

# Lower Peninsula Stormwater Improvements

June 12, 2025

The City of Tampa's nature-based solution to urban flooding that improves water quality for Hillsborough Bay



# Presenters



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Florida Water Division Manager

11 years with AtkinsRéalis



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Senior Engineer

9 years with AtkinsRéalis



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Florida Water Resources Group Manager

18 years with AtkinsRéalis

# Agenda



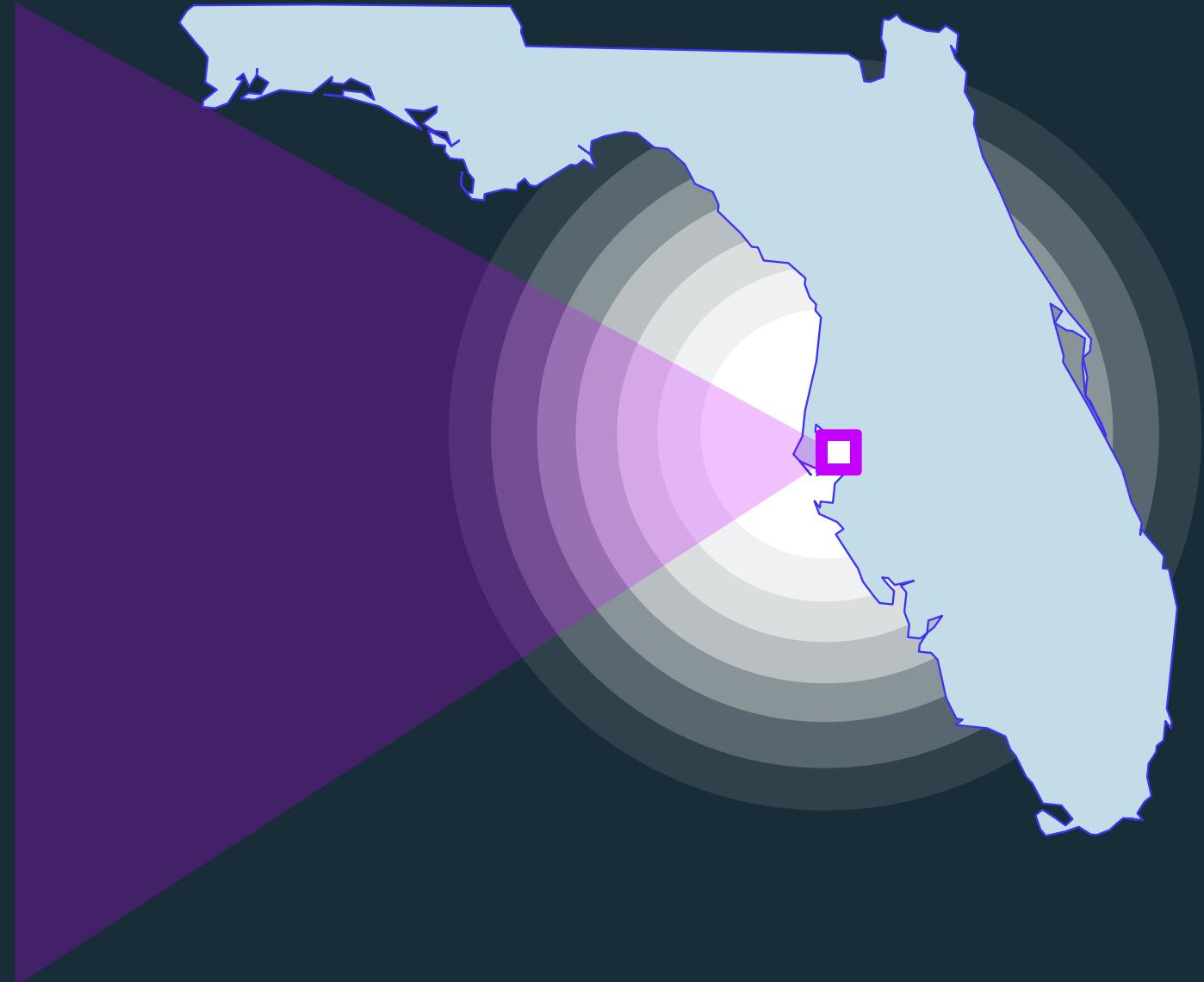
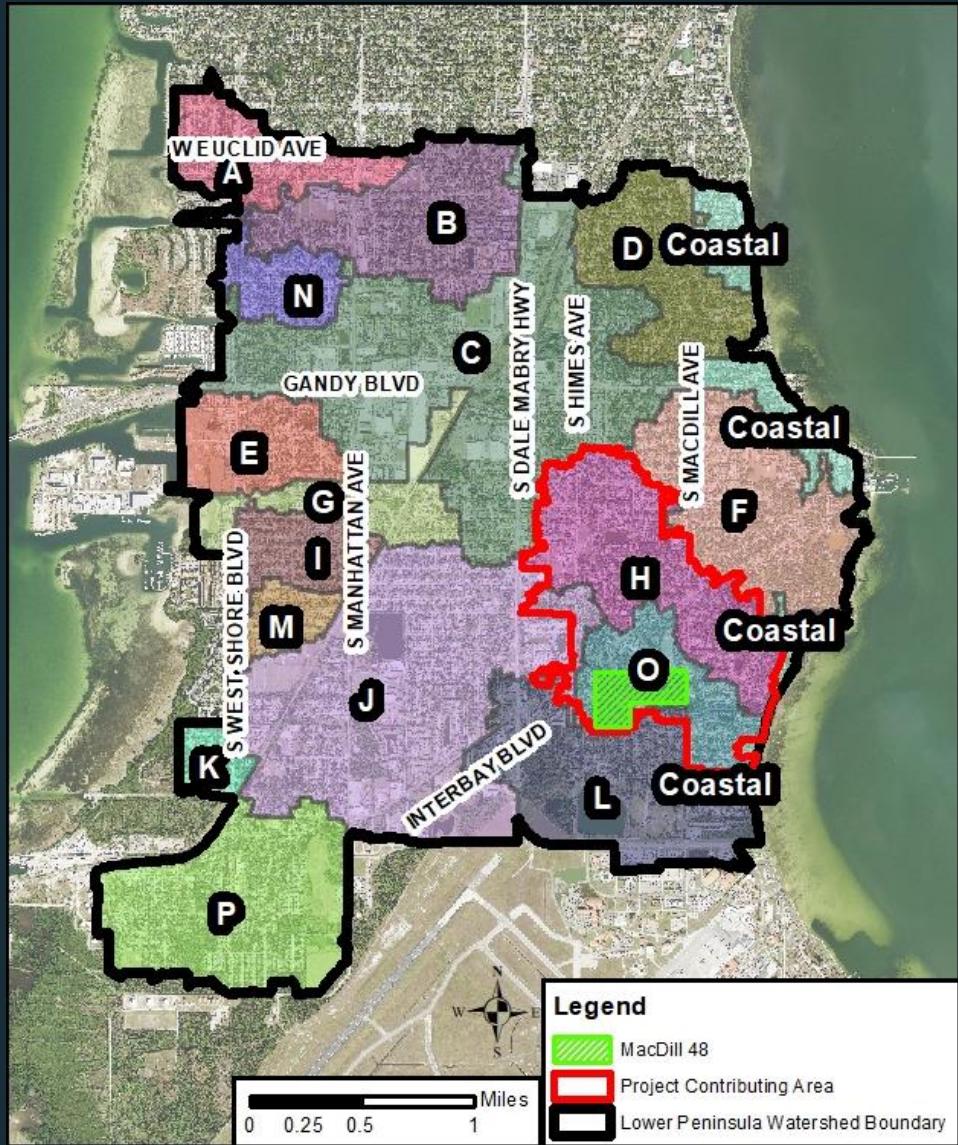
- 01** Project History and Initial Concepts
- 02** Preliminary Engineering and Route Study
- 03** Public Involvement and Outreach
- 04** Flood Reduction Benefits
- 05** Water Quality / Sustainable Infrastructure
- 06** Passive Park and Community Amenities
- 07** Construction Activities



