



*Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve:
Successful Partnerships for the Environment*

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About Tampa Bay

- Largest **open-water estuary** in Florida
- Encompasses nearly **400 square miles**
- Watershed covers a land area of about **2,200 square miles**
- More than **100 tributaries** drain into Tampa Bay





What Impacts Our Bay

- Coastal Development
- Wastewater treatment plants and industrial discharges
- Widespread dredging and filling
- Shipping channels
- Stormwater Runoff





What's Making the Difference?

- Dredging the Tampa ship channel completed in 1981
- City of Tampa improved wastewater management practices in the mid-80s
- Wetlands protection (controls on dredging and filling, stormwater treatment) in 1982
- Community education
- Youth stewardship
- Habitat restoration





Restoration in Action

- Salt Marsh Plantings
- Oyster Domes & Bars
- Fishing Line Recycling
- Coastal & Bird Nesting Island Cleanups
- Stormwater Runoff Awareness
- Derelict Crab Trap Removal
- Seagrass Transplanting & Monitoring
- Bay Scallop Monitoring
- Cockroach Bay Oil Boom Program
- Native Plants & Invasive Plant Removal





Restoration: Salt Marsh

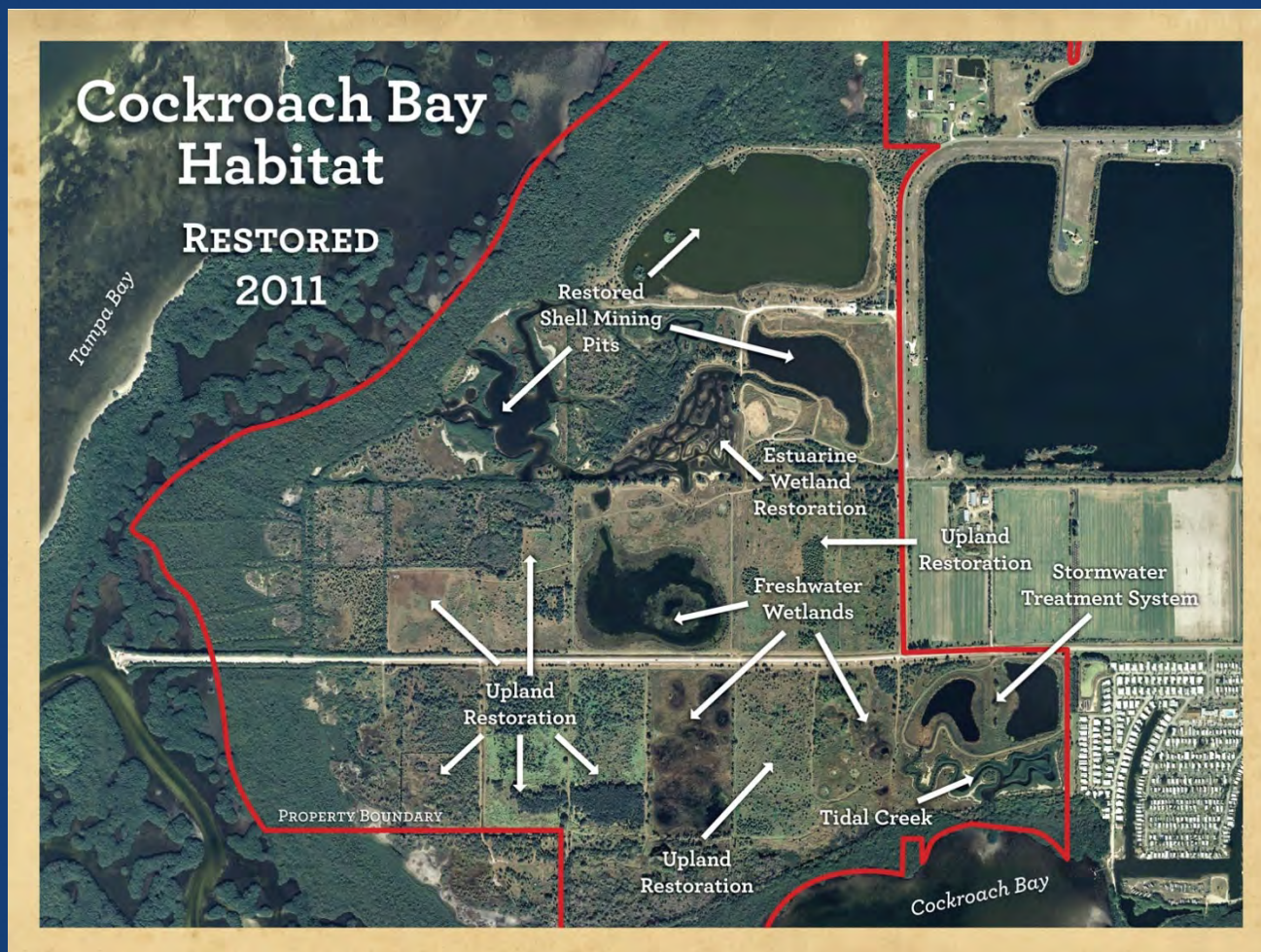
- Problem(s):
 - Coastal erosion
 - Loss of fish habitat
 - Loss of feeding habitat (birds)
- How we Help:
 - BAY GRASSES IN CLASSES:
 - Schools build and maintain their own plant nurseries
 - COMMUNITY SALT MARSH PLANTINGS:
 - To stabilize shorelines from erosion and introduce restored habitat



