

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF SARASOTA

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
ROLES, BASINS, & WHAT TO EXPECT**

PRESENTED TO: CITY COMMISSION

**PREPARED BY:
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ENGINEERING & CONSULTING, LLC**

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

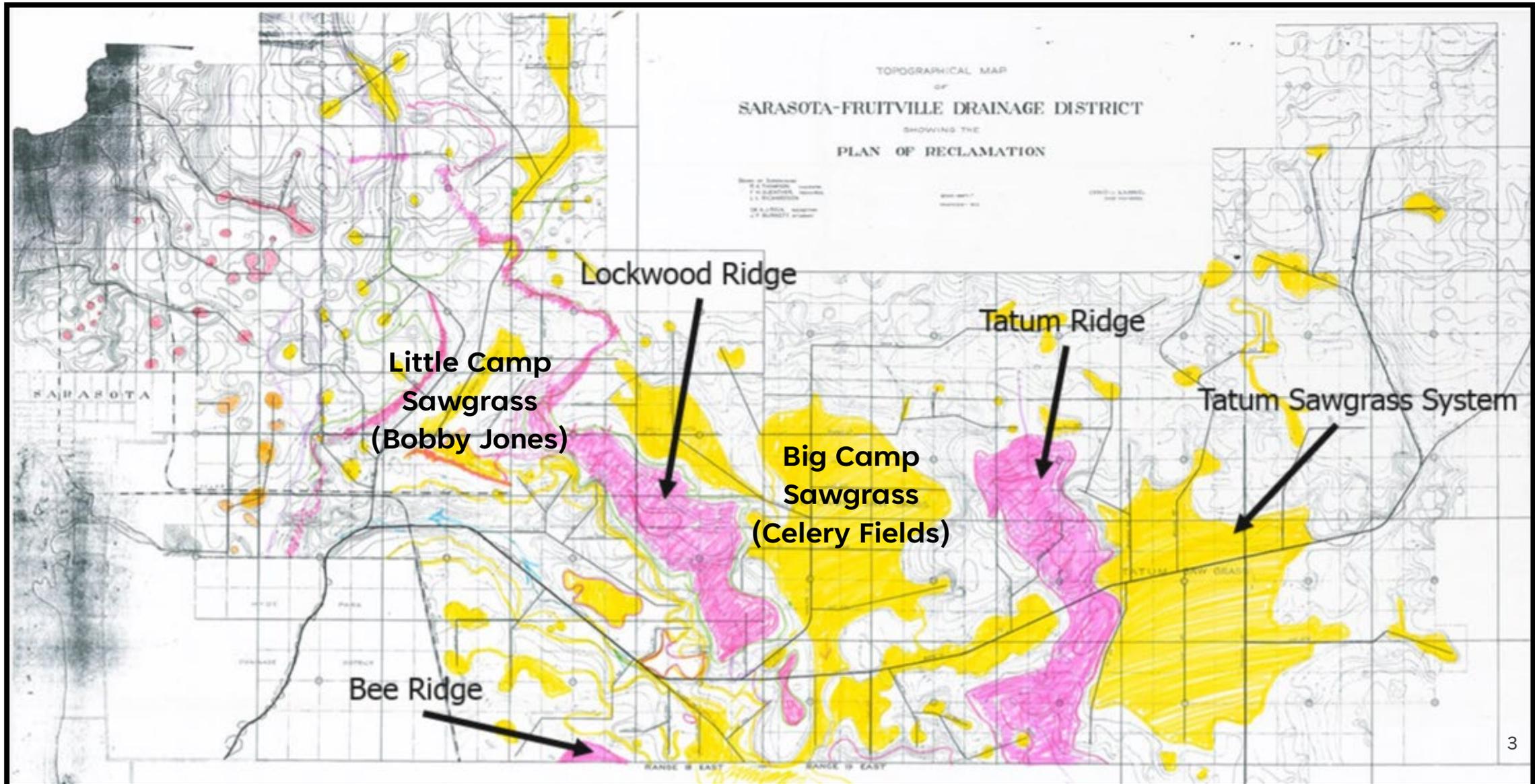


PURPOSE & WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

- Confirm **roles and accountability** under the City–County Interlocal framework
- Explain **basin-based stormwater management** and why impacts cross boundaries
- Provide a **shared reference** for City and County Commissions
- Align on **what decisions are needed** vs. what is informational today