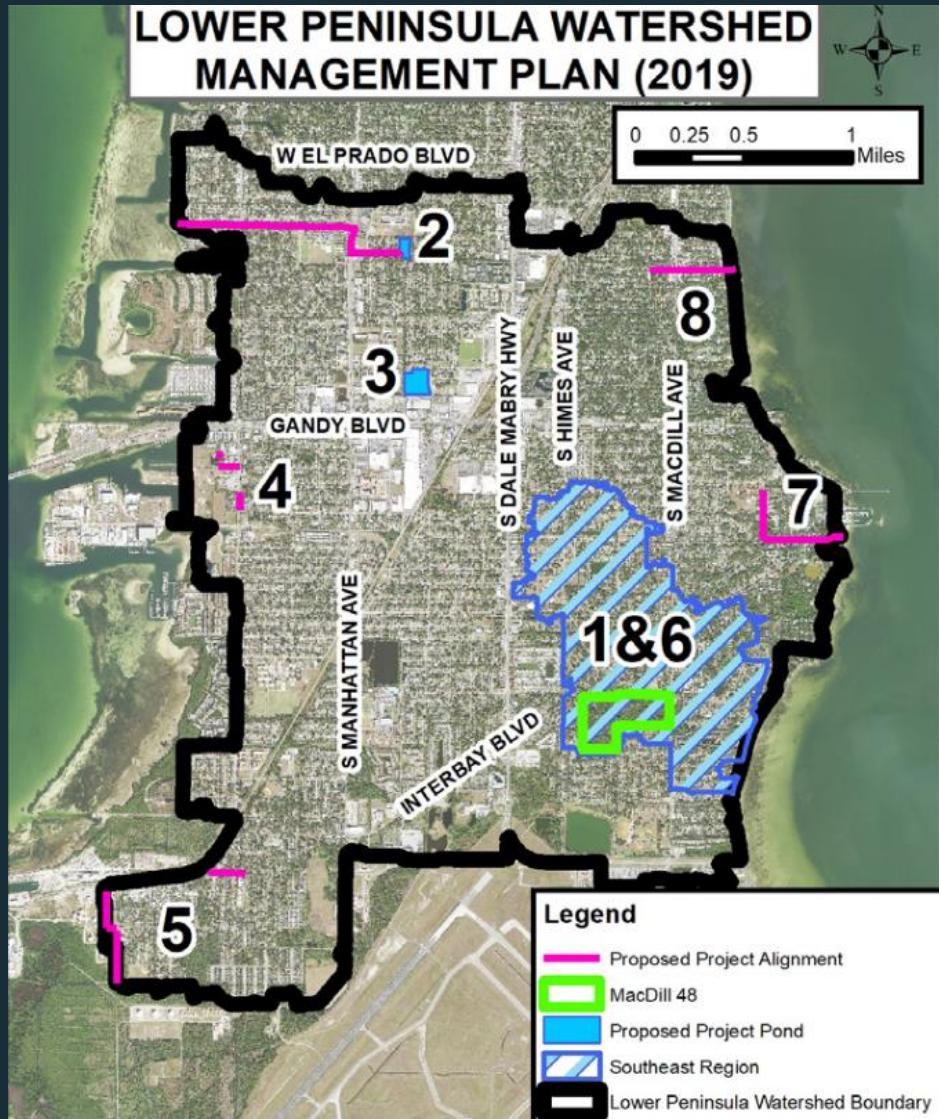
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# Project History and Initial Concepts

# Project Location

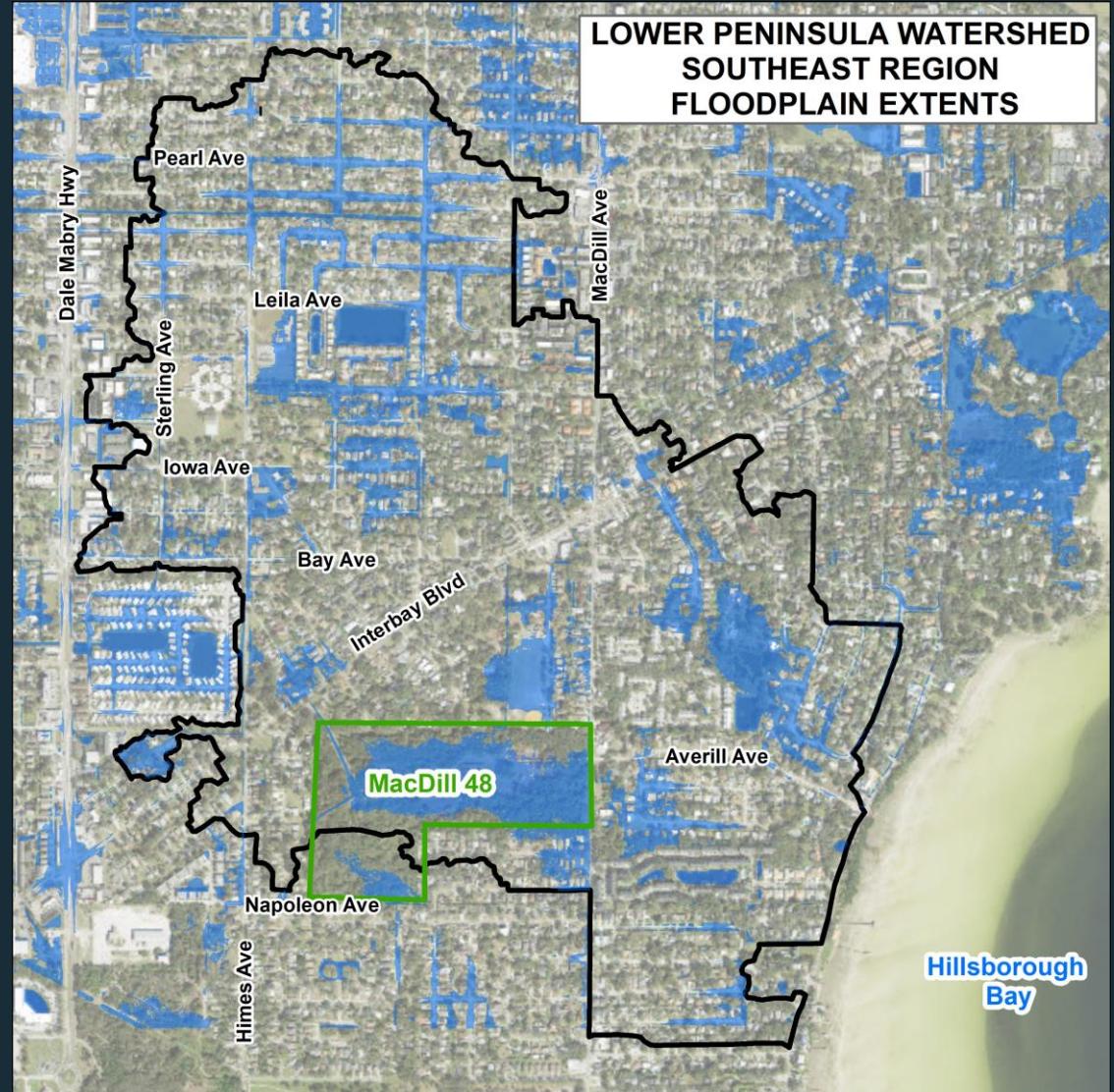
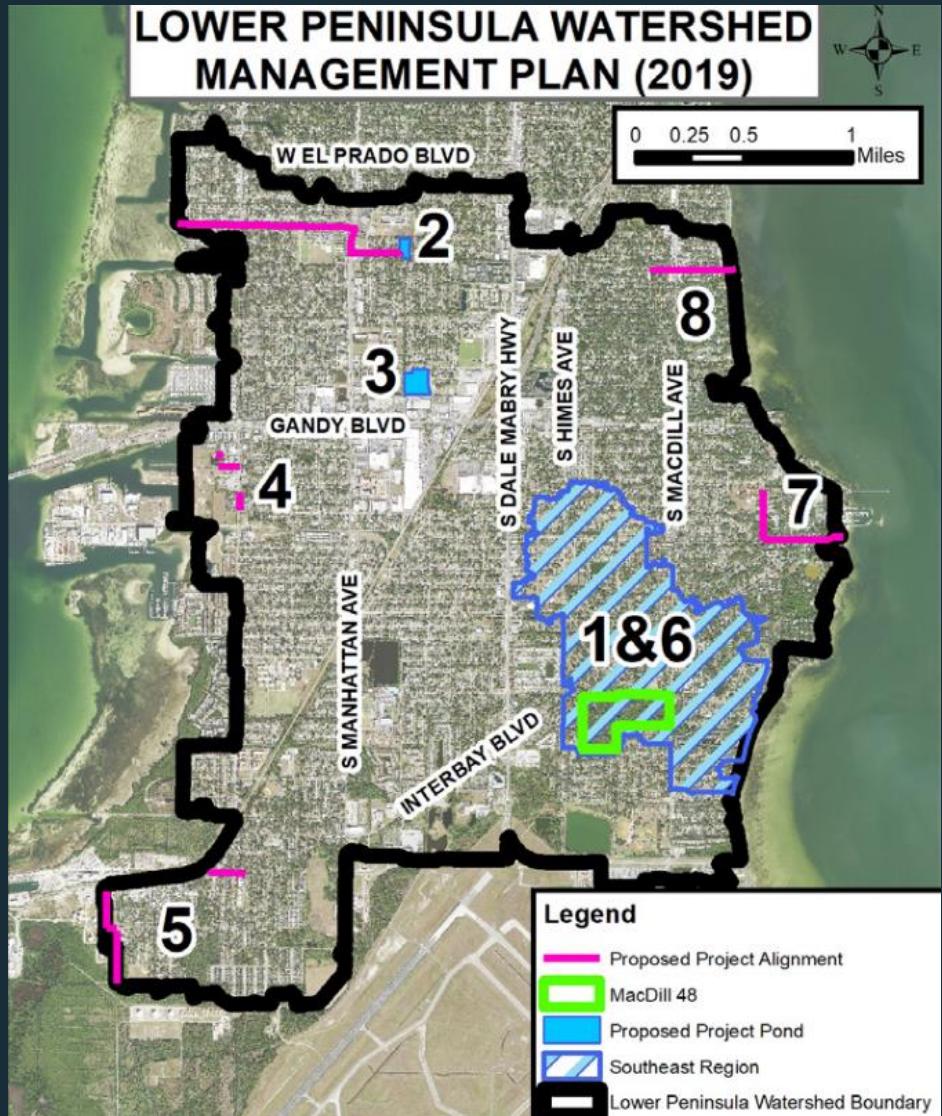


