

FINAL 10.23.23

Town of Longboat Key Environmental Action Plan Goals > Objectives > Suggested Activities		Approach	Role / Potential Partners	Performance Measures	Potential Funding Sources	Benefits	Notes: Program Tactics and Implementation
Goal 1: Conserve and restore LBK's ecological biodiversity, function, services, and resilience.							
1.1 Conserve and restore native coastal habitats of LBK (CCM 1.2-1.4)							
A	Replace or modify seawalls and other hard shoreline structures on Town properties where feasible with natural shorelines or living seawalls that create habitat (CCM 1.4.2.4).	Action	Collaborate / SBEP, Sarasota and Manatee Counties, NGOs, FDEP, USACE	Pilot seawall modification project at Bayfront Park completed	SBEP (BIL)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBEP pilot study of concrete panels on the outside of vinyl seawalls to facilitate oyster attachment and growth.
B	Protect, restore, and maintain beaches and dunes to their design function as specified in the Beach Management Plan (CCM 1.3.1), including enhanced dune plantings and avoiding wrack raking.	Action	Conduct / NGOs, FDEP, HOAs	Dune health, beach width (annual beach report)	Beaches and dunes protection and restoration funding through Capital Improvement Project, Local Government Funding Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and restoring natural shorelines improves wildlife habitat, water quality, and resilience to storms and sea level rise. • Protecting beaches and dunes improves shoreline stability, habitat quality, and resilience to storms and sea level rise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement an education campaign to HOAs about the importance of wrack and not raking healthy wrack communities.
C	Educate and encourage the public to replace or modify privately owned seawalls and other hard shoreline structures where feasible with natural shorelines or living seawalls that create habitat (CCM 1.4.2.3).	Education Policy	Support / NGOs, SBEP, FDEP, USACE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating the public about best practices for maintaining native shoreline vegetation and water recreation can reduce impacts to coastal habitats, including mangroves and seagrass, and protect the fish and wildlife dependent on those habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform private property owners and developers about benefits of natural shorelines or living seawalls that create habitat during development pre-application meetings.
D	Educate waterfront property owners about mangrove trimming regulations and best practices. Support enforcement and investigate delegation of mangrove protection from FDEP to Town of Longboat Key.	Education	Collaborate / SBEP, UF-IFAS Extension, Sea Grant, FDEP, HOAs, NGOS, WCIND	Mangrove protection education and outreach campaign conducted annually			
E	Educate boaters about shallow seagrass areas and best practices for avoiding impacts.	Education	Support / SBEP, FWC			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing dead fish and other aquatic life from local waters and coastal habitats during harmful algal blooms improves water quality and reduces nutrients available to perpetuate blooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require boat rental companies to provide a flyer about protecting seagrasses to people renting boats. Partner with Cannons Marina to hand out flyers. • Educate with signage at boat launches.
F	Encourage salt tolerant native tree canopies and landscaping, including fast-growing micro forests for small plots (CCM 1.6.3).	Policy	Conduct / Sarasota and Manatee UF-IFAS Extension, SBEP, NGOs				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration site at Jackson Drive
G	Remove invasive exotic species from Town of Longboat Key properties, including Australian pines, Brazilian pepper (CCM 1.6.3.2); continue to incentivize Australian Pine removal on private property (CCM 1.6.3.3); prevent plantings of invasive exotic trees (Tree Ordinance).	Action Policy	Conduct / SBEP, Manatee and Sarasota Counties	# invasive trees removed	CIP incentive for removing Australian pines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement an education campaign about invasive exotic species, including information about pulling recruits.
H	Assist partners in monitoring red tide conditions and in removal of dead marine life from coastal waters and habitats (CCM 1.1.3).	Action	Collaborate / Manatee and Sarasota Counties, NGOs				
I	Maintain native habitats on Sister Keys following an ecosystem management plan (CCM 1.6.1.2) and protect seagrass from boat traffic.	Action Policy	Collaborate / NGOs, FDEP				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider moving signs further out from island to mark edge of shallow grass flat. • Consider adding slow speed signs.