6 months AFTER 2012 BEFORE



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Early History of Cockroach Bay

- What's in a name?
- Most pristine section of Tampa Bay.
- Public concern in late 1950's established the aquatic preserve system of today.
- In 1969 a 40 foot shipping channel was built for Port Manatee.





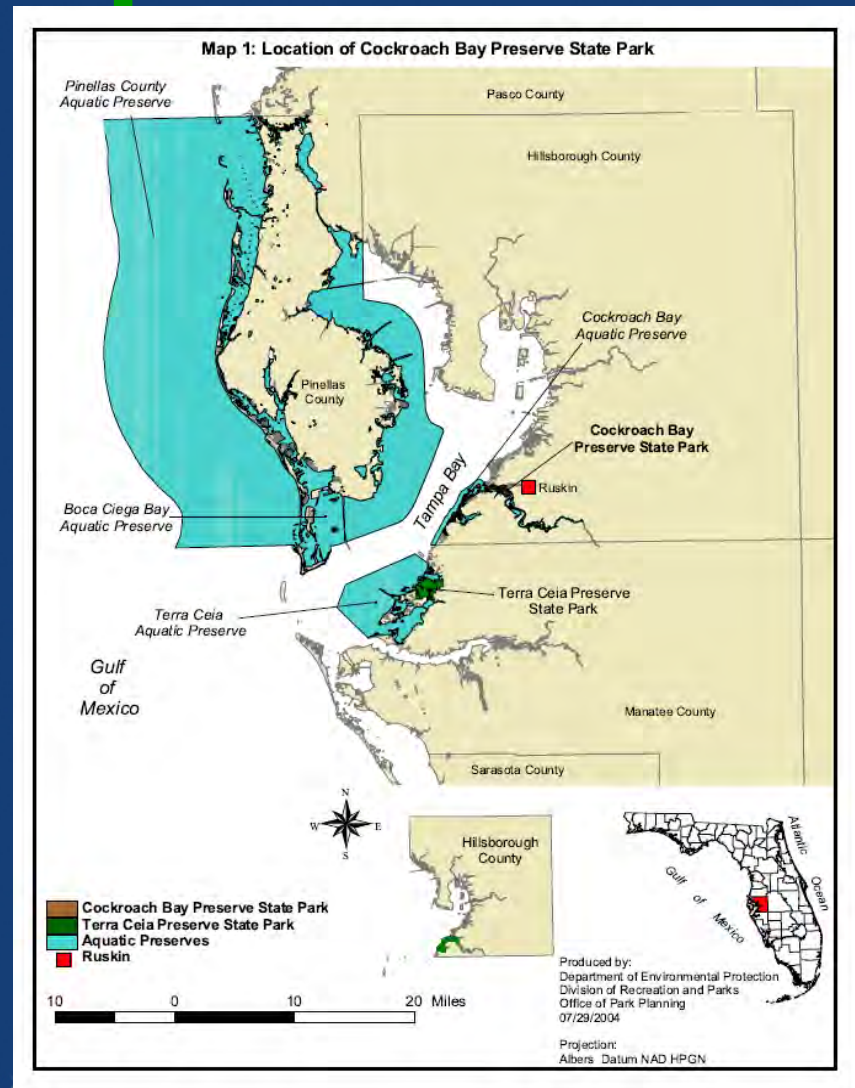
Early History of Cockroach Bay

- Purchased by Hillsborough County-ELAPP in 1991.
- Series of farm fields and shell mining pits.
- Part of multi-agency partnership coordinated by Southwest Florida Water Management District's Surface Water Improvement and Management program.
- Construction of restoration efforts began in 1996.



Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve

- 875 acres originally purchased by Hillsborough County-ELAPP in 1991.
- Over the years 500 acres of wetlands, uplands, and coastal habitats have been restored.
 - 220 Uplands
 - 280 wetlands
- Total acreage of the Preserve is 1,027 that is managed by the State and County.





Flashback

1938



1969



1989



To Now





Partners of Success

AmeriCorps

City of St. Petersburg

City of Tampa

Coastal America*

Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve Program

Cockroach Bay User's Group

Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission*

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Department of Environmental Protection*

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Hillsborough County Stormwater and Environmental Lands

Acquisition and Protection Program*

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-

National Marine Fisheries Service

Peninsula Design and Engineering Inc.

Scheda Ecological Associates, Inc.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)*-

SWIM, Operations, and Survey Depts.

State of Florida*

Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Tampa Bay Watch

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority*

Tampa Port Authority*

University of South Florida

United States Army Corps of Engineers

United States Environmental Protection Agency*

United States Geological Survey

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

And over 2,500 Community Volunteers

*Provided project funding.





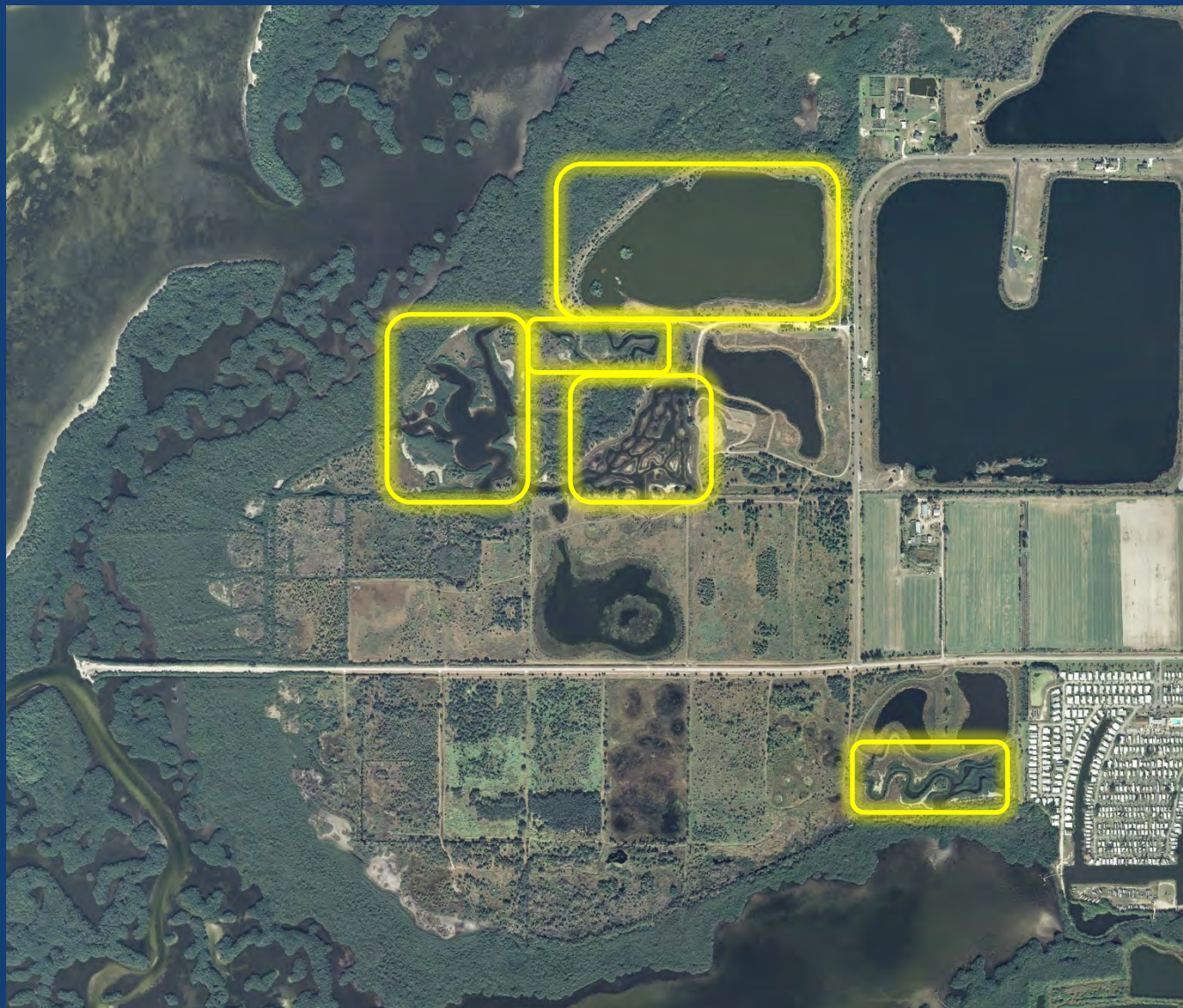
Tampa Bay Watch Involvement

Stormwater
Tidal Creek

One Arm
Pond with
Creek

Braided
Tidal Creek

Leisey Pit



Stormwater Tidal Creek

- Construction was finished in 1996.
- Work was done by SWFWMD crews.
- Tampa Bay Watch started planting in 1999.





Stormwater Tidal Creek

Before

After





Stormwater Tidal Creek



1998



2012





Stormwater Tidal Creek



Volunteer Planting





Stormwater Tidal Creek



- Construction began in 1996.
- 1,010 volunteers planted 87,000 plugs.
- 24.5 acres





One Arm Pond with Creek

- Construction was completed in 1997 for one armed pond.
- Construction was completed in 1999 for tidal creek.
- Work was done by SWFWMD crews.
- Tampa Bay Watch planted in 1999.

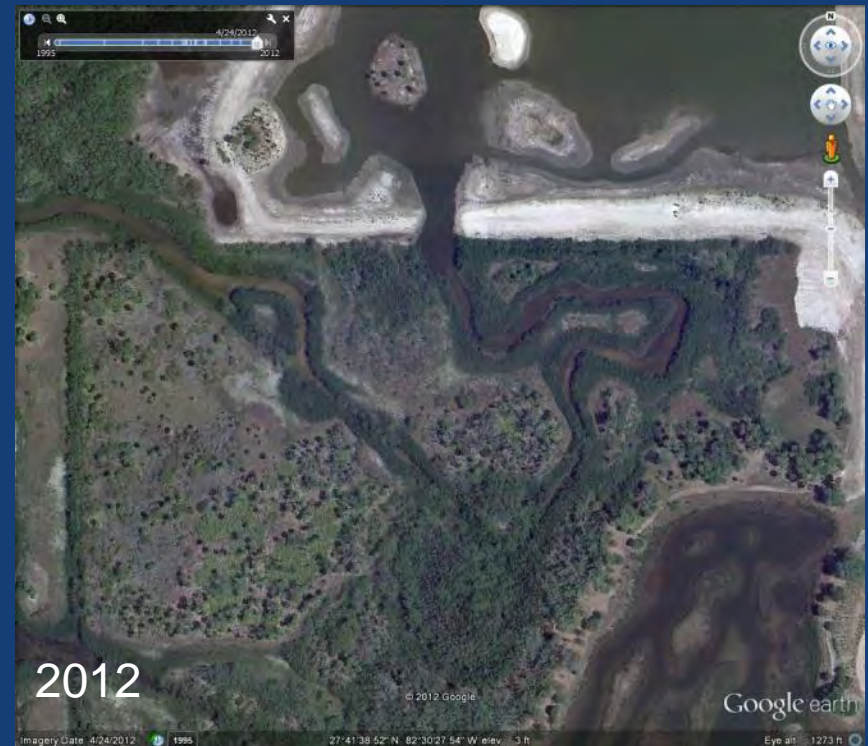


One Arm Pond With Creek

Before of Creek



After of Creek



One Arm Pond With Creek

Before of One Arm Pond



After of One Arm Pond





One Arm Pond with Creek

Volunteer Planting





One Arm Pond with Creek

- 260 volunteers
- 24,000 plugs
- 55.8 acres



Braided Tidal Creek

- Construction was completed in 2005.
- Tampa Bay Watch began planting in 2005.



