

# North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve

## SEACAR Habitat Analyses

Last compiled on 08 October, 2025

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## Funding & Acknowledgements

The data used in this analysis is from the Export Standardized Tables in the SEACAR Data Discovery Interface (DDI). Documents and information available through the SEACAR DDI are owned by the data provider(s) and users are expected to provide appropriate credit following accepted citation formats. Users are encouraged to access data to maximize utilization of gained knowledge, reducing redundant research and facilitating partnerships and scientific innovation.

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## Threshold Filtering

Threshold filters, following the guidance of Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (*FDEP*) Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (*DEAR*) are used to exclude specific results values from the SEACAR Analysis. Based on the threshold filters, Quality Assurance / Quality Control (*QAQC*) Flags are inserted into the *SEACAR\_QAQCFlagCode* and *SEACAR\_QAQC\_Description* columns of the export data. The *Include* column indicates whether the *QAQC* Flag will also indicate that data are excluded from analysis. No data are excluded from the data export, but the analysis scripts can use the *Include* column to exclude data (1 to include, 0 to exclude).

Table 1: Continuous Water Quality threshold values

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	-0.000001	50
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	%	-0.000001	500
Salinity	ppt	-0.000001	70
Turbidity	NTU	-0.000001	4000
Water Temperature	Degrees C	-5.000000	45
pH	None	2.000000	14

Table 2: Discrete Water Quality threshold values

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Ammonia, Un-ionized (NH3)	mg/L	-	-
Ammonium, Filtered (NH4)	mg/L	-	-
Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin	ug/L	-	-
Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin	ug/L	-	-
Colored Dissolved Organic Matter	PCU	-	-

Parameter Name	Units	Low Threshold	High Threshold
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	-0.000001	25
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation	%	-0.000001	310
Fluorescent Dissolved Organic Matter	QSE	-	-
Light Extinction Coefficient	m^-1	-	-
NO2+3, Filtered	mg/L	-	-
Nitrate (NO3)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrite (NO2)	mg/L	-	-
Nitrogen, organic	mg/L	-	-
Phosphate, Filtered (PO4)	mg/L	-	-
Salinity	ppt	-0.000001	70
Secchi Depth	m	0.000001	50
Specific Conductivity	mS/cm	0.005000	100
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	-	-
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	-	-
Turbidity	NTU	-	-
Water Temperature	Degrees C	3.000000	40
pH	None	2.000000	13

Table 3: Quality Assurance Flags inserted based on threshold checks listed in Table 1 and 2

SEACAR QAQC Description	Include	SEACAR QAQCFlagCode
Exceeds maximum threshold	0	2Q
Below minimum threshold	0	4Q
Within threshold tolerance	1	6Q
No defined thresholds for this parameter	1	7Q

## Value Qualifiers

Value qualifier codes included within the data are used to exclude certain results from the analysis. The data are retained in the data export files, but the analysis uses the *Include* column to filter the results.

### STORET and WIN value qualifier codes

Value qualifier codes from *STORET* and *WIN* data are examined with the database and used to populate the *Include* column in data exports.

Table 4: Value Qualifier codes excluded from analysis

Qualifier Source	Value Qualifier	Include	MDL	Description
STORET-WIN	H	0	0	Value based on field kit determination; results may not be accurate
STORET-WIN	J	0	0	Estimated value
STORET-WIN	V	0	0	Analyte was detected at or above method detection limit
STORET-WIN	Y	0	0	Lab analysis from an improperly preserved sample; data may be inaccurate

### Discrete Water Quality Value Qualifiers

The following value qualifiers are highlighted in the Discrete Water Quality section of this report. An exception is made for **Program 476 - Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network** and data flagged with Value Qualifier **H** are included for this program only.

**H** - Value based on field kit determiniation; results may not be accurate. This code shall be used if a field screening test (e.g., field gas chromatograph data, immunoassay, or vendor-supplied field kit) was used to generate the value and the field kit or method has not been recognized by the Department as equivalent to laboratory methods.

**I** - The reported value is greater than or equal to the laboratory method detection limit but less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit.

**Q** - Sample held beyond the accepted holding time. This code shall be used if the value is derived from a sample that was prepared or analyzed after the approved holding time restrictions for sample preparation or analysis.

**S** - Secchi disk visible to bottom of waterbody. The value reported is the depth of the waterbody at the location of the Secchi disk measurement.

**U** - Indicates that the compound was analyzed for but not detected. This symbol shall be used to indicate that the specified component was not detected. The value associated with the qualifier shall be the laboratory method detection limit. Unless requested by the client, less than the method detection limit values shall not be reported

### Systemwide Monitoring Program (SWMP) value qualifier codes

Value qualifier codes from the *SWMP* continuous program are examined with the database and used to populate the *Include* column in data exports. *SWMP* Qualifier Codes are indicated by *QualifierSource=SWMP*.

Table 5: SWMP Value Qualifier codes

<i>Qualifier Source</i>	<i>Value Qualifier</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Description</i>
SWMP	-1	1	Optional parameter not collected
SWMP	-2	0	Missing data
SWMP	-3	0	Data rejected due to QA/QC
SWMP	-4	0	Outside low sensor range
SWMP	-5	0	Outside high sensor range
SWMP	0	1	Passed initial QA/QC checks
SWMP	1	0	Suspect data
SWMP	2	1	Reserved for future use
SWMP	3	1	Calculated data: non-vented depth/level sensor correction for changes in barometric pressure
SWMP	4	1	Historical: Pre-auto QA/QC
SWMP	5	1	Corrected data

## Water Column

The water column habitat extends from the water's surface to the bottom sediments, and it's where fish, dolphins, crabs and people swim! So much life makes its home in the water column that the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as human economies, depend on the condition of this vulnerable habitat. Local patterns of rainfall, temperature, winds and currents can rapidly change the condition of the water column, while global influences such as [El Niño/La Niña](#), large-scale fluctuation in sea temperatures and climate change can have long-term effects. Inputs from the prosperity of our day-to-day lives including farming, mining and forestry, and emissions from power generation, automobiles and water treatment can also alter the health of the water column. Acting alone or together, each input can have complex and lasting effects on habitats and ecosystems.

SEACAR evaluates water column health with several essential parameters. These include nutrient surveys of nitrogen and phosphorus, and water quality assessments of salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and water temperature. Water clarity is evaluated with Secchi depth, turbidity, levels of chlorophyll a, total suspended solids, and colored dissolved organic matter. Additionally, the richness of nekton is indicated by the abundance of free-swimming fishes and macroinvertebrates like crabs and shrimps.

## Seasonal Kendall-Tau Analysis

Indicators must have a minimum of five to ten years, depending on the habitat, of data within the geographic range of the analysis to be included in the analysis. Ten years of data are required for discrete parameters, and five years of data are required for continuous parameters. If there are insufficient years of data, the number of years of data available will be noted and labeled as "insufficient data to conduct analysis". Further, for the preferred Seasonal Kendall-Tau test, there must be data from at least two months in common across at least two consecutive years within the RCP managed area being analyzed. Values that pass both of these tests will be included in the analysis and be labeled as *Use\_In\_Analysis = TRUE*. Any that fail either test will be excluded from the analyses and labeled as *Use\_In\_Analysis = FALSE*. The points for all Water Column plots displayed in this section are monthly averages. Trend significance will be denoted as "Significant Trend" (when  $p < 0.05$ ), or "Non-significant Trend" (when  $p \geq 0.05$ ). Any parameters with insufficient data to perform Seasonal Kendall-Tau test will have their monthly averages plotted without a corresponding trend line.