HISTORY

1920's - Establishment of the Sarasota Fruitville Drainage District (SFDD)

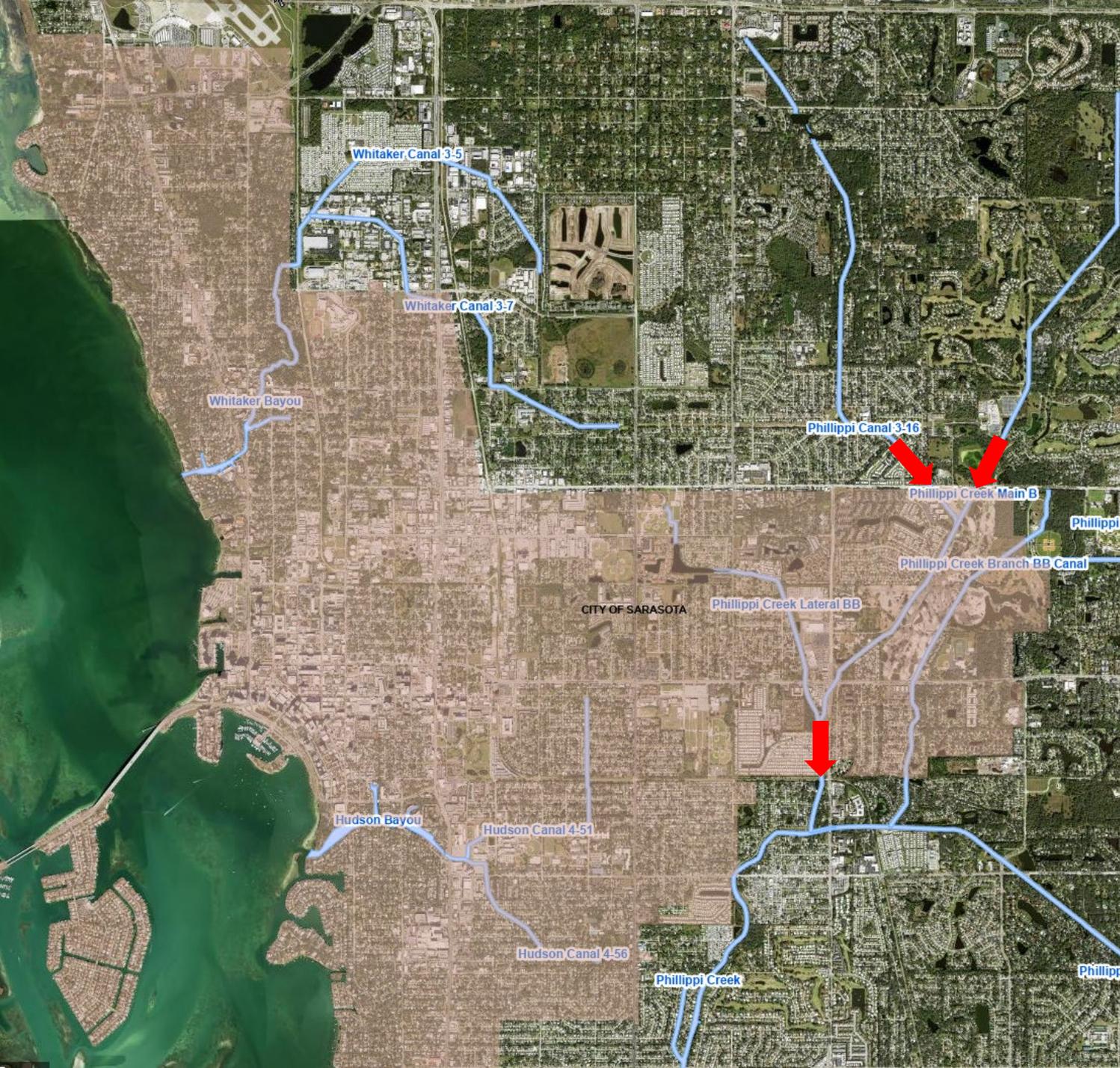


HISTORY

1961 – SFDD dissolved with all assets transferred to and taken over by Sarasota County

