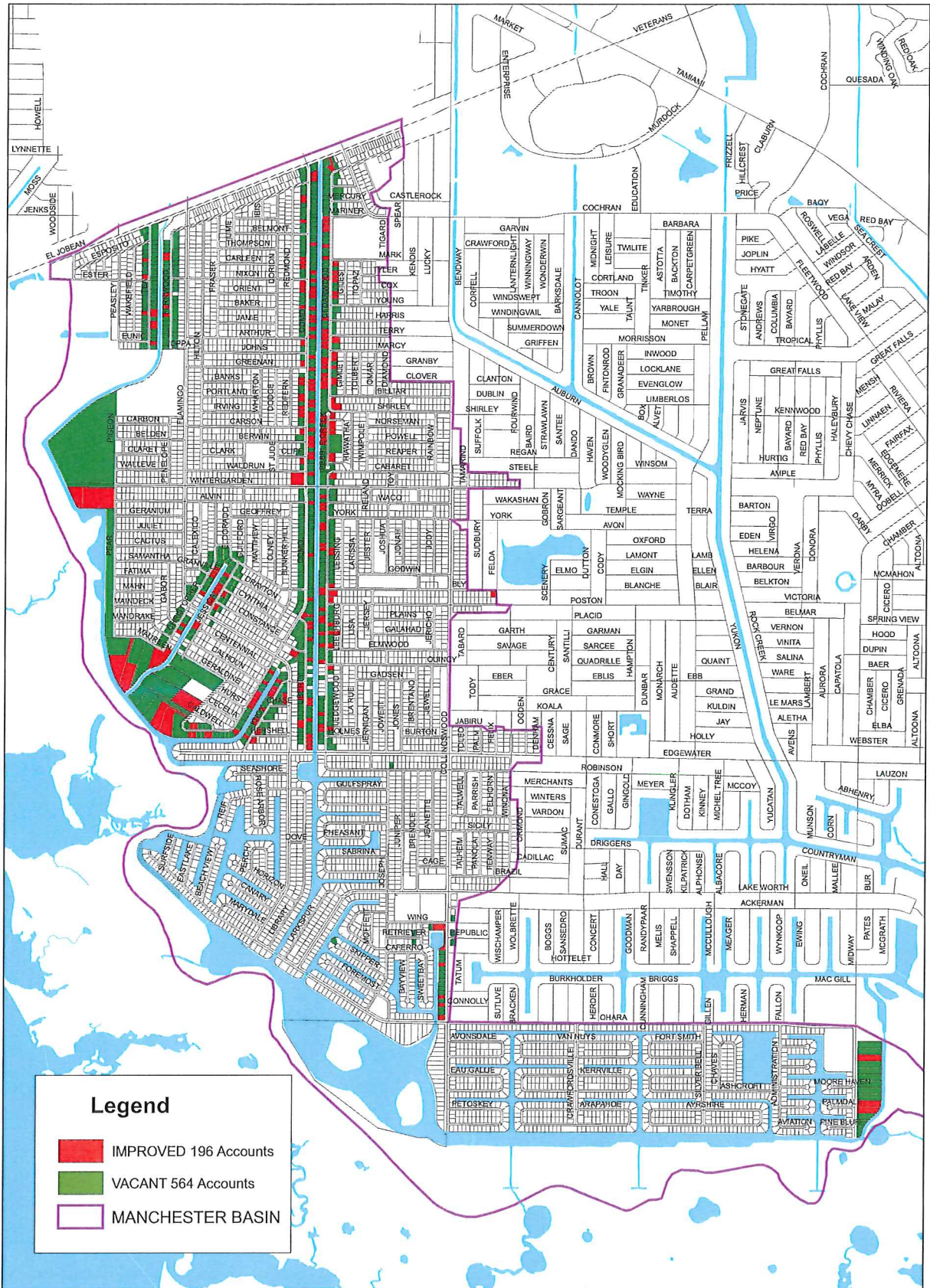
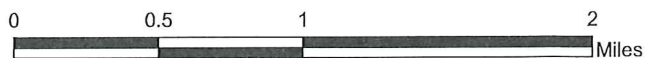
