects that will address water quality and habitat restoration within the Harbor. Second, the District has contributed annual funding through the Annual Workplan Agreements with the CHNEP since 1997 to carry out the administration and implementation of projects identified in the CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. And finally, the District provides staff to sit on the technical, management and policy (Governing member) committees of the program. The District's annual budget includes funding support to the CHNEP and District staff salaries and travel to administer the project, which includes attending board meetings and other workshops and invoicing.

The District cooperatively funded a project with CHNEP to develop and propose Numeric Nutrient Criteria to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for each of the segments within the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The FDEP adopted these criteria by rule in June 2012 and the US Environmental Protection Agency approved these rules in November 2012.

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative

The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative (CHFI) is a multi-agency initiative lead by the South Florida Water Management District to restore flows, promote sheet flow enhancement, and restore wetland hydroperiods in Babcock Webb and Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Area (WMA); and improve the

timing and magnitude of flows to tidal creeks west of Yucca Pens WMA. The FY2020 Cooperative Agreement with CHNEP included funds to support the CHFI through installation and maintenance of hydrologic monitoring stations (wells, rain gages and flow monitoring) and collection of data from these stations. During 2022, District funded data collection contributed to the development of a baseline hydrological model and scenarios were tested to determine the hydrological benefits of remedying artificial drainage from ATV trails on the Yucca Pens WMA as well as storing and routing excess water from Babcock Webb. District staff provided technical comment on modelling and associated reports to assist the CHNEP.

Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network

The Coastal Charlotte Harbor Monitoring Network (CCHMN) is an ongoing project to monitor water quality in Charlotte Harbor. The purpose of the project is to establish long-term water quality monitoring stations in Charlotte Harbor and the estuarine areas of the Peace and Myakka Rivers. The CCHMN is a collaborative effort, which began in 2000, between the District, Charlotte County and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). Water clarity data and seagrass acreage have been collected since 2002 through the CCHMN and the District, respectively. Data collected through the CCHMN are essential for planning and management of habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects and providing data for comparison to water quality targets adopted by the CHNEP and the State. In August 2009, CHNEP adopted seagrass targets for each of the segments in Charlotte Harbor.

The CCHMN is implemented through the District's Annual Workplan Agreements with the CHNEP. Through a separate agreement with CHNEP, the FFWCC is responsible for collection of samples at 30 randomly selected sites per month, in accordance with the CCHMN Standard Operating Procedures. CHNEP is responsible for coordinating with the County to ensure that the County continues funding laboratory analyses of all water quality parameters including nutrients, color and turbidity. CHNEP also is responsible for water quality data compilation, quality assurance/quality control, and submission of the data to the District. The District is responsible for the upload of the data to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) database for water quality data.

Seagrass

Seagrass acreage in Charlotte Harbor has been declining since 2016. From 2020 to 2022 the bay lost approximately 2% of grass or more than 300 acres. With this loss during the 2022 mapping cycle, Charlotte Harbor is at an all-time historic low of just over 14,000 acres. Some areas, such as the West Wall, had an increase in acres of patchy beds but lost acres of continuous beds. The greatest loss was along the northern section of the East Wall, where drift algae persists and attached algae continues to expand. The next mapping cycle will be in 2024.

SWIM Projects

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 28 restoration projects, totaling more than 5,200 acres of restored coastal habitats. Since 2004, the District and its cooperators have completed 12 water quality improvement projects that are providing treatment for over 98,000 acres of watershed.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Cape Haze Phase 3 Ecosystem Restoration – The 3rd phase within the approximately 2,600-acre Coral Creek property, co-owned by the District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), includes the design and permitting of approximately 680 acres of coastal restoration. The project will create and enhance natural systems, including estuarine and freshwater wetlands and adjacent uplands. The 30% design was completed in 2022.

Crystal Lake Water Quality Improvement Study – This cooperative feasibility study to evaluate nutrient reduction sediment treatment options to improve water quality in Crystal Lake with the City of Lakeland. During 2022, data collection was completed in August.

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve – District initiated project to improve wetland quality in Deer Prairie Creek, a property co-owned by the District and Sarasota County. During 2022, securing the services of a consultant for design, permitting and CEI services.

Dona Bay Surface Water Storage Facility – This is a cooperatively funded project with Sarasota County and includes a third-party review and construction of a 380-acre surface water storage and treatment facility to improve water quality in Dona Bay. This facility is the second stage of the implementation plan for the Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan. In 2022, the third party review was completed and the County began construction.

Lake Annie Surface Water Feasibility Study – This cooperative study was completed in 2022 and investigated the diversion of water from the Peace Creek Canal to a series of previously excavated areas for wetland habitat restoration and water quality improvement for Lake Annie.

Lake Hancock Natural Systems Enhancements – This cooperative project with Polk County will establish a minimum of 35 acres of planted native emergent/submerged aquatic vegetation in Lake Hancock. During 2022, the agreement with the County was executed.

Lake June-in-Winter Catfish Creek BMPs – This is a cooperatively funded water quality project with Highlands County to install BMPs for treatment of approximately 2,760 acres of Catfish Creek watershed. In 2022, a consultant contract was executed and design commenced.

Myakka State Forest Water Quality and Bank Stabilization – Construction project initiated by the District to stabilize wetland shorelines and improve water quality conditions within Myakka State Forest. During 2022, construction was underway.

Park Avenue Streetscape Improvements – This is a cooperatively funded water quality project with the City of Lake Wales to implement stormwater BMP's including rain gardens. In 2022, project bidding was in progress and construction is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Study: Lake Parker Restoration – This is a cooperatively funded feasibility study with the City of Lakeland for a wetland swamp that discharges to Lake Parker. Data collection of water quality parameters with in the swamp began in 2022 and a draft report is anticipated in 2023.

Study: Ridge to Rivers Feasibility – This is a cooperatively funded feasibility study with Polk County assessing potential natural systems restoration opportunities in the southern portion of the county

between the Lake Wales Ridge and Peace River. During 2022, the agreement with the County was executed.

Study: Upper Peace River Feasibility – This is a cooperatively funded feasibility study with Polk County assessing potential natural systems restoration opportunities along the upper Peace River corridor. During 2022, the agreement with the County was executed.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- In 2022, the District launched a new Peace River Virtual Watershed Excursion with coordinating teacher's guide that educates the public about the journey water takes down the Peace River and into the Charlotte Harbor.
- In Charlotte County, 1,840 fourth-grade students and 104 teachers and chaperones attended field trip programs with the Charlotte Harbor Education Center at either Alligator Creek Preserve, the lower Peace River, Cedar Point Environmental Park or Lemon Bay. Students experience the Peace River watershed at one of these locations by learning about the wildlife, participating in water quality testing and more. Also led by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Education center, more than 795 second grade students and 43 teachers and chaperones learned about Charlotte Harbor by participating in a one-hour seagrass wading field trip.
- In Hardee County, 250 fifth-grade students and 16 teachers attended a field study program led by the Outdoor Classroom. During the field trip, students board a boat in Punta Gorda to study Charlotte Harbor.

Spring Systems

It has been recognized in statute that the spring systems of the state are a public value as they "provide immeasurable natural, recreational, economic and inherent value" to the citizens of the state of Florida (F.S. 373.801). The quality of a spring is a function of aquifer health, and aquifer health is a function of springshed land-use. Primary protection of spring systems involves protection of the spring vent as well as the spring runs and associated shorelines. Secondary protection comes in the form of addressing intensive land-use within the springshed, particularly adjacent to the spring run and where high recharge soils occur. Many spring systems in Florida have experienced significant ecological shifts caused by both natural variability and human activities. To address these issues and recognizing that one entity alone cannot do it all, the District created a multi-stakeholder partnership called the Springs Coast Steering Committee (SCSC) in August 2014. The District formulates plans to address adverse issues with each of the five springs systems for the SCSC to consider and approve. This process assures that projects are focused on improvements to these spring systems. The main issues facing the springs systems include:

- Elevated Nitrate Concentrations
- Reduced Volume and Streamflow
- Reduced Water Clarity
- Altered Aquatic Vegetation Community
- Sea-level Rise (Crystal River/Kings Bay)
- Changing Salinity (Homosassa River)
- Sedimentation (Weeki Wachee River)

There are five spring-systems in the SWIM Priority Waterbody list. The SWIM efforts for these systems are summarized below.

Spring	Size	Watershed (Square Miles)	Springshed (Square Miles)	Total Restoration or Water Quality Projects
Chassahowitzka River	6 River Miles	91.7	168	2
Crystal River/Kings Bay	600 Acres	68.7	255	20
Homosassa River	8 River Miles	55.7	286	2
Rainbow River	6 River Miles	73.5	741	15
Weeki Wachee River	7.8 River Miles	38.1	277	2

SWIM Plans

The SWIM Plans for all springs are divided into water quality, water quantity, and natural systems. Refinements to the quantifiable objectives in the Springs' SWIM Plans were initiated in 2020. Refinements to the Rainbow River quantifiable objectives were approved by the Springs Coast Steering Committee in July 2021. In 2022, the Springs Coast Steering Committee approved refinements to the quantifiable objectives for Crystal River/Kings Bay and Weeki Wachee.

Seagrass Mapping

For the Springs Coast region including the estuaries of Crystal Bay, Homosassa River, Chassahowitzka River, and Weeki Wachee River, the most recent seagrass maps were released in December 2021. These maps are created through photointerpretation of aerial imagery collected for the specific purpose of

mapping seagrass and other submerged habitat. Unlike other areas in the state of Florida experiencing significant seagrass habitat loss, the Springs Coast region has remained remarkably stable. In 2016 there were 577,920 mapped acres of seagrass habitat. In 2020, the total was 586,512 acres, a slight (1.5%) increase over the four-year period. The next mapping cycle for Springs Coast is scheduled for 2024.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) communities are significant contributors to ecosystem structure and function in spring systems and provide important ecosystem services including food and habitat for wildlife, nutrient cycling and removal, suspended particle filtration, sediment stabilization, and water clarity improvement. In recognition of the importance of SAV, the District assesses the status and trends of the SAV twice a year in each SWIM priority springs system. Water quality and other parameters, such as specific conductance, turbidity, flow velocity, tree canopy cover, and substrate type are also collected during sampling efforts. These parameters help to determine the causes of spatial distribution and changes over time of the SAV communities. This data is also used in support of monitoring the quantifiable objectives in the SWIM plans and the associated MFL reevaluations for each system.

Project Coast is a long-term continuous monitoring network that maintains situational awareness for the entire Spring Coast and reinforces the "Springshed to Sea" approach to managing natural resources in the Spring Coast region. These data are crucial to assessing the status and trends in surface water quality along the Springs Coast, home to the second largest sea grass area in the United States. These data are used in conjunction with the District's Springs Coast Seagrass Mapping project to investigate the effects of water quality on sea grass coverage and vice versa. Samples are collected at 60 stations quarterly to match the schedule currently employed for Quarterly Springs and Coastal Rivers sampling. Water quality analyses for this project are performed by the District Laboratory.

Septic to Sewer Conversions

In recognition of the importance of reducing nitrate concentrations in our springs, the District continues to work with local municipalities, including cities and counties, on multiple septic conversion projects through the Cooperative Funding Initiative and the FDEP Springs Funding Program. These projects are anticipated to improve water quality by reducing nutrient loads to the systems.

Education and Outreach

An important aspect of springs management is education and outreach. The springs and rivers in our region have been growing in popularity, and there are concerns that increased visitor traffic has led to degradation of these resources. The District and its partners are educating the public about the recreational best management practices that will help protect these systems and reduce ecological impacts. Since activities within springsheds impact groundwater, and therefore, affect the water flowing from a spring, best management practices have been developed to inform the public on how they can also protect local springs from home. Increasing the public's awareness of the issues related to springs and encouraging good stewardship are critical to protecting our Outstanding Florida Springs.

Chassahowitzka River

Background

The Chassahowitzka River is a first-magnitude spring system and is designated by the state as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and a SWIM Priority Waterbody. The Chassahowitzka River is a tidally influenced spring-fed river and associated estuary that originates from multiple spring vents and numerous spring-fed creeks that join the river as it flows towards the Gulf of Mexico in Citrus County. Aquatic plant life can be abundant in the upper river, and numerous wildlife, bird, and fish species are found in this coastal river. The Chassahowitzka River springshed, which contributes groundwater to the Chassahowitzka Springs, includes upland forests, urban areas, agricultural activities, and wetland forests. This springshed covers portions of Citrus and Hernando counties. The lower half of the Chassahowitzka River is part of the more than 31,000-acre Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. While the river's shoreline is mostly natural, the headsprings area contains a small marina with a public boat ramp. A nearby residential community is connected to the headsprings through a canal system.