## Water Quality - Discrete

The following files were used in the discrete analysis:

- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Chlorophyll\_a\_corrected\_for\_pheophytin-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Chlorophyll\_a\_uncorrected\_for\_pheophytin-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Colored\_dissolved\_organic\_matter\_CDOM-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Dissolved\_Oxygen-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_Saturation-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_pH-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Salinity-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Secchi\_Depth-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Nitrogen-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Phosphorus-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Total\_Suspended\_Solids\_TSS-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Turbidity-2025-Sep-04.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_Water\_Temperature-2025-Sep-04.txt*

## Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

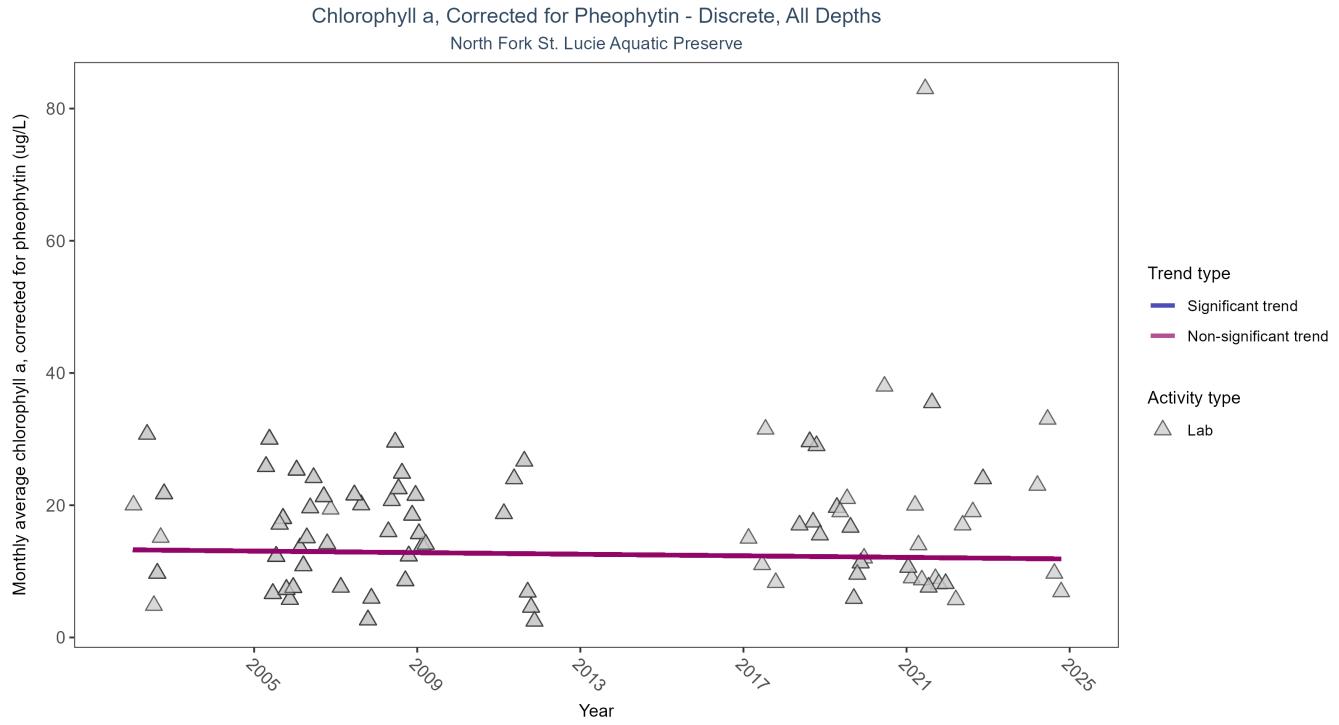


Figure 1: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) is included in the plot.

Table 6: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	372	14	2002 - 2024	12	-0.0397	13.2489	-0.06	0.6464

Chlorophyll a, corrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 2002 and 2024.

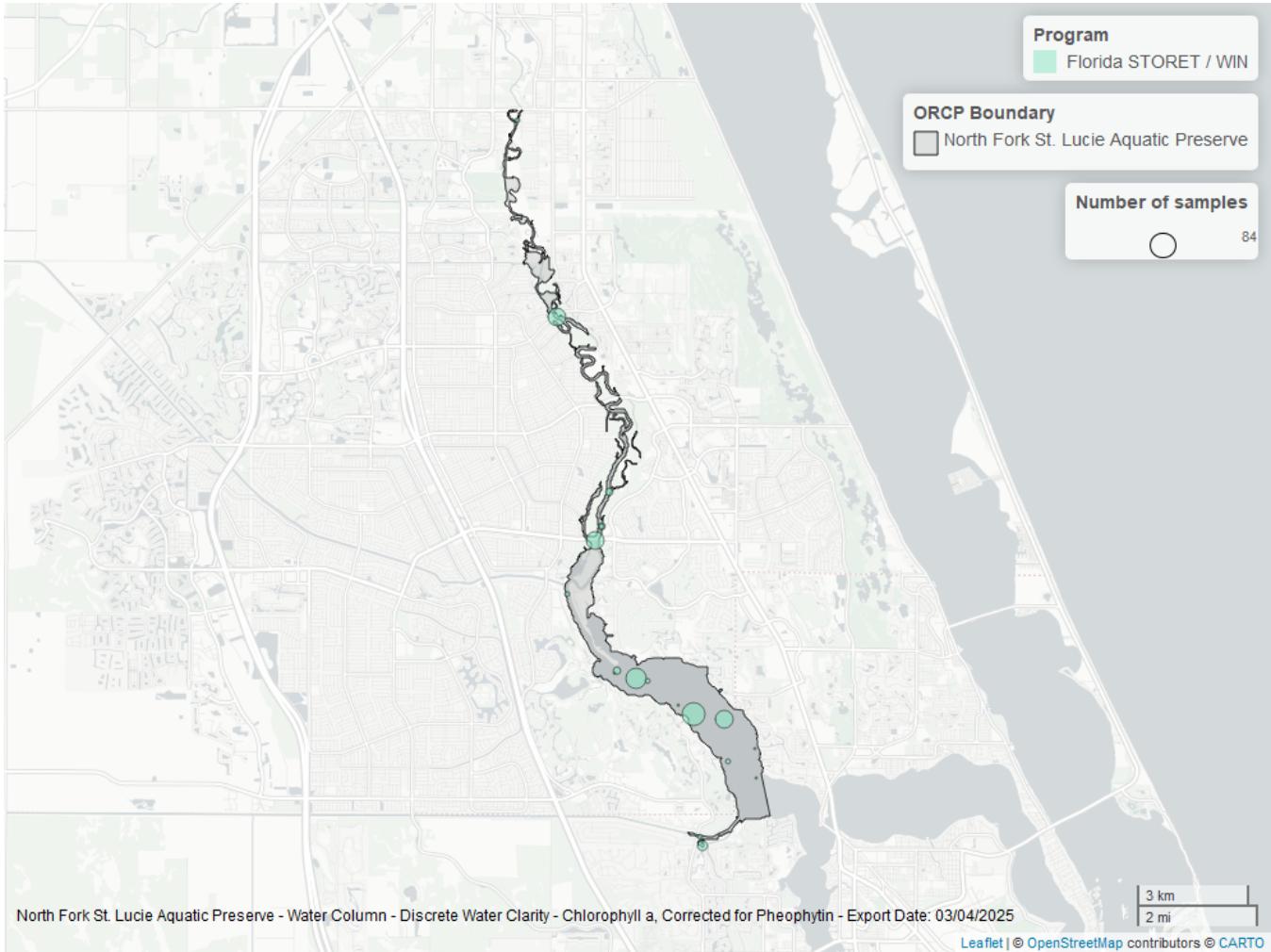


Figure 2: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 7: Programs contributing data for Chlorophyll a, Corrected for Pheophytin

