

Historic CORTEZ VILLAGE

Boat to Table:

- 8 AP Bell
- 9 Star Fish: Cortez's oldest fish company originated in 1923.
- 10 Cortez Bait and Seafood
- 11 Cortez Kitchen
- 12 Slickers
- 13 Swordfish Grill
- 14 Tide Tables
- 15 Boat Works
- 16 Burton/Bratton Store
- 17 Cortez Park
- 18 Cortez Bridge
- 19 Post Office
- 20 U.S. Coast Guard Station, former site of the historic Albion Inn



This map is a Cortez Village Historical Society project, funded with a grant from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program with additional support from the Florida Maritime Museum. 2025

- 1 **Cortez Cultural Center:** Museum and community center whose mission is to preserve the past and protect the future of the Village. www.cortezvillagehistoricalsociety.org
- 2 **Florida Maritime Museum:** County-operated museum preserving and sharing traditional knowledge, artifacts and stories of Florida's fishing and maritime heritage. www.floridamaritimemuseum.org
- 3 **Fulford Fish House:** The last remaining historic fish house, built in 1940 by Tink Fulford; gathering place for the annual Cortez picnic.

- 4 **Old Fire Station:** The Cortez Volunteer Fire Station was built in the mid 1950's with bays and a residential apartment. When the local Fire Department was disbanded, the building was repurposed for community events. Now owned by FISH.
- 5 **Fishermen's Hall:** Built in 1922 as a Church; now owned by FISH and used for community events.

- 6 **Community Dock:** Built by Albert Few in the 1920's for drying nets; donated to the county by Tim Miller in 1999 and opened to the public in 2002. Enjoy the view of The Kitchen from our bench.
- 7 **Net Camp:** Built on stilts which were used for drying and storing nets and other fishing equipment. The last remaining one was damaged by Hurricane Helene and destroyed by Hurricane Milton in 2024.

Historic Cortez, Florida, founded by fishermen in 1882, remains today a working fishing village known worldwide for its bountiful catches of mullet and other seafood. Cortez retains its strong ties to its 19th century roots, with descendants of the original settler families still living and working in the village and on the water.

Cortez is proud to preserve its history and historical character. Part of this character is living close to the land, in harmony with nature. Doing so helps protect our beloved Sarasota Bay Estuary. Estuaries are shallow-water transition zones between the land and the sea, where freshwater from the land meets and mixes with saltwater.



They provide important living spaces for young fish and shellfish. It is highly important for the health of an estuary that the fresh water running into it from the land watershed is clean water, and that the quantity of this water is just right, not too much or too little.



Bay-friendly design elements and the roles they play in keeping our estuary healthy. How many can you find around Cortez?



Native plant buffers

Native plants slow freshwater land runoff, allowing for greater filtration of pollutants. These low-maintenance plants also help prevent land erosion.



Bioswales

Planted, open-air, earthen waterways, bioswales filter and absorb into plant roots and the earth a significant portion of storm water draining off paved areas, slowing and cleaning runoff.



Rain garden

A garden of native plants with deep roots in low-lying areas absorbs, holds, and gradually releases rainwater, helping to prevent flooding and overloading the Bay with too much fresh water.



Flourishing mangroves

Mangroves help prevent erosion and filter nutrient-heavy land runoff. They are also nurseries for fish, and feeding, nesting and breeding areas for birds and other animals.



Permeable roads

Shell and dirt roads, porous driveways, and paving-stone walkways allow rainwater to soak into the earth, creating a more stable, evenly saturated land and contributing to minimizing land runoff.



Rain barrels

Rain barrels collect water that falls on rooftops and can be used for garden and other outdoor water needs, thereby reducing the amount of water flowing into sewer systems during storms.



Compost

Yard waste that finds its way into the Bay promotes algae growth depleting oxygen levels of the water, a crucial life element for all sea creatures. Composting yard waste eliminates the need for its manual removal and commercial fertilizer.

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Village map
with places of interest
and
Environmental features
promoting a healthy Sarasota Bay

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cortezvillagehistoricalsociety.org