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1.2 Conserve and restore fish & wildlife of LBK (CCM 1.6)							
A	Educate, encourage, and install oyster restoration on Town and private properties.	Education Policy	Collaborate / SBEP, Manatee County, NGOs	Additional locations suitable for oyster restoration identified	SBEP Bay Partners Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting shorebird nesting, courting, and feeding habitat protects threatened and endangered species. Maintaining healthy dunes is fundamental to maintaining a healthy, resilient beach ecosystem. Maintaining natural wrack communities supports beach ecosystems and helps stabilize dune vegetation through nutrients and seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign to install Vertical Oyster Gardens on docks
B	Educate the public and monitor beaches during nesting season to protect sea turtles, including nesting areas, nest counts, nest marking, lighting, and obstacles.	Education Action	Collaborate / NGOs, FWC		CIP		
C	Educate the public and monitor beaches during breeding season to protect feeding and nesting areas for beach nesting shorebirds.	Education Action	Conduct / US Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, NGOs	Sea turtle and shorebird protection education and outreach campaign conducted annually	CIP		
D	Educate the public on the risk of unintended secondary poisoning of raptors and domestic animals from use of rat poison.	Education	Support / NGOs including Save Our Seabirds				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign on use of Rat-X product as safer alternative for pest control.
E	Support investigating establishing a "Marine Protected Zone" on the flats around Sister Keys.	Action	Coordinate / SBEP				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate a pole & troll zone.

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Goal 2: Reduce human impacts on LBK's natural environment							
2.1 Reduce stormwater pollution							
A	Install green infrastructure (LID) on Town properties and right of ways (CCM 1.1.2.2).	Action	Collaborate / Sarasota's County, Manatee County, SWFWMD, SBEP, FDOT	Green infrastructure incorporated into new library project	Federal and State grants	Reducing stormwater pollution improves water quality necessary to support human uses and healthy coastal ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, rain gardens, bioswales, pervious trails, walkways and drives. Reference the Sarasota County LID Manual and Water Quality Playbook
B	Assess, repair, and replace failing stormwater infrastructure.	Action	Conduct		CIP, grants		
C	Educate the public about nutrient pollution from fertilizer and pet waste in stormwater and its relationship to harmful algal blooms and ecosystem and public health, and about the requirements of the Town of Longboat Key fertilizer ordinances for individual and commercial applicators.	Education	Conduct / UF-IFAS, SBEP, Sarasota and Manatee Counties, FDEP	Nutrient pollution and fertilizer ordinance education campaign required for NPDES permit conducted annually			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate the best education materials into Spanish.
D	Encourage and incentivize adoption of green infrastructure on private property (CCM 1.1.2.2).	Policy	Conduct / SBEP				
2.2 Reduce wastewater pollution							
A	Install a redundant underwater wastewater line under Sarasota Bay.	Action	Conduct	Redundant underwater wastewater line under Sarasota Bay completed	State and Federal appropriations, grants, utility rates	Reducing wastewater pollution improves water quality necessary to support human uses and healthy coastal ecosystems.	
B	Assess wastewater infrastructure and repair or replace damaged components, especially to reduce infiltration and inflow (WW 1.1.1 and 1.2.3).	Action	Conduct		Utility rates		
C	Educate the public about nutrient pollution from wastewater overflows and its relationship to harmful algal blooms and ecosystem and public health, and about what not to flush or pour down the drain.	Education	Conduct / SBEP, Sarasota County	"What Not To Flush" and FOG pollution education and outreach campaign conducted annually			
D	Support Sarasota Bay designation as a State "No Discharge Zone" for boaters.	Education	Support / TBEP, SBEP, CHNEP				
E	Prohibit the use of septic tanks, except for Jewfish Key (CCM 2.2.1 and CCM 1.1.1.4), where advanced septic systems will be encouraged.	Policy	Conduct				

