



For Immediate Release
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Mosaic Employees Join Forces with Tampa Bay Watch for Oyster Reef Restoration

Tampa, FL - Tampa Bay Watch will install an oyster shell reef on the shoreline of McKay Bay on the morning of Thursday, November 16 with the assistance of Mosaic employees. Earlier this year, the Mosaic Company Foundation provided a \$150,000 grant to support Tampa Bay Watch's Community-Based Oyster Habitat initiatives over two years.

Mosaic first sponsored Tampa Bay Watch in 2012 by providing generous support that allowed Tampa Bay Watch to accomplish oyster restoration projects at six project locations throughout Tampa Bay. These projects helped to establish over 40,000 square feet of oyster habitat in Tampa Bay while also engaging over 1,700 community volunteers in habitat restoration and environmental stewardship. This new funding will focus on continuing habitat restoration in areas of the Bay that will advance watershed protection, improve water quality, and advance community and youth education in the importance of valuable ecosystems that we are working to protect.

"Tampa Bay Watch has long been impressed with Mosaic's commitment to water quality and habitat protection," said Peter Clark, president of Tampa Bay Watch. "We are honored that the Mosaic Company Foundation has chosen to invest in our community-based oyster programs in such a high-impact way."

The Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (CORE) program is designed to increase the oyster population in Tampa Bay while providing habitats for small organisms, preventing erosion, improving water quality and promoting fish and wildlife habitats. In addition, this project benefits the Tampa Bay community by promoting environmental awareness and offering hands-on experience in habitat restoration.

The November 16 project is in McKay Bay which is an ecologically important estuary located in the heart of a heavily industrialized area in the City of Tampa. McKay Bay provides habitat to over 200 bird species and has historically supported healthy fisheries. The bay has suffered from many years of developmental impacts, including dredge and fill construction, stormwater runoff and dredged material disposal.

Oyster shell bars will be constructed similar to natural oyster communities found along shoreline areas throughout Tampa Bay. Fossilized oyster shell from local shell mines provide a hard surface for oyster larvae to settle upon and grow, eventually forming a natural reef. For more information about the project or to sign up to volunteer, visit our website at www.tampabaywatch.org.

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, or call 727-867-8166.

About The Mosaic Company and The Mosaic Company Foundation

The Mosaic Company is one of the world's leading producers and marketers of concentrated phosphate and potash crop nutrients. Mosaic is a single-source provider of phosphate and potash fertilizers and feed ingredients for the global agriculture industry. Driven by our mission to help the world grow the food it needs, Mosaic is committed to sustainably strengthening global food security and protecting critical water resources. The Mosaic Company and The Mosaic Company Foundation invest in and partner with leaders in the focus areas of food, water and local community investments. Learn more at www.mosaicco.com.

Photo opportunities: Media is welcome to join us on the shoreline area or by boat to get footage of the new oyster bar on November 16 starting at 9:00 a.m. at Desoto Park, 2617 Corrine St, Tampa, FL 33605. Peter Clark, President of Tampa Bay Watch, will be on hand for interviews.