SWIM Plan

In August 2017, the SCSC approved the Chassahowitzka River SWIM Plan. The Plan identifies four main issues facing the Chassahowitzka River: (1) Nitrate Enrichment, (2) Changing Salinity, (3) Potential Decrease in Historic Flows, and (4) Altered Aquatic Vegetation. The SWIM Plan also identifies several numeric targets or quantifiable objectives that represent long-term goals used to develop management actions and projects to help track success. Management actions and projects identified in the Chassahowitzka River SWIM Plan are divided into the three focus areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Natural Systems (Habitat). For Water Quality the priority management actions address septic tanks, urban & residential fertilizer use, and agricultural operations. For Water Quantity, priority management actions address conservation and minimum flows and levels. For Natural Systems, priority management actions address monitoring & research, and habitat conservation.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

The District assesses the status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation twice a year in the Chassahowitzka River. The most abundant species in the Chassahowitzka River include *Vallisneria americana* (eelgrass), *Najas guadalupensis* (southern naiad), *Zannichellia palustris* (horned pondweed), *Chaetomorpha spp.* (sea emerald), *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian milfoil), *Hydrilla verticillata* (water thyme), and filamentous algae. Some of the major drivers of spatial distribution and change over time in the Chassahowitzka River's SAV communities include salinity fluctuations and herbivory by animals including manatees.

The District's Coastal Rivers Water Quality Monitoring Network began in October of 2005 for monitoring surface water quality in the Chassahowitzka River. Five stations are sampled quarterly for a suite of water quality parameters including total nitrogen, total phosphorous, nitrate, phosphate, chlorophyll-a, turbidity, color, and clarity. This project represents the most consistent, long-term water quality dataset for the Chassahowitzka River.

The District's Springs Water Quality Monitoring Network has been sampling individual spring vents, at least quarterly, to monitor water quality in the Chassahowitzka Springs complex since 1993. This network is the primary source of data tracking nitrates and other potential pollutants in our springs.

SWIM Projects

In January 2014, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District approved inclusion of the Chassahowitzka River as a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Summarizing 2014-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 1 restoration project, 1 water quality project, and 9 ecological studies for Chassahowitzka River.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- Launched the Chassahowitzka River education campaign, which included a total social media outreach of nearly 600,000 and garnered three media stories. The campaign ran from March 2022 through Labor Day 2022.
- Held a cleanup event at the river with District staff.

Crystal River/Kings Bay

Background

The Crystal River/Kings Bay complex is designated by the state as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Kings Bay is a spring-fed estuary with an average depth of 3-10 feet and forms the headwaters of the Crystal River. The Crystal River flows from southeast to northwest flowing to the Gulf of Mexico. Collectively, King Bay's numerous springs and countless seeps form the sixth largest spring system in Florida, by discharge. With over 70 documented springs and an average water temperature ranging between 66-76 degrees Fahrenheit, Kings Bay forms the largest natural warm water refuge for the Florida Manatee in the United States. In recent years, new record counts are a regular occurrence with over 500 manatees recorded during the winter months in Kings Bay. Crystal River/Kings Bay has become one of the largest tourist destinations for manatee viewing in the nation.

While the system is best known for manatees, it is also home to a rich diversity of other species. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has observed 21 species of amphibians, 47 species of reptiles, 191 species of birds, and 22 species of mammals; including 26 state or federally protected species.

SWIM Plan

In January 2016, the SCSC approved the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan. The Plan identifies four main issues facing Crystal River/Kings Bay: (1) Sea-level Rise, (2) Reduced Water Clarity, (3) Altered Aquatic Vegetation Community, and (4) Elevated Nitrate Concentrations in the Springs. The SWIM Plan also identifies several numeric targets or quantifiable objectives that represent long-term goals used to develop management actions and projects to help track success. Management actions and projects identified in the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan are divided into the three focus areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Natural Systems (Habitat). For Water Quality the priority management actions address septic tanks, stormwater, and urban & residential fertilizer use. For Water Quantity, priority management actions address minimum flows and levels and water conservation. For Natural Systems, priority management actions address habitat restoration and habitat conservation.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

The District assesses the status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation twice a year in Kings Bay. The most abundant species in the Kings Bay include *Vallisneria americana* (eelgrass), *Najas guadalupensis* (southern naiad), *Hydrilla verticillata* (water thyme), and filamentous algae. Some of the major drivers of spatial distribution and change over time in Kings Bay's SAV communities include competition from exotic invasive species, salinity fluctuations, and herbivory by animals including manatees.

Kings Bay water quality monitoring began in June of 2003. The monitoring consists of twelve bay-wide stations which are monitored on a quarterly basis to track water quality status and trends.

SWIM Projects

The first SWIM plan for Crystal River/Kings Bay was completed in 1989. Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 8 restoration projects, 12 water quality projects, and 21 ecological studies for Crystal River/Kings Bay.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Three Sisters Canal Shoreline Stabilization – This project is to design, permit and construct a stabilization project for canal shoreline surrounding the Three Sisters Springs Wildlife Refuge, co-owned by the District and the City. The USACOE permit was received and final design was completed in 2022. The Request for Bid was submitted in Fall 2022 to solicit a construction contractor for the project. Construction is anticipated to occur between April and November 2023.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- Coordinated social media outreach with specific messaging about protecting springs. That social media reach was nearly 300,000.
- The District hosted a kayak tour of Three Sisters Springs for Save Our Waters Week.
- The District published a column in the Citrus County Chronicle for Save Our Waters Week.
- The District provided publishing support to Save Our Waters Week organizers to design and print educational brochures.
- The District provided funding for educational signage at the Three Sisters Springs Visitor Center, which opened in July 2022. A Governing board member and District staff spoke at the event and a video for social media on the event was produced.
- The District funded hands-on field trip programs where students learned first-hand about the
 importance of Crystal River/Kings Bay and local water resources while visiting the Citrus County
 Marine Science Station. The program reached 999 fourth-grade students, 749 seventh-grade
 students, 423 high school students, and 74 teachers. The District also provided funds to offset
 the cost of summer camp programming at the Marine Science Station that reached 58 middle
 school students and 27 high school students.

Homosassa River

Background

The Homosassa River is a first-magnitude tidal spring system and is designated by the state as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and a SWIM Priority Waterbody. The Homosassa River is a slow-moving tidal river from the headsprings to the Gulf of Mexico at Homosassa Bay in Citrus County, Florida. The Homosassa River springshed, which contributes groundwater to the brackish Homosassa Springs, contains altered urbanized and agricultural lands, and natural forested uplands and wetlands. This springshed covers portions of Citrus and Hernando counties. The springs have been a tourist attraction since the early 1900s, when trains would stop to let rail passengers rest at the springs. The headsprings are located within the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park, which serves as a wildlife rehabilitation center for orphaned or injured manatees and other animals. Manatees, along with many freshwater and saltwater fish, can be seen year-round at the park's fishbowl observatory.

SWIM Plan

In August 2017, the SCSC approved the Homosassa River SWIM Plan. The Plan identifies four main issues facing the Homosassa River: (1) Nitrate Enrichment, (2) Changing Salinity, (3) Potential Decrease in Historic Flows, and (4) Altered Aquatic Vegetation. The SWIM Plan also identifies several numeric targets or quantifiable objectives that represent long-term goals used to develop management actions and projects to help track success. Management actions and projects identified in the Homosassa River SWIM Plan are divided into the three focus areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Natural Systems (Habitat). For Water Quality the priority management actions address septic tanks, urban & residential fertilizer use, and agricultural operations. For Water Quantity, priority management actions address conservation and minimum flows and levels. For Natural Systems, priority management actions address monitoring & research, and habitat restoration.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

The District assesses the status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation twice a year in the Homosassa River. The most abundant species in the Homosassa River include *Vallisneria americana* (eelgrass), *Najas guadalupensis* (southern naiad), *Zannichellia palustris* (horned pondweed), *Chaetomorpha spp.* (sea emerald), and filamentous algae. Some of the major drivers of spatial distribution and change over time in the Homosassa River's SAV communities include salinity fluctuations, sediment accumulation, and herbivory by animals including manatees.

The District's Coastal Rivers Water Quality Monitoring Network began in October of 2005 for monitoring surface water quality in the Homosassa River. Five stations are sampled quarterly for a suite of water quality parameters including total nitrogen, total phosphorous, nitrate, phosphate, chlorophyll-a, turbidity, color, and clarity. This project represents the most consistent, long-term water quality dataset for the Homosassa River.

The District's Springs Water Quality Monitoring Network has been sampling individual spring vents, at least quarterly, to monitor water quality in the Homosassa Springs complex since 1993. This network is the primary source of data tracking nitrates and other potential pollutants in our springs.

SWIM Projects

As of January 2014, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District approved inclusion of the Homosassa River as a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Summarizing 2014-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 1 restoration project, 1 water quality project, and 9 ecological studies for Homosassa River.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

• Coordinated social media outreach with specific messaging about protecting springs. That social media reach was nearly 300,000.

Rainbow River

Background

The Rainbow River is an important natural resource to the people of the state of Florida. From an ecological perspective, the river has an abundance of diverse plant communities providing excellent habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. Rainbow River's natural beauty makes the river an important recreational resource. Over 200,000 people visit the river annually to dive, swim, boat, and fish. Of the 33 first magnitude springs in the State of Florida, Rainbow Springs, forming the headwaters of the Rainbow River, is the fourth largest in terms of discharge. The Rainbow River discharges an average of 763 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 493 million gallons per day (mgd) into the Withlacoochee River, just upstream of Lake Rousseau. The Rainbow River, because of exceptional scenic beauty and its ecological significance, has been designated by the State to be an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW), an Aquatic Preserve, and a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Also, in 1972 Rainbow Springs was designated a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

Overall, the Rainbow River is an ecologically healthy system. However, the river should not be thought of as being pristine. Past human activities over the last 150 years have significantly altered the character of the river, especially in the lower reaches. Most of the watershed remains largely rural, but parts of the watershed are rapidly losing their rural character. Land use immediately surrounding the Rainbow River has slowly transitioned from mining and agriculture to residential. Future residential and commercial development throughout the Rainbow River watershed is expected to increase and could compromise the status of the river and its many springs.

SWIM Plan

In December 2015, the SCSC approved the Rainbow River SWIM Plan. The Plan identifies four main issues facing the Rainbow River: (1) Elevated Nitrate Concentrations, (2) Reduced Water Clarity in the Lower River, (3) Long-term Streamflow Reduction, and (4) Altered Aquatic Vegetation Community. The SWIM Plan also identifies several numeric targets or quantifiable objectives that represent long-term goals used to develop management actions and projects to help track success. Management actions and projects identified in the Rainbow River SWIM Plan are divided into the three focus areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Natural Systems (Habitat). For Water Quality the priority management actions address agricultural operations and septic tanks. For Water Quantity, priority management actions address water conservation and minimum flows and levels. For Natural Systems, priority management actions address invasive species management and recreation management.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

The District assesses the status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation twice a year in Rainbow River. The most abundant species in Rainbow River include *Sagittaria kurziana* (strap-leaf Sagittaria), *Vallisneria americana* (eelgrass), *Najas guadalupensis* (southern naiad), *Ludwigia repens* (primrose willow), *Hydrilla verticillata* (water thyme), and filamentous algae. Some of the major drivers of spatial distribution and change over time in the Rainbow River's SAV communities include competition from exotic invasive species and recreation and herbivory by animals including manatees.

SWIM Projects

The first SWIM plan for Rainbow River was completed in 1989. Summarizing 1989-2021, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 1 restoration project, 14 water quality projects, and 14 ecological studies for Rainbow River.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Investigation of Iron Stimulation of Filamentous Algal Growth in Rainbow River – A study to investigate whether there is a correlation between iron concentrations and filamentous algae growth in Rainbow River was completed in 2022.

Rainbow Springs 5th Replat Stormwater Retrofit – This cooperative project with Marion County includes the construction of stormwater BMP retrofits to improve water quality discharging from 58 acres of residential watershed. The cooperative funding agreement was executed in 2022, with construction expected to start in 2023.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- Coordinated social media outreach with specific messaging about protecting springs. That social media reach was nearly 300,000.
- The District sponsored the Marion County Water School, which educated approximately 20 attendees with a focus on water quality.