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2.3	Improve energy use efficiencies and increase use of clean energy alternatives						
A	Monitor and pilot replacement of Town gasoline combustion landscape equipment with electric equipment where work performance can be maintained or improved.	Action	Conduct		CIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing energy use decreases local and regional air and water pollution from nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants and saves money. Replacing gasoline combustion tools with electric tools reduces local air, noise, and water pollution and provides health benefits to operators. 	
B	Continue to replace Town gasoline combustion vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles where feasible.	Action	Conduct		CIP		
C	Educate and encourage efficiency upgrades and rooftop solar on privately owned buildings.	Education Policy	Support / UF-IFAS, NGOs				
D	Educate the public on the environmental health benefits of adopting electric vehicles and lawn equipment and encourage their adoption.	Education Policy	Collaborate / UF-IFAS, SBEP				
E	Conduct an energy audit and develop recommendations for Town of Longboat Key buildings.	Action	Conduct		CIP, grants		Finance improvements through cost savings
F	Use green building practices for all future facilities on Town properties.	Policy	Collaborate / Sarasota and Manatee Counties	Library with green infrastructure 100% complete			
G	Continue to replace legacy lighting for Town rights-of-way with energy-efficient wildlife-friendly LED fixtures. Explore solar-powered lighting.	Action	Conduct	Legacy lighting along electrical undergrounding corridors 100% replaced with wildlife-friendly LED fixtures			
H	Encourage and incentivize green building practices for new private construction.	Policy	Conduct				
I	Support establishing a single level of public transit on the island.	Education Policy	Coordinate / Sarasota and Manatee Counties				
J	Implement Gulf of Mexico Drive Complete Streets Corridor Plan to enhance pedestrian and bicycle opportunities with safe multi-use trails that are separated from automobile traffic (CCM 1.7.3).	Action	Conduct / Sarasota-Manatee MPO, FDOT	Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study for GMD completed	CIP, grants		
K	Educate and encourage the private sector to install community electric vehicle charging infrastructure on private property and create incentives for use.	Education Policy	Support / NGOs				
L	Provide for Town meetings, as legally acceptable, to be attended remotely.	Action	Conduct				

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2.4 Reduce litter and landfill waste							
A	Educate the public about what can and cannot be recycled to increase community recycle rates and reduce contamination.	Education	Collaborate / UF-IFAS, Waste Management	Education campaign for what can and cannot be recycled conducted annually		Reducing litter improves water quality, fish and wildlife health, human health, community aesthetics, and property values.	Consider performance incentives and recognition.
B	Educate the public on better consumer packaging choices and avoiding single use plastics.	Education	Conduct				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create "LBK Cares" re-usable canvas bags with key messaging to provide to visitors • Provide recognition/award to business with the best effort.
C	Educate the public about composting on residential properties. Support commercial composting.	Education	Support / NGOs and Restaurants				
D	Conduct volunteer cleanups of litter and marine debris.	Action	Collaborate / Manatee and Sarasota Counties, NGOs				
E	Educate the public about onsite chipping and shredding of vegetation.	Education	Support / NGOs				
F	Educate the public about the Town's No-Smoking Ordinance and enforce at public beaches, public beach and bay access points, and public parks.	Action	Conduct	# litter incident reports			

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Goal 3: Build capacity of LBK and partners to conserve and restore LBK ecosystems and to collaborate on environmental initiatives.							
3.1 Collaborate with local governments, SBEP, and NGOs on shared environmental goals and objectives.							
A	Identify and join collaborative grant opportunities with partner agencies.	Action	Collaborate	# collaborative grants submitted annually		Collaborating with other organizations reduces costs and increases actions to implement environmental goals and objectives.	
B	Support the SBEP in implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCM 1.4.1).	Action	Collaborate				
C	Identify and pursue education collaborations with partners. Identify and adapt educational materials created by local governments, SBEP, SEC, and NGOs.	Action	Collaborate / SBEP, UF-IFAS, Sarasota and Manatee Counties, NGOs	# collaborative educational campaigns conducted annually			
D	Integrate with collaborative environmental organizations like the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program and the Science and Environment Council.	Action	Collaborate				
E	Leverage community communication channels to educate visitors and the public.	Education	Collaborate				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network communications through community groups such as message boards at condos; Condo Federation; Rotary Club; North End group. • Weekly environmental column in LBK Observer. • Annual mailing to every address in LBK. • Post information in rental units on green community goals, initiatives, and best practices. • Include one environmental tip every month in Town newsletter.
F	Build Town capacity to implement the Environmental Action Plan.	Action	Conduct				Resources could include consultants, contractual employees, grants, software, or other investments.