

MANATEE COUNTY WATER QUALITY PLAN

1

Expand on
Existing Successes

2

Support Partner
Organizations

3

Plan for the
Future



Environmental Protection Division Leadership

- Alissa Powers, Division Manager (15 staff)
- Greg Blanchard, Environmental Prgm Mgr – Air and Water Quality Programs
- Paul Panik, Environmental Prgm Mgr -Groundwater Quality, Wells, Fertilizer Ord, and SGQ Inspections
- Allie McClory, Fed NPDES Coordinator
- Scott Browning, Mining Regulation
- Kerry Harkinson, Water Quality Lab



Water Quality Proactive Track Record

- SW Wastewater Facility Improvements
- WQ Monitoring Program
- Fertilizer Ordinance
- IFAS Education & Certification Programs

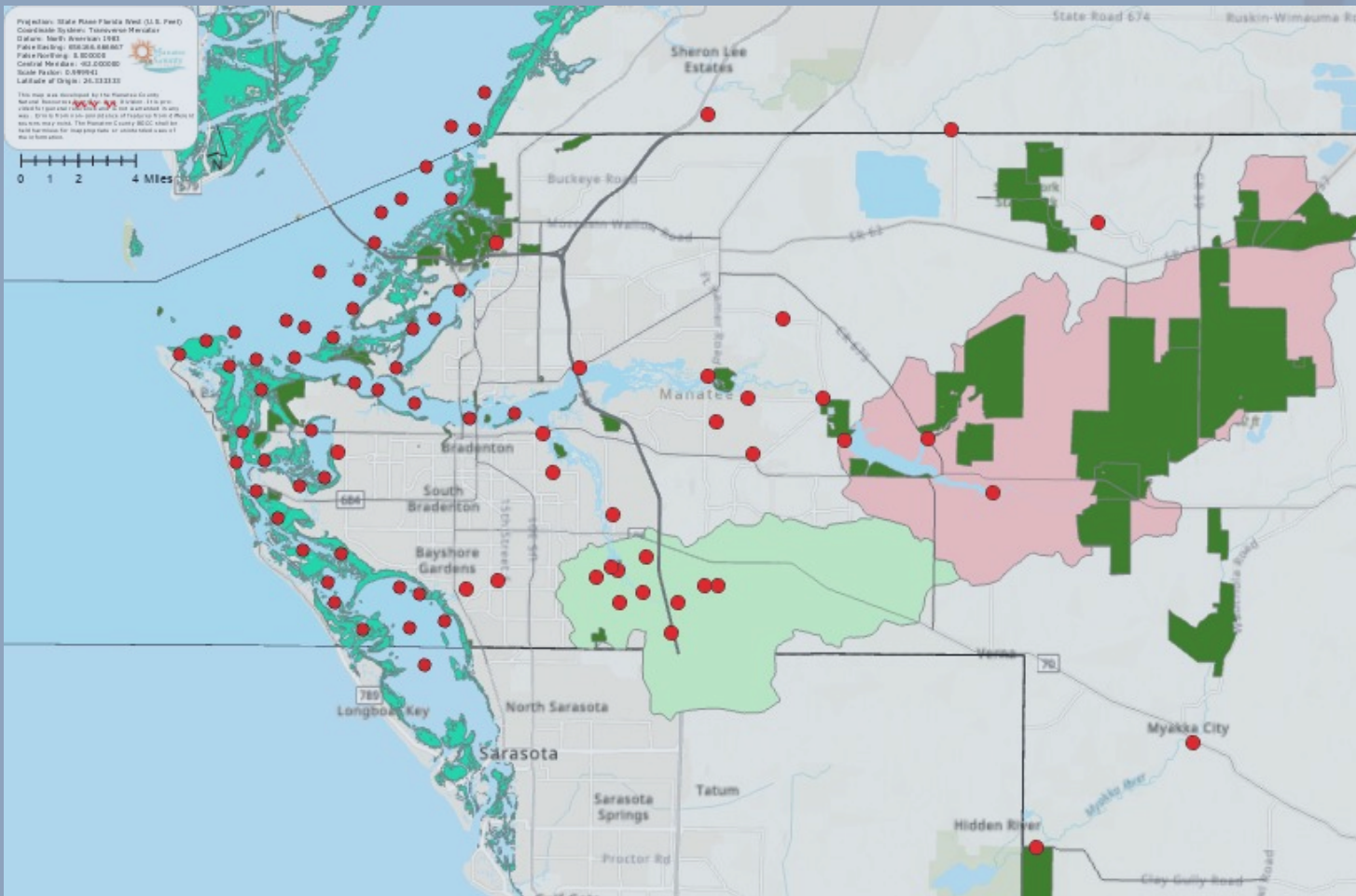


Water Quality Proactive Track Record

- **Stormwater quality improvements**
- **Watershed protection overlay districts, protecting both Evers Reservoir and Lake Manatee**
- Environmental Lands Program