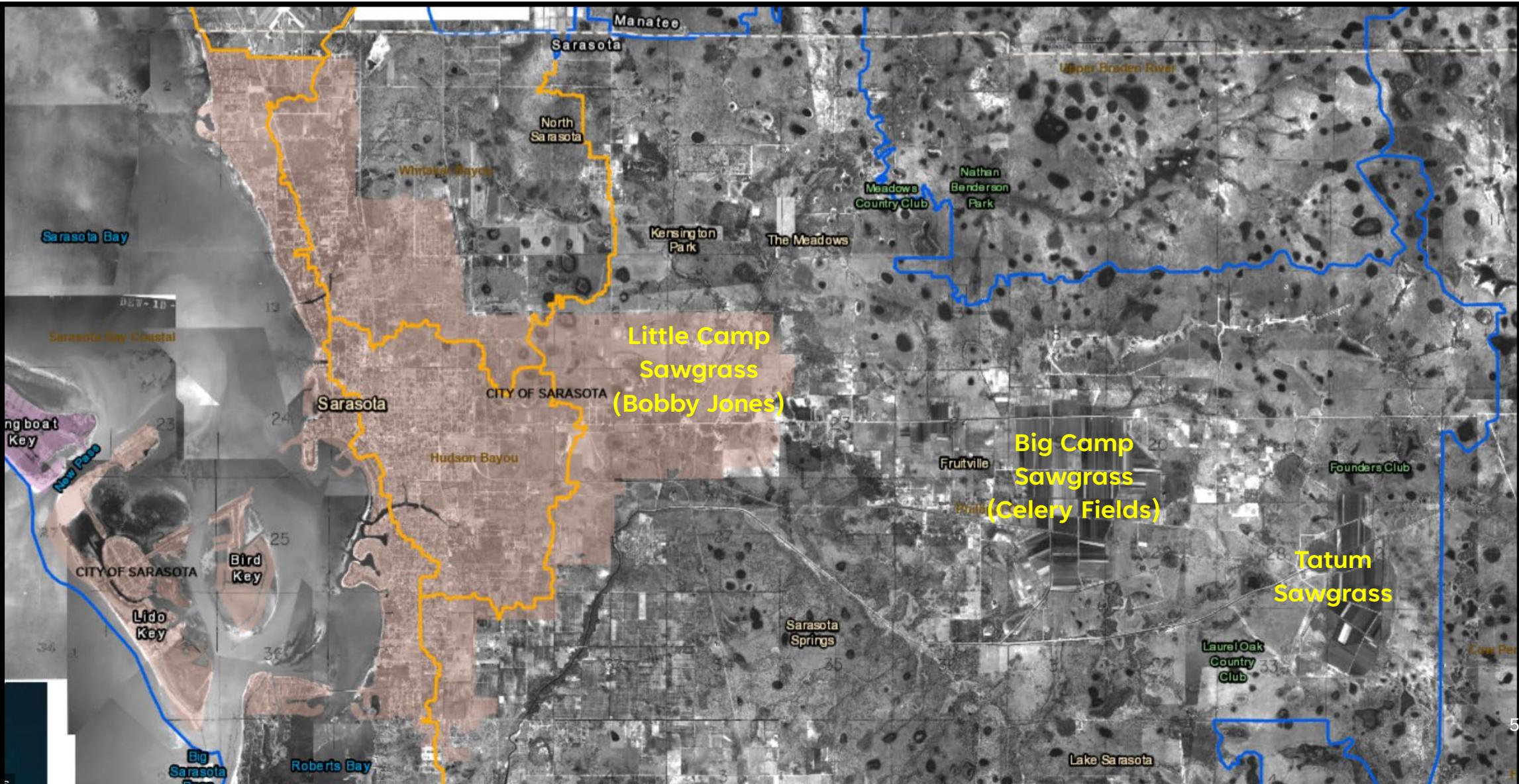
County owned canals for Whitaker Bayou, Hudson Bayou, and Phillippi Creek are located partially or in the case Hudson Bayou, totally within the City of Sarasota