Weeki Wachee River

Background

The Weeki Wachee River is a first-magnitude spring system and is designated by the state as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and a SWIM Priority Waterbody. The Weeki Wachee River flows from the headspring to the Gulf of Mexico at Bayport in Hernando County, Florida. Most of the river's spring flow comes from the main headspring; however, springs of Twin Dees, Salt, and Mud River contribute to the overall river discharge as well. The river is relatively narrow and stream-like in the upper portion, and gradually widens as it reaches the Gulf. The Weeki Wachee River springshed, which contributes groundwater to Weeki Wachee Springs, is comprised of urban areas, agricultural lands, and forested uplands. This springshed covers portions of Hernando and Pasco counties. The headspring is home to Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, which features a water park and the famous underwater mermaid show.

SWIM Plan

In March 2017, the SCSC approved the Weeki Wachee River SWIM Plan. The Plan identifies four main issues facing the Weeki Wachee River: (1) Nitrate Enrichment, (2) Potential decrease in historic flows, (3) Altered Aquatic Vegetation, and (4) Sedimentation. The SWIM Plan also identifies several numeric targets or quantifiable objectives that represent long-term goals used to develop management actions and projects to help track success.

Management actions and projects identified in the Weeki Wachee River SWIM Plan are divided into the three focus areas: (1) Water Quality, (2) Water Quantity, and (3) Natural Systems (Habitat). For Water Quality the priority management actions address septic tanks, urban & residential fertilizer use, and agricultural operations. For Water Quantity, priority management actions address conservation and alternative water supply. For Natural Systems, priority management actions address habitat conservation and recreation management.

SAV and Water Quality Monitoring

The District assesses the status and trends of submerged aquatic vegetation twice a year in the Weeki Wachee River. The most abundant species in the Weeki Wachee River include *Vallisneria americana* (eelgrass), *Najas guadalupensis* (southern naiad), *Hydrilla verticillata* (water thyme), and filamentous algae. Some of the major drivers of spatial distribution and change over time in the Weeki Wachee River's SAV communities include sedimentation and recreation.

The District's Coastal Rivers Water Quality Monitoring Network began monitoring surface water quality in the Weeki Wachee River in October 2005. Five stations are sampled quarterly for a suite of water quality parameters including total nitrogen, total phosphorous, nitrate, phosphate, chlorophyll-a, turbidity, color, and clarity. This project represents the most consistent, long-term water quality dataset for the Weeki Wachee River.

The District's Springs Water Quality Monitoring Network has been sampling individual spring vents, at least quarterly, to monitor water quality in the Weeki Wachee Springs complex since 1993. This network is the primary source of data tracking nitrates and other potential pollutants in our springs.

SWIM Projects

As of January 2014, the Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District approved inclusion of the Weeki Wachee as a SWIM Priority Waterbody. Summarizing 2014-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 2 water quality projects and 8 ecological studies for Weeki Wachee.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Weeki Wachee River Restoration – District led sediment removal to benefit the river's ecosystem. The District received funding from the state's General Appropriations Act for the evaluation, design, and permitting that were completed in 2019. Additional state funding was requested and approved in the 2020 legislative session for project implementation. Construction is ongoing.

Weeki Wachee Sediment Management Structures – District led design and permitting of natural sediment management structures, also known as submerged woody habitat arrays, at locations along the Weeki Wachee River to maintain sediment transport continuity and provide aquatic habitat. In 2022, design was ongoing.

Weeki Wachee Springshed Nitrogen Removal Stormwater Retrofits – This is a cooperatively funded project with Hernando County to retrofit existing urban drainage retention areas with denitrification cells. Construction on the project continued in 2022.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

- Launched the second year of the Weeki Wachee education campaign which included
 distributing more than 10,000 educational materials to nearly 60 businesses; three media
 stories; reaching nearly 600,000 on social media with "Weeki Wednesday" posts; two new
 videos; two new river signs and 20 framed educational messages for 50 vacation rentals.
- Attended Art in the Park in Brooksville to promote the Weeki Wachee education campaign and hand out educational materials.
- Funded hands-on field trip programs for students in Hernando County to attend the Springs
 Coast Environmental Education Center. The program reached 1,491 second-grade students,
 1,498 fourth-grade students, 1,609 fifth-grade students, 1,088 sixth-grade students and 340
 teachers and chaperones.
- On March 1, 2022, the District held a public meeting for Weeki Wachee River Restoration with around 60 attendees.

Lake Systems

When a river, lake, estuary, or spring does not meet state water quality standards, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) determines a water quality restoration goal known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that will restore the waterbody so that it meets its standards. TMDLs address a specific impairment for a waterbody; therefore, a waterbody may have multiple TMDLs to address different pollutants.

Along with setting TMDLs, FDEP sets minimum water levels for lakes. Section 373.042(1), F.S. defines minimum flows and minimum water levels (MFLs) as the point at which further water withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area. As a part of fulfilling its mission and statutory responsibilities, the District establishes MFLs for priority waterbodies within our boundaries. MFLs are used both in planning for future water uses and in regulating water withdrawals. For waterbodies that are below their minimum flow, minimum level, or are projected to fall below their minimum flow or level within 20 years, the District is required to implement a recovery or prevention strategy to ensure the MFL is maintained over the long term.

There are four lake systems in the SWIM Priority Waterbody list.

Lake	Surface Area (Acres)	Watershed (Square Miles)	Number of Restoration or Water Quality Projects	Number of Studies
Lake Panasoffkee	3,200	230	3	3
Lake Tarpon	2,534	57.5	9	8
Lake Thonotosassa	800	49.1	5	2
Winter Haven Chain of Lakes	7516 (Total)	32.5	13	4

Lake Panasoffkee

Lake Panasoffkee, a SWIM Priority Waterbody and an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW), is the largest lake in Sumter County. Historically, the lake has supported a nationally renowned sport fishery, especially for red-ear sunfish. An estimate of angler expenditures on Lake Panasoffkee conducted in 1998 yielded a value of approximately \$2.0 million. This fishery, along with the natural resource values of the lake, makes Lake Panasoffkee important to the local and regional economy and the environment. The lake has a surface water area of approximately 3,200 acres. The lake is considered shallow with a maximum depth of approximately ten feet. Direct surface water inflows to Panasoffkee include Big Jones and Little Jones Creeks on the northern end and Shady Brook on the southern end. However, much of this surface water flow is attributed to spring discharges in the stream channels. Therefore, groundwater accounts for more than 40 percent of the lake's inflows. The only discharge from the lake is the Outlet River, which flows from the western shore of the lake to the Withlacoochee River.

Due to the substantial influence of groundwater on the lake, water quality in Lake Panasoffkee has been considered good since the initial Lake Panasoffkee SWIM Plan was drafted in 1989. The Trophic State Index (TSI) remained relatively unchanged since 1977.

While water quality in Lake Panasoffkee has been considered good, diagnostic studies completed by the SWIM Program in 1995 provided evidence that aesthetic and recreational uses of the lake had been impacted. Concerned for the health of Lake Panasoffkee, the Legislature passed Chapter 98-69, Laws of Florida, creating the Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council (Council) within the District. The Council's November 25, 1998 Report to the Legislature identified sediment accumulation and encroachment of emergent vegetation as the primary issues threatening the lake.

That report, which established a Restoration Plan for Lake Panasoffkee, was incorporated into the April 2000 update of the Lake Panasoffkee SWIM Plan. The Restoration Plan consisted of a multi-step dredging project to improve fisheries habitat, restore the historic shoreline and facilitate navigation. The restoration project, which was completed in 2008, restored approximately 175 acres of historic fish bedding areas, restored the historic lake shoreline, increased open water area of the lake by 37%, and removed an approximated 8.3 million cubic yards of sediment.

Following the completion of the dredging in 2008, the District initiated a long-term monitoring program for Lake Panasoffkee. The District continues to track water quality and water clarity changes. Field parameters and water quality samples are collected at four stations on Lake Panasoffkee on a quarterly basis. The stations are located at the north, central, south, and outlet canal areas of the lake.

The District continues to monitor discharge through the Outlet River to ensure suitable outflow occurs. In addition, water quality data is collected on a bi-weekly basis to help promote optimal water quality conditions in Lake Panasoffkee and to assist operational decisions on the Wysong-Coogler Water Conservation Structure.

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 3 restoration projects and 3 ecological studies for Lake Panasoffkee for a total of approximately 1,744 acres of restored wetlands.

Lake Tarpon

Lake Tarpon, an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW), is also a waterbody on the District's SWIM Priority List. Due to its reputation as a largemouth bass sport fishery, the lake was designated as a State Fish Management Area by a Special Resolution of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in 1963. This sport fishery, along with historically good water quality and the existence of two regional County parks on its shore made Lake Tarpon a significant environmental, economic, and recreational resource in the Tampa Bay area. Lake Tarpon is the largest freshwater lake in the Tampa Bay area. The lake is relatively shallow with a mean depth of seven (7) feet. The major source of surface water inflow is through Brooker Creek, which enters the lake at its lower southeastern corner. The Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal and Structure serves as the only surface water outfall for the lake. This canal and structure operated and maintained by the District connects the southernmost end of the lake with Old Tampa Bay and is intended to provide flood control for the Lake Tarpon watershed.

The first indication of degraded water quality in Lake Tarpon was a blue-green algae bloom in 1987. Subsequently, the first Lake Tarpon SWIM Plan was prepared in 1989. This first SWIM Plan focused on diagnostic/feasibility studies to evaluate water quality in the lake and identify potential sources of nutrients. These conditions, along with Pinellas County's Growth Management Plan requirements, led Pinellas County to develop the Lake Tarpon Watershed Management Plan. This Plan was incorporated into the Lake Tarpon SWIM Plan Update completed in 2001.

The 2001 Lake Tarpon SWIM Plan recognized declining water quality (specifically with regard to algae and nutrients) as the primary concern with the lake. Declining water quality can lead to the increase of undesirable blooms of algae, loss of more desirable rooted aquatic plants, and negative impacts to sport fish populations. The 2001 Lake Tarpon SWIM Plan identified strategies to improve and protect water quality, which were aimed at reducing internal and external sources of nutrients. Additionally, the 2001 SWIM Plan included projects to restore hydrology and habitat in the Brooker Creek watershed.

The Lake Tarpon SWIM Plan is being updated which began with a kick-off meeting held in January 2020 with Pinellas County. Then, two technical stakeholders' meetings were convened in 2020 to present results of water quality status and trends and the pollutant loading model. In early 2021, Pinellas County submitted a petition to FDEP to propose Site Specific Alternative Criteria in place of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria FDEP adopted for the Lake. The District has been coordinating with FDEP and the County to ensure that the SWIM plan supports data with regards to site specific criteria, prior to moving forward with a public meeting on the SWIM Plan. In September 2022, District and FDEP staff agreed to an indicator approach for the SWIM Plan update, using parameters such as chlorophyll-a and total nitrogen. A No-cost time extension amendment will be routed in 2023 to allow the consultant to complete the tasks for the Lake Tarpon SWIM plan update. The public meeting for the draft SWIM plan is anticipated for Fall 2023.

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 5 restoration projects, 4 water quality projects, and 8 ecological studies for Lake Tarpon for a total of approximately 33 acres of restored habitats.

Lake Thonotosassa

Lake Thonotosassa is the largest natural lake in Hillsborough County. In recognition of the lake's regional significance, its highly impacted water quality, and the fact it discharges to a segment of the Hillsborough River which provides the municipal water supply for the City of Tampa, Lake Thonotosassa was designated a SWIM Priority Waterbody in 1988.

Development of a SWIM plan was initiated in 1989, and the initial plan was approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation and adopted by the District in 1990. A second, more detailed plan was completed and approved in 1996. The 1996 plan was updated and completed in February 2003.

During the late 1980's and early 1990's, pollutant loading to the lake consisted of approximately 60 percent non-point and 40 percent point source discharges. The strategy for improving water quality within the lake was to first focus on eliminating point source discharges within the watershed, then concentrate on non-point sources. Two major point source discharges were removed in the 1990's.

In 1992, a seafood packing plant that discharged to Baker Creek ceased operation. In 1997, the City of Plant City Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge was redirected away from the lake to the East Side Canal and some of the discharge was reused through the implementation of the City's reuse system, partially funded through the District's New Water Sources Initiative Program. During the latter half of the 1990's, the SWIM Program began working with several cooperators to implement stormwater improvement projects to treat non-point source pollution within the watershed.

