

Coral Bay Watershed

St. John, V.I.



■ Resources

Coral Bay, a quiet seaside community, is located at the base of the Coral Bay watershed. A watershed is an area of land bounded by a ridge which collects stormwater that drains to a common bay or water body. Watershed protection is gaining a great deal of interest, especially on small island ecosystems.

The Coral Bay watershed is a very diverse and rich natural environment. Moist and dry forests, woodlands, shrublands and mangrove wetlands link salt ponds, vast seagrass beds and beautiful coral reefs. The watershed is a unique place for many reasons, yet residents face challenges in protecting priceless resources.

- 5th largest watershed in VI: 3003 ac.
- Fastest developing area in VI
- 79% growth rate 1990-2000 Census
- 750+ residents in 2000
- 5% developed – Huge potential
- Area of Particular Concern
- Coral Reef National Monument
- Longest V.I. fringing mangrove
- 100's of acres of wetlands, coral reefs and seagrass beds

As residents of Coral Bay watershed, **we are caretakers of the natural environment** and the quality of life here. It will take us all working together to preserve this legacy for future generations.

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■ Issues

Coral Bay, faces significant problems as a result of the fast growth rate and development. Runoff, erosion, sedimentation and bad land use practices lead to poor water quality and a deteriorating environment. More development will mean greater problems, *unless we find solutions*.

What you can do:

- **Join our watershed association:**
Coral Bay Community Council
Website: coralbaycommunitycouncil.org
Ph: 340-776-2099 Get Active!

All the time:

- Use native plants to vegetate bare slopes
- Minimize use of pesticides & fertilizers
- Filter muddy run-off water
- Use brush berms to slow water run-off
- Properly dispose of solid/liquid waste
- Pump your septic tank yearly
- Remove/properly dispose of abandoned cars, trucks and equipment

During construction:

- Clear cut only the house footprint
- Complete retaining walls, paving, drainage and site work first
- Do not alter or disturb guts
- Preserve all trees

What the community can do together:

- Educate each other
- Plan a vision for the future

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