

## Blackburn Bay Condition Report for 2022

✓

# PASS

Chl-a

N

P

3 out of 3  
indicators were  
rated as **PASS**.

All three  
indicators must pass for the bay to be rated as **PASS**.



**Bays included in this report:**  
**Blackburn Bay**

### Summary:

Overall water quality in Blackburn Bay continued to be good in 2022. The mean values of both Chlorophyll and Total Nitrogen increased slightly, with nitrogen edging above the target level of 0.36 mg/l. Considering the impact of Hurricane Ian on coastal water quality, these slight increases are not unexpected. Total Phosphorus concentrations continued to be very low and not of concern.

*Note: Beginning in 2020, Sarasota County switched from measuring apparent color to true color. The latter will be added to Bay Conditions reports in the near future.*

### Water Chemistry Ratings

Total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a* levels are monitored carefully by water resource managers and used by regulatory authorities to determine whether a bay meets the water quality standards mandated by the Clean Water Act. The trend graphs for these indicators are shown below, along with their target and threshold values. A target value is a desirable goal to be attained, while a threshold is an undesirable level which is to be

avoided. An individual indicator receives an "Excellent" rating if its mean value is below the target, a "Good" rating if its mean value is above the target but does not exceed the threshold, and a "Caution" rating if the mean value exceeds the threshold.

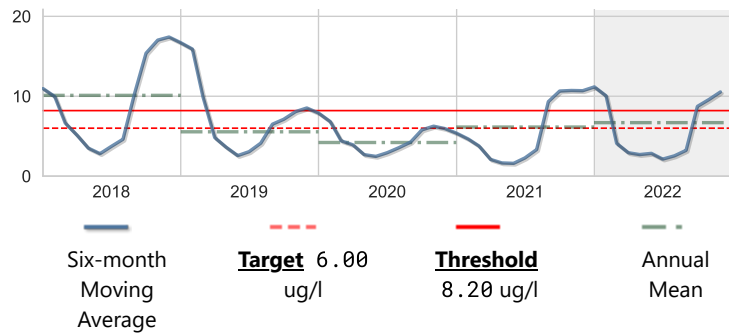
The charts below illustrate the general trend of water quality parameters. They show a six-month running average, which moderates high and low values in the data.



## Chlorophyll a

Score: Good

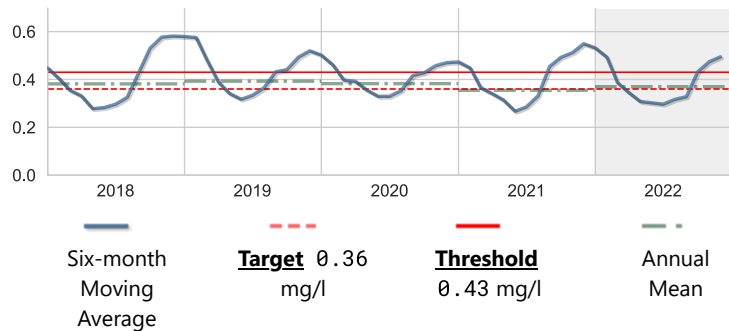
Units: ug/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	39.55	59.70
<b>Mean</b>	6.69	5.47
<b>Low</b>	0.92	0.20
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	2172



## Nitrogen, Total

Score: Good

Units: mg/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	1.065	2.205
<b>Mean</b>	0.369	0.336
<b>Low</b>	0.175	0.055
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1331