Water Quality Improvements Across the County

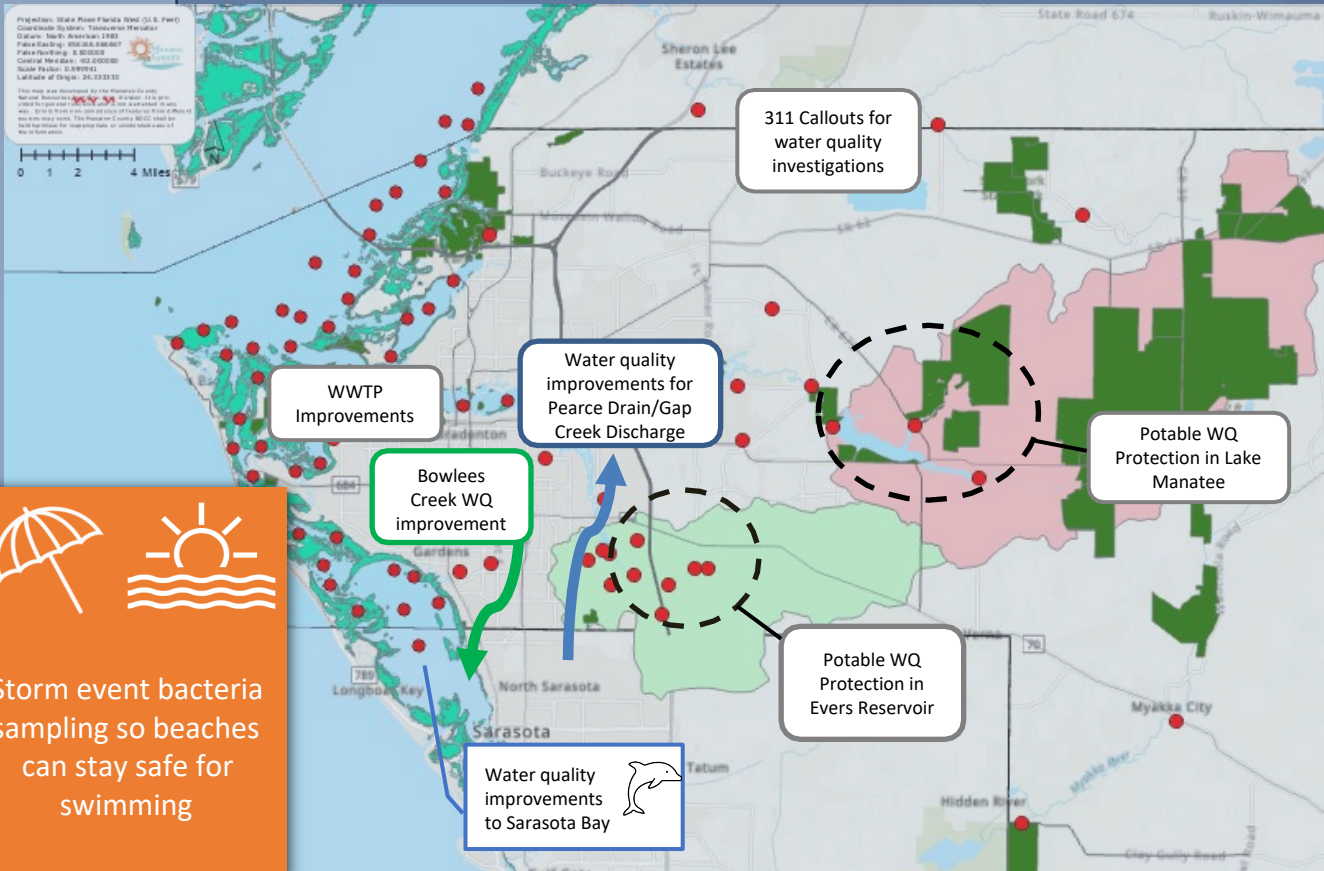


Legend

- Monitoring Stations
- Conservation Lands
- 2020 Seagrass Counts
- Manatee River Watershed
- Evers Reservoir Watershed



Water Quality Improvements Across the County



Storm event bacteria
sampling so beaches
can stay safe for
swimming

80

monitoring
stations generate
over 11,000
analyses/year

18M

gallons of water saved
through IFAS water use
education

114,262

acres of seagrass

(Larger than the City
Limits of Bradenton)

Manatee County Fertilizer Ordinance

- **Protection of County's natural resources**
- **Urban residential turf and landscape**
- **Supports regulatory requirements:**
 - **Federal water quality permit**
 - **Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Coalition**
 - **Total Maximum Daily Load**
 - **Basin Management Action Plans**



Manatee County Fertilizer Ordinance

Do's and Don't

KEY RESTRICTIONS

- Restricted Season: June 1 to Sept 30 - NO Nitrogen
- All other times – use slow release nitrogen (>50%)
- NO phosphorus at any time (unless testing shows deficiency)

EXEMPTIONS

- Agricultural properties/ Right-to-Farm Act
- Golf courses
- Specialized turf (athletic fields)
- Vegetable gardens



Manatee County Fertilizer Ordinance

Landscape Professional and Fertilizer Applicator Licenses

Public Education & Resources

- Be Floridian campaign
- IFAS training - Florida Friendly Landscaping
- HOA presentations
- MC Fertilizer email, mymanatee.org, METV