# Need for Project

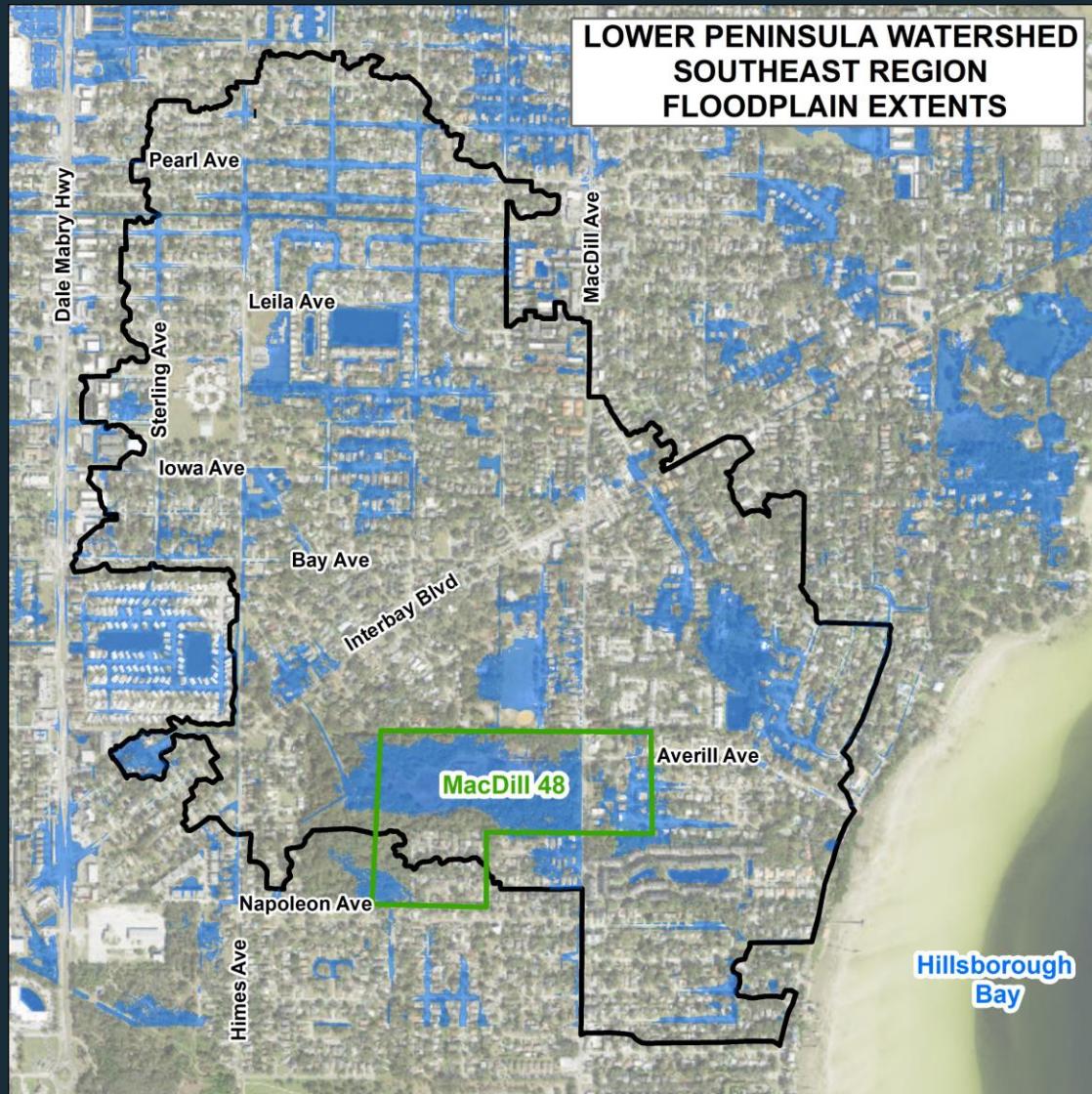


- Ensure roads are passable during the 5-year/8-hour design storm event and establish stormwater conveyance trunkline that future smaller drainage improvements projects can use
- Improve water quality, particularly for Hillsborough Bay, to benefit the Tampa Bay estuary whose ecosystem has suffered from high levels of nutrients and pollutants in stormwater runoff