Braided Tidal Creek

Before



After





Braided Tidal Creek

Volunteer Planting





Braided Tidal Creek

Before construction



After construction





Braided Tidal Creek



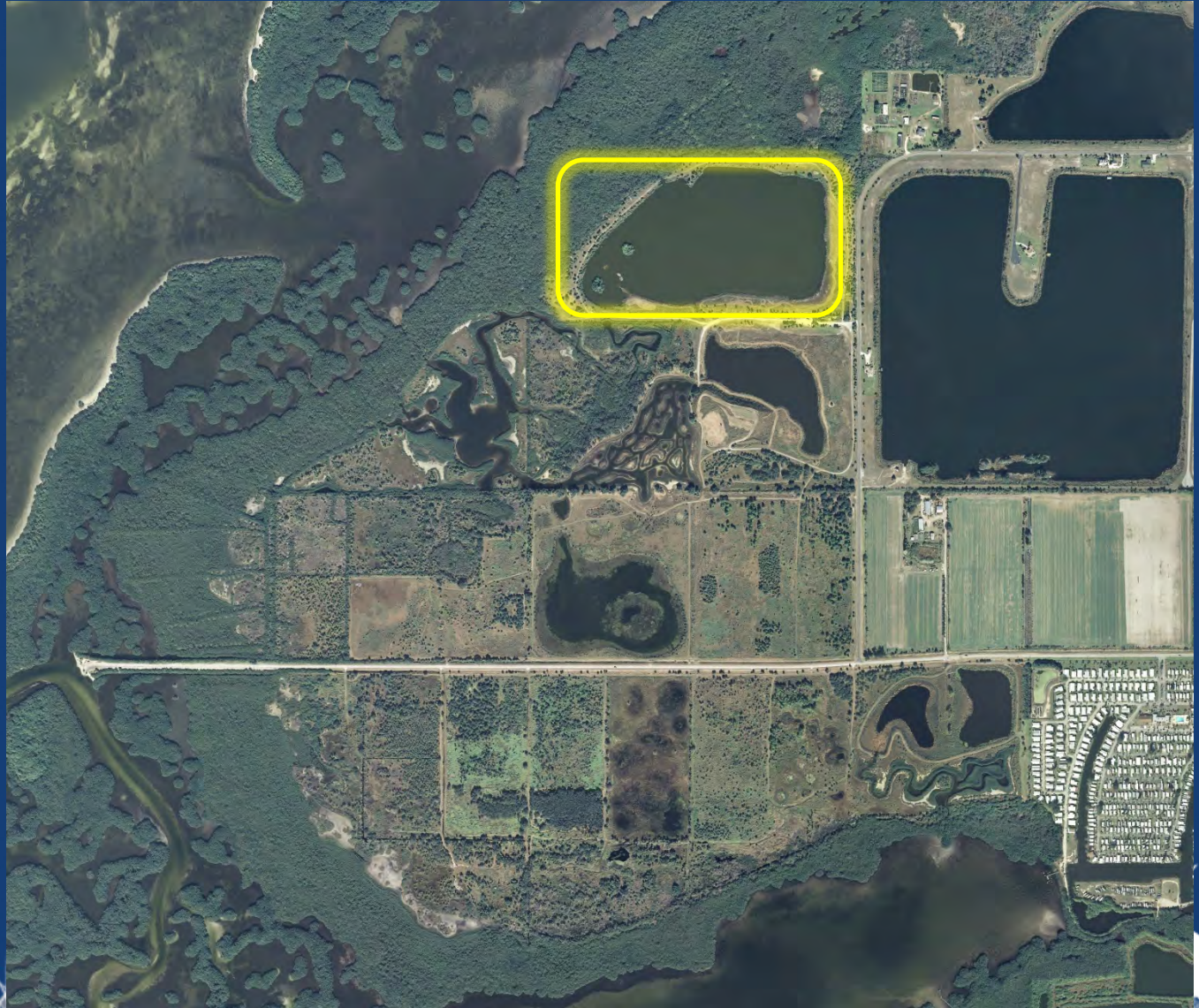
- 289 volunteers
- 34,400 plugs
- 17 acres





Leisey Shell Pit

- Construction began in 2011.
- Tampa Bay Watch began planting in Dec. 2011.



Leisey Shell Pit

Before



After





Leisey Shell Pit





Leisey Shell Pit

Before





Leisey Shell Pit

After





Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve: Successful Partnerships for the Environment



- Total Acres Restored: over 209 acres
- Total Volunteers: 1,842 community volunteers
- Does large scale restoration work?
- Lesson Learned

























Thank you for your support!



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

www.tampabaywatch.org