One significant project completed in 1999 is the Lake Thonotosassa Marsh Restoration Project. This 51-acre marsh system is designed to treat inflow water from Baker Creek prior to its discharge into the lake. Other water quality improvement projects include the Plant City Pistol Range Stormwater Treatment Project and the three-phased Hillsborough County Baker/Pemberton Creek Erosion Control Project. Each of these projects addresses non-point source pollution entering Lake Thonotosassa. The SWIM Program implemented a study, completed in 2012, to refine the water and nutrient budgets for the lake and develop a linked watershed/waterbody model to evaluate and recommend Best Management Practices (BMPs) to best achieve the identified pollutant load reduction goals. The Lake Thonotosassa Nutrient Source Tracking Study was completed in 2016 and some structural and non-structural BMPs were proposed. Structural BMPs may be implemented with Hillsborough County during future cooperative funding cycles. As part of the Florida Department of Transportation Mitigation Program, a long-term nuisance vegetation management program continues to control nuisance exotic plants in the treatment marsh.

After the most recent assessments in 2014 verified the lake was impaired for nutrients, a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) was developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) with participation of District staff. Following guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the TMDL for total nitrogen and total phosphorous was completed in 2019.

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 2 restoration projects, 3 water quality projects, and 2 ecological studies for Lake Thonotosassa for a total of approximately 101 acres of restored habitats.

Winter Haven Chain of Lakes

The Winter Haven Chain of Lakes is comprised of 19 interconnected lakes located within and around the City of Winter Haven in north-central Polk County. The Chain consists of two "chains" of lakes – the Southern and Northern Chains. The watershed of the Chain of Lakes includes portions of the cities of Winter Haven, Lake Alfred, and Auburndale.

Water quality in the Chain of Lakes varies from lake to lake and between the northern and southern chains. Pollution sources present by 1949 included wastes from chemical fertilizer plants, citrus packing, citrus and vegetable canning, soft drink production, milk bottling, and untreated municipal waste. Considerable improvement occurred in the management of these industries by 1970. More recent improvements were the elimination of the City of Winter Haven's wastewater treatment plant discharge to Lake Conine in 1992; however, non-point sources such as urban stormwater pollution and septic tank seepage still need to be addressed for all lakes on the Chain.

An investigation of lake sediment cores from five lakes on the Chain was conducted to evaluate historical changes in water quality. Sediments dated to about 1860 indicated the lakes were historically in the mesotrophic to eutrophic range (slightly to moderately nutrient enriched) with a lack of blue green algae blooms during the summer.

In 2010, a study (Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Water Quality Management Plan, PBS&J) was completed that characterized water quality and prioritized restoration projects to address water quality issues in the Chain of Lakes. It was found that most of the lakes in the Chain are impaired for nutrients. Among the impaired lakes, five exhibit improving trends in water quality, while the remaining 14 exhibits declining or no trends in water quality.

Of the unimpaired lakes, three had declining trends in water quality and none had improving trends. Stormwater treatment projects have been implemented for seven lakes (Howard, May, Lulu, Hartridge, Jessie, Cannon, and Mariana) in the Chain to reduce nutrient loads to the lakes. Of these seven lakes, Lake Hartridge is the only lake not impaired due to high nutrient levels. Of the other six of the seven lakes with past projects, all but Cannon and Jessie exhibit improving trends in water quality.

While traditional stormwater treatment projects can successfully reduce external nitrogen and phosphorus loadings to the lakes, historic point and non-point source runoff and subsequent sediment accumulation in some lakes resulted in internal phosphorus loads that existing stormwater projects cannot treat.

Consequently, both traditional and non-traditional water quality management projects are proposed to address both external and internal phosphorus loading to the Chain of Lakes.

Summarizing 1989-2022, the SWIM Program and its cooperators have completed 12 water quality projects, 1 natural systems restoration project, and 4 ecological studies for Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

Lake Lulu Watershed Protection – A cooperative feasibility study with Polk County to identify opportunities to improve water quality, provide flood protection, and restore natural systems in the Lake Lulu watershed, which is one of the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, a SWIM priority water body.

During 2022, the assessments and analysis were completed and will be submitted as a report for District review and comment in 2023.

Winter Haven Ridge Implementation of Stormwater BMPs – This cooperative project with the City of Winter Haven includes design, permitting, and construction of low impact design BMPs to treat approximately 4.5 acres of stormwater runoff in the Winter Haven Ridge area. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.

Outreach in 2022 – Volunteer Events, Presentations, and Education:

• Communications staff assisted Structure Operations staff in email communications about the District's response to high lake levels sent to the North Winter Haven Chain of Lakes email list with 825 recipients.

Other Systems

While some projects do not directly involve waterbodies identified as District Priority waterbodies in the Strategic Plan these projects were either selected based on the Governor's Executive Order 19-12 that instructs the five water management districts to prioritize funding to focus on projects that will address harmful algal blooms and maximize nutrient reductions, involve natural systems restoration opportunities identified through the Cooperative Funding Initiative, or were deemed a priority by the District.

The following projects were either ongoing or completed in 2022:

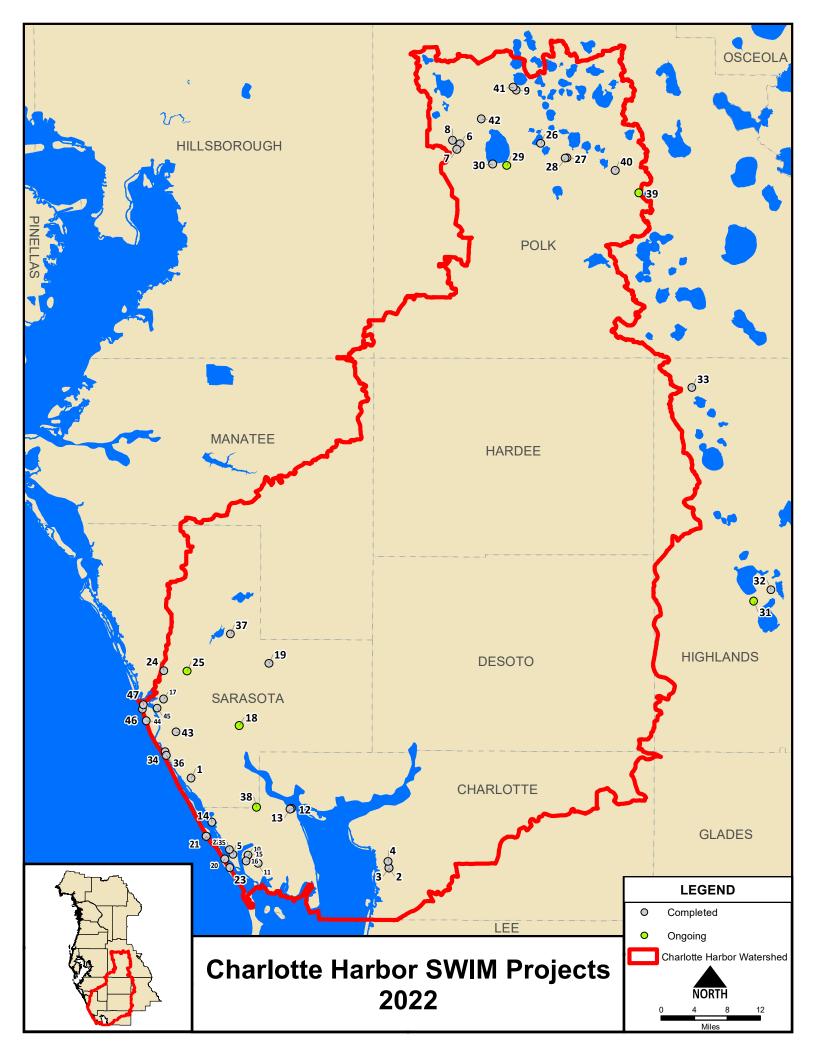
Beach Street Stormwater Improvements – This cooperative project with the City of Port Richey includes the design, permitting and construction of stormwater improvement BMPs to treat runoff and improve water quality discharging to the Pithlachascotee River in New Port Richey. Project was on hold since May 2020 but recommenced in 2022. 100% design was completed in 2022 and the project is expected to be bid in January 2023.

Clearwater Harbor/St Joseph Sound Nitrogen Source Identification – This is a cooperatively funded water quality project with Pinellas County aimed at identifying sources of nitrogen entering Clearwater Harbor and St. Joseph Sound and identifying potential future BMP targets. During 2022, a consultant was selected and the existing data review research phase began.

Marion Oaks Bioswale Enhancements – This cooperative project with Marion County includes the construction of stormwater BMP retrofits to improve water quality discharging from 192 acres of residential watershed to Wilson Head, Citrus Blue, and Gum Springs, which are impaired water bodies with an adopted TMDL for nutrients. The cooperative funding agreement was executed in 2022, with construction expected to start in 2023.

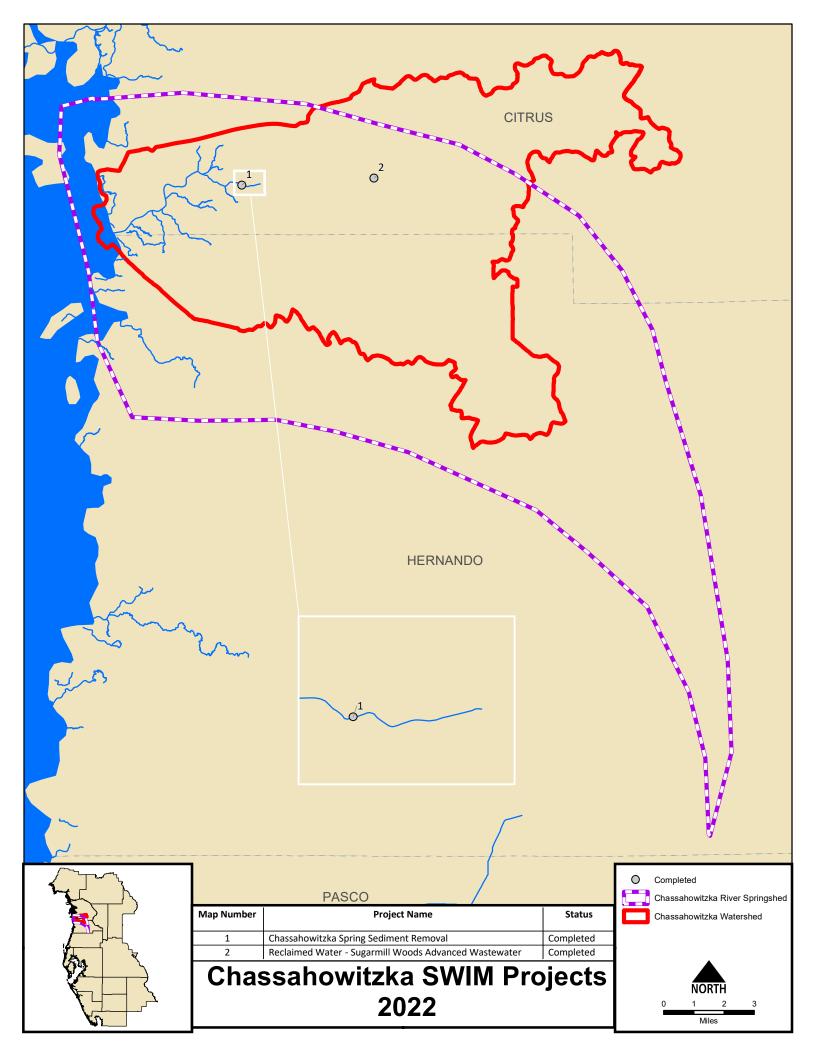
Pasture Reserve – The design, permitting, and construction of restored uplands and wetlands, including cypress strands, marsh, mixed forested wetlands, and pine flatwoods, in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern. During 2022, the 100% construction plans were being finalized.