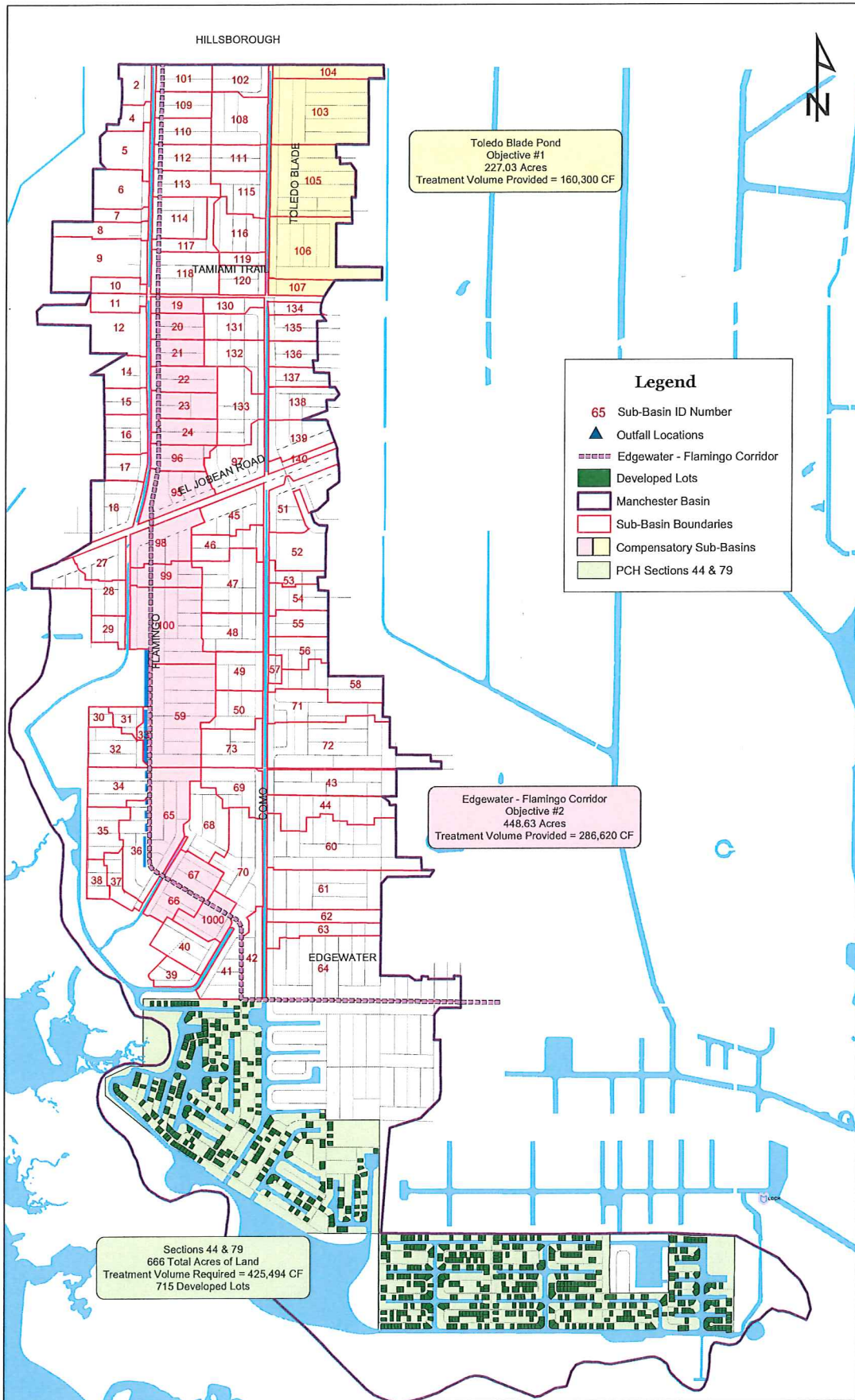