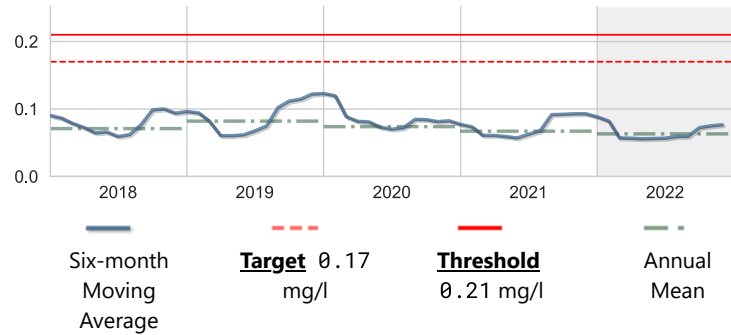




## Phosphorus, Total

**Score:** Excellent

Units: mg/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	0.170	0.530
<b>Mean</b>	0.063	0.092
<b>Low</b>	0.050	0.050
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1342

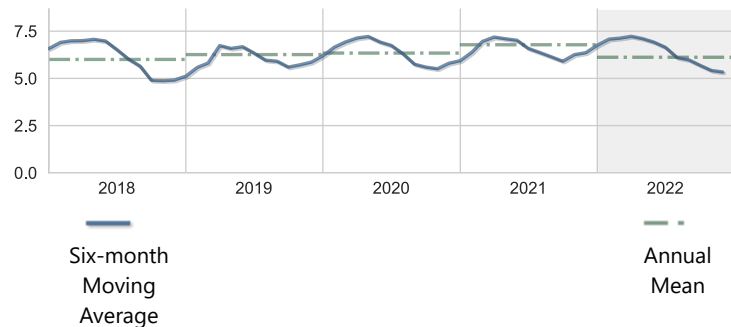


## Other Measures of Bay Health

In addition to nutrient levels and chlorophyll concentration, dissolved oxygen levels, and water clarity are also objective indicators of bay health. These have complex interactive cycles which are affected by rainfall, temperature, and tidal action, as well as other factors. High nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus) can stimulate excessive growth of marine algae (indicated by chlorophyll *a* level), resulting in reduced water clarity (and increased light attenuation) and depleted oxygen levels. Both plants and animals in a bay need oxygen to survive, and the seagrasses which provide food and cover for bay creatures need light for photosynthesis.

## Dissolved Oxygen

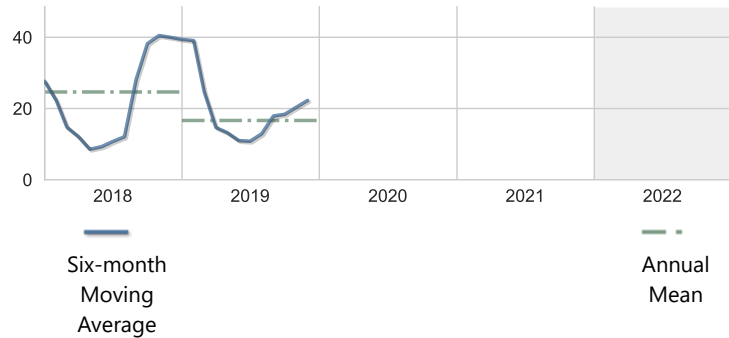
Units: mg/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	8.63	11.90
<b>Mean</b>	6.12	6.42
<b>Low</b>	3.93	1.27
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



## Apparent Color

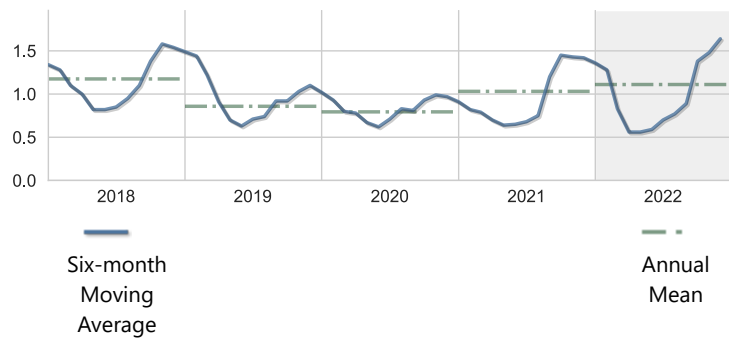
Note: The latest available sample for this parameter is from December 2019