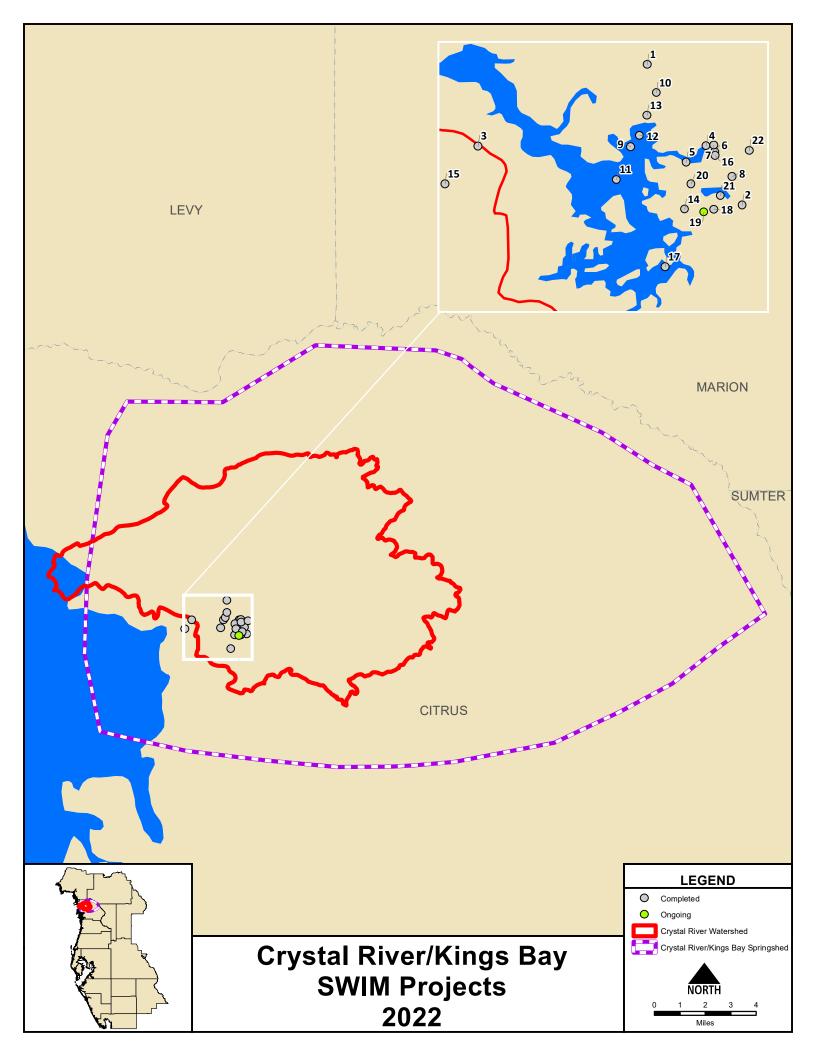
Appendix A: Maps



Charlotte Harbor Projects Legend

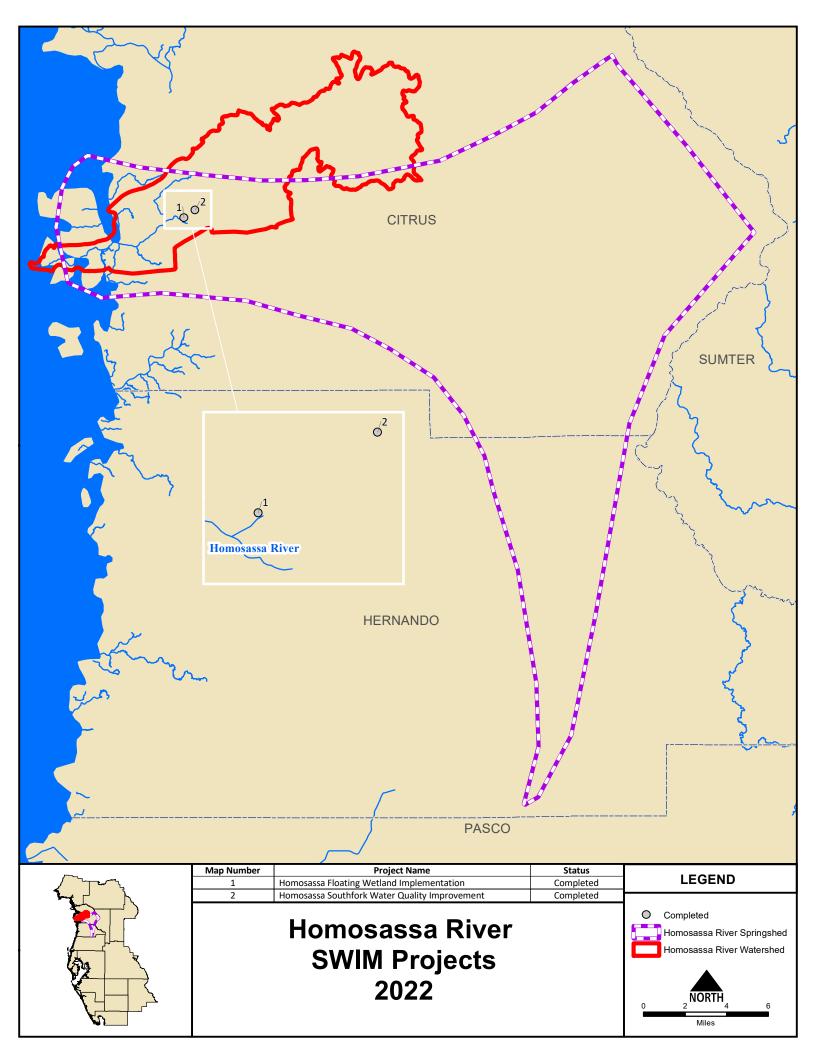
Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	Alligator Creek In-Stream Restoration	Completed
2	Alligator Creek Phase 1	Completed
3	Alligator Creek Phase 2	Completed
4	Alligator Creek Phase 3	Completed
5	Amberjack Slough	Completed
6	Banana Lake: Dredge Project	Completed
7	Banana Lake: Elizabeth Place Wetland Treatment System Phase II	Completed
8	Banana Lake: Stahl Canal Restoration	Completed
9	Bridgers Avenue Drainage & Water Quality Project	Completed
10	Cape Haze Phase 3 Ecosystem Restoration	Ongoing
11	Cape Haze Pioneer Trail	Completed
12	Cattle Dock Point Phases I	Completed
13	Cattle Dock Point Phases II	Completed
14	Cedar Point Restoration	Completed
15	Coral Creek Phase 1	Completed
16	Coral Creek Phase 2	Completed
17	Curry Creek Preserve Restoration	Completed
18	Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Ongoing
19	Deer Prairie Slough	Completed
20	Don Pedro Phase I	Completed
21	Don Pedro Phase II	Completed
22	Don Pedro Phase III	Completed
23	Don Pedro Phase IV	Completed
24	Dona Bay Conveyance System	Completed
25	Dona Bay Surface Water Storage Facility	Ongoing
26	Eagle Lake Bingham Street Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
27	Lake Gwyn East Surface Water Restoration	Completed
28	Lake Gwyn Surface Water Restoration	Completed
29	Lake Hancock Outfall Treatment Project	Completed
30	Lake McCoy BMPs	Completed
31	Lake Verona BMPs	Completed
32	Lemon Bay Ecosystem Restoration	Completed
33	Lemon Bay Habitat Restoration	Completed
34	Lemon Bay Site Enhancement	Completed
35	Myakka Island Ecosystem Restoration	Completed
36	Myakka State Forest Water Quality and Bank Stabilization	Ongoing
37	Peace Creek Canal Watershed Restoration	Completed
38	PK Avenue/Lake Lena Stormwater Improvements	Completed
39	Lake Hancock Natural Systems Enhancements	Ongoing
40	Saddle Creek Audubon Tract Restoration	Completed
41	South Venice Waterway Restoration Project	Completed
42	Lake June-in-Winter Catfish Creek BMPs	Ongoing
43	Park Avenue Streetscape Improvements	Ongoing
44	Venice Beach Water Quality Project	Completed
45	Venice Hatchett Creek Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
46	Venice Outfall 1 and 2 Improvements	Completed
47	Venice/Laguna Drive Water Quality Improvement	Completed

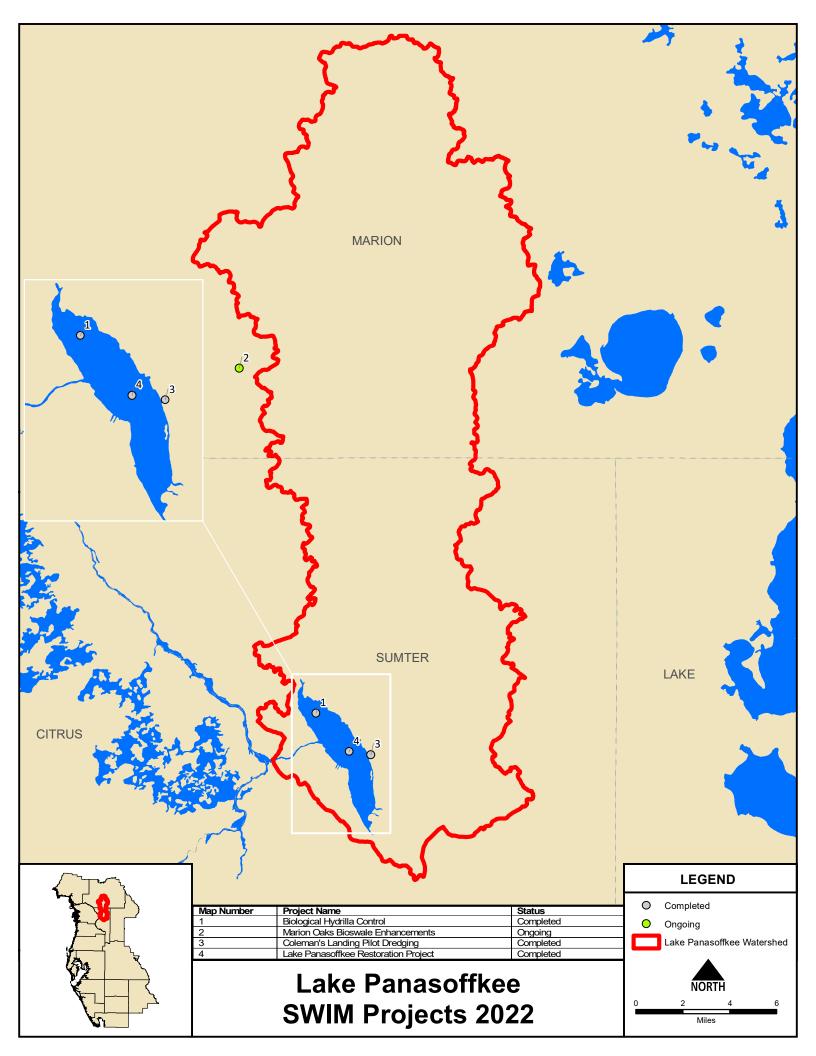


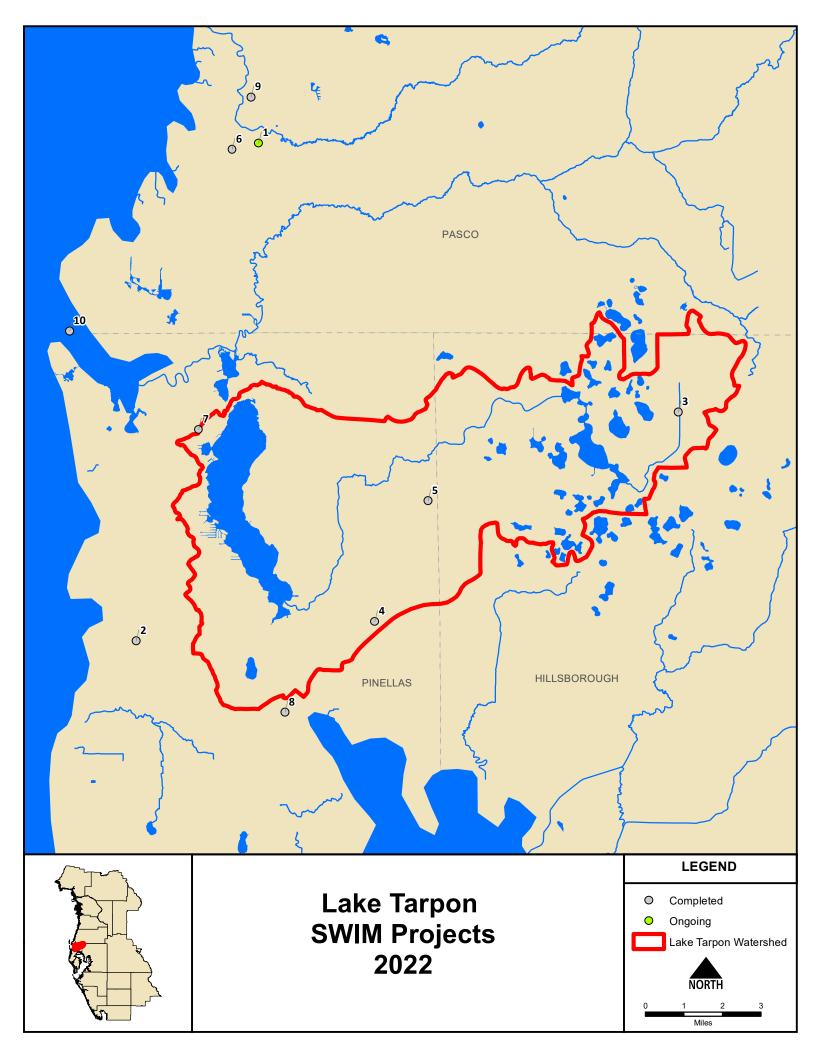


Crystal River/Kings Bay Projects Legend

Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	City of Crystal River to Duke Energy Reclaimed Water Project	Completed
2	Crystal Center Stormwater Runoff Mitigation	Completed
3	Fort Island Trail Force Main Project	Completed
4	Hunter Springs Cove Living Shoreline	Completed
5	Hunter Springs Dredging Project	Completed
6	Hunter Springs Stormwater Modification	Completed
7	Hunter Springs Stormwater Treatment Pond Expansion	Completed
8	Kings Bay Plaza Stormwater Runoff Management	Completed
9	Kings Bay Sediment Removal	Completed
10	Kings Bay Stormwater Projects	Completed
11	Lyngbya Removal and Revegetation Pilot Project	Completed
12	NW 6th Street Stormwater Treatment	Completed
13	Palm Island Stormwater Rehab	Completed
14	Red Fish Hole Restoration	Completed
15	Springs Aquatic Vegetation Restoration: Hunters Cove/Kings Bay	Completed
16	Tarpon Hole Dredging Project	Completed
17	Three Sisters Bank Stabilization Project	Completed
18	Three Sisters Canal Shoreline Stabilization	Ongoing
19	Three Sisters Springs Sediment Removal Project	Completed
20	Three Sisters Springs Wetland Treatment Project	Completed
21	US 19 Stormwater Improvements	Completed