# Need for Project



# Need for Project

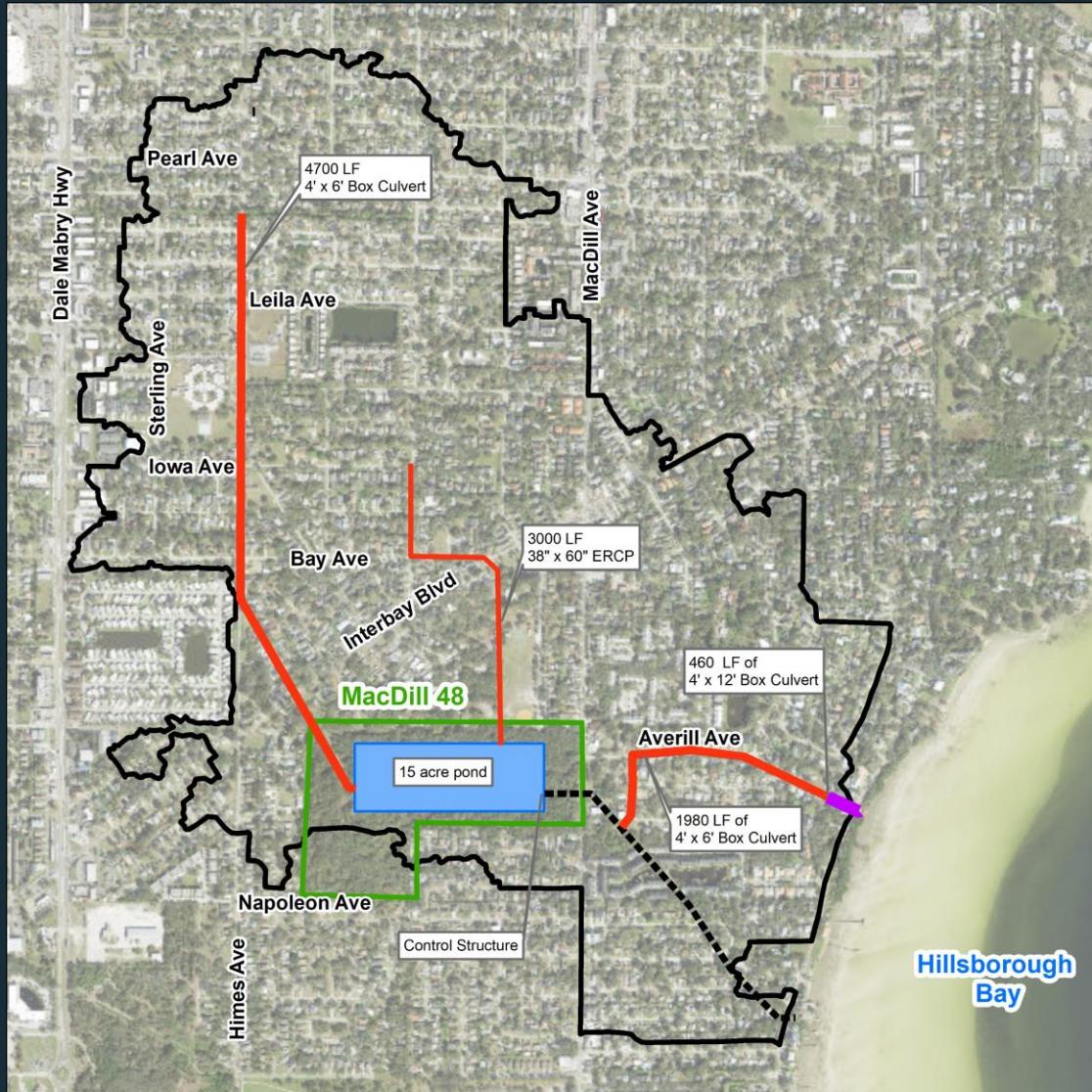


*Existing Conditions*



*Existing Conditions – Observed  
Sept. 2020, less than 1" of rainfall*

# Initial Concept



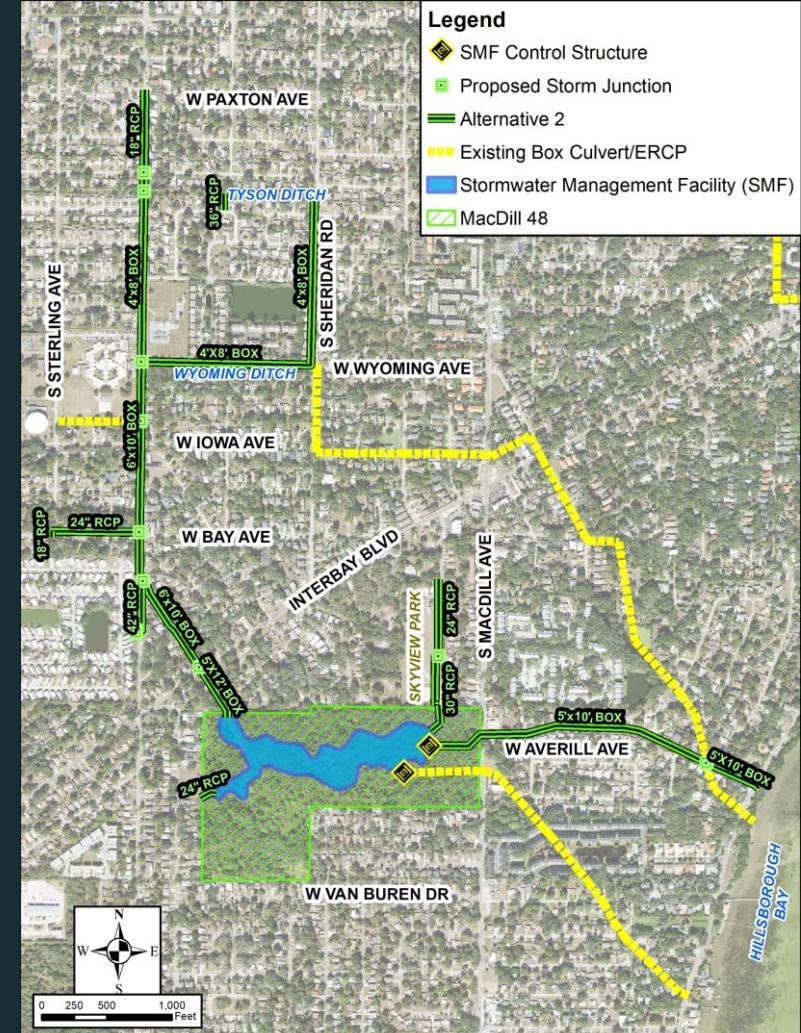
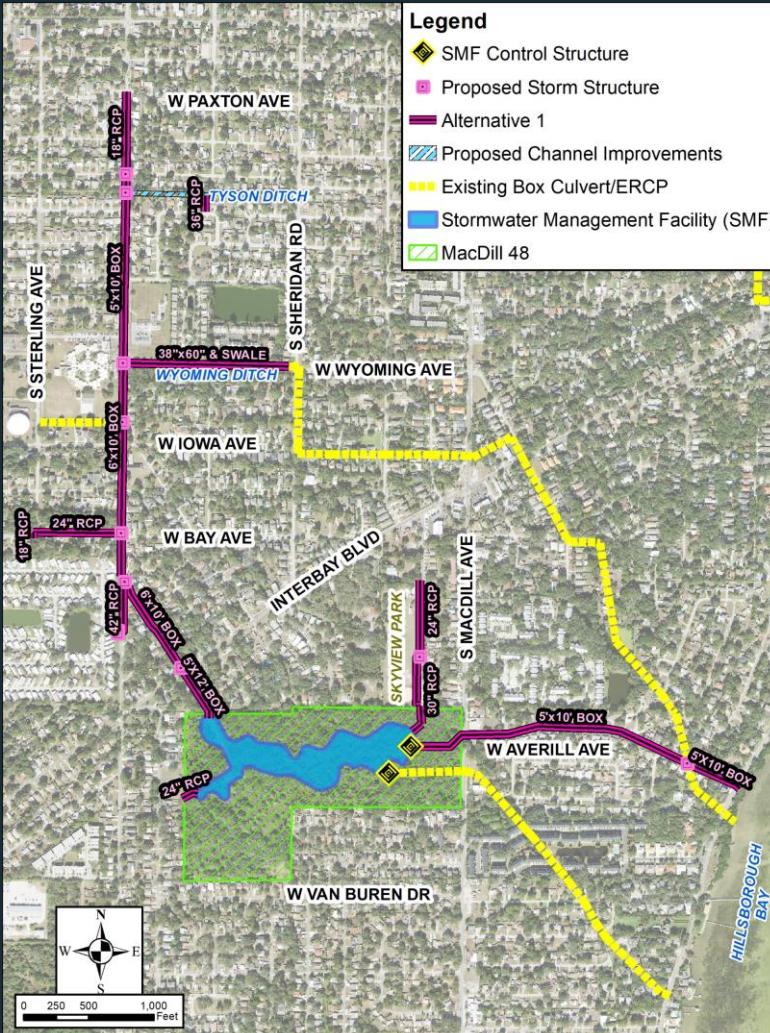
- Developed as part of 2019 Watershed Management Plan
- Add box culverts and large pipes to alleviate street flooding in neighborhoods, send water to pond within MacDill 48 site
- Convert unmanaged, former ELAPP land to large pond (BURP - Big Ugly Rectangular Pond)
- Use existing 3'x4' box culvert outfall (Project 1), new 4'x12' box culvert outfall (Project 6)
- After updating the existing conditions model and analyzing this concept further, unfortunately it did not meet the City's flood reduction goals