Stormwater runoff drains water from both the County and City



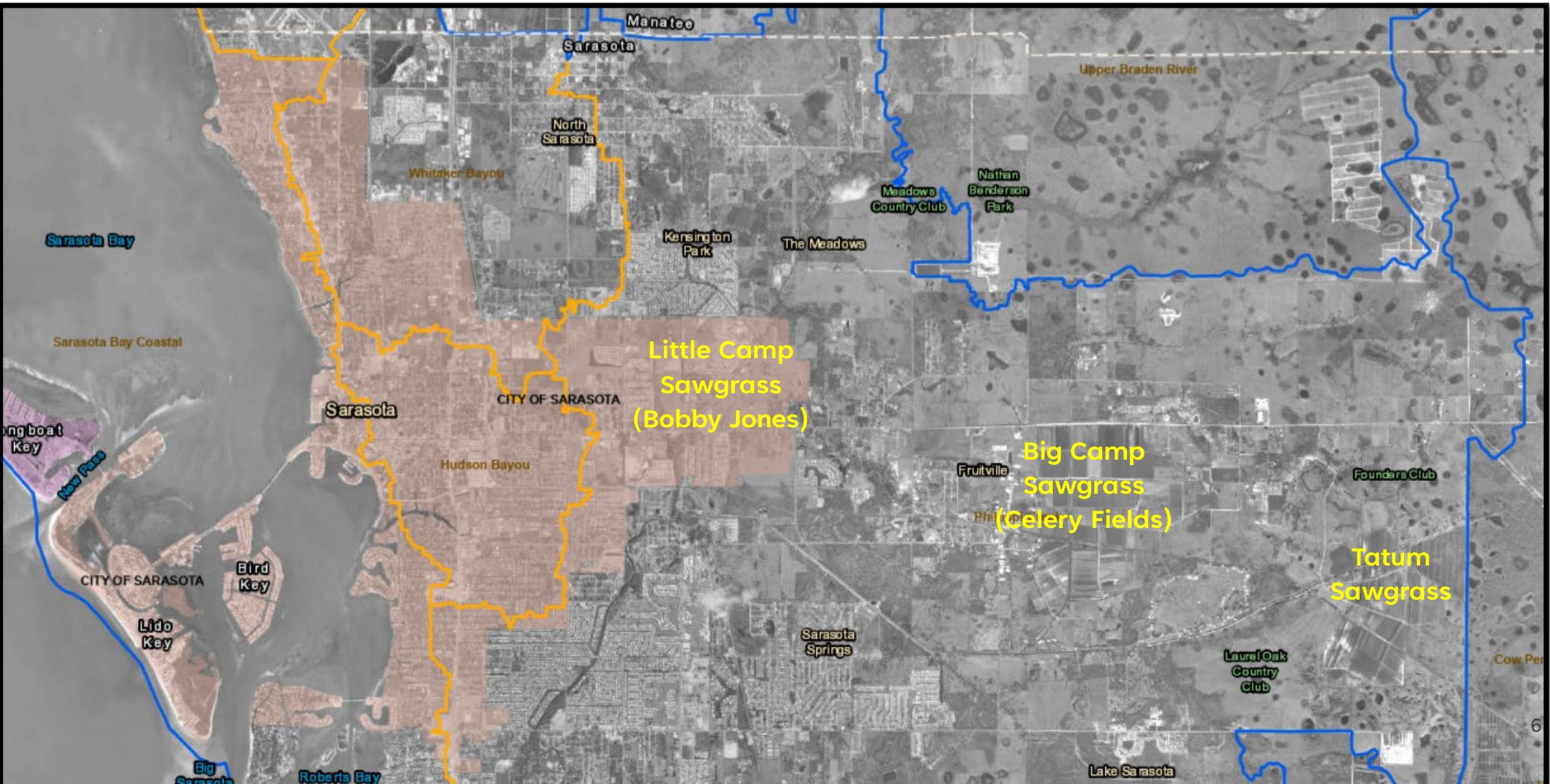
HISTORY

1948 – City Urban/Suburban and Open : County