Units: PCU	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>		250.00
<b>Mean</b>		19.86
<b>Low</b>		2.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	0	1194



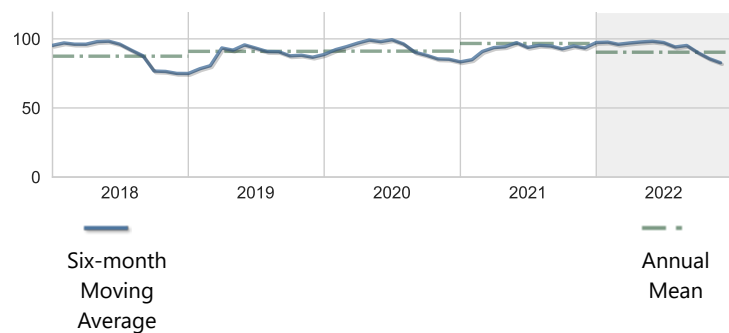
## BOD, Biochemical oxygen demand

Units: mg/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	4.20	7.10
<b>Mean</b>	1.11	1.06
<b>Low</b>	0.50	0.50
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1227



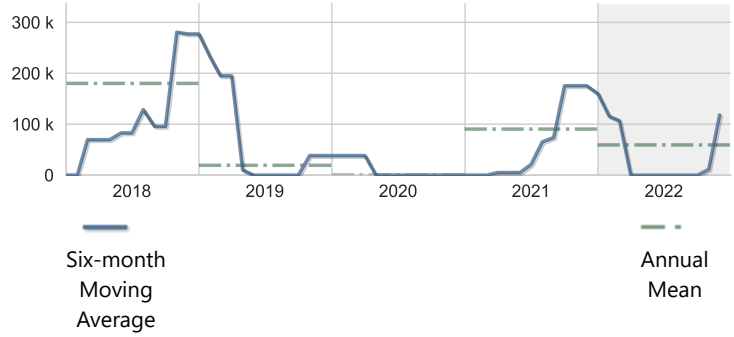
## Dissolved oxygen saturation

Units: percent (%)	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	115.00	198.00
<b>Mean</b>	90.33	93.81
<b>Low</b>	63.00	20.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



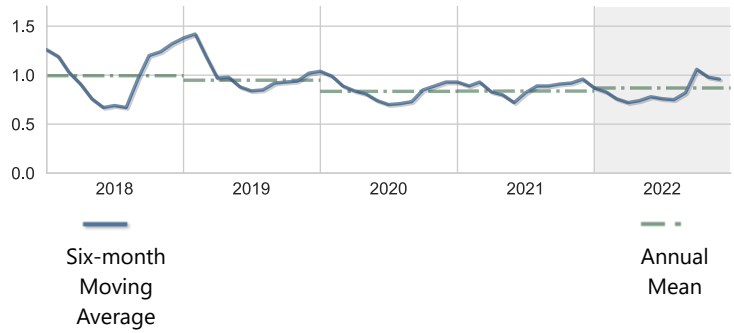
### Karenia brevis ("red tide")

Units: #/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	1246000.00	2280000.00
<b>Mean</b>	59229.17	59134.60
<b>Low</b>	0.00	0.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	893



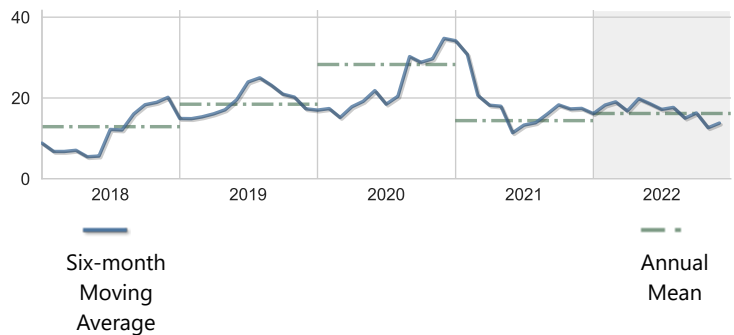
### Light Attenuation

Units: K(1/m)	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	2.38	5.03
<b>Mean</b>	0.87	0.89
<b>Low</b>	0.26	0.02
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1213