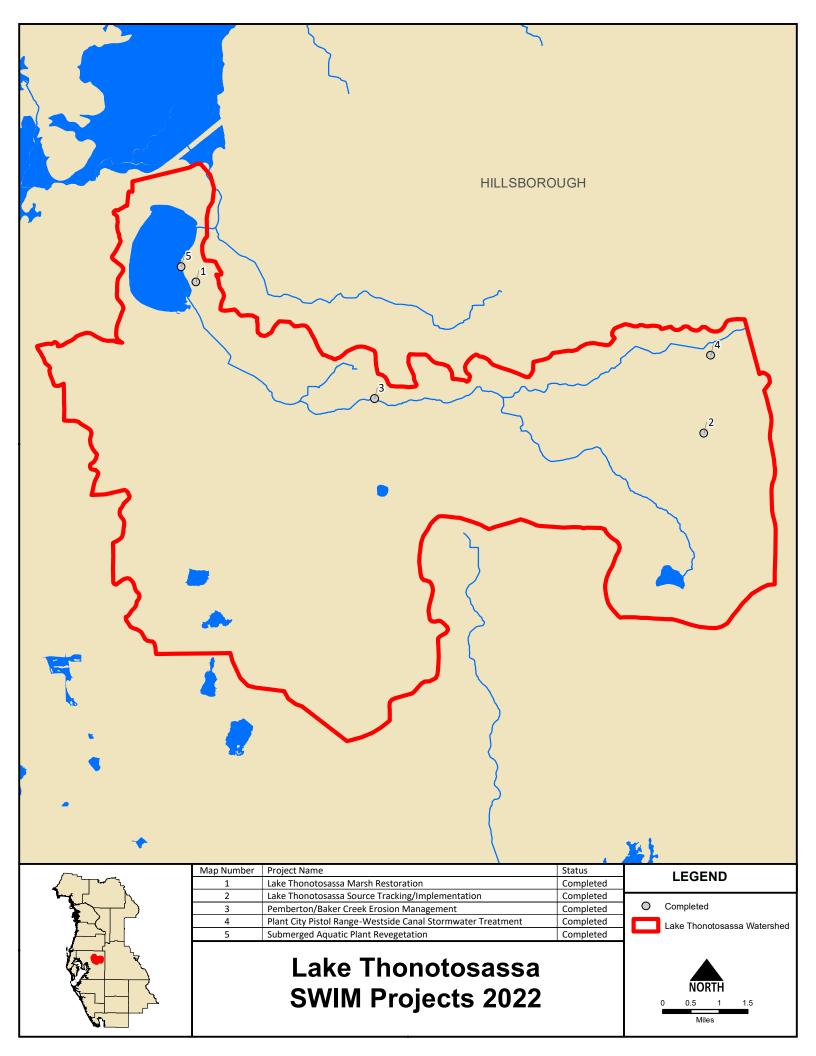


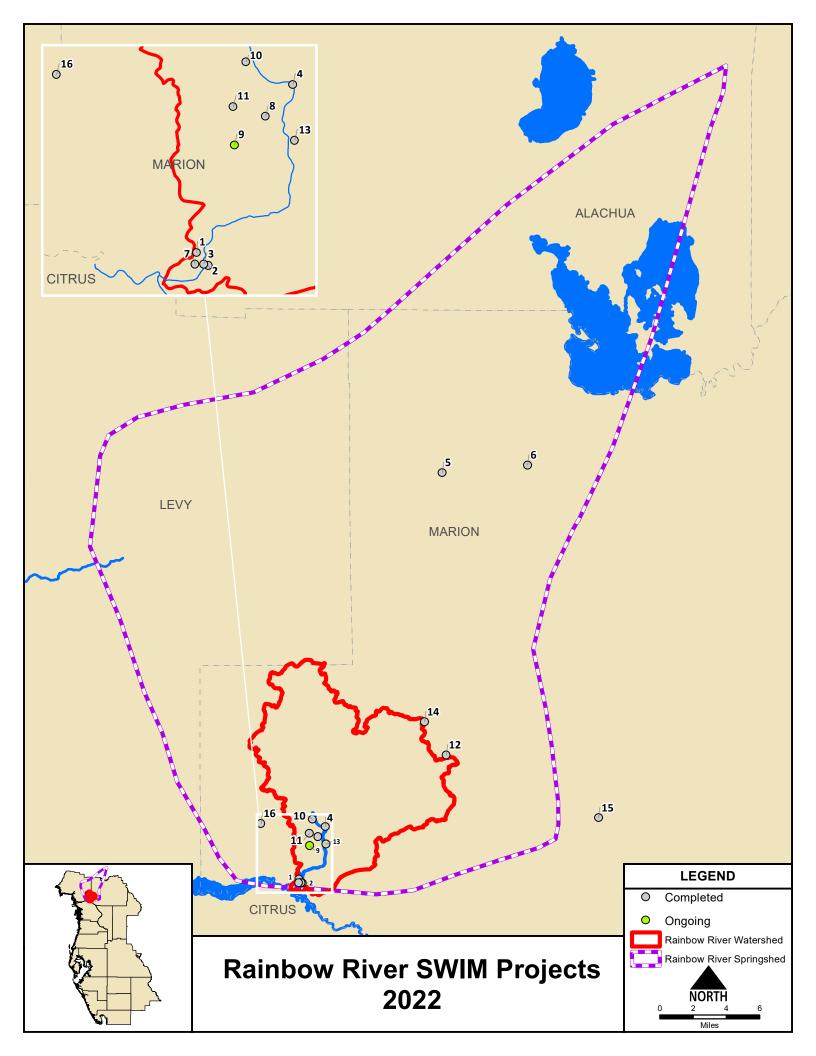




Lake Tarpon Projects Legend

Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	Beach Street Stormwater System Improvements	Ongoing
2	Bee Branch Improvements	Completed
3	Brooker Creek ELAPP Site Restoration	Completed
4	Brooker Creek Hydrologic Restoration on Channel "F"	Completed
5	Brooker Creek Hydrological Restoration on Channel "L"	Completed
6	Hemlock Drive Stormwater System Improvements	Completed
7	Lake Tarpon Area 6	Completed
8	Lake Tarpon Outfall Habitat & Shoreline Restoration	Completed
9	Orange Lake Restoration	Completed
10	Pinellas Trail Natural Area Habitat Restoration	Completed





Rainbow River Projects Legend

Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	Blue Cove Lake-Implementation of BMPs	Completed
2	Blue Run Park Stormwater Management Project	Completed
3	C.R. 484 Stormwater Outfall Retrofit	Completed
4	Devil's Elbow Revegetation	Completed
5	NW 119th Avenue Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
6	NW HWY 225 Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
7	Pennsylvania Ave. Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
8	Rainbow River Springshed Stormwater Retrofits	Completed
9	Rainbow Springs 5th Replat Stormwater Retrofit	Ongoing
10	Rainbow Springs County Club Estates Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
11	Rainbow Springs Innovative Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
12	Rolling Hills Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
13	Sa-Te-Ke Village Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
14	SW 16th and SW 14th Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
15	SW 85th Street & SW 40th Avenue-Implementation of BMPs	Completed
16	Village of Rainbow Springs Stormwater Retrofit	Completed



Sarasota Bay Restoration Projects Legend						
Map Number	Project Name	Status	Map Number	Project Name	Status	
1	10th Street Outfall BMPs	Completed	31	Leffis Key	Completed	
2	Bay Walk Creek	Completed	32	Neal Preserve	Completed	
3	Bayfront Park	Completed	33	New College	Completed	
4	Bayshore North-Artificial Reef	Completed	34	Nicholson Drainage Channel	Completed	
5	Bayshore South-Artificial Reef	Completed		Stormwater Treatment Project		
6	Blackburn Point Park Addition	Completed	35	North Lido Park	Completed	
	Restoration		36	Pelican Cove Stormwater Retrofit	Completed	
7	Bowlees Creek Island	Completed	37	Perico Bayou Restoration	Completed	
8	Bradenton Beach - 23rd Street	Completed	38	Perico Preserve	Completed	
	North to 25th Street North BMPs		39	Phillippi Creek Barrier Removal	Completed	
9	Bradenton Beach BMPs Avenues B	Ongoing		and Restoration		
	and C		40	Phillippi Creek In-Stream	Completed	
10	Bradenton Beach Pier-Artificial Reef	Completed		Restoration	-	
11	Bradenton Beach Stormwater	Completed	41	Quick Point Nature Preserve	Completed	
	Retrofits		42	Red Bug Slough Restoration	Completed	
12	Catfish Creek	Completed	43	Robinson Preserve	Completed	
13	Catfish Creek Stormwater Facility	Completed	44	Robinson Preserve Phase 2	Completed	
14	Celery Fields Restoration	Completed	45	Runaway Bay - Shoreline	Completed	
15	Central Holmes Beach Water	Completed		Restoration		
	Quality BMPs		46	Sarasota Bay Habitat Restoration	Completed	
16	City of Anna Maria -	Completed	47	Sister Keys	Completed	
	Implementation of BMPs		48	South Creek Floodplain	Completed	
17	City of Sarasota Created Wetlands	Ongoing		Restoration		
	System		49	South Creek Phase I	Completed	
18	Coastal Basin Beach Road	Completed	50	South Lido Restoration	Completed	
19	Cortez AKA FISH Preserve	Completed	51	Spoil Islands Bird Colony and	Completed	
	Restoration			Palmer Point		
20	Cortez Schoolhouse Restoration	Completed	52	Ungarelli Preserve	Completed	
21	Crosley Estates Restoration	Completed				
22	Durante Park	Completed	1			
23	Grassy Point	Completed				
24	GWIZ	Completed	1			
25	Herb Dolan Park Living Shoreline	Completed				
26	Hog Creek	Completed	1			
27	Holmes Beach Stormwater	Completed				