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	373	2002	2024

#### Program names:

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

**Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin - Discrete  
Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis**

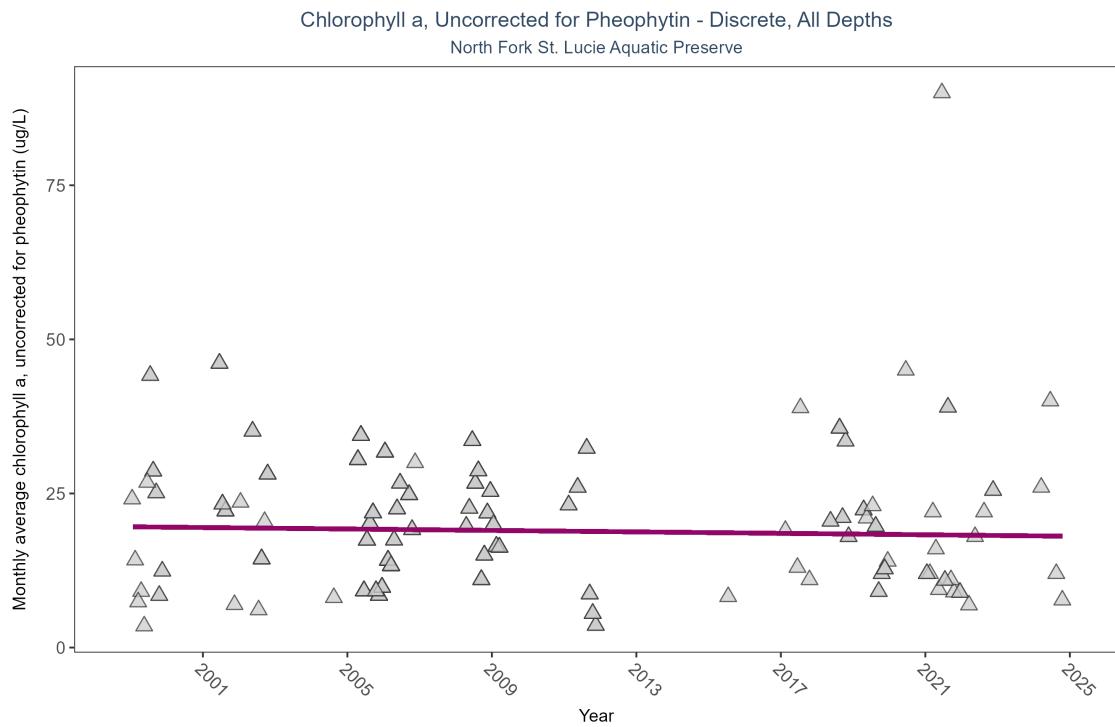


Figure 3: Scatter plot of monthly average levels of chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only laboratory-analyzed chlorophyll a (triangles) is included in the plot.

Table 8: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	378	17	1999 - 2024	15.18	-0.07	19.5905	-0.0588	0.4435

Chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin, showed no detectable trend between 1999 and 2024.

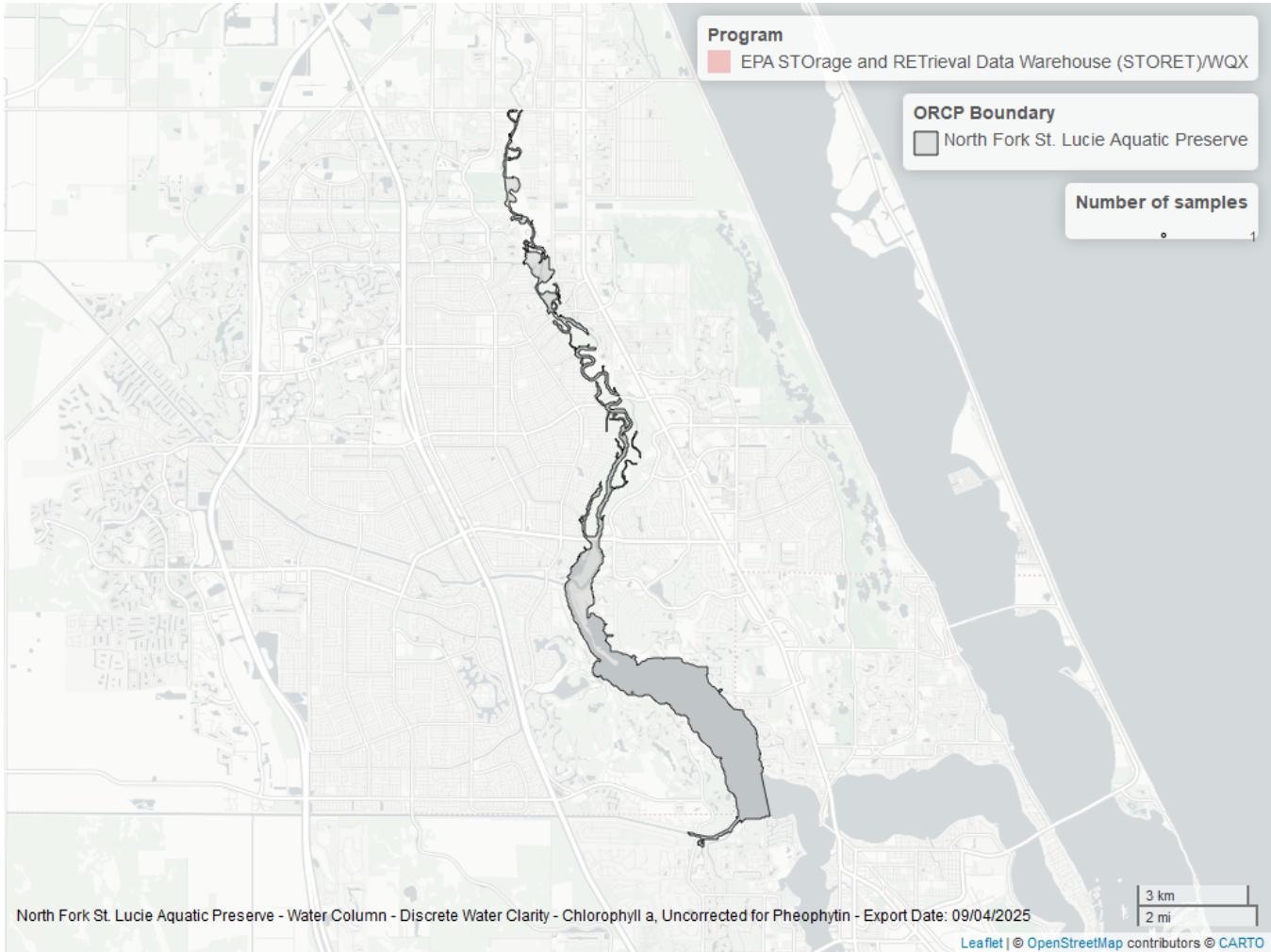


Figure 4: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 9: Programs contributing data for Chlorophyll a, Uncorrected for Pheophytin