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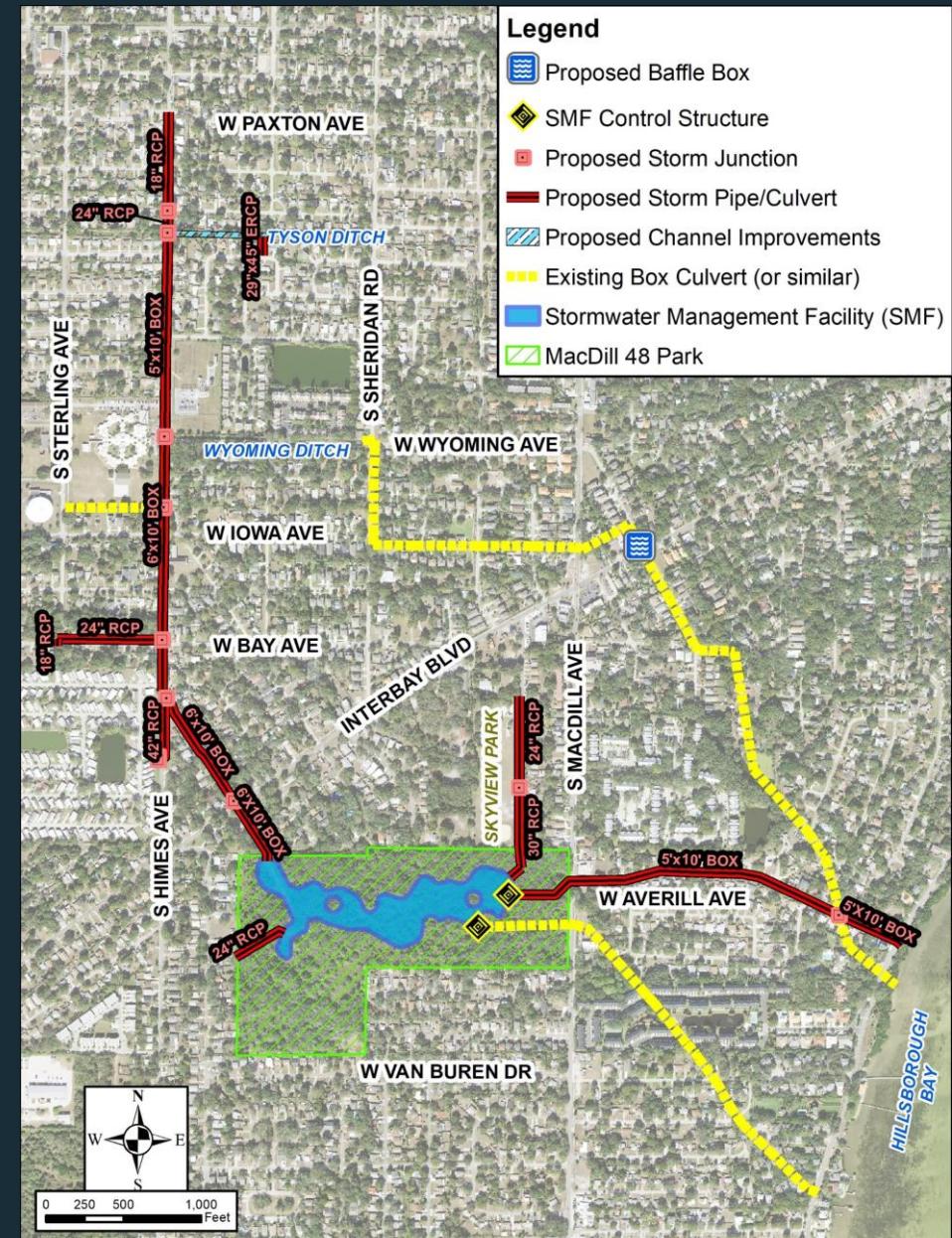
# Preliminary Engineering and Route Study

# Route Selection / Alternative Analysis



# Finalized Project Plan

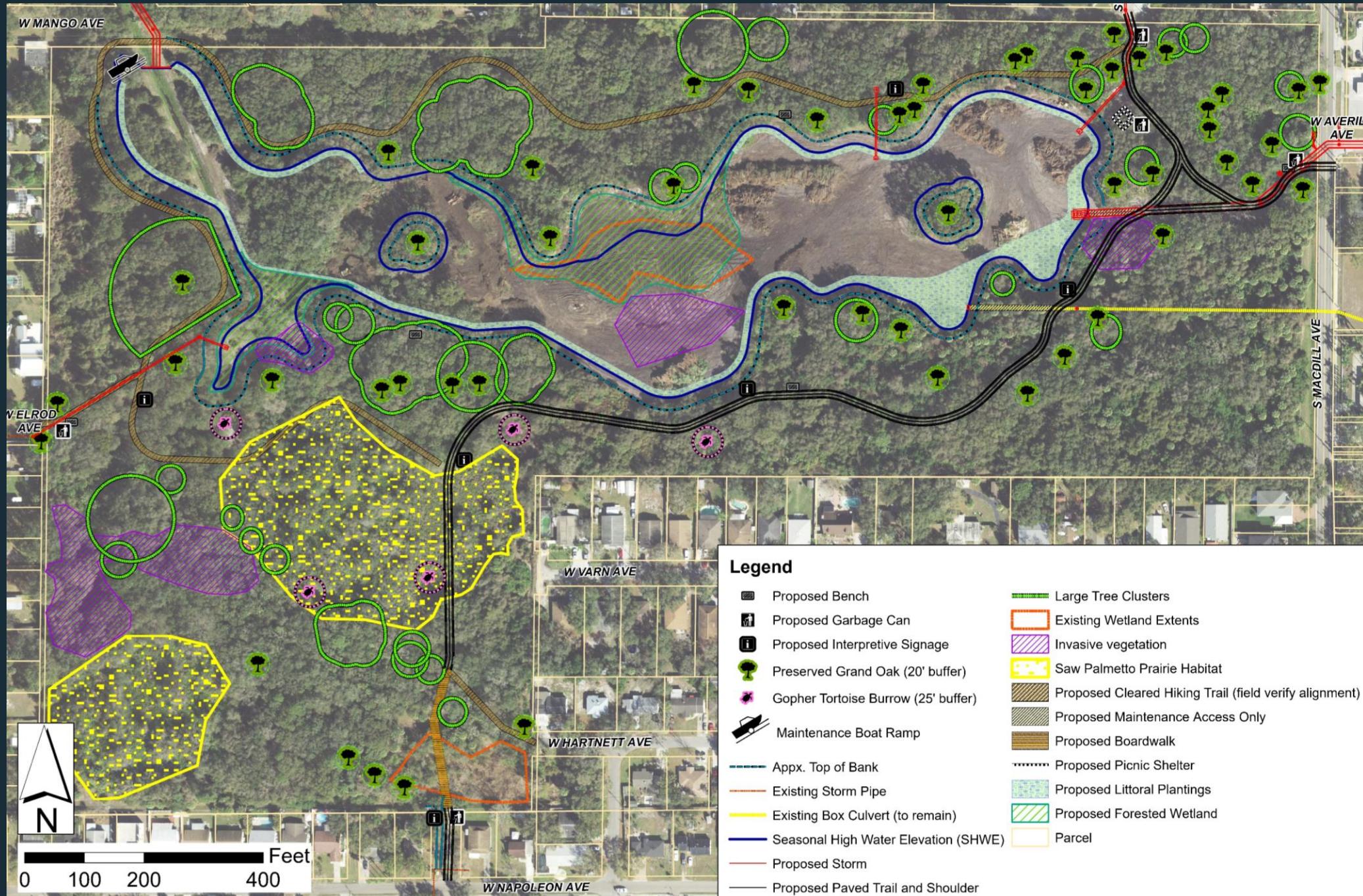
- The project will consist of design and construction of a major stormwater conveyance system that includes more than 10,000 linear feet of box culvert, pipes, and inlets.
- An aesthetically pleasing pond will be developed to provide storage and water quality treatment for stormwater runoff prior to discharging to Hillsborough Bay through a new box culvert outfall.
- Several green infrastructure solutions are designed to further reduce the discharge of nutrients, sediments, oils and greases, and floating debris into Hillsborough Bay.



