



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT  
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

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

Mailing Address: 13013 Seminole Blvd. #1036 Largo, FL 33778

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 over 600 people following. Instagram – currently over 500 people following.

FTBAP members spent a total of approximately 66 hours in volunteer service with Aquatic Preserve Staff.

FTBAP members have assisted with invasive vegetation removal on spoil islands as well as native plantings and hard bottom mapping activities.

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

- St. Petersburg Boat Show
- Tampa Bay Music and Seafood Festival
- Tarpon Springs First Fridays

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

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.

FTBAP worked with Aquatic Preserve staff to construct and dedicate a Kiosk in April of 2022 (in memory of a former DEP field biologist) at a freshwater wetland parcel contiguous with Lake Tarpon.

FTBAP coordinated with Aquatic Preserve staff to conduct a Coastal field vegetation identification event for staff and members at Emerson Point Preserve (with former DEP botanist Allen Shuey).

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

Increase fundraising potential.

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

Increase student involvement through development of curriculum for middle school grades with the intent of providing educational awareness as well as having students involved with hands on activities (coastal cleanups, plantings, etc...)

Increase membership and volunteer activities.

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

**Total Number of CSO General Membership: 17**

**Total Number of Board of Directors: 5**

**Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: 95**

**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?

TBAP has been catching up on priority projects in our managed areas since the covid pandemic dramatically reduced volunteer availability and events like Piney Point required much of the program's capacity. The 2020-2023 budget year has allowed for more normal planning and execution of goals than has been possible in several years.

As previously mentioned in this report, the CSO has played an increasingly important role in supporting education/outreach efforts and in providing volunteers for important increased manpower to execute projects. The CSO's participation has been especially important on multi-day outreach events where the program's internal capacity to staff the events is limited.

The CSO was able to step in to help in two additional ways. Hurricane Ian largely avoided the Tampa Bay area in September 2022, but it severely damaged the ORCP offices in southwest Florida. TBAP was well-positioned to coordinate some of the relief supplies for our colleagues to the south, and the CSO members eagerly helped provide some of those supplies. Also, when TBAP hosted the first post-covid statewide managers' meeting this April, the CSO provided logistical support and some needed supplies.

In addition to general public outreach, the CSO, through its members' other affiliations, has provided useful connections with other CSOs like the Friends of the Island Parks.

TBAP's relationship with the CSO and its members is friendly and conducive to creating the sort of synergy that one would hope for. From our experience with the organization thus far, I expect that we will see increasing capacity for the organization to support our goals, and growth in CSO membership should lessen the demands on individual CSO members.

**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 relatively new CSO, we are making efforts to be of assistance to Dr. Runnels and his staff. We realize that the Aquatic Preserve staff are spread quite thin over a substantial area of service. We encourage members to contribute their time and effort in outreach and habitat improvement activities whenever possible. The Friends group has a sincere appreciation of the valuable work that the Aquatic Preserve staff is undertaking. We look forward to both improving and increasing our support towards goals of resource conservation/protection and education.

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

**Program Service Expenses** are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the managed area(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. For the last calendar year provide description and total \$ for each that apply. Replace examples with your information.

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
Organization T - Shirts	\$390.00
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$0
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$0
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$0
Tarpon Springs First Friday Registration Fees	\$105.00
Mailbox Services (I-Postal)	\$119.88
<b>Total Program Service Expenses</b>	<b>\$614.88</b>

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

**NET ASSETS: \$ 2,657.63**

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) \$614.88**

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.

**CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:**

- 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.

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		5/31/2023
ORCP Manager	Randy Runnels		6/4/2023

\*\*Below is copy of code of ethics which is posted on the FTBAP website:

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. Code of Ethics – Sept. 2020

Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc.

## CODE OF ETHICS

### PREAMBLE

(1)It is essential to the conduct and operation of the Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc. (herein “FTBAP”) that board members, officers and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.

(2)It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for FTBAP. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of Friends of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves, Inc., board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

### STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by FTBAP board members, officers, and employees.

#### 1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official

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action, or judgment of the FTBAP board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

#### 2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the FTBAP board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

#### 3. Salary and Expenses

No FTBAP board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter

affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a FTBAP board member or officer, as provided by law.

#### 4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

#### 5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No FTBAP board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

#### 6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions

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A person who has been elected to any FTBAP board or office or who is employed by the FTBAP may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the FTBAP of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

#### 7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a FTBAP employee and a FTBAP board member at the same time.

#### 8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A FTBAP board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the FTBAP board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the FTBAP board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

#### 9. Failure to Observe Code of Ethics

Failure of a FTBAP board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the FTBAP to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the FTBAP.



# FRIENDS OF TAMPA BAY AQUATIC PRESERVES INC

EIN: 84-3755324 | Odessa, Florida, United States

## Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Organizations who have filed a 990-N (e-Postcard) annual electronic notice. Most small organizations that receive less than \$50,000 fall into this category.

### ^ Tax Year 2022 Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

<b>Tax Period:</b> 2022 (01/01/2022-12/31/2022)	<b>Mailing Address:</b> 10402 Grove Lane Odessa, FL 33556 United States	<b>Gross receipts not greater than:</b> \$50,000
<b>EIN:</b> 84-3755324	<b>Principal Officer's Name and Address:</b> Rose Poynor 10402 Grove Lane Odessa, FL 33556 United States	<b>Organization has terminated:</b> No
<b>Organization Name (Doing Business as):</b> FRIENDS OF TAMPA BAY AQUATIC PRESERVES INC		<b>Website URL:</b>