Agriculture and Open



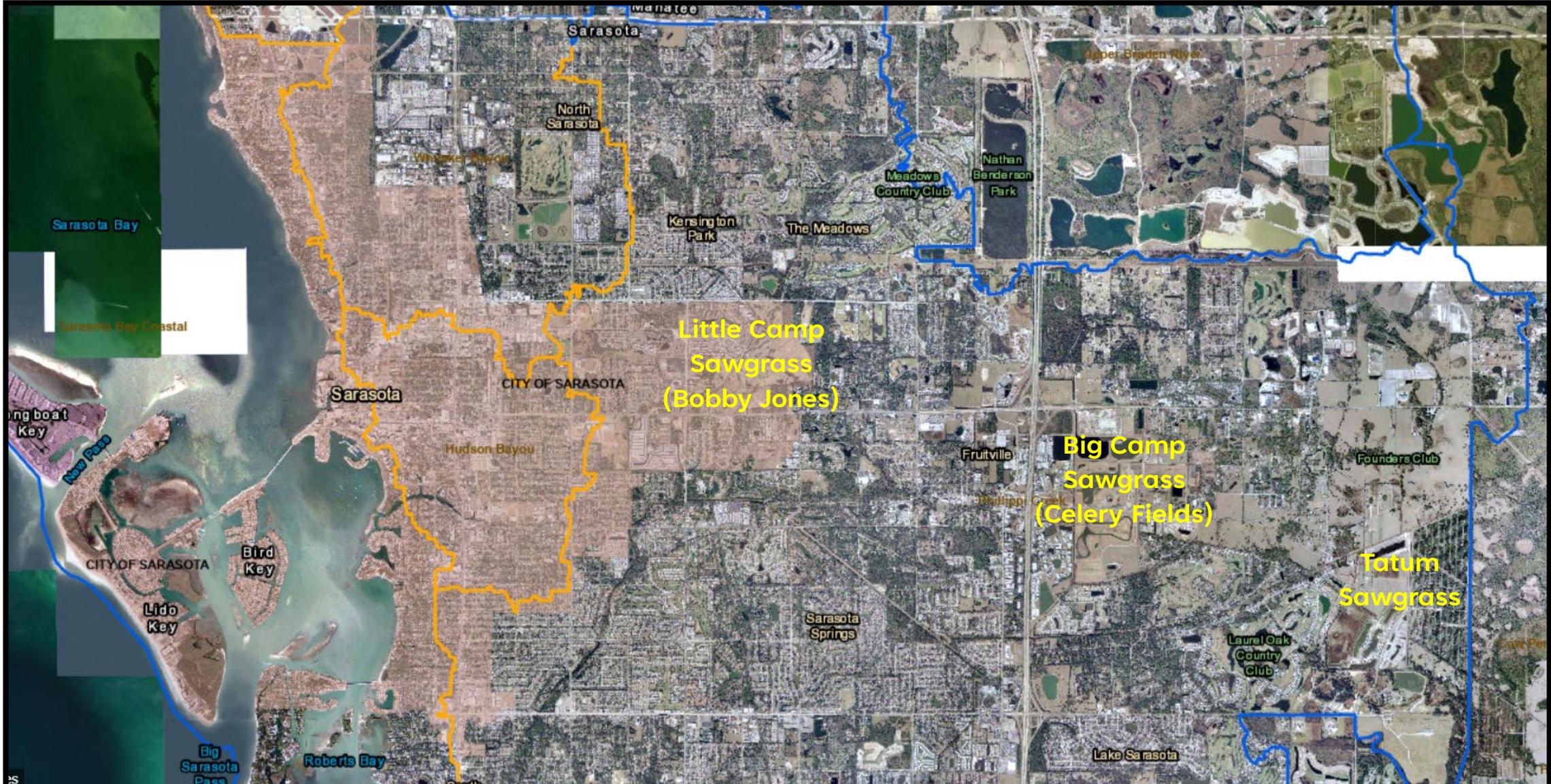
HISTORY

1974 – City Urban/Suburban and Open : County Urban/Suburban, Agriculture and Open