Completed Completed

Completed

Improvements CIP

Improvement

30 Joan Durante Park

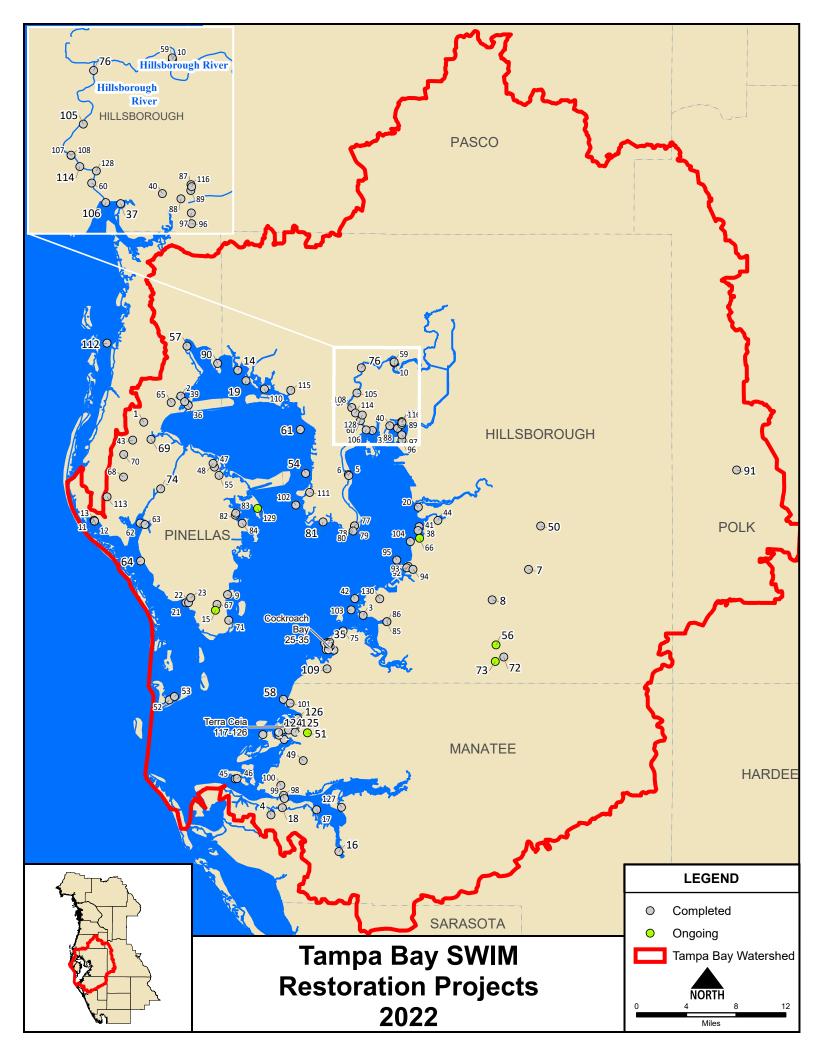
Hudson Bayou In-Stream

Restoration and Water Quality

Holmes Beach Stormwater Retrofits

28

29



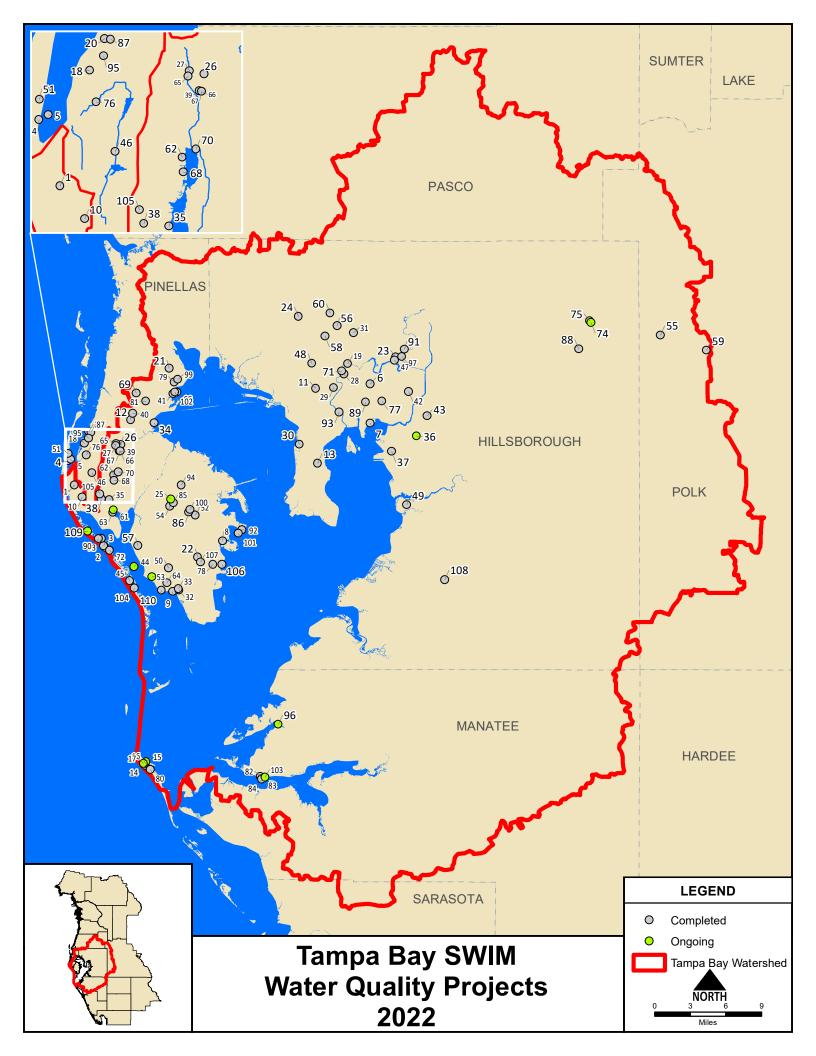
Tampa Bay Restoration Projects Legend

Map Number	Project Name	Status	Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	Allen's Creek Red Maple Swamp	Completed	42	E.G. Simmons Park Phase 1 & 2	Completed
	Restoration		43	Eagle Lake	Completed
2	Alligator Lake	Completed	44	Ekker Preserve	Completed
3	Bahia Beach Habitat Restoration	Completed	45	Emerson Point Phase 1	Completed
4	Ballard Restoration	Completed	46	Emerson Point Phase 2	Completed
5	Ballast Point Park Phase 1	Completed	47	Feather Sound Phase 2	Completed
6	Ballast Point Park Phase Seawall	Completed	48	Feather Sound Tidal Wetland	Completed
	Enhancement			Restoration	
7	Balm Boyette Habitat Restoration	Completed	49	FELTS Preservation Restoration	Completed
8	Balm Road Marsh	Completed	50	Fish Hawk Creek Preserve	Completed
9	Bartlett Park	Completed		Habitat Restoration	
10	Blackwater Hammock Park	Completed	51	Frog Creek Wetland Restoration	Ongoing
	Shoreline Restoration			at Terra Ceia	
11	Boca Ciega Phase 1	Completed	52	Ft. DeSoto Park Recirculation	Completed
12	Boca Ciega Phase 2	Completed		Phase 1	
13	Boca Ciega Phase 3	Completed	53	Ft. DeSoto Park Recirculation	Completed
14	Bower Tract	Completed		Phase 2	
15	Boyd Hill Nature Preserve	Ongoing	54	Gandy Park	Completed
16	Braden River Phase 1	Completed	55	Gateway Tract	Completed
17	Braden River Phase 2	Completed	56	Gully Branch Upland Restoration	Ongoing
18	Bradenton Riverwalk Restoration	Completed	57	Harbor Palms Park	Completed
19	Cabbagehead Bayou	Completed	58	Hendry Delta	Completed
20	Cargill South	Completed	59	Hillsborough River Water Quality	Completed
21	Clam Bayou Habitat Restoration	Completed		Improvement	
	Phase 1		60	Hillsborough River West Bank	Completed
22	Clam Bayou Phase 2a	Completed		Shoreline Restoration	
23	Clam Bayou Phase 2b	Completed	61	Howard Franklin East	Completed
24	Clam Bayou Phase 3	Completed	62	Joe's Creek 1	Completed
25	Cockroach Bay	Completed	63	Joe's Creek School Site	Completed
26	Cockroach Bay Phase 1 Uplands	Completed	64	Jungle Prada Park	Completed
27	Cockroach Bay Phase 1A1	Completed	65	Kapok Wetland/Floodplain	Completed
28	Cockroach Bay Phase 1A2	Completed		Restoration	
29	Cockroach Bay Phase 1B1	Completed	66	Kracker Avenue Restoration	Ongoing
30	Cockroach Bay Phase 1B2	Completed	67	Lake Maggiore Restoration	Completed
31	Cockroach Bay Phase 2 Uplands	Completed	68	Lake Seminole Aquatic Life	Completed
32	Cockroach Bay Phase Braided	Completed		Enhancement	
	Tidal Creek		69	Lancaster Tract	Completed
33	Cockroach Bay Phase C	Completed	70	Largo Central Park Wetland	Completed
34	Cockroach Bay Phase Freshwater	Completed	74	Enhancement	Carratatad
	Wetlands		71	Little Bayou	Completed
35	Cockroach Bay Saltwater	Completed	72	Little Manatee River	Completed
36	Cooper's Point	Completed	73	Little Manatee River Corridor:	Ongoing
37	Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park	Completed	74	Area 8 Hydrologic Restoration Long/Cross Bayou	Completed
38	Davis Tract	Completed		· ·	Completed
39	Del Oro	Completed	75	Lost River Preserve	Completed
40	Desoto Park Addition Shoreline	Completed	76	Lowry Park MacDill Air Force Base Phase 1A	Completed
44	Restoration	Completed	77 78	MacDill Air Force Base Phase 18	Completed Completed
41	Dug Creek	Completed		MacDill Air Force Base Phase 2	•
			79 80	MacDill Air Force Base Phase 2	Completed
			- 00	iviaculii Ali Furce Base Priase 3	Completed

Tampa Bay Restoration Projects Legend

	1 ampa	Bay Kestor
Map Number	Project Name	Status
81	MacDill Air Force Base:	Completed
	Mangrove Restoration	
82	Mangrove Bay Phase 1	Completed
83	Mangrove Bay Phase 2	Completed
84	Mangrove Bay Phase 3	Completed
85	Marsh Creek	Completed
86	Marsh Creek Phase 2	Completed
87	McKay Bay - East Shore	Completed
	Commerce Park Parcel	
	Stormwater Retrofit	
88	McKay Bay Dredge Hole	Completed
	Restoration	
89	McKay Bay Nature Preserve	Completed
90	Mobbly Bayou Wilderness	Completed
	Preserve	
91	Mulberry - NE 4th Ave Alafia	Completed
	Wetlands Restoration (REDI)	
92	Newman Branch Phase 1	Completed
93	Newman Branch Phase 2	Completed
94	Newman Branch Phase 3	Completed
95	North Apollo Beach	Completed
96	Palm River Restoration Phase I	Completed
97	Palm River Restoration Phase II	Completed
98	Palmetto Estuary Habitat	Completed
00	Restoration Phase 2A	Carralatad
99	Palmetto Estuary Phases 1 and 2	Completed Completed
100	100 Palmetto MLK Park Low Impact Design and Wetland Restoration	
101	Peanut Lake	Completed
102	Picnic Island	Completed
103	Polanis Park	Completed
104	Port Redwing/Schultz Preserve	Completed
105	Reed Property	Completed
106	Ribbon of Green	Completed
107	River Garden Phase 1	Completed
108	River Garden Shoreline Phase 2	Completed
109	Rock Ponds Phase 1 and 2	Completed
110	Rocky Creek Preserve	Completed
	Restoration	-
111	South Tampa Greenway/Tappan	Completed
	Site	
112	Spoil Island Coop. Funding	Completed
113	St. Petersburg College Natural	Completed
	Park Habitat Restoration	
114	Stewart Middle Magnet School	Completed
115	Sweetwater Creek	Completed
116	Tampa Shoreline Restoration	Completed
	Initiative	
117	Terra Ceia Causeway	Completed

Map Number	Project Name	Status
118	Terra Ceia Huber and Frog Creek Upland (Terra Ceia Phase 2)	Completed
119	Terra Ceia Isles Habitat Restoration	Completed
120	Terra Ceia Isles Upland Phase 1	Completed
121	Terra Ceia Isles Upland Phase 2	Completed
122	Terra Ceia Isles Upland Phase 3	Completed
123	Terra Ceia Isles Upland Phase 6	Completed
124	Terra Ceia Isles Uplands Phase 4	Completed
125	Terra Ceia Isles Uplands Phase 7	Completed
126	Terra Ceia Isles Wetlands Phase 1	Completed
127	Tom Bennett Park	Completed
128	Ulele Spring	Completed
129	Weedon Island Tidal Marsh	Ongoing
130	Wolf Branch Phases 1 and 2	Completed



