

# Rookery Bay Reserve *Finding Solutions*



## Impaired Water Quality in Naples Bay

Non-point source pollution is an ongoing threat to the health of coastal waters. These pollutants come from many sources and are picked up by rainwater running off driveways and parking lots, and drained into waterways without adequate filtering by green areas.

Landscaping practices, particularly the improper application of fertilizers, contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous to this polluted runoff. Once in our coastal waters these nutrients stimulate algal growth, deplete oxygen levels

and smother sea grass beds and other natural resources critical to our coastal economy. When Naples Bay was identified by the EPA as an "impaired" water body, City of Naples natural resource managers realized something had to be done.

**Project Leaders**  
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**Partners**  
*City of Naples*  
*Natural Resources*

*DEP Nonpoint-source Management Section*

*Collier County Stormwater Division*

*University of Florida/IFAS Extension*

*SFWMD/Big Cypress Basin*

**Project Dates**  
*August 2006 – present*



## The Solution: Project Greenscape

Project Greenscape is a partnership program developed by the City of Naples and Rookery Bay Coastal Training Program to provide the educational component of an ordinance addressing fertilizer use in City limits. The ordinance requires professional landscapers to become certified in *Florida Friendly Best*

*Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries.* Developed by the DEP Non-point Source Pollution Section, the training provides the tools, knowledge, and skills to minimize environmental impacts resulting from

landscape practices. Rookery Bay Coastal Training offered to administer the training, and helped secure additional partners in this effort. To date, more than 1,400 landscapers have been certified in the BMP program at Rookery Bay.



Rookery Bay, located in southwest Florida, is recognized as one of the few remaining pristine, mangrove-forested estuaries in the U.S. As part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, it serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists. For more information, visit [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).