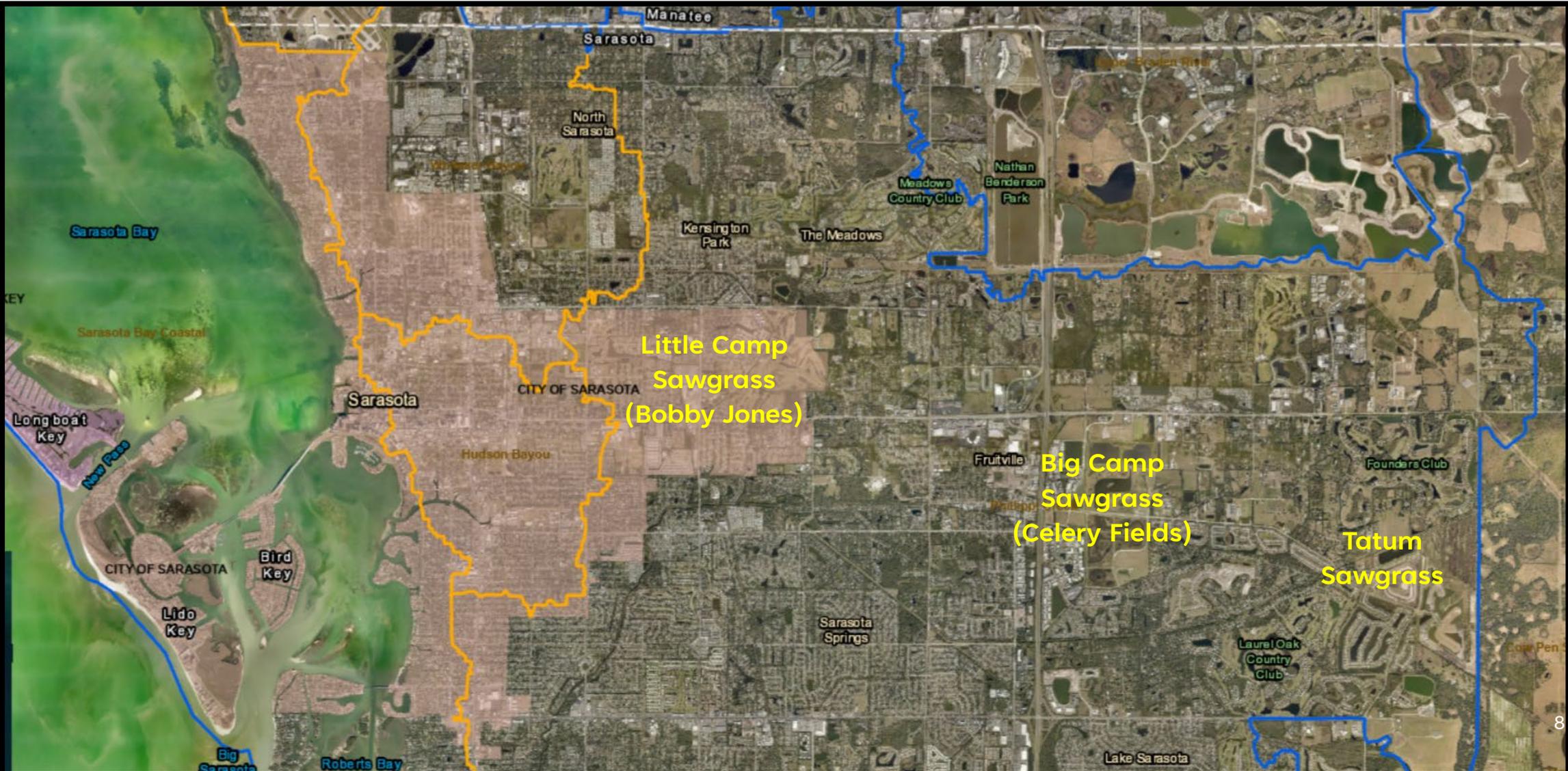
HISTORY

2001 – City Urbanized/Suburban : County Urban/Suburban and Open



HISTORY

2018 – City Urban/Suburban : County Urban/Suburban



SARASOTA COUNTY STORMWATER ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITY (SEU)

- The SEU was established in 1989 as a dependent special district to provide an annual source of revenue for the management of stormwater for flood protection and water quality resulting from rainfall.
- As a non-ad-valorem enterprise fund, use of revenue generated by the SEU is specifically limited to the management of stormwater from rainfall. Funds cannot be used to address other issues such as navigation, sea level rise, and storm surge.
- Stormwater Service Assessments are typically used for planning, regulation, and maintenance for entire service area. Current annual operating budget is between \$25M and \$30M.
- Basin or region-specific Stormwater Improvement Assessments have been used for large basin specific capital improvements with basin specific benefits.

CITY–COUNTY STORMWATER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Executed in 1990; updated and implemented through subsequent amendments

Sarasota County Obligations: All stormwater management under the total and complete control of the County, including:

- Planning
- Maintenance
- Repair
- Capital Improvements
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Compliance
- Reimbursement to the City for one full-time position for regulatory plan review and inspections
- Present to the City Commission the status of the Stormwater Management program annually, in June, and report City comments back to the County Commission for consideration prior to adoption of the annual SEU budget.

CITY–COUNTY STORMWATER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Executed in 1990; updated and implemented through subsequent amendments

City of Sarasota Obligations:

- Provide information pertinent to NPDES permit compliance in a timely basis
- Provide necessary personnel to review all new development projects within the City municipal limits to assure compliance with City regulations
- Provide a report listing building permits and certificates of occupancy issued in the City for specified period, if requested by the County.
