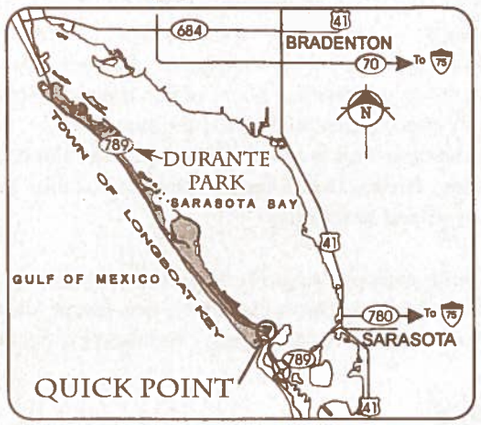
QUICK POINT
NATURE PRESERVE



Quick Point Nature Preserve
100 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, Florida 34228
Also visit Durante Park at 5550 Gulf of Mexico Drive

For more information contact:
TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key, Florida 34228
941-316-1999 or 941-316-1988

The Quick Point Nature Preserve restoration was made possible through a cooperative effort of:

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Motorboats can also damage grass beds. Surveys show almost half of local motorboats run aground in grass beds, spinning their propellers and carving out bare, sandy trenches that cause irreversible damage.

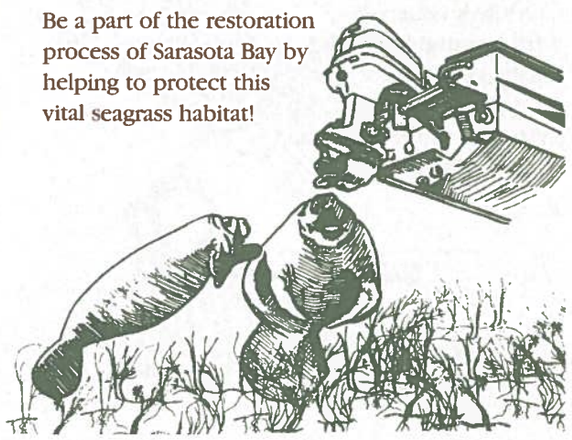
What you can do to avoid running through grass beds with your motorboat:

- Keep track of the tides, even at high tides some beds are vulnerable.
- Look for buoys, which mark the edges of some grass beds.
- Read navigation charts. Seagrass is shown as light green or with "Grs."
- Read the water. A grass bed may appear as a large dark area underwater.

If you do run into a grass bed, you'll be leaving behind a mud trail where your prop has churned up the bay bottom, clouded the water, and likely cut seagrass roots. It's what you do next that counts:

- Stop the engine.
- Tilt the motor then, pole or walk out of the shallow grass flat.

Be a part of the restoration process of Sarasota Bay by helping to protect this vital seagrass habitat!



SARASOTA BAY OVERVIEW

Sarasota Bay is a highly productive estuary, but because of rapid population growth since the 1940's and beyond, substantial negative impacts have occurred to the bay and its natural resources.

Certain measures are having a significant beneficial impact for the restoration of Sarasota Bay, for example improvements in wastewater and stormwater treatment technologies and permitting requirements. But furthering the restoration goals depends on each one of you making a difference.

Here's a couple of suggestions to get you started:

- Get involved in community plantings and exotic removal projects.
- Get involved in Adopt-a-Shore or community coastal cleanup projects to remove harmful marine debris from our waterways.
- Reduce, recycle and reuse paper, glass, aluminum and plastic materials.
- Learn about environmentally-friendly ways to landscape your Florida yard so as to reduce stormwater runoff pollution from entering the bay.