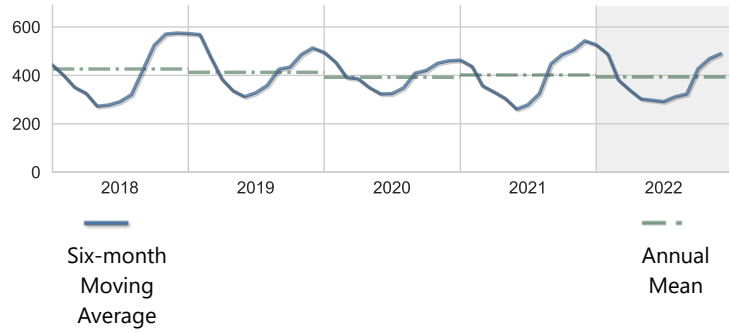
### Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	37.00	132.00
<b>Mean</b>	16.17	15.50
<b>Low</b>	5.00	5.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1340



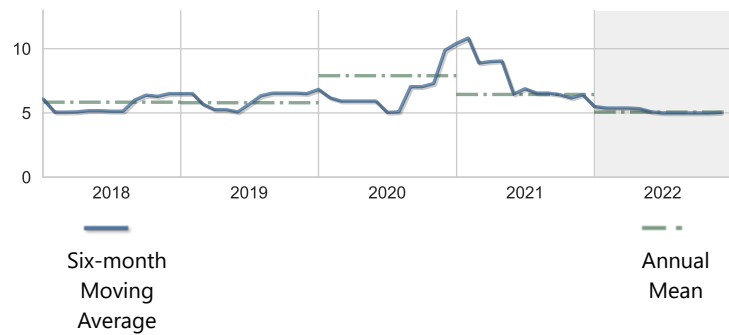
## Nitrogen, Kjeldahl

Units: ug/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	1060.00	2200.00
<b>Mean</b>	393.33	368.73
<b>Low</b>	170.00	50.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1343



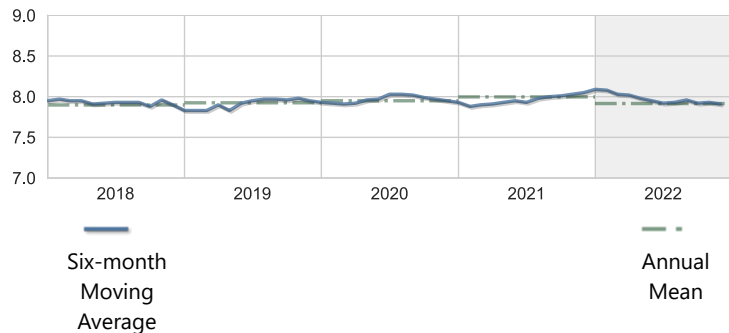
## Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate as N

Units: ug/l	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	6.00	65.00
<b>Mean</b>	5.06	6.05
<b>Low</b>	5.00	5.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1664



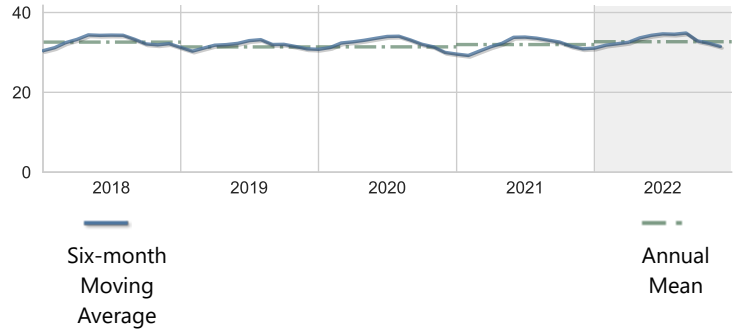
## pH

Units: None	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	8.08	8.40
<b>Mean</b>	7.92	7.93
<b>Low</b>	7.66	6.10
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