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	378	1999	2024
103	2	2004	2015

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>  
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Dissolved Oxygen - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

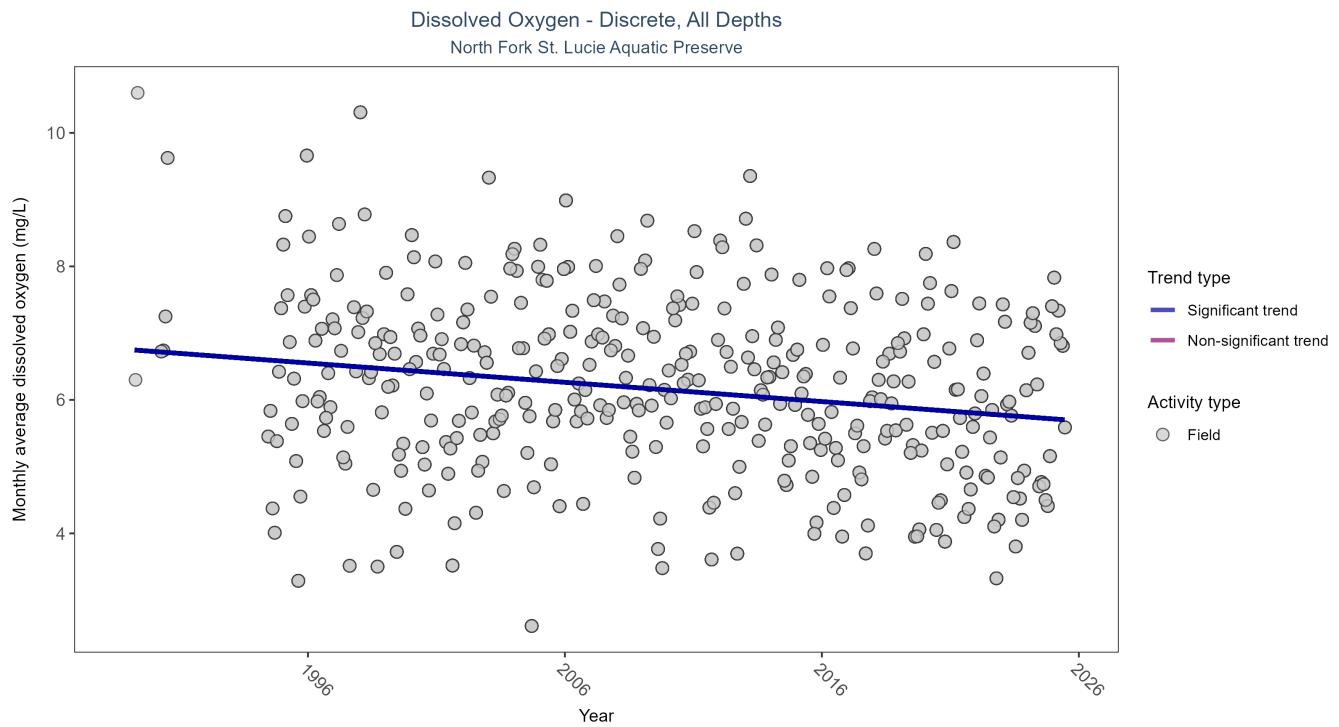


Figure 5: Scatter plot of monthly average dissolved oxygen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only dissolved oxygen values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 10: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Dissolved Oxygen

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly decreasing trend	7465	34	1989 - 2025	6.2	-0.2181	6.7544	-0.0289	0

Monthly average dissolved oxygen decreased by 0.03 mg/L per year.