# Finalized Project Plan



- The project will also include improvements to the City's 48-acre environmental property, which was originally purchased by the City in 2003 from the Environmental Lands Acquisition Protection Program (ELAPP) administered by Hillsborough County to protect and preserve the property.
- Improvements and amenities to the passive park will include hiking trails, shared use path and boardwalk, a picnic pavilion, bicycle storage, benches, and educational signage highlighting the preservation and restoration of the diverse and native habitats within the site.





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## Public Involvement and Outreach

# Public Outreach



**Tampa LPStormwater**

Home Project Info Alerts Resources Contact

**\$** Funded by the City of Tampa, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

**Community Benefits**

- Reduce flooding in the mostly residential areas within the watershed.
- Reduce pollutant loading into Hillsborough Bay through water quality enhancements and green infrastructure.
- Restore, enhance, and preserve the natural environment of MacDill 48 Park to improve habitat for wildlife and reduce the hazard of brush fires.
- Provide passive park amenities within the MacDill 48 Park, including nature/bike trails and other passive park improvements such as benches, etc.

**City of Tampa - Lower Peninsula MacDill 48 Park Reimagined**

Watch on YouTube

**ADA Accommodations**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in any public hearing or meeting should contact the City of Tampa's ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

The ADA Coordinator may be contacted via phone at (813) 274-5964, email at [TampaADA@tampagov.net](mailto:TampaADA@tampagov.net), or by submitting an ADA - Accommodations Request form available online at [tampagov.net/ADARequest](http://tampagov.net/ADARequest).

**Learn More**

**Project Info**  
Learn about the project's background, purpose and goals.

**Alerts**  
Stay notified about road closures, detours and utility disruptions.

**Resources**  
Get the latest info about public meetings and documents.

**Contact**  
Ask questions or report project related issues at any time.

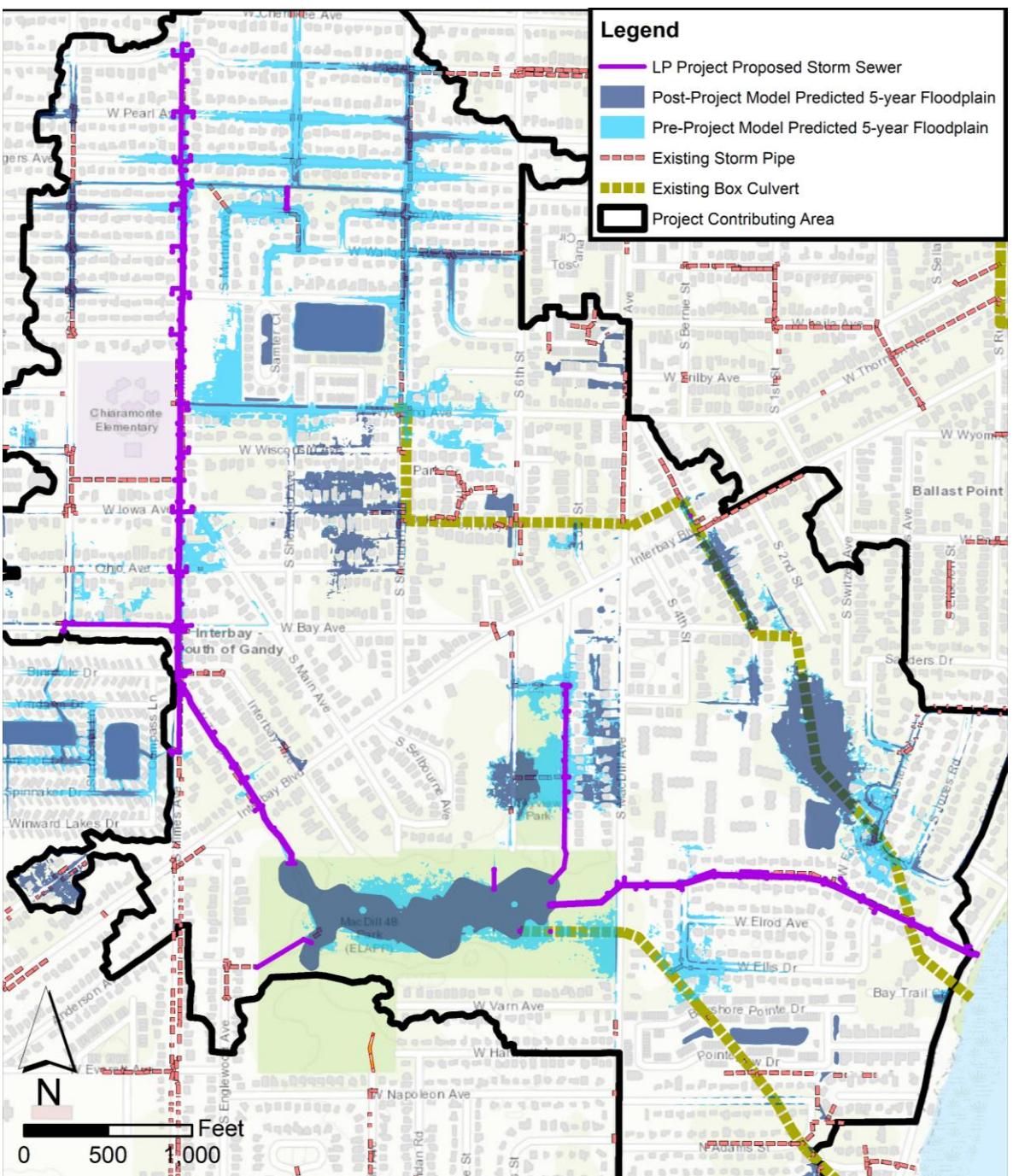


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## Flood Reduction Benefits

# Flood Reduction

- Project design calculations assume tailwater stage of 2.0 (ft, NAVD88) in Hillsborough Bay, which is equal to 1-year Stillwater elevation, rather than commonly used mean higher-high water elevation
- Pond and control structures were designed to maximize storage and flood reduction while controlling a freshwater ecosystem nearly 4 feet above current mean sea level
- Anticipated reduction of total length of inundated roadway is nearly 19,000 LF (3.6 miles) for 5-year design storm
- Significant reduction in duration of roadway flooding during large design storm events (8+ hours in many locations for 100-year/24-hour event)