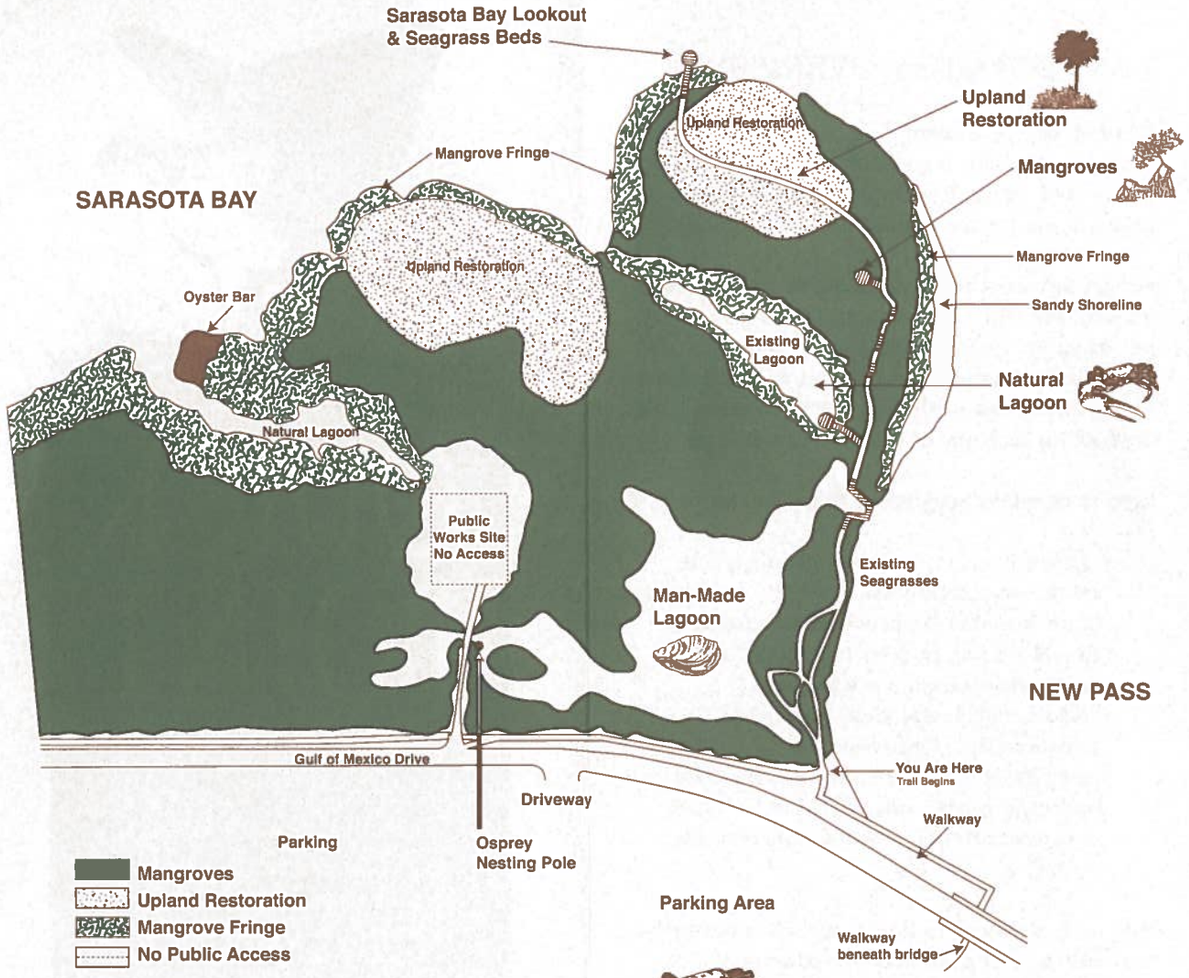
And, here is where to go for further information and assistance for environmental education:

Town of Longboat Key
(941) 316-1999 or (941) 316-1988
Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program
(941) 955-8085
Keep Sarasota Beautiful
(941) 364-4667
Keep Manatee Beautiful
(941) 795-8272
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
(813) 744-6100

QUICK POINT
NATURE PRESERVE

Town of Longboat Key

Healthy wetlands and mangroves provide a number of essential benefits to Sarasota Bay. These habitats provide food and shelter to bay life, filter pollutants and help to protect shorelines from erosion. Over the past 50 years, development has caused a decline in the quantity and quality of Sarasota Bay's wetlands. The public acquisition and restoration of Quick Point is a shining example of what can be done to protect and re-establish this unique and vital habitat.