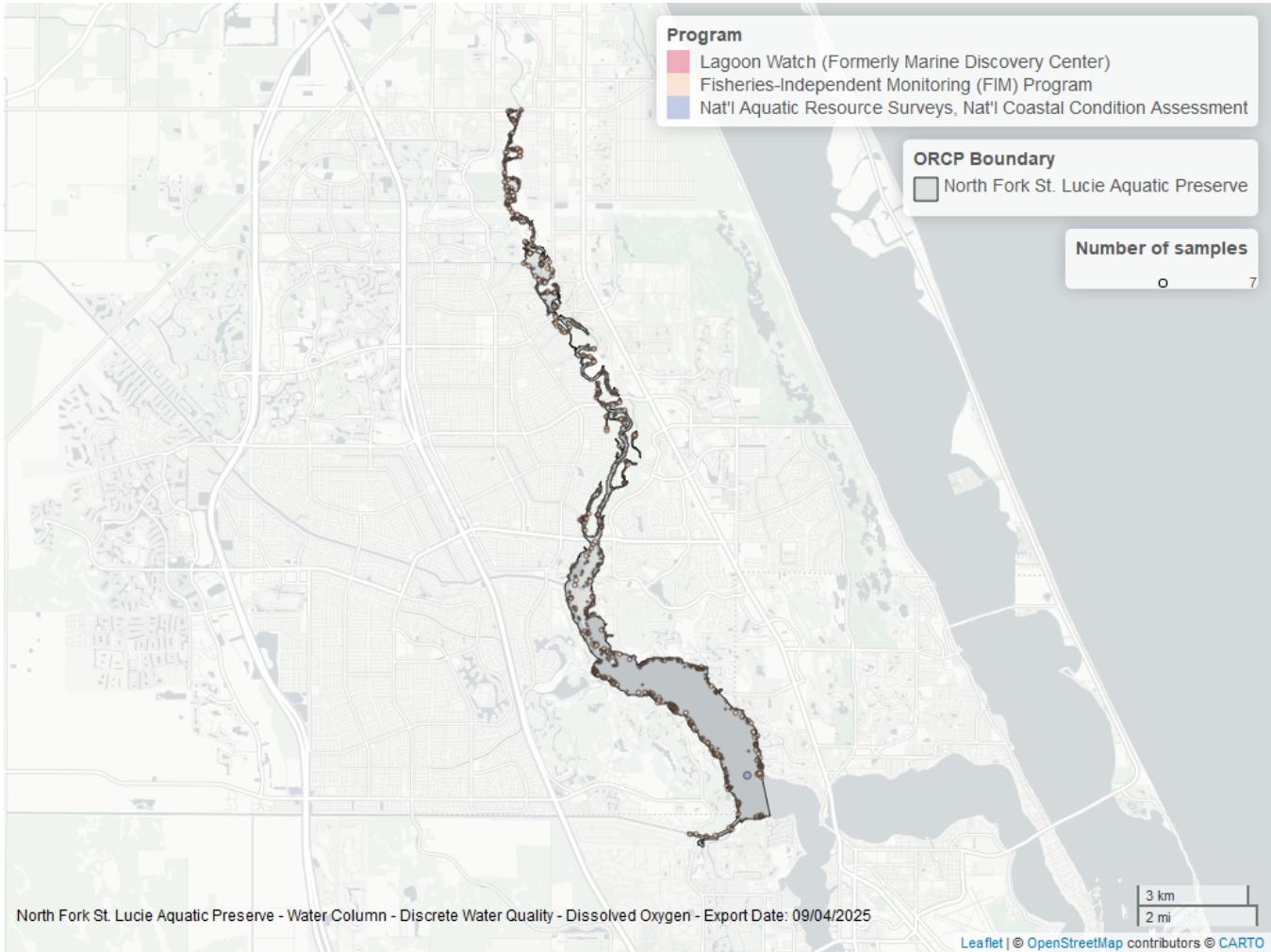


Figure 6: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 11: Programs contributing data for Dissolved Oxygen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	5103	1989	2025
69	2508	1998	2024
118	7	2015	2015
103	7	2015	2015
3001	5	2009	2009

#### Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>3</sup>

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>4</sup>

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)<sup>5</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

## pH - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

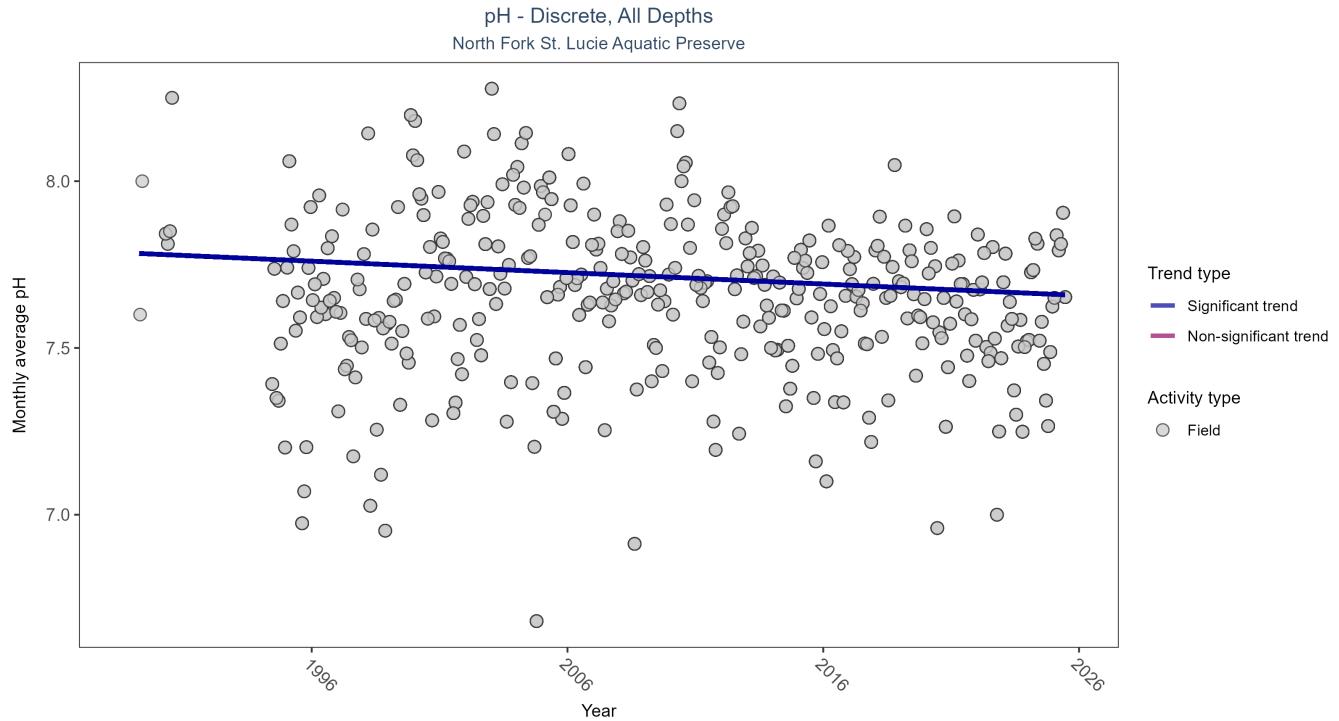


Figure 7: Scatter plot of monthly average pH over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only pH values measured in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 12: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for pH

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly decreasing trend	7519	34	1989 - 2025	7.63	-0.1106	7.7842	-0.0034	0.0023

Monthly average pH decreased by less than 0.01 pH units per year.

