

Coral Bay Community Council 2024 Year in Review



Image by Neal Herstik

Our mission is to serve the Coral Bay community by protecting the environment, improving infrastructure, supporting education, encouraging social progress, and planning for appropriate, low-impact development.

2024 brought new beginnings for CBCC, with many firsts: Our first paid Executive Director, our first major online auction, and our first Watershed Education Program. This year, CBCC has accomplished a lot, continuing the work of the last 21 years.



Stormwater Structure Toolkit Finalized

The [Stormwater Structure Toolkit](#) successfully worked with **nine** Coral Bay neighborhoods to organize documentation and tasks to maintain roads and stormwater management structures, prevent major damage, and enable future storm recovery work. This work will also assist in reducing erosion and flooding issues in Coral Bay. This project was supported with a grant by the U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

Keep the Bay Blue

The [Keep the Bay Blue](#) campaign worked to increase watershed

awareness with our newsletter’s watershed knowledge corner and our watershed knowledge editions. CBCC also hosted a variety of fundraisers under the campaign to support our initiatives and emphasize the need for coastal resilience. This included our first major auction, the Coral Bay Crawl, and a raffle at the Bizarre Bazaar. Collectively, these efforts raised \$24,000.



Street Addressing Initiative

CBCC assisted the Lt. Governor's office with the [Street Addressing Initiative](#) by contacting neighborhoods with street addressing application information and directions. This initiative will enable emergency services, like fire trucks and ambulances, to find and access locations faster. By the end of 2024, almost all St. John roads were named.

Small Docks Planning

CBCC assisted local land owners with planning for small access docks and associated amenities for transient, recreational boaters in Coral Bay, St. John. Multiple small docks could help spread the economic benefit of boating access to local landowners and community, allow boaters to visit more locations and amenities, and is intended to reduce both water and land-based environmental impacts along the shoreline by avoiding congestion in one area. This project was funded by a federal Boating Infrastructure Grant through the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources. Read the final report summary to learn about our planning outcomes [here](#).



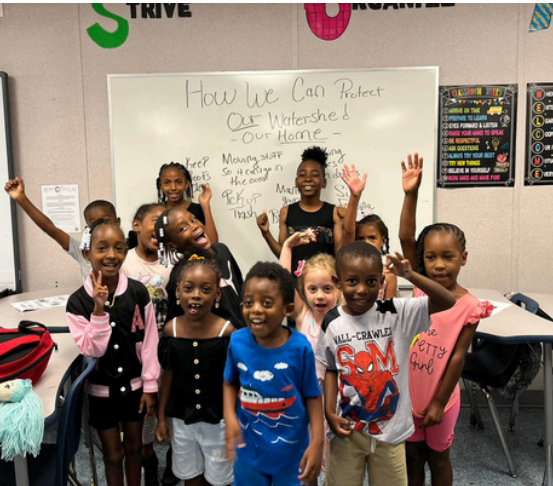
Schools on Historic Register
[Guy Benjamin School and the East End Schoolhouse](#) are officially and nationally registered as significant historical locations. CBCC has worked to have the two buildings registered under the National Register of Historic Places. Part of this work involved obtaining oral histories, photos, and artifacts relating to both schoolhouses. This project was funded by the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands.

Watershed Quarterly Calls

CBCC staff continue to host the quarterly watershed calls from the past several years with a wide variety of government and nonprofit agency officials to discuss Watershed Management projects and issues territory wide. This meeting aims to keep cooperating partners up to date with recent work so that we can continue to best protect our ocean from polluted stormwater and sediment runoff.

Ridge to Reef Watershed Education Program

CBCC completed its first pilot session of the [Ridge to Reef Watershed Education Program](#) with the Boys & Girls Club of St. John, aiming to provide children with the information they need to protect themselves and their home through watershed management. The children explored a LEGO watershed model, watched a video that described the journey of a raindrop through a watershed, created their own watersheds, and filled out workbooks. In addition to this, CBCC attended the Earth Day Fair in Cruz Bay and participated in the World Wide Day of Play hosted by the Virgin Islands Children’s Museum. In 2025, we aim to expand this program with more in-class sessions.



Ridge to Reef Coastal Resilience

CBCC’s [Coastal Resilience project](#), funded by a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, aims to design resiliency solutions to protect infrastructure and critical marine ecosystems by mitigating sedimentation and flooding. In 2024, work for this project included the [Great Mangrove Cleanup](#), the [Coastweeks Cleanup](#), mangrove restoration planning, permit applications, strategic planning with local land owners, and more.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Solutions

Funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant in the summer of 2024, the [Drinking Water and Wastewater Solutions](#) project is just getting started. Already, CBCC has assisted residents with [drinking water testing](#), and the project will continue to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in Coral Bay.



Community Work

CBCC participated in VI Comprehensive Land and Water Use Planning, hosted Stuff Depot to reduce household item waste, utilized the CFVI Giving Tree to distribute holiday grocery store gift cards to seniors, and [monitored and commented on the mega yacht marina Army Corps Application](#).

2024 Impact by Numbers

30

NEIGHBORHOODS
ASSISTED WITH
STREET NAMING

900

CHILDREN
ENGAGED IN
WATERSHED
EDUCATION

2,700

POUNDS OF
TRASH
CLEANED OUT
OF CORAL BAY

Staff: Monica Miller-Smith Ed.D. – Executive Director, Michelle Bransom – Administrative Manager, Rachel McKinley – Environmental Projects Manager, Maya Craig – Watershed Coordinator, Kaitlyn Cummings – Communications Specialist
Board of Directors: Steve McKibben – President, Tracy Pajewski – Vice President, Francesca Segarra – Treasurer, Dixie Brown, Eric Fales, Jean Lynn, Jim Fogarty, Kate Reed, Loraine (Pat) Richards, and Sharon Coldren.
Communications: Want to stay up-to-date with news you can use? Sign up for our occasional newsletters [here](#) or on the website listed below. **Follow Us:** @CoralBayCommunityCouncil
Visit: Stop by CBCC’s office across from Skinny Legs and get free educational resources.

