

Tape Grass – (*Vallisneria americana*)



- Freshwater Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
 - Somewhat salt tolerant (salinities < 10-15 ppt)
- Habitat for a variety of organisms
- Stabilize sediments
- Preferred by manatees
- Sensitive barometer for assessing salinity and water quality
 - Valued Ecosystem Component (VEC) for Caloosahatchee

Vallisneria in the Loxahatchee

- Appears to be no record prior to 2004
 - But observed in Ranch Colony Tributary
- 2010 LRD Staff noticed first significant beds
 - Mapped with High Accuracy GPS
- 2012 LRD Staff observed huge expansion
 - SFWMD-LRD mapping project







2010 < 1 acre



May 2012 ~ 13 acres



- Exciting new finding
 - Initial introduction and expansion?
 - Related to meeting Minimum Flow?
- Continue Monitoring
 - Evaluate water quality with *Vallisneria* coverage and health
 - Coordinate with other agencies