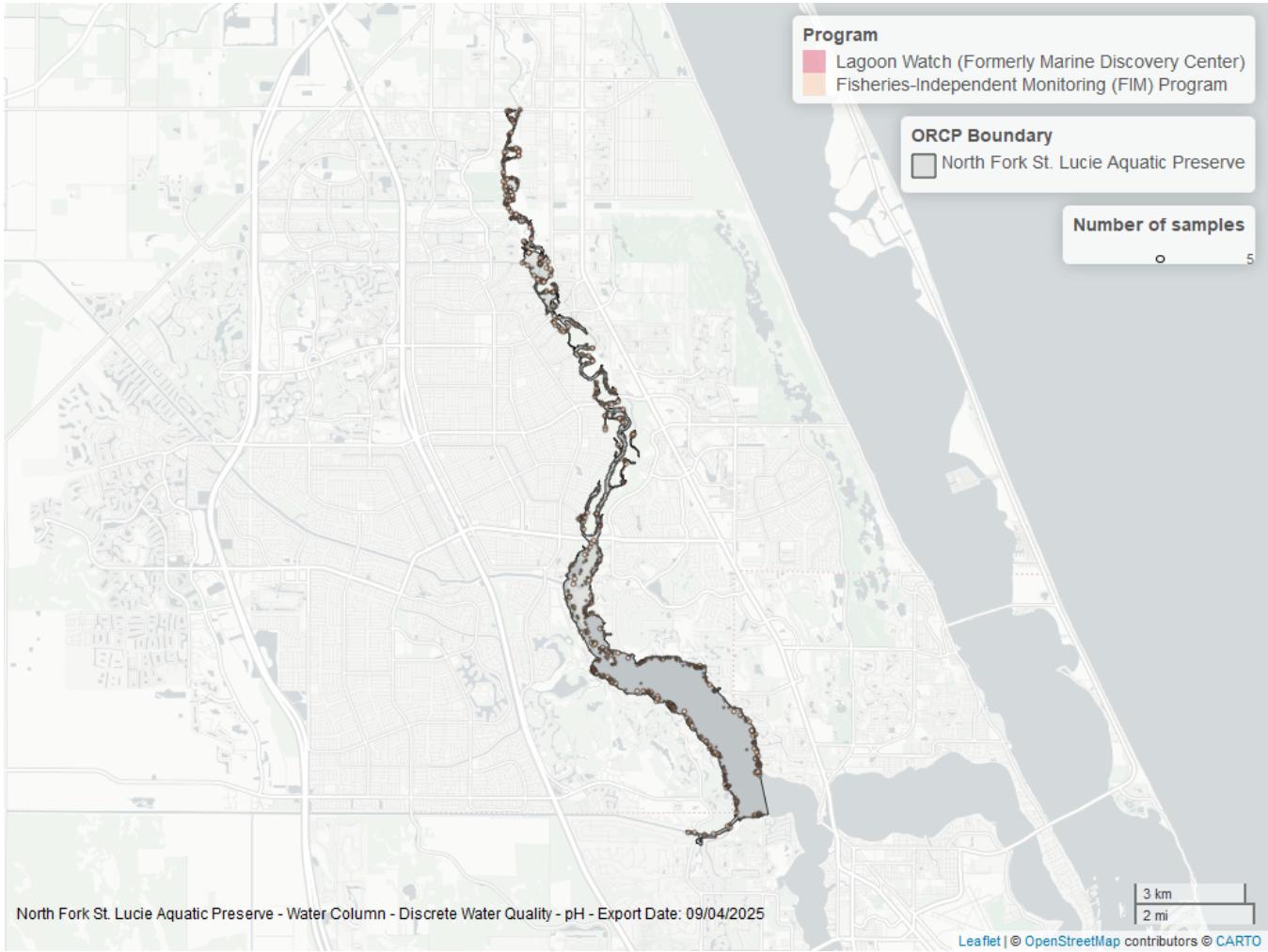


Figure 8: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 13: Programs contributing data for pH

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	5091	1989	2025
69	2482	1998	2024
3001	6	1996	2009
103	6	2015	2015

#### Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>3</sup>
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>
- 3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)<sup>5</sup>
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Salinity - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

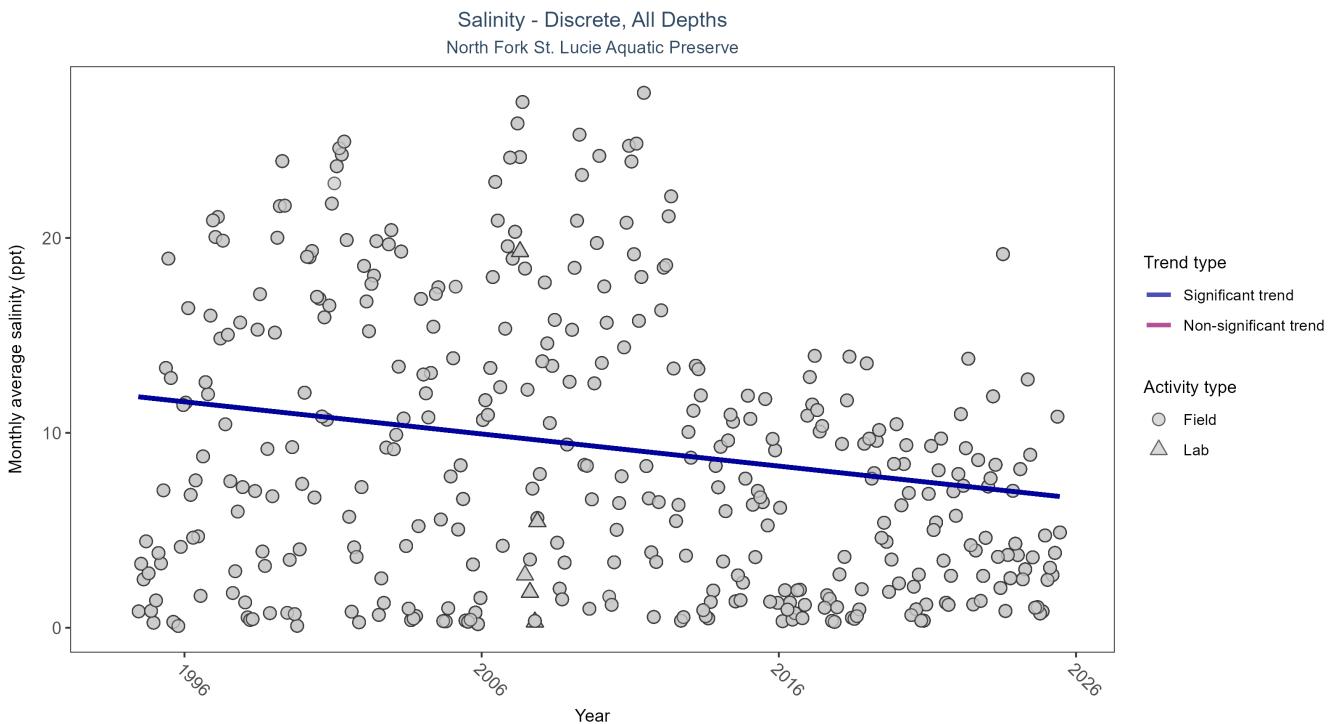


Figure 9: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines are also shown. Discrete salinity values derived from grab samples analyzed in the field (circles) or the laboratory (triangles) are both included in the plot.

Table 14: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Salinity

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
All	Significantly decreasing trend	7157	32	1994 - 2025	3.98	-0.189	11.9225	-0.165	0

Monthly average salinity decreased by 0.16 ppt per year.