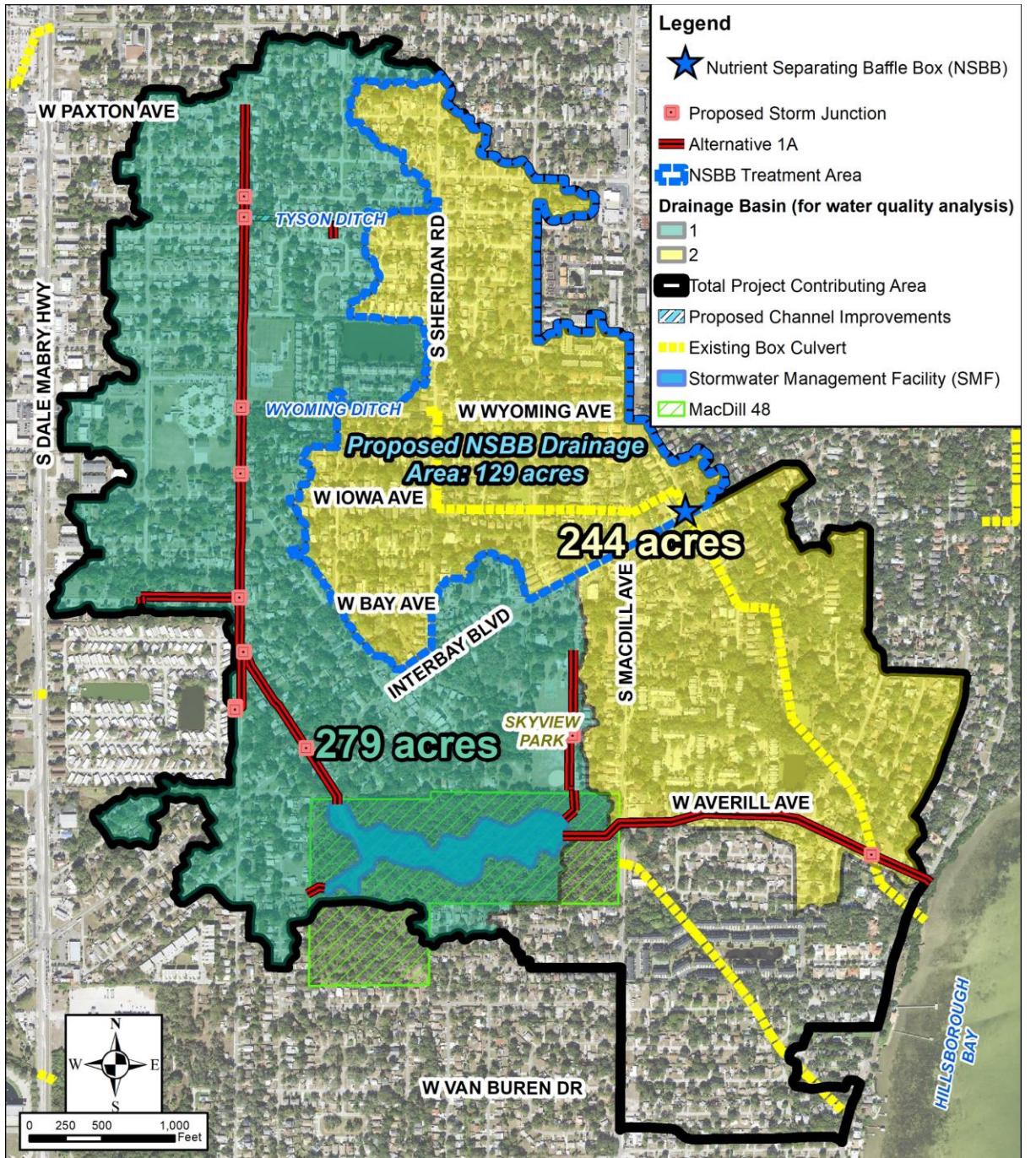


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# Water Quality / Sustainable Infrastructure

# Water Quality

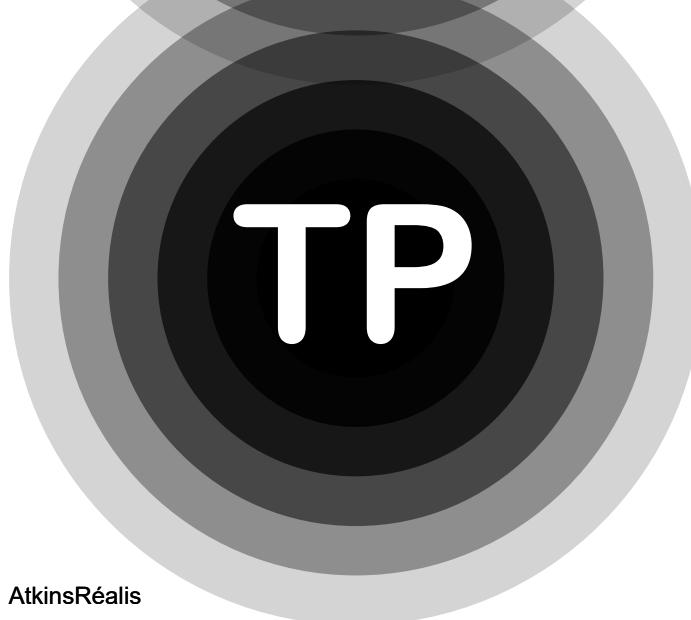
- Runoff from approximately 523 acres previously drained to project limits before discharging to Hillsborough Bay with minimal treatment. Runoff from 78% of this area (408 acres) now receives some form of treatment.
- Primary water quality improvement features include MacDill 48 pond and 12'x24' nutrient separating baffle box (NSBB) with Biosorption Activated Media (BAM) up flow filter
- Pond includes 38 acre-ft of permanent pool volume and 3 acres of new wetland plants (constructed herbaceous and forested wetland areas)
- Additional water quality improvement features include pond control structure skimmers, floating skimmer inside 6'x10' box culvert conflict structure upstream of pond



# Water Quality Improvements

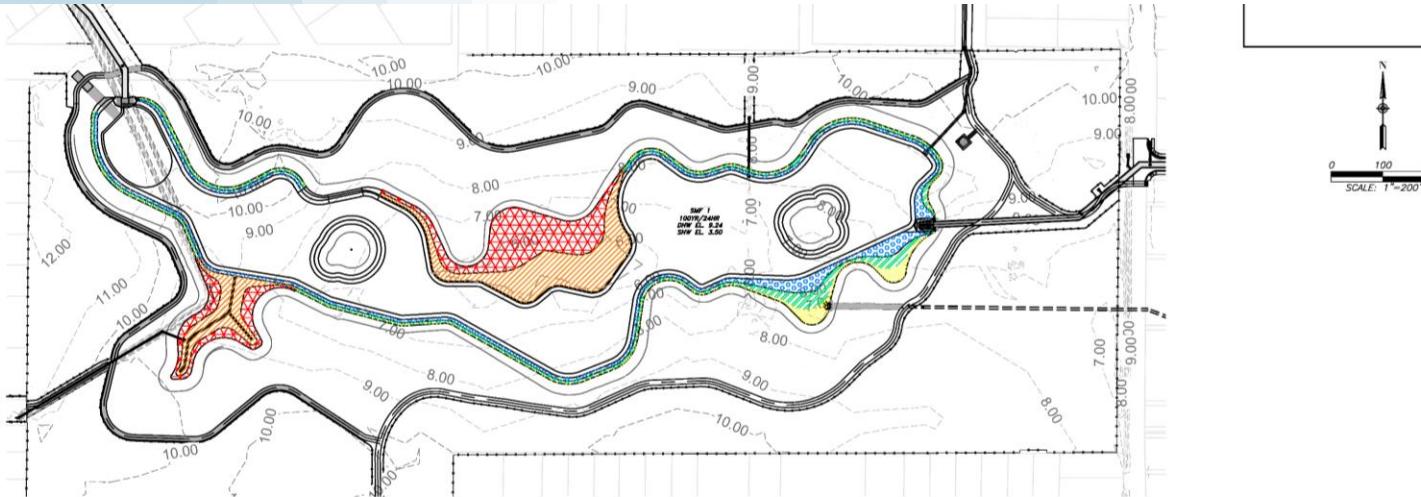


Project expected to remove  
**30%**  
of incoming nitrogen (appx. 850  
**pounds removed annually**)



Project expected to remove  
**40%**  
of incoming phosphorus  
**(appx. 230 pounds removed  
annually)**