# Proposed Alligator Bay Septic Pumpout & Inspection Program



# Alligator Bay/Manchester Lock Removal Stormwater Water Quality Compensation Plan





### What can I do?

Learn the Florida-friendly way to maintain your home and landscape.

- Recognize pollutants
  - Pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides
  - Motor oil and other spilled/leaked automotive fluids
  - Cooking oil
  - Household cleaners
  - Dirt, gravel, and sediment
  - Yard and pet waste
  - Heavy metals (copper, lead, & zinc)
  - Paint
- Select native plants that are drought-tolerant and pest-resistant
- Water efficiently
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly
- Use a commercial carwash or wash your car on an unpaved surface
- Check vehicles for leaks and spills, making necessary repairs
- Pick up after your pet, disposing of waste in the toilet or trash
- Properly dispose of all paints, motor oil, chemicals, and other hazardous wastes
- Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down
- Have your septic tank pumped out regularly
- Use phosphate-free laundry soap
- Protect the waterfront
- Be a good boater, being mindful of habitat and wildlife sharing the water

### Additional Information

*This brochure was compiled using various Federal, State, and local resources. Additional information can be obtained from the following reference sites:*

**Charlotte County Government**  
<http://www.charlottecountyfl.com>

**Charlotte County Environmental & Ext. Services**  
<http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu>

**Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program**  
<http://www.chnep.org>

**Florida Clean Marina Program**  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us>

**Florida Departmental of Environmental Protection**  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us>

**Florida Sea Grant**  
<http://flseagrant.org>

**Keep Charlotte Beautiful**  
<http://charlottecountyfl.com/environmentalservices>

**Municipal Solid Waste Management Division**  
<http://charlottecountyfl.com/environmentalservices>

**Southwest Florida Water Management District**  
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>

**Unites States Geological Survey**  
<http://pubs.usgs.gov>

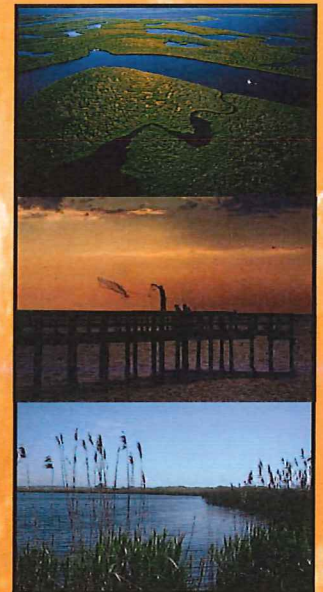


Charlotte County Public Works Division  
Stormwater Management  
7000 Florida Street  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950  
941.575.3600



## Public Awareness Program

ALLIGATOR BAY

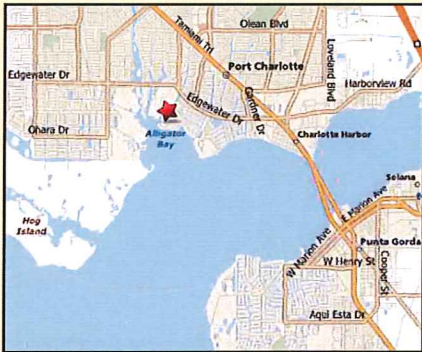


Presented By  
Charlotte County

# Alligator Bay

## Public Awareness Program

Alligator Bay is part of a much larger watershed. Water in a watershed moves from higher land toward the lowest point within the area and will not drain into a surface water body, seep underground, or evaporate. With miles of rivers, streams, and canals flowing through North Port and Port Charlotte directly into Alligator Bay, the quality of water throughout the entire watershed needs to be managed to protect Alligator Bay and, ultimately, Charlotte Harbor.



### Why is Alligator Bay important?

Part of Charlotte Harbor, it is an open, shallow-water bay surrounded by a unique blend of natural and developed features and is environmentally significant.

- Its habitats support an incredible assortment of organisms, many of which are rare or endangered.
- The calm waters of the Bay, including tidal creeks and open beaches, provide an ideal "nursery" habitat for juvenile fish before they enter the rougher waters of the Harbor.

- Mangroves forests along the Bay add vital nutrients to the water, protect the shoreline, and provide habitat for numerous species of fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Many of the economic and recreational benefits of Alligator Bay are directly related to the environmental features.

- The economic impact of recreational and commercial fishing in the Charlotte Harbor area was estimated to be in excess of \$1 billion annually.
- The great fishing, boating, hiking, and wildlife viewing help make the Alligator Bay and Charlotte Harbor area a great place to live or vacation.

### Why is Alligator Bay important?

- Human impact represents the greatest threat to Alligator Bay and other Florida coastal areas.
  - With urbanization, sensitive coastal areas are lost to development, eliminating natural habitats necessary for the survival of many birds and marine species.
  - Commercial and residential development increase the potential for pollution from ill-maintained or incorrectly installed septic tanks, increased use of household chemicals and fertilizers, and other sources. These pollutants could eventually find their way into the waters of Alligator Bay.

- Stormwater runoff, which is any rainfall that does not soak into the ground, seriously endangers water quality.

### What is affecting the health of Alligator Bay?

- As stormwater travels over land and across impervious surfaces (such as roads and parking lots), it picks up possible pollutants such as oil, fertilizer, pesticides, litter, and sediment, eventually flowing through the watershed and into Alligator Bay.
  - Some transported pollutants are poisonous, even in small amounts. Others, such as nutrients, are not poisonous but may be produced in such great quantities that natural systems cannot cope. They can eventually cause toxic algae blooms and other pollution problems.