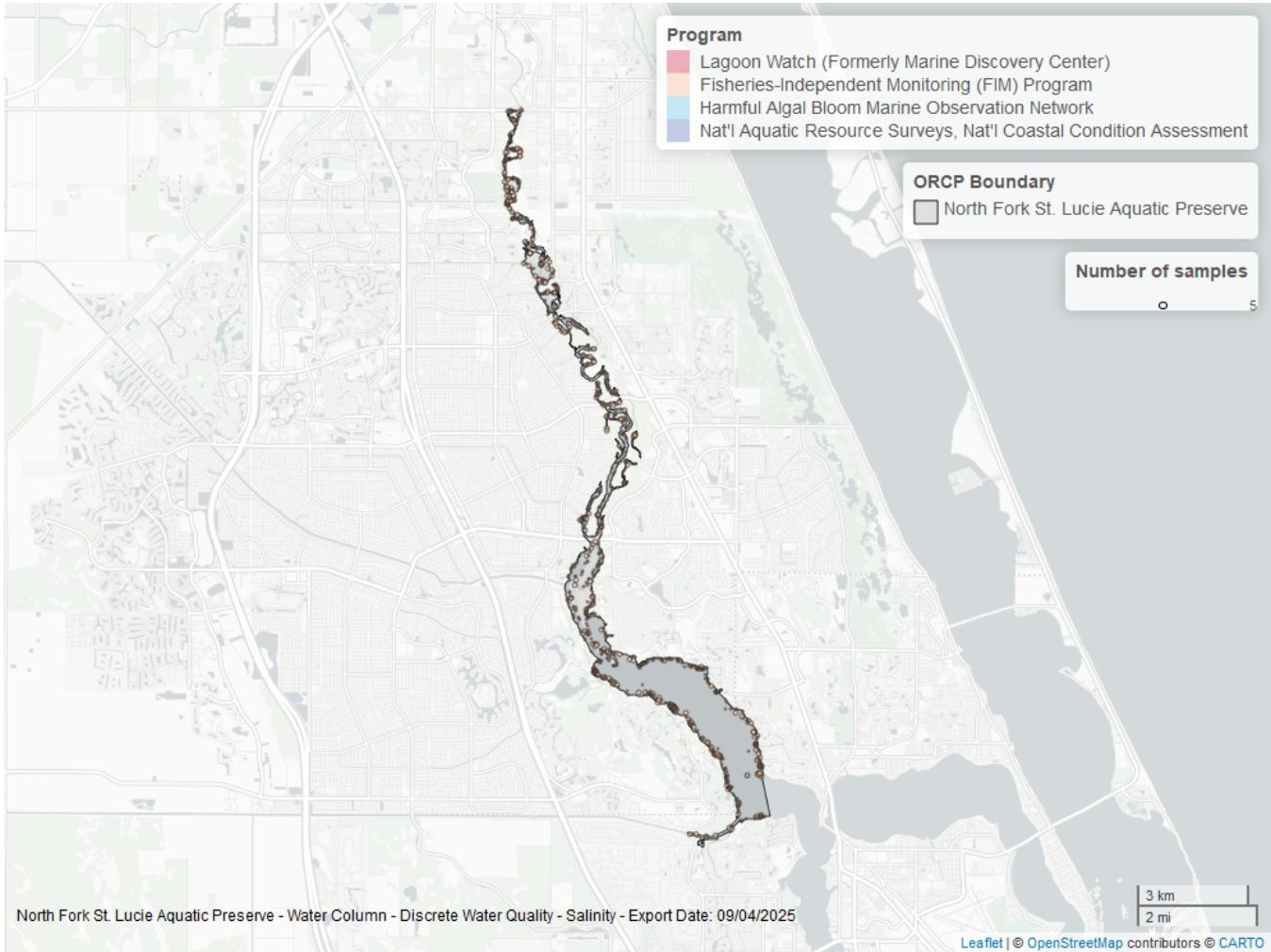


Figure 10: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 15: Programs contributing data for Salinity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	4681	1994	2025
69	2521	1998	2024
3001	6	1996	2009
118	5	2015	2015
95	1	2011	2011

#### Program names:

69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>3</sup>

95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>6</sup>

118 - National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment<sup>4</sup>

3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)<sup>5</sup>

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

## Secchi Depth - Discrete

### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

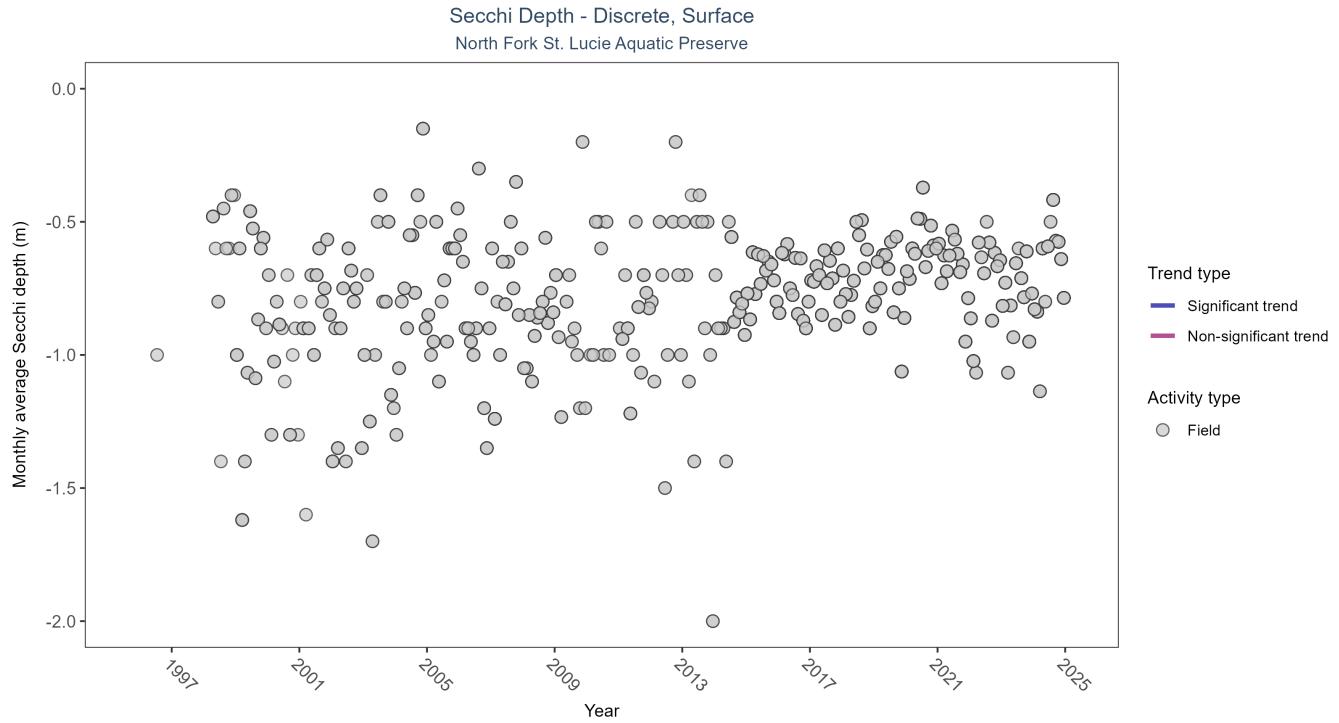


Figure 11: Scatter plot of monthly average Secchi depth over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Secchi depth is only measured in the field (circles).

Table 16: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Secchi Depth

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly increasing trend	2883	29	1996 - 2025	-0.7	0.1479	-0.8426	0.0056	0.0002

Monthly average Secchi depth became shallower by 0.01 m per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

