



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2022 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: 813-389-3359

Website Address (*required if applicable*): <http://tampabayaquaticpreserves.org/>

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)

The mission of the Friends of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. is to support the management of Tampa Bay's Aquatic Preserves. This will be accomplished 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.)

As a relatively new CSO for the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, our group made efforts to generate awareness and interest in our four Aquatic Preserves.

We have maintained a social media presence with our Facebook page – currently 588 people following. Instagram – 490 people following.

FTBAP members spent a total of approximately 93 hours in volunteer service with Aquatic Preserve Staff.

FTBAP members have assisted with island invasive exotic removal as well as native plantings on spoil islands.

FTBAP members have assisted Aquatic Preserve staff at the following public events for the purpose of educational outreach and volunteer recruitment:

- Florida Botanical Gardens Largo Native Plant Sale
- Florida Birding and Nature Festival
- St. Petersburg Boat Show
- Tampa Bay Music and Seafood Festival
- Tarpon Springs First Friday

FTBAP held a K-12 student photo contest with over 60 entries. Photos centered around the four Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves.

FTBAP coordinated with Aquatic Preserve staff to present to over 140 students at Martinez Middle School for the 2021 Great American Teach In.

FTBAP worked with Aquatic Preserve staff to construct and dedicate a Kiosk (in memory of a former DEP field biologist) at a freshwater wetland parcel contiguous with Lake Tarpon.

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

Develop and launch a quarterly informational newsletter to promote activities within the Preserves.

Develop curriculum for middle school grades with the intent of providing educational awareness.

Increase membership and volunteer activities.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: 12

Total Number of Board of Directors: 4

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 145 hours

While the Friends of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves is a relatively new CSO, we're already seeing the value of having this additional connection to the community we serve. The organization has provided volunteers for some of our field projects, and they have complemented our limited staffing capacity for public outreach opportunities like boat shows and community events. Additional community outreach is afforded by their social media presence which is the only social media outlet for information about our program that focuses specifically on the local area.

For a small program with a full plate, the staff of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves program appreciates the direct feedback the friends group provides. It reminds us that there are many people in the local community who appreciate our efforts and there are many others who would like to know about TBAP's coastal management initiatives.

As the Friends of the Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves increases their organizational capacity to provide additional support in areas like the management of public interest funds and other donations and increased recruitment and management of volunteers, we are confident that we will see a corresponding improvement in the services we can provide to the entire community. This confidence is magnified by the considerable dedication and energy of the present board and their officers.

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Don't duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Describe the relationship here.

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

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the managed area(s) 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 ORCP team and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

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?

As a fairly new CSO, we are excited to work with Dr. Runnels, his staff and ORCP. Several of us have had the opportunity to work with/volunteer with Dr. Runnels and his staff in the past. While the pandemic has presented challenges to our "start up" - we have maintained communication with the AP staff through monthly Zoom meetings. We have just recently returned to in person meetings. We are looking forward to being able to support Dr. Runnels and his staff in their mission of resource conservation/protection and education.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:

Program Service Expenses are

Building improvement, construction, or renovations \$ 0

Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$ 0
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$ 0
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 0
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$ 0
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$ 0
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$ 0
Volunteer T shirts purchase	\$ 390.00
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$ 0
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$ 0
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$ 0
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 0
CSO Stationary purchase	\$ 500.00
Total Program Service Expenses	\$ 890.00

Visitor Services Revenue

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on managed area property. Replace examples with your information.

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.)	\$
Managed area donation boxes	\$
Other visitor services revenue	\$
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$0

NET ASSETS: \$1082.63

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

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:

Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$890.00

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** (or 9 months after the CSO's calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes			
Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	Rose Poynor	<i>Rose Poynor</i>	05/31/22
ORCP Manager	Dr. Randy Runnels	<i>[Signature]</i>	06/10/22

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached
- CSO has attached 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.