MAN-MADE LAGOON

The man-made tidal lagoon area was excavated to different elevations and depths to attract different kinds of animals. You may see whelks, conchs, juvenile crabs and many kinds of small fish, including mullet, black drum, and others. The pond may also contain blue-green and brown algae, an important food chain for some of the lagoon's residents. Make sure to be on the look out for wading birds within the lagoon area such as the Snowy Egret, White Ibis, Herring Gull, Great Blue Heron, Great American Egret and Osprey.

NATURAL LAGOON

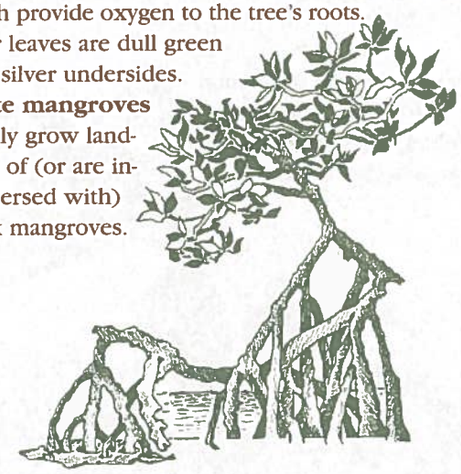
This pristine mangrove lagoon area was present 100 years ago and still serves today as a serene natural setting of mangroves for utilization by shore birds and human enjoyment. The natural lagoon area also serves as vital habitat for juvenile fish and crabs just like the new man-made lagoon.

MANGROVES

During the 1950's and 1960's extensive ditching of the mangroves occurred for mosquito control purposes. Connecting low marshy areas with a series of crisscrossing ditches was the method used to drain lowlands and allow fish into ditches. The fish would feed on the mosquito larvae thereby effecting biological control of this problem. The ditches were dug by the use of a mechanical dragline, with the spoil being placed on the mangroves.

Today we know the beauty, wildlife value, erosion protection, and importance in estuary ecology that make mangroves an important natural resource, which all Floridians should strive to protect.

Here are identification tips on the four different mangrove species found throughout the Quick Point Nature Preserve. **Red mangroves** will be found closest to open water. They have arching prop roots and their seeds, or propagules, look something like green cigars. Their leaves are large and bright green. **Black mangroves** will usually be found growing landward of red mangroves. Black mangroves "sweat" salt from their leaves and send up twiggy projections from their roots called pneumatophores, which provide oxygen to the tree's roots. Their leaves are dull green with silver undersides. **White mangroves** usually grow landward of (or are interspersed with) black mangroves.



UPLAND RESTORATION

There are two large areas at the Quick Point site that were created as a result of dredge spoil deposition. Australian Pines and Brazillian Peppers are invasive, non-native exotic species. These species spread easily and had heavily colonized these areas, taking over the indigenous and native beneficial vegetation. As part of the overall restoration plan for Quick Point the Australian Pines and Brazillian Peppers were removed, and new native plants were installed. Some of the upland restoration species planted, which are beneficial to the ecosystem and native canopy, are the: Cabbage Palm, Green Buttonwood, Gumbo Limbo, Sea Grape, and Red Cedar.

Additionally, plantings for the understory included; the Arrow leaf Morning Glory, Sea oxeye daisy, Beach sunflower, Muhly grass, and Sand Cordgrass.

SARASOTA BAY LOOKOUT

Seagrass beds enrich our bay life and are prevalent along the entire Quick Point shoreline.

For centuries the grassflats of Sarasota Bay have supported a rich array of wildlife. Unfortunately, though, the bay has lost about 30 percent of its seagrass since the 1940's and 1950's due to stormwater and wastewater discharge. Wastewater and stormwater have high levels of nitrogen that cause algae to grow in the bay and ultimately kill the seagrass. Recently, however, improvements in wastewater and stormwater treatment and technologies have led to the recovery of seagrass beds, by 7 percent since 1988, within the central and northern portions of the bay.