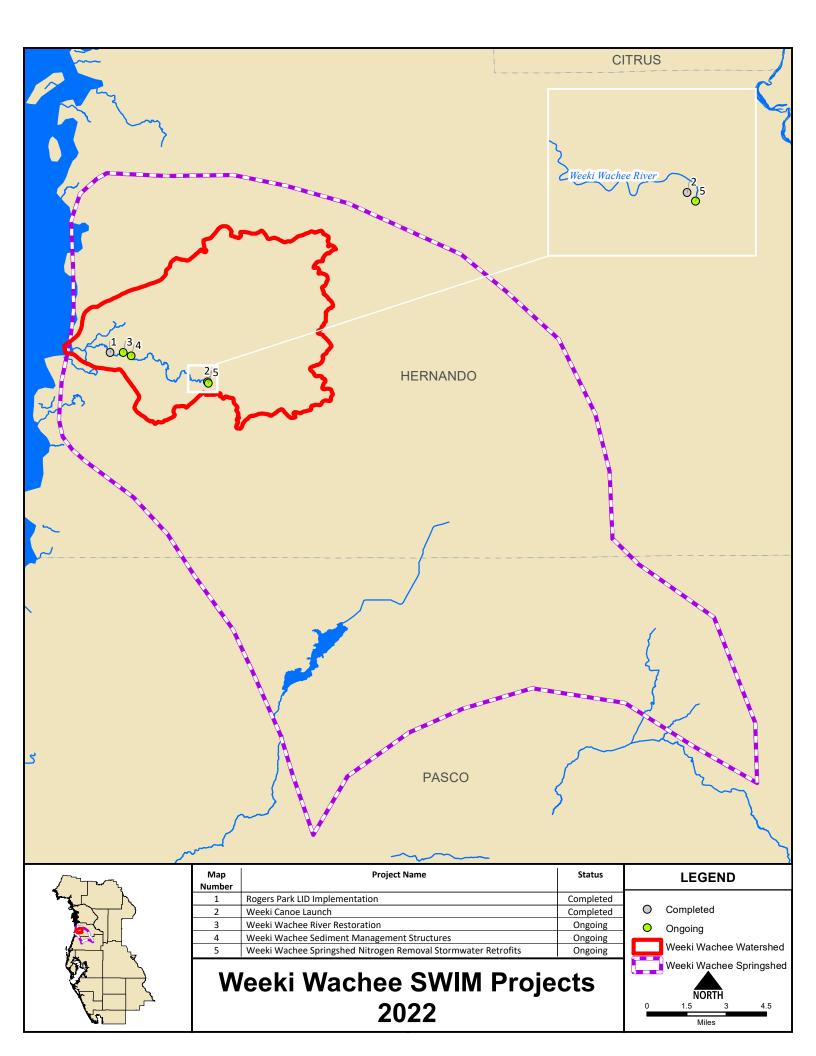
Tampa Bay Water Quality Projects Legend

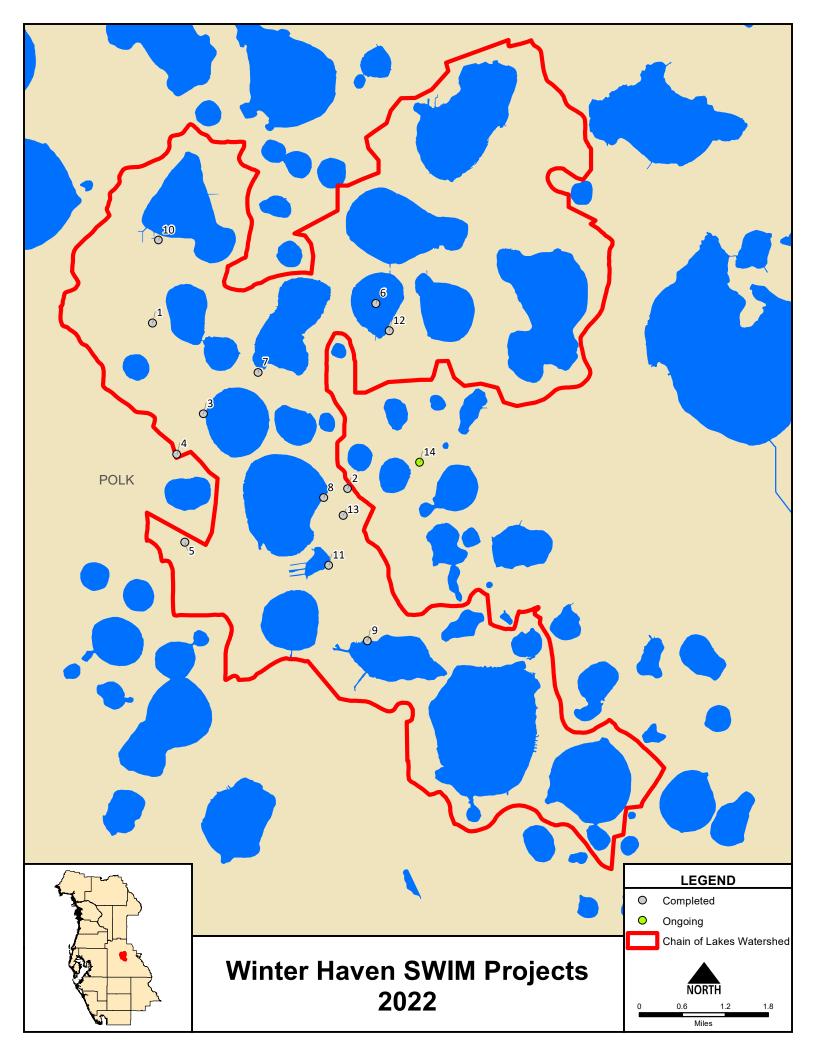
Map	Project Name	Status	Map	Project Name	Status
Number			Number		
1	102nd Avenue Pond Enhancement	Completed	40	Druid Road Stormwater	Completed
2	137th Avenue Circle BMPs	Completed		Improvement Area	
3	141st Avenue Stormwater Retrofit	Completed	41	East Gate Drainage Improvements	Completed
4	20th Ave Parkway Stormwater Improvements	Completed	42	East Lake Outfall Water Quality Improvement	Completed
5	20th Avenue Stormwater Improvements	Completed	43	East Shore Commerce Regional	Completed
6	30th Street and Hillsborough Ave.	Completed		Stormwater Treatment Facility	-
	Stormwater Improvement		44	East Treasure Island Causeway BMPs	Ongoing
7	30th Street Baffle Box	Completed	45	Egan Park Best Management	Completed
8	34th Avenue NE Water Quality	Completed		Practices	
	Improvements		46	EMS Pond Stormwater Enhancement	Completed
9	49th Street Outfall Treatment	Completed	47	FDOT 56th Street Outfall Stormwater	Completed
10	94th Avenue Stormwater Pond	Completed		Retrofit	
	Enhancement		48	FDOT North Dale Mabry Hwy Retrofit	Completed
11	Al Lopez Park Stormwater Retrofit	Completed		& Restoration	
12	Allen's Creek Improvements at Plumb	Completed	49	Gibsonton on the Bay	Completed
	Elementary		50	Gulfport-49th Street Drainage	Completed
13	Alline Ave. Stormwater Improvement	Completed		Improvements	
14	Anna Maria BMPs Phase 3	Completed	51	Harbor Dr. & LaHacienda Dr.	Completed
15	Anna Maria BMPs Phase K	Ongoing		Stormwater Improvements	
16	Anna Maria North Island BMPs	Completed	52	Haynsworth Tract Regional	Completed
17	Anna Maria North Island BMPs Phases H	Ongoing		Stormwater Treatment Facility	
	and J		53	Ibis Stormwater Pond Retrofit	Ongoing
18	Basin SD-2 and SD-3 Improvements	Completed	54	Implementation of BMPs at England	Completed
19	Bath Club Concourse Stormwater Retrofit	Completed		Brothers Park	
20	Bayview Drive Drainage Improvements	Completed	55	Itchepackesassa Creek Regional	Completed
21	Bishop Creek Streambank	Completed	ГС	Stormwater System	Camaralatad
22	Booker Lake Regional Stormwater	Completed	56	Jean Park Ponds/Cedar Lake Water Quality Improvement Study	Completed
	Treatment Facility		57	Jungle Lake Enhancement Project	Completed
23	Broadway Outfall Stormwater Retrofit	Completed	58	Lake Carrol Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
24	Brushy Creek Wetland Treatment	Completed	59	Lake Hunter BMP Project	Completed
25	Channel 1A2 Stormwater Quality	Ongoing	60	Lake Magdalene BMPs	Completed
	Improvements				Ongoing
26	City of Largo Allen's Creek and McKay	Completed	61	Lake Seminole Dredging Project Lake Seminole Watershed	
27	Creek Inlet Inserts	Completed	02	Stormwater Pollution Reduction	Completed
27	City of Largo CDS Unit	Completed	63	Lake Seminole Weir Stage and Flow	Completed
28	City of Tampa Stormwater Filtration Devices	Completed	03	Device	Completed
29	City of Tampa Urban Lake Rescue: Edna	Completed	64	Lake Tomlinson Restoration	Completed
30	City of Tampa Urban Lake Rescue: Kipling	Completed Completed	65	Largo Highland Avenue Retrofit	Completed
31	City of Tampa Urban Lake Rescue:	Completed		Project	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
31	Roberta	Completed	66	Largo Regional Outfall Modification	Completed
32	Clam Bayou Stormwater Improvements	Completed	67	Largo Regional Stormwater	Completed
33	Clam Bayou Stormwater Pond	Completed		Treatment Facility	
34	Clearwater Tropic Hills Drainage	Completed	68	Largo ST Quality Retrofit - 101st St.	Completed
31	Improvements	30picced	69	Logan Street Pond	Completed
35	Creation Pond Stormwater Enhancement	Completed	70	Long Bayou - Lake Seminole Bypass	Completed
36	Delaney Creek Improvements	Ongoing		Canal Treatment Facility	
37	Delaney Creek Wetland Treatment	Completed	71	Lowry Park East & West	Completed
38	Dogleg Pond Stormwater Enhancement	Completed	72	Madeira Beach - Boca Ciega Drive	Completed
39	Downtown Largo Regional Stormwater	Completed		BMPs	
	Treatment Facility				
	Treatment Facility				

Tampa Bay Water Quality Projects Legend

	Tampa Ba	y Water Q
Map Number	Project Name	Status
73	Madeira Public Works Yard Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
74	McIntosh Park Integrated Water Master Plan	Ongoing
75	McIntosh Park Stormwater Treatment Wetland	Completed
76	McKay Creek Water Quality Improvements near Hickory Lane	Completed
77	Melbourne Pond Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
78	Mirror Lake Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
79	Mullet Creek Water Quality Improvement	Completed
80	Northern Holmes Beach BMPs Basins 10 and 12	Completed
81	Old Coachman (Channel H) Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
82	Palmetto 5th Street LID	Completed
83	Palmetto CRA Riverside Boat Ramp	Completed
84	Palmetto Gateway LID	Completed
85	Pinellas Park Implementation of BMPs Sawgrass Lake Watershed	Completed
86	Pinellas Park Improvement of BMPs for Homeland Basin/Sawgrass	Completed
87	Pinellas Road Stormwater BMPs	Completed
88	Pistol Range Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
89	Pond 56	Completed
90	Rex Place Stormwater BMPs	Completed
91	Riverhills Drive Outfall 1 & 2 Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
92	Riviera Bay Snell Island Vaults	Completed
93	Robles Park WQ and Natural Systems Improvement	Completed
94	Roosevelt Stormwater Retrofit Project	Completed
95	Rosery Road BMPs	Completed
96	Rubonia Subdivision Stormwater Management Improvements	Ongoing
97	S. Glen Arven Ave. Outfalls Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
98	Safety Harbor Old Tampa Bay Water Quality and Drainage Improvements	Completed
99	Safety Harbor Public Works Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
100	Sawgrass Lake Restoration	Completed
101	Shore Acres Stormwater Vaults	Completed
102	South Green Springs Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
103	Southeast Riverside Water Quality Improvements	Ongoing
104	St. Pete Beach Public Works Facility Stormwater Retrofit Improvements	Completed
105	St. Pete Junior College Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
106	St. Petersburg Pier Park	Completed
107	St. Petersburg Public Works Storage Yard	Completed
107	Stormwater Retrofit Project	Complete

Map Number	Project Name	Status
108	Town of Redington Beach Stormwater Retrofits	Ongoing
109	Wood Ibis Park Stormwater Retrofit	Completed





Winter Haven Projects Legend

Map Number	Project Name	Status
1	Derby Ditch Retrofit	Completed
2	Downtown Winter Haven Stormwater Improvement	Completed
3	Inwood Ditch Alum Injection Project	Completed
4	Inwood Water Quality Stormwater Retrofit	Completed
5	Jan Phyl Stormwater Treatment Project	Completed
6	Lake Conine Whole Lake Alum Treatment	Completed
7	Lake Hartridge Stormwater Treatment Project	Completed
8	Lake Howard Alum Injection	Completed
9	Lake Lulu Stormwater Treatment Project	Completed
10	Lake Mariana: Construction of Wet Detention Pond	Completed
11	Lake May Stormwater Management Project	Completed
12	South Lake Conine Watershed Restoration	Completed
13	Winter Haven LIDs	Completed
14	Winter Haven Ridge Implementation of Stormwater BMPs	Ongoing