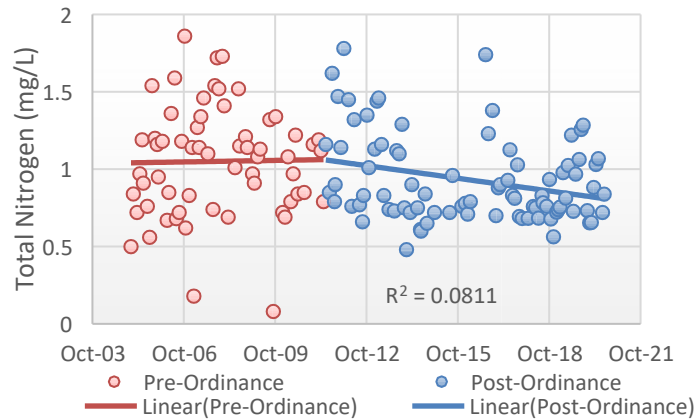
Surface WQ Monitoring

- In bays, rivers, and streams throughout the year



Surface Water Quality Pre & Post-Ordinance

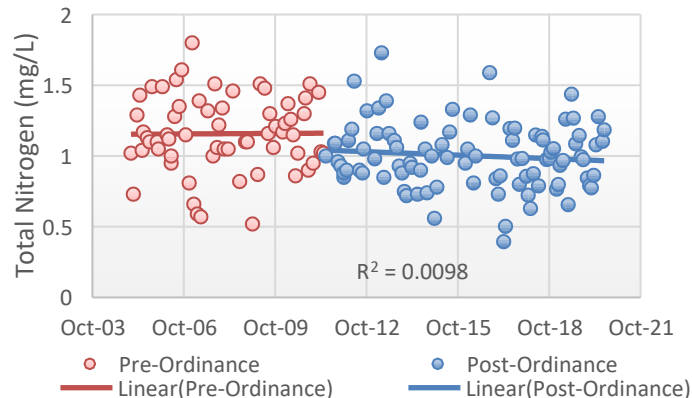
Nonsense Creek



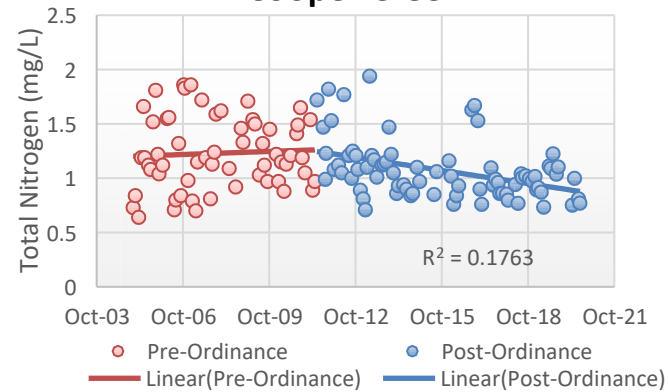
Ord. Adopted
in May 2011

TN and Chl-a
decreases
observed

Rattlesnake Slough

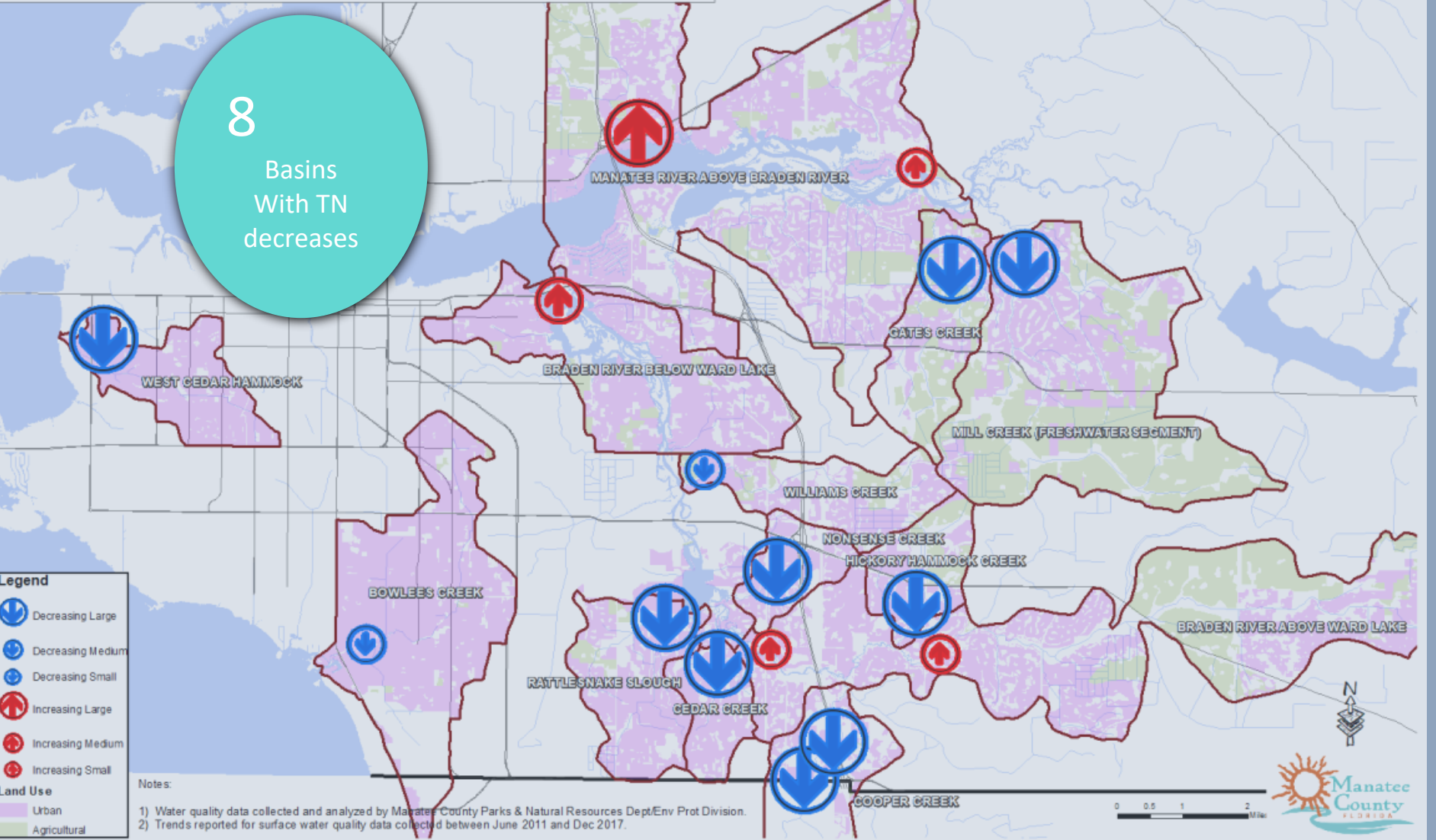


Cooper Creek



Total Nitrogen Trends in Surface Water (Post 2011- Manatee County Fertilizer Ord Adoption)

8
Basins
With TN
decreases



Keep Manatee Beautiful 2023 Year In Review



Volunteers
3,750 Volunteers

17,047
Hours

\$542,095
Value of
Service



Tree Giveaway
1,000 Native trees
donated to
Manatee County
Residents



Tree Giveaway
1,000 Seaoats
planted

2 underwater
cleanups

2 gardens during
Earth Day



Partnerships

BACVB

Sarasota Bay Watch