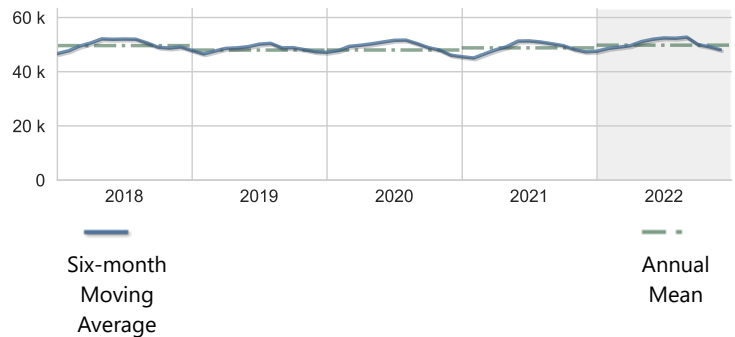
## Salinity

Units: PSS	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	36.30	39.30
<b>Mean</b>	32.68	32.79
<b>Low</b>	20.40	5.70
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



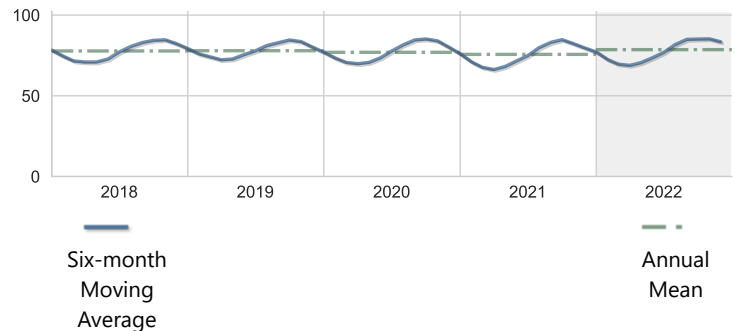
## Specific conductance

Units: umho	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	54700.00	58760.00
<b>Mean</b>	49797.92	49934.46
<b>Low</b>	32700.00	10130.00
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



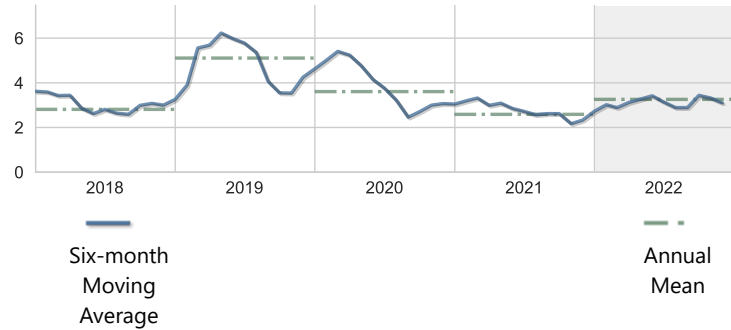
## Temperature, water

Units: deg F	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	89.24	92.84
<b>Mean</b>	78.59	76.80
<b>Low</b>	59.00	47.84
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1356



## Turbidity

Units: NTU	Year 2022	Historical period of record
<b>High</b>	8.00	39.00
<b>Mean</b>	3.26	3.88
<b>Low</b>	1.30	0.20
<b>No. of Samples</b>	48	1338