- Permitted to provide input regarding the advisability of any capital improvement or maintenance project, the cost of such project, and the number and amount of assessments necessary to fund such projects.

SARASOTA COUNTY SEU COLLECTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF SARASOTA FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY

<u>Tax Year (FY)</u>	<u>Methodology</u>	<u>SEU Amount Collected Within City</u>
2021 (FY22)	Prior (pre-R2022-157)	\$3,014,903.28
2022 (FY23)	Current	\$3,608,200.38
2023 (FY24)	Current	\$3,945,972.74
2024 (FY25)	Current	\$4,296,227.51
2025 (FY26)	Current	<u>\$4,500,487.32</u>
Total (5 Years)	—	\$19,365,791.23

Amounts shown reflect **Stormwater Environmental Utility (SEU) non-ad valorem assessments collected by Sarasota County within City of Sarasota boundaries.**

Government-owned properties (City, County, State, School Board, and other governmental entities) are not assessed or charged SEU fees.



HOW STORMWATER IS MANAGED ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

Stormwater Management Is Regional—Governance Aligns With Basin Reality

- Stormwater systems function **by watershed and basin**, not by jurisdictional boundary
- The Interlocal Agreement aligns **operational authority** with **regional drainage reality**
- Sarasota County **operates** the stormwater system through the SEU
- The City of Sarasota **coordinates, reviews, and partners** to support compliance and outcomes

Bottom-line: Clear governance ensures accountability, transparency, and effective basin-based solutions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & CLOSING ASSESSMENT

- Stormwater challenges and solutions are **basin-wide** and require intergovernmental coordination
- **Operational responsibility** resides with **Sarasota County** under the Interlocal framework
- The **City's** role is **coordination, review, and partnership**—not system operation
- Funding decisions must reflect **legal limitations, basin benefits, and measurable outcomes**
- **Closing line:** This framework supports informed policy decisions and consistent public understanding.



Stormwater Update
Sarasota County Stormwater Director

