



**Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center Captivates and Educates Visitors at the New St. Petersburg Pier**  
*The 3,000 Square Foot Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center is the Only Marine  
Environmental Experience in Downtown St. Pete*

**SAINT PETERSBURG, Fla. (Date)** - Tampa Bay Watch, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore and protect the bay's habitat through stewardship and community awareness, is thrilled to be a part of the new St. Pete Pier™, with the [Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center](#). Presented by the Milkey Family Foundation, the Discovery Center is the only marine environmental and educational experience in downtown St. Petersburg, providing guests from around the world an upfront opportunity to learn and live the story of the recovery of the Tampa Bay ecosystem.

With soaring rooflines, floor-to-ceiling glass walls, and outdoor wet classroom, the Discovery Center creates a dynamic visitor experience centered on environmental stewardship as well as the recovery and restoration of Tampa Bay, the largest estuary in the state of Florida. An exhibit-rich gallery of live marine habitats, hands-on interactive displays and video presentations tell the story of Tampa Bay and share the history and recovery of this unique ecosystem, and the integral role played by Tampa Bay Watch since 1993.

“We are excited to bring our mission to the public in such an incredible location and to inspire visitors to become more aware and engaged stewards of their own environment,” said Dwayne Virgint, Discovery Center Executive Director. “At the Discovery Center, the whole family can participate in fun and engaging free programs and become a part of this unique ecosystem as it evolves.”

The Discovery Center features an exhibit gallery that brings this tale of environmental recovery to life, as well as an indoor classroom, outdoor “wet” classroom, and soon, a brand new Eco-tour boat and floating classroom. The focal point of the exhibit gallery is a centerpiece marine estuary habitat that showcases many of the species found in Tampa Bay. Touch tanks, interactive displays, video presentations, and docent-led tours all combine for an unforgettable experience designed to inspire guests to walk away with a newfound respect for our local environment and how small steps can make big changes in their own environment.

Incorporated in 1993, Tampa Bay Watch performs habitat restoration and protection activities throughout the year, relying heavily on the efforts of community volunteers. These programs seek to build citizen awareness, concern and participation through environmental outreach.

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**ABOUT TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER**

The Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center is the only marine environmental experience in downtown St. Petersburg. It is located approximately halfway down the new St. Pete Pier. With soaring rooflines and floor to ceiling glass walls, the Discovery Center creates a dynamic visitor experience. This experience includes an exhibit gallery that tells the story of the history of the largest open-water estuary in Florida and the role Tampa Bay Watch has had in its recovery. Exhibits include touch tanks, interactive displays, video presentations, and docent-led tours.

Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center seeks to increase the public’s awareness of the critical importance of Tampa Bay as an environmental resource and economic engine through engaging interactive exhibits and hands-on

experiences, presented in an entertaining, first-class experience that inspires visitors to discover ways to make a positive impact on the environment. For more information, visit [www.tbwdiscoverycenter.org](http://www.tbwdiscoverycenter.org).

#### **ABOUT TAMPA BAY WATCH**

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly- developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information, visit [www.tampabaywatch.org](http://www.tampabaywatch.org) or call 727-867-8166.

#### **ABOUT THE ST PETE PIER DISTRICT™**

The Southeast's largest waterfront playground, the St. Pete Pier District™, comprises 26 acres of activated waterfront park in St. Petersburg, Florida's vibrant downtown. Redefining the definition of a pier, this entertainment district is an extension of St. Petersburg's bustling city center. Each day, visitors will be able to enjoy countless experiences, from pop-up performances to inspiring public art installations. In addition, The Pier will host major events throughout the year, including festivals, concerts, markets, and more.