## Annual Averages

Indicator	Units	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend
<b>Dissolved Oxygen</b>	<b>mg/l</b>	6.00	6.26	6.34	6.78	6.12	
<b>Dissolved oxygen saturation</b>	<b>percent (%)</b>	87.46	90.96	91.10	96.67	90.33	
<b>Light Attenuation</b>	<b>K(1/m)</b>	0.99	0.95	0.83	0.84	0.87	
<b>Salinity</b>	<b>PSS</b>	32.58	31.38	31.39	31.97	32.68	
<b>Turbidity</b>	<b>NTU</b>	2.81	5.11	3.61	2.59	3.26	

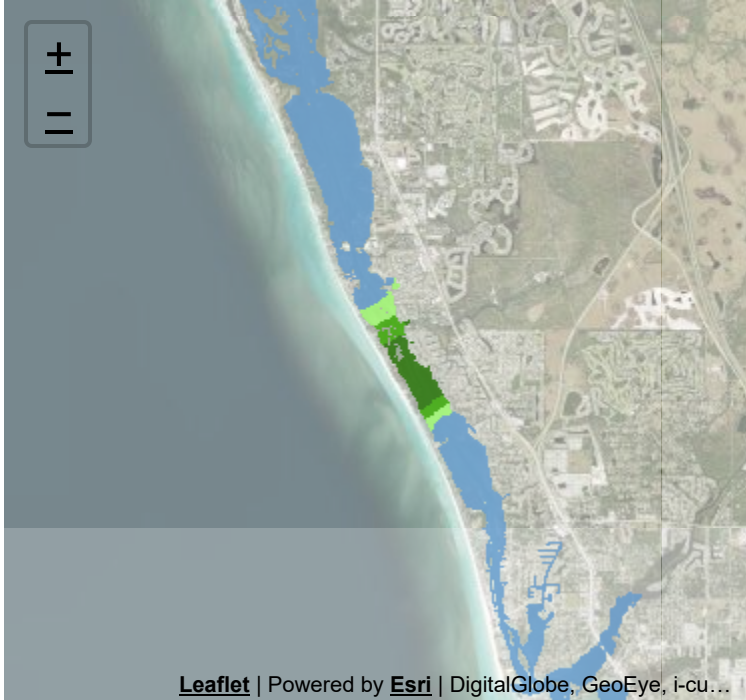
## Bay Contour Maps (2022)

Contour mapping is one of the best ways to visualize spatial differences in coastal water quality. The interactive map shown below presents monthly data for one selected water quality indicator atop an aerial view of the bay. Choose a different water quality parameter from the list at the top to change the map.



Showing 2022 Monthly Contour Maps for: Chlorophyll a ▼

January



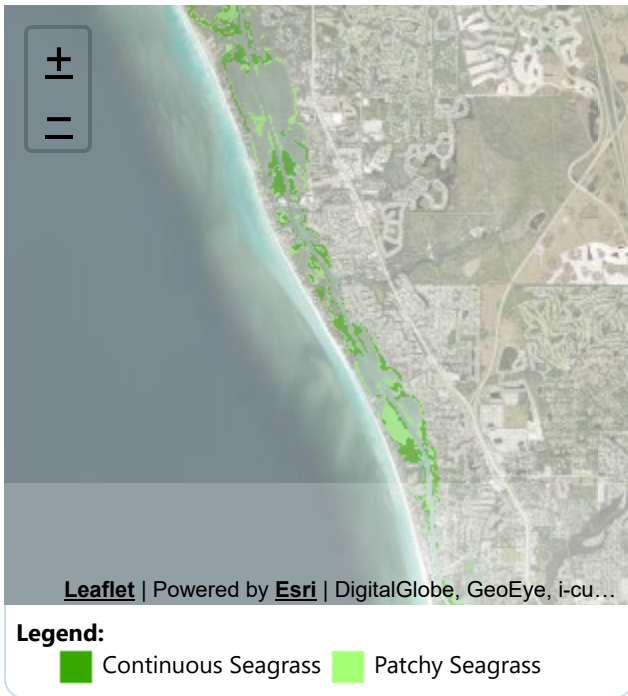
### Contour Legend:

- Less than 1 ug/l
- 1.0 - 5.9 ug/l
- 6.0 - 10.9 ug/l
- 11.0 - 17.9 ug/l
- Greater than 18 ug/l

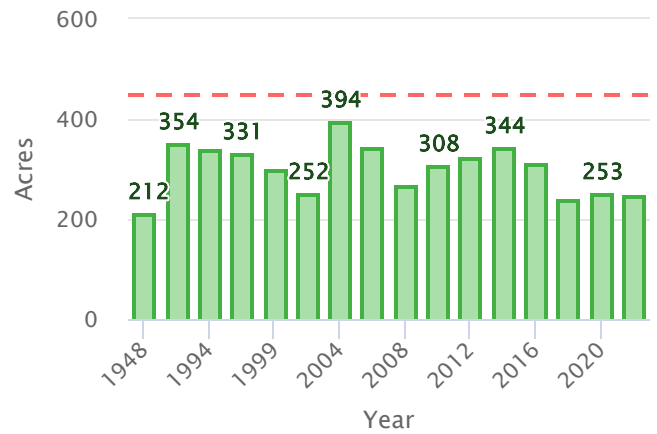
## Seagrasses

Among the most important habitats in Florida's estuarine environments, seagrass beds are indispensable for the role they play in cycling nutrients, supplying food for wildlife, stabilizing sediments, and providing habitat for juvenile and adult finfish and shellfish. Use the interactive map below to observe the size, density and location of seagrass beds from year to year. The graph shows how the total amount of seagrass in the bay has changed over time. Seagrass calculations are aggregates of patchy and continuous seagrass measurements only. Recordings of attached algae are not included in these summaries.

Showing Seagrass Coverage for 2022:



### Seagrass Acreage Variation within Blackburn Bay



--- Target 447 acres

## Impervious Features

Rain that falls on land that is in a natural state is absorbed and filtered by soils and vegetation as it makes its way into underground aquifers. However, in developed areas, "impervious surfaces" impede this process and contribute to polluted urban runoff entering surface waters. These surfaces include human infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots that are covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone, as well as buildings and other permanent structures. Soils that have been disturbed and compacted by urban development are often impervious as well.