Suncoast Aqua Ventures

Tampa Bay Estuary
Program Palmetto High
School



Trash Totals
112,670 lbs
Trash

6,608 lbs
Recycling

162
Tires



Planning for the Future:

FY24-FY28

- Wastewater Improvements
- Stormwater Improvements
- Natural Systems
- Testing, Inspections, and Verification



Wastewater Improvements

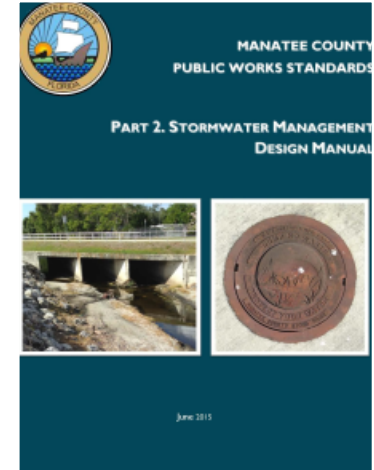
- Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant retrofits in 2017
- Inflow and infiltration
- Southeast & North County Wastewater Treatment Plant expansions for efficiency



Stormwater Improvements

Co-locate water quality improvements with flood storage projects wherever possible

- Watershed water quality master plans:
 - Mill Creek
 - Gap Creek/Pearce Drain
 - Bowlees Creek
- Automated outfall structures and nutrient baffle boxes
- Gov Ron DeSantis Park for Pearce Drain
- Street sweeping
 - 2-fold increase in frequency



Natural Systems

- Conservation land acquisitions
- Habitat restoration
- Manatee River oyster restoration
- Seawall conversions to living shorelines
- Stream restoration and re-wilding at GT Bray



Restoration Projects Benefit Water Quality

- Emerson Point Preserve
- Robinson Preserve
- Duette Preserve
- GT Bray Park
- Bennett Park
- Hidden Harbor



5,000

Seagrass plugs
planted

25,000

Trees Planted in
2023 alone

15,500+

Acres of habitat
restoration

1,500

Vertical Oyster
Gardens installed

Testing, Inspections, and Verification

- Golf Course Maintenance Facilities Inspection Program
- Expand support for illicit discharge and emergency response
- Expand WQ Monitoring Program to include bacteriological testing, sampling/analysis capacity, & automated equipment



Questions?



Emerson Point Preserve