# Water Quality and Sustainable Infrastructure



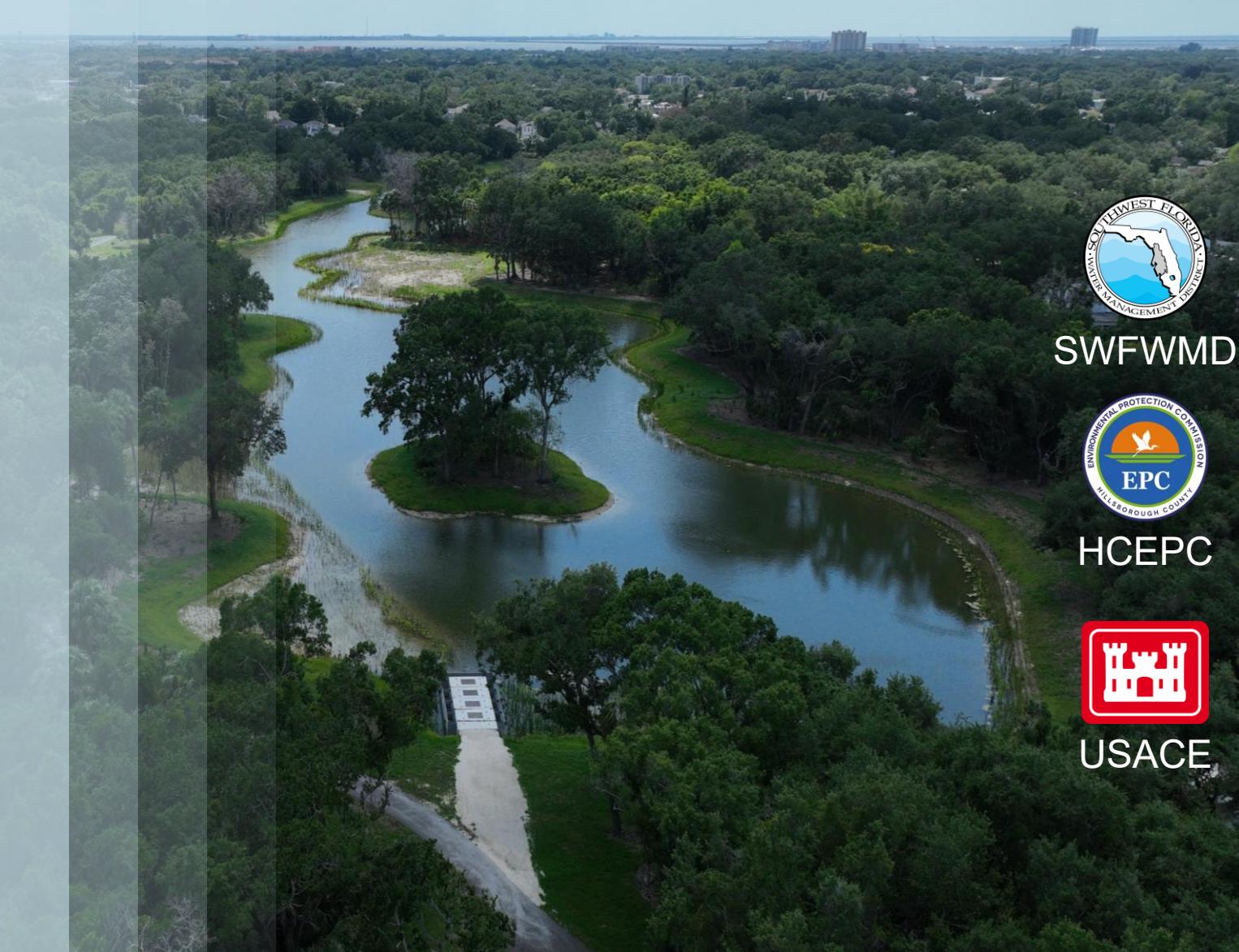
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Area (sq ft)	Spacing	Total plants
<b>0" - 3" BELOW CONTROL WATER LEVEL (EI 3.25 to 3.5)</b>				
Maidencane	<i>Panicum hemitomon</i>	2,223	12"	2,567
Sofrush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	2,223	12"	2,567
Swamp Lily	<i>Crinum americanum</i>	2,223	12"	2,567
Golden Canna	<i>Canna flaccida</i>	2,222	12"	2,566
<b>3" - 12" BELOW CONTROL WATER LEVEL (EI 2.5 to 3.25)</b>				
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>	4,669	12"	5,391
Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	4,669	12"	5,391
Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	4,669	12"	5,391
Blueflag Iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	4,669	12"	5,391
<b>12" - 24" BELOW CONTROL WATER LEVEL (EI 1.5 to 2.5)</b>				
Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	6,333	12"	7,313
Pickeralweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	6,333	12"	7,313
Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	6,333	12"	7,313
Alligator Flag	<i>Thalia geniculata</i>	6,334	12"	7,314

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Area (sq ft)	Spacing	Total plants
<b>6" ABOVE - 3" BELOW CONTROL WATER LEVEL (EI 3.25 to 4.0)</b>				
Dahoon Holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	10,629	15'	55
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	10,629	15'	55
Swamp bay	<i>Persea palustris</i>	10,628	15'	55
<b>3" - 12" BELOW CONTROL WATER LEVEL (EI 2.5 to 3.25)</b>				
Pond cypress	<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	17,574	15'	90
Pop ash	<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	17,573	15'	90
Buttonbush (between trees)	<i>Cephaelanthus occidentalis</i>	35,147	30'	90

MAIDENCANE, SOFRUSH, SWAMP LILY, DAHOON HOLLY, RED MAPLE, SWAMP BAY GOLDEN CANNA  
 ARROWHEAD, BULRUSH, SPIKERUSH, POND CYPRESS, POP ASH, BLUEFLAG IRIS, BUTTONBUSH (BETWEEN TREES)  
 SPIKERUSH, PICKERELWEED, BULRUSH, ALLIGATOR FLAG



# Water Quality / Permitting





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## Passive Park and Community Amenities

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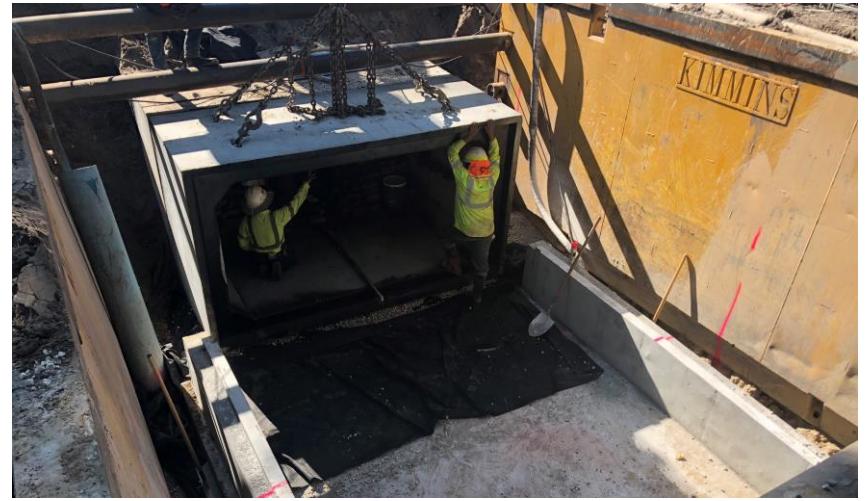




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# Construction Activities

# Construction Activities



# Construction Activities



# Project Recap

- 7000 LF of 5'x10' (or larger) box culvert
- 1.5 miles of full corridor reconstruction in a coastal residential area
- Steel sheet pile seawall and outfall to Hillsborough Bay
- Widespread flood relief to nearly 600 acres of urban watershed
- Removal of pollutants and nutrients from discharges to bay
- Rigorous permitting and public involvement effort
- Grant funding through SWFWMD and Resilient Florida Program with FDEP



# Q&A



Award Winner  
Engineering and Public Works Excellence

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC  
WORKS ROADSHOW  
INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

