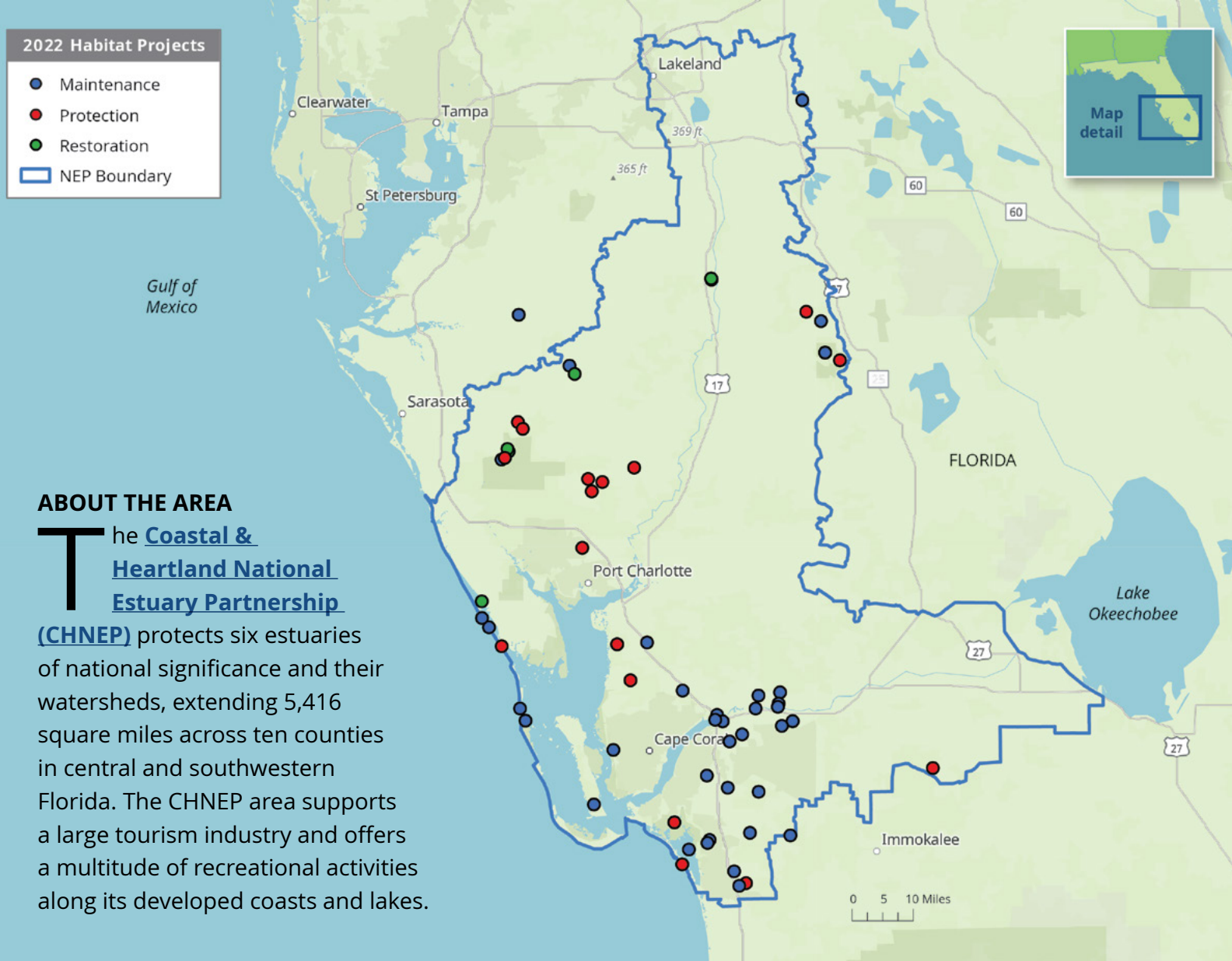


# Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership



## ABOUT THE AREA

The **Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)** protects six estuaries of national significance and their watersheds, extending 5,416 square miles across ten counties in central and southwestern Florida. The CHNEP area supports a large tourism industry and offers a multitude of recreational activities along its developed coasts and lakes.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The CHNEP is a partnership comprised of members, supporters, and volunteers who work to improve water quality, hydrology, and fish and wildlife habitat in central and southwestern Florida. Additionally, the Partnership works to educate and engage the public to assist in the protection of these natural resources. Habitats in the CHNEP area include dry scrubs, pine flatwoods, wetlands, mangroves, and salt marshes.

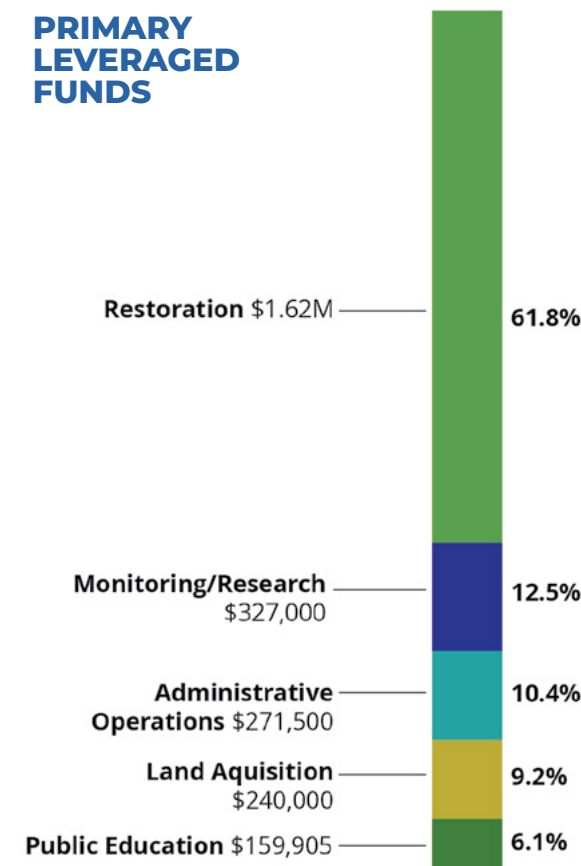
The CHNEP created the Habitat Restoration Needs Plan which identifies preservation and conservation opportunities for further habitat protection. One such opportunity is a 538-acre property located in Sarasota County that was publicly purchased by the county for conserving pine flatwoods, wet prairie, and marsh habitats. CHNEP's mission is to unite Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife. ■



**CHNEP staff member takes a water quality sample** off the side of a boat in the Charlotte Harbor in Florida.

Photo by the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Program

## PRIMARY LEVERAGED FUNDS



**The Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative** works to restore wetlands and tidal creeks within the Charlotte Harbor Watershed in Florida.

Photo provided by the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Program

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Protected and restored **53,535.71** acres of habitat



Developed an **80,000**-acre hydrological restoration model and plan in Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods



Collected water quality samples from **720** monitoring locations



Reported **6,041** individual subscribers for CHNEP educational publications



Treated **24** acres of invasive plants and planted **14,821** native plants at Myakka Headwaters Preserve

## TOP 3 HABITAT PROJECT BENEFITS IN 2022

1. Protect water supply recharge and flood storage areas
2. Protect and improve water quality
3. Protect natural resource-based economies including tourism, outdoor recreation, etc.