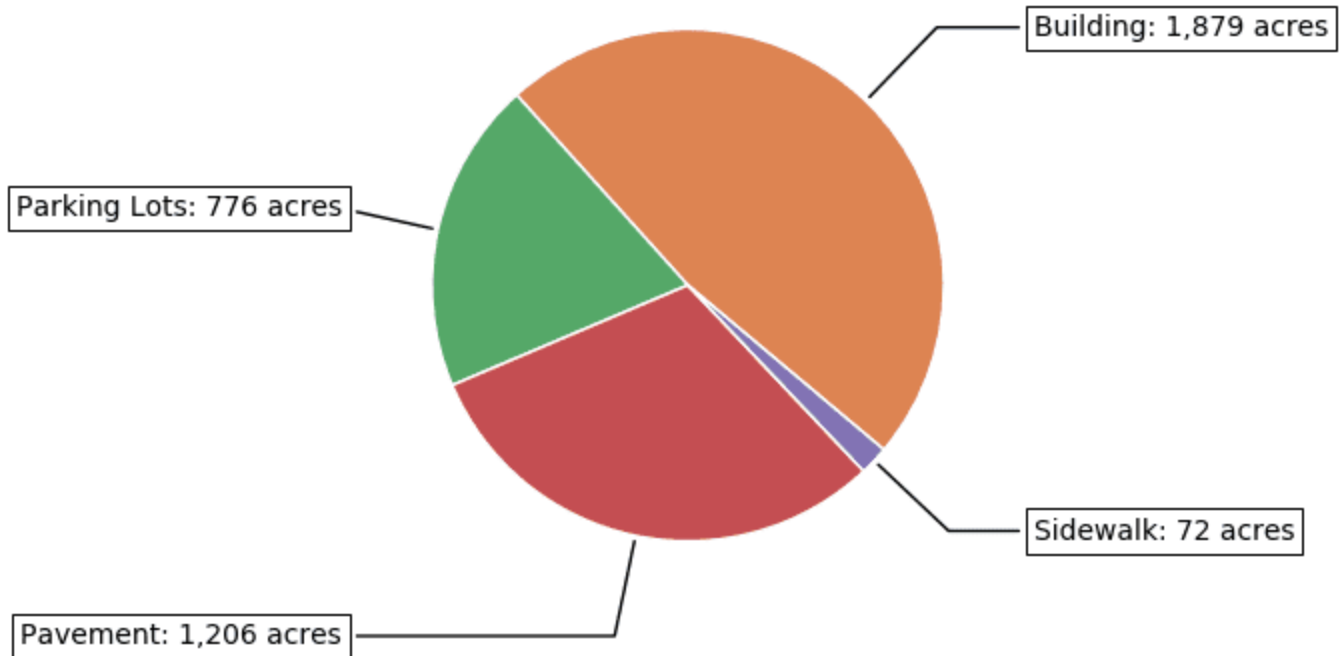


**14%** of the land area within the **Little Sarasota Bay Watershed** is covered by

impervious surfaces

## 2014 Impervious Surface Coverage by Type

in acres, within the Little Sarasota Bay Watershed




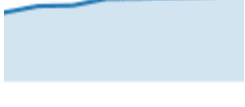
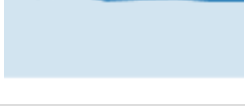
### Land Use / Land Cover

Land use within a bay's watershed has a major effect on its water quality. In general, less development means better water quality. Land Cover/Land Use classifications categorize land in terms of its observed physical surface characteristics (upland or wetland, e.g.), and also reflect the types of activity that are taking place on it (agriculture, urban/built-up, utilities, etc.). Florida uses as its standard a set of statewide classifications which were developed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Blackburn Bay is located within the Little Sarasota Bay Watershed. The chart below shows the land use / land cover characteristics for Little Sarasota Bay Watershed within the boundary of this Water Atlas. **[View details about the Little Sarasota Bay Watershed »](#)**

**Acreege and Percentage within each Land Use / Land Cover Category for Little Sarasota Bay Watershed**

2022 Bay Conditions Report for Blackburn Bay

Land Use Classification	1990	2005	2011	2014	2017	2020	Trend
<b>Urban &amp; Built-up</b>	8,943 31.9%	11,834 42.2%	12,102 43.1%	12,162 43.3%	12,777 45.5%	13,343 47.5%	
<b>Agriculture</b>	3,550 12.6%	3,228 11.5%	3,258 11.6%	4,223 15%	3,124 11.1%	2,837 10.1%	
<b>Rangeland</b>	825 2.9%	1,822 6.5%	1,474 5.3%	579 2.1%	1,233 4.4%	877 3.1%	
<b>Upland Forests</b>	7,098 25.3%	3,066 10.9%	2,981 10.6%	2,725 9.7%	2,687 9.6%	2,603 9.3%	
<b>Water</b>	3,429 12.2%	4,123 14.7%	4,147 14.8%	4,175 14.9%	4,227 15.1%	4,337 15.5%	
<b>Wetlands</b>	3,490 12.4%	3,133 11.2%	3,191 11.4%	3,227 11.5%	3,121 11.1%	3,120 11.1%	
<b>Barren Land</b>	62 0.2%	18 0.1%	19 0.1%	20 0.1%	6 0%	6 0%	
<b>Transportation and Utilities</b>	675 2.4%	841 3%	892 3.2%	952 3.4%	898 3.2%	948 3.4%	

### 2020 Land Use / Land Cover for Little Sarasota Bay Watershed

as a percentage of land area for this watershed

