



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

10402 Grove Lane Odessa Fl 33556

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

813-389-3359

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

http://tampabayaquaticpreserves.org/

Website Address (required if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

[X] Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Section 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CSO's Mission: (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)

To support the management of Tampa Bay's Aquatic Preserves through community/local support of the protection, conservation and restoration of coastal and aquatic resources within the preserves and watersheds as well as fostering public awareness and stewardship within these areas.

Describe Last Calendar Year's Results Obtained: Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year's accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year's Annual Program Plan.)

The Friends group has created an "adopt an acre" program as a fundraising effort. We are actively working on developing a beneficial relationship with the Clearwater Historical Society which houses the new office for the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves. Participated in several outreach/educational events with our AP staff which included: Florida Birding and Nature Festival St. Petersburg Boat Show Tarpon Springs First Friday Shark Con We have maintained a social media presence with our Facebook page - currently over 900 people following. Instagram - currently over 500 people following. FTBAP coordinated with Aquatic Preserve staff to participate in the Great American Teach In for over 120 students at Academie Da Vinci Charter School for the Arts and Technology. We have started work on developing a quarterly newsletter.

**Describe the CSO's Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:**

- We are actively working on the Living Waters Clyde Butcher exhibit which will run during the summer of 2024. This exhibit is our first partnership with the Clearwater Historical Society and is expected to result in increased public awareness of our Aquatic Preserves and their importance.  
- Working on a 55th Anniversary celebration for Boca Ciega Bay Aquatic Preserve - late summer 2024.  
- We will continue to make efforts to increase active membership - helping to provide a volunteer base for AP staff. We plan on hosting events that will engage potential new members.  
- Continue to make efforts to develop local school curriculum and bring awareness of our aquatic preserves to both elementary and middle school students.

**CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:**

**Total Number of CSO General Membership:**

**Total Number of Board of Directors:**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors:**

**ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:**

Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Below, describe the relationship.

**AP Manager's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:**

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the managed area provided by the CSO.
- Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the managed area(s).
- Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.
- The relationship between the ORCP team and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

Despite being relatively young, the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves has stepped up to provide valuable support for the program through outreach, volunteer coordination and fundraising efforts.

Because of TBAP's small staff, having knowledgeable volunteers to help staff major outreach events like the boat show, First Fridays, SharkCon, etc. greatly enhances the reach and accuracy of TBAP's messaging.

In addition to providing volunteers directly from their ranks, the CSO has committed to playing an increasing role in coordinating individuals from the community who would like to volunteer for activities like habitat restoration. While TBAP would continue to coordinate directly with established groups like college service/learning teams, the recruitment and coordination of individual volunteers is a big help.

One of the major developments of this year has been the finalization of the lease agreement to move the program to buildings managed by the Clearwater Historical Society. The CSO has been a big help in that move and transition. While the intent was to establish the TBAP office location, the CHS has turned out to be a very supportive partner. A working relationship has developed between the CSO and the Historical Society that has created a synergy of support much greater than we had expected. The closeness with which these two nonprofits have been working together to promote the work of TBAP, and coastal conservation, in general, is evidenced by their collaboration in bringing the Living Waters display of Clyde Butcher photos to the Clearwater Historical Museum. The collaborative effort on logistics, associated events and other outreach is a truly exciting indication of much more to come.

In summary, TBAP is thrilled to have the support of its CSO, and the potential for the organization to grow will help TBAP to increase in effectiveness and efficiency on behalf of the local community and natural resources.

**CSO President's Comments on the CSO & ORCP Relationship and Support:**

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the ORCP and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

A positive working relationship has been formed between our CSO and AP staff. Our CSO has a tremendous respect and appreciation for Dr. Runnels and his staff. We understand the value of their efforts that are made to protect and restore both our pristine areas as well as our more urban/stressed resources. The president of our CSO has worked in some capacity with Dr. Runnels for almost 30 years and believes that our relationship helps to further the benefits achieved between our two entities - CSO and AP staff.

We are hoping to grow our CSO so as to provide a more consistent volunteer base as well as function as a supplementary funding source for needed resources by the AP staff.

**SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT AP(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES:**

**Program Services** are costs related to providing your organizations' programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the AP(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expenses of the organization. For the last calendar year provide the total \$ for each that apply. **Do not use commas.**

Building improvement, construction, or renovations	\$
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$
ORCP employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$
Preserve exhibits, displays, signage	\$
Preserve publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 494.00
Other program services	\$
<b>Total Program Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 0494.00</b>

**Visitor Services Revenue** are revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on preserve property. **Do not use commas.**

Preserve gift shops, craft stores, and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$
In-preserve donation boxes	\$
Other visitor services revenue	\$
<b>Total Visitor Services Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

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**NET ASSETS:** \$

Organizations end of last year's Total Assets minus Total Liabilities. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

**CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:**

**Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants)** \$

Are the CSO's annual total expenses \$300,000 including grants? Then Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)). The audit is **due by September 1** (9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

**CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:**

- Code of Ethics
- The most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. All IRS Form 990's must be **complete** with Part III Program Service and **all** appropriate Schedules (A, O, and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.

**2024 CSO Legislative Report Acknowledgment**

**This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printname: Rose Poynor \_\_\_\_\_, CSO President

\_\_\_\_\_, Inc.

Date: 5/30/2024 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: Randy Runnels \_\_\_\_\_, AP Manager

Date: 5/30/2024 \_\_\_\_\_