

Declare the Seagrass Area of Sarasota Bay a National Preserve

We request the Manatee County Board of Commissioners to petition President Barack Obama to exercise his executive privilege and classify the sea grass and mangrove area of Sarasota Bay west of Long Bar Pointe as a national preserve and/or a "Contributing Property" to the National Registered Historical District, the Village of Cortez.



Seagrass beds are important to estuarine productivity in many ways. The grass beds provide protective nursery area for juvenile fish, shrimp, and crabs, and provide a substrate for growth of algal ephiphytes which serve as food for fish and crustaceans. Manatees feed directly on seagrasses. Seagrass roots also bind soils and reduce erosion and turbidity during strong tidal currents or storms, and absorb storm energy, thereby protecting coastal habitats, property and human habitation.

Please sign the on-line petition at: <http://ourmanatee.com/seagrass.html>

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