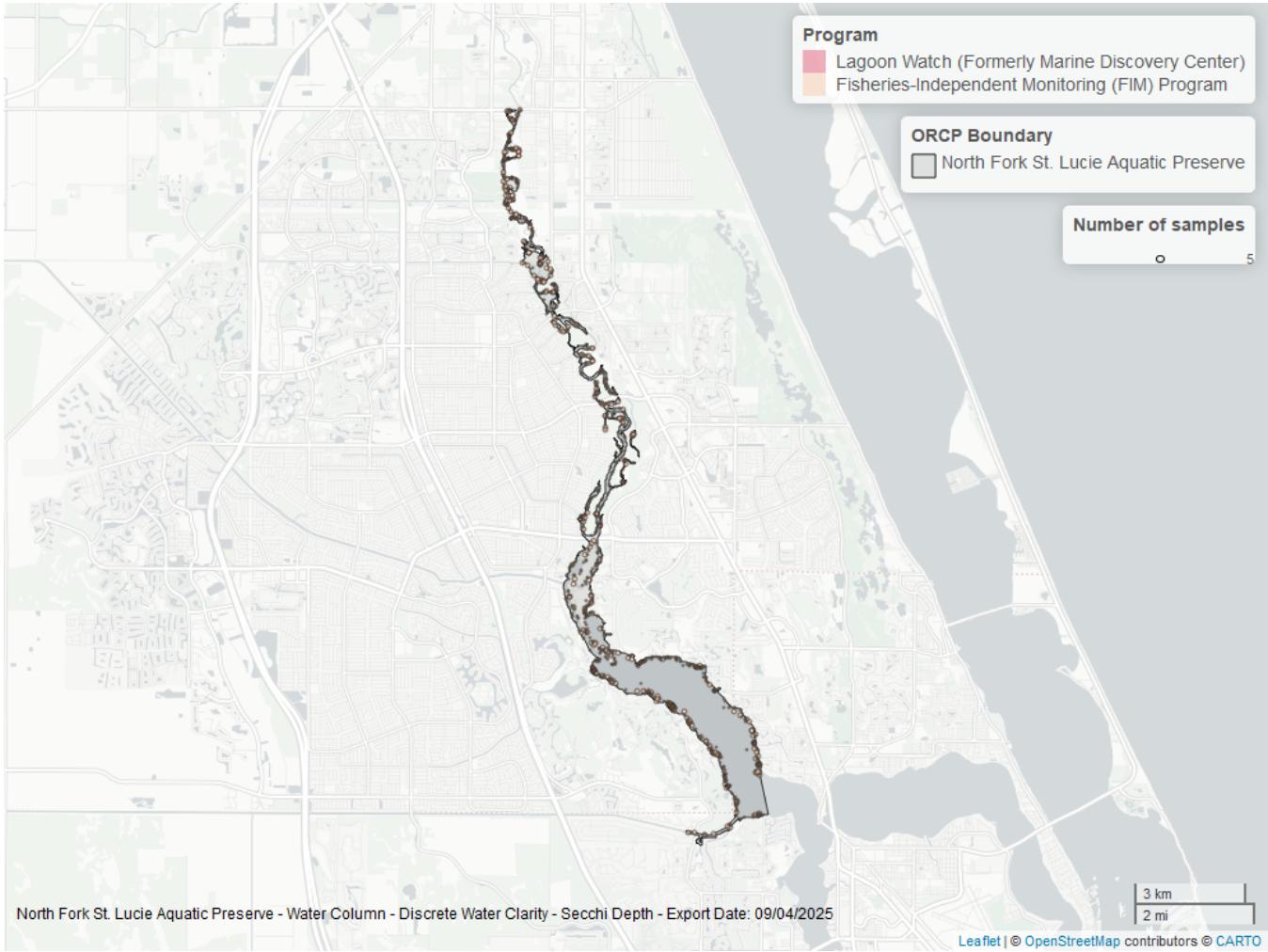


Figure 12: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 17: Programs contributing data for Secchi Depth

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
69	2509	1998	2024
5002	367	1999	2025
3001	6	1996	2009
103	1	2015	2015

#### Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>3</sup>
- 103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>
- 3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)<sup>5</sup>
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Total Nitrogen - Discrete

#### Total Nitrogen Calculation:

The logic for calculated Total Nitrogen was provided by Kevin O'Donnell and colleagues at FDEP (with the help of Jay Silvanima, Watershed Monitoring Section). The following logic is used, in this order, based on the availability of specific nitrogen components.

- 1)  $TN = TKN + NO_3O_2;$
- 2)  $TN = TKN + NO_3 + NO_2;$
- 3)  $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_3O_2;$
- 4)  $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_2 + NO_3;$
- 5)  $TN = TKN + NO_3;$
- 6)  $TN = ORGN + NH_4 + NO_3;$

Additional Information:

- Rules for use of sample fraction:
  - Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) report that if both “Total” and “Dissolved” components are reported, only “Total” is used. If the total is not reported, then the dissolved components are used as a best available replacement.
  - Total nitrogen calculations are done using nitrogen components with the same sample fraction, nitrogen components with mixed total/dissolved sample fractions are not used. In other words, total nitrogen can be calculated when TKN and NO<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are both total sample fractions, or when both are dissolved sample fractions. *Future calculations of total nitrogen values may be based on components with mixed sample fractions.*
- Values inserted into data:
  - ParameterName = “Total Nitrogen”
  - SEACAR\_QAQCFlagCode = “1Q”
  - SEACAR\_QAQC\_Description = “SEACAR Calculated”

## Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

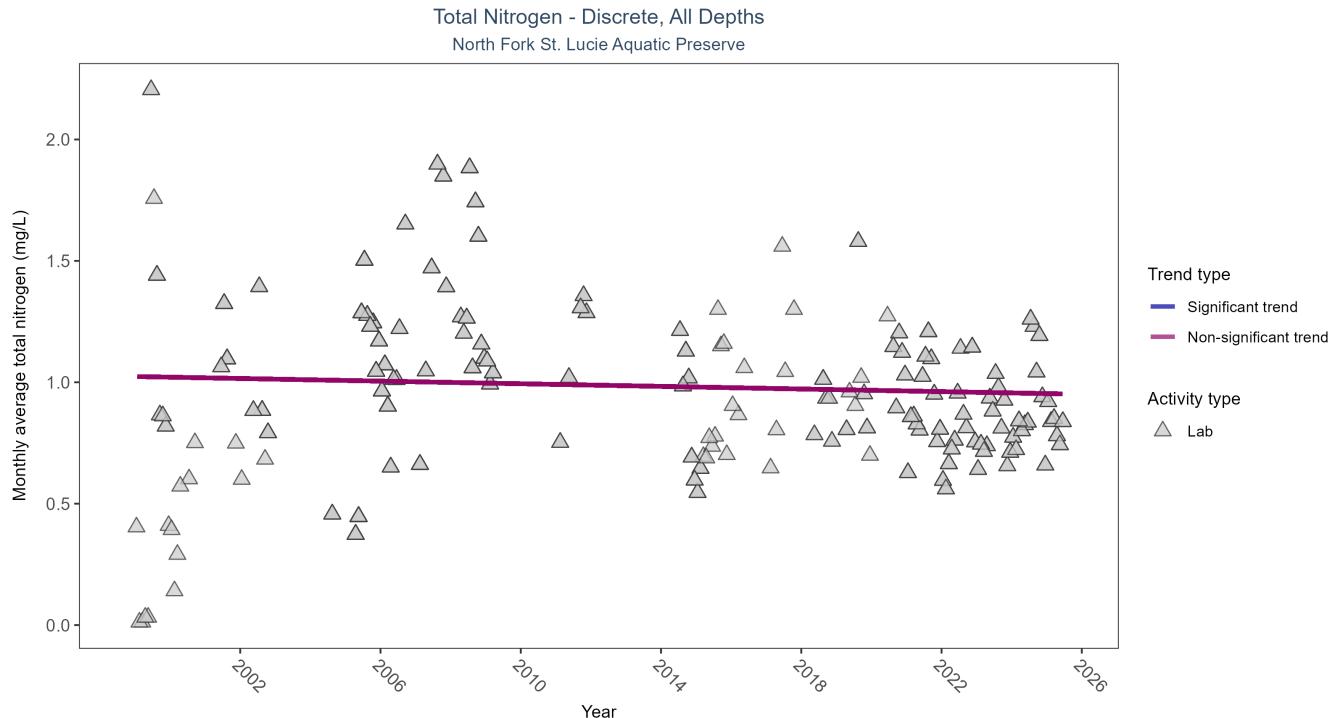


Figure 13: Scatter plot of monthly average total nitrogen over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only nitrogen values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 18: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Nitrogen

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	$\tau_{\text{au}}$	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	614	23	1999 - 2025	0.9705	-0.0452	1.0237	-0.0027	0.3544

Total nitrogen showed no detectable trend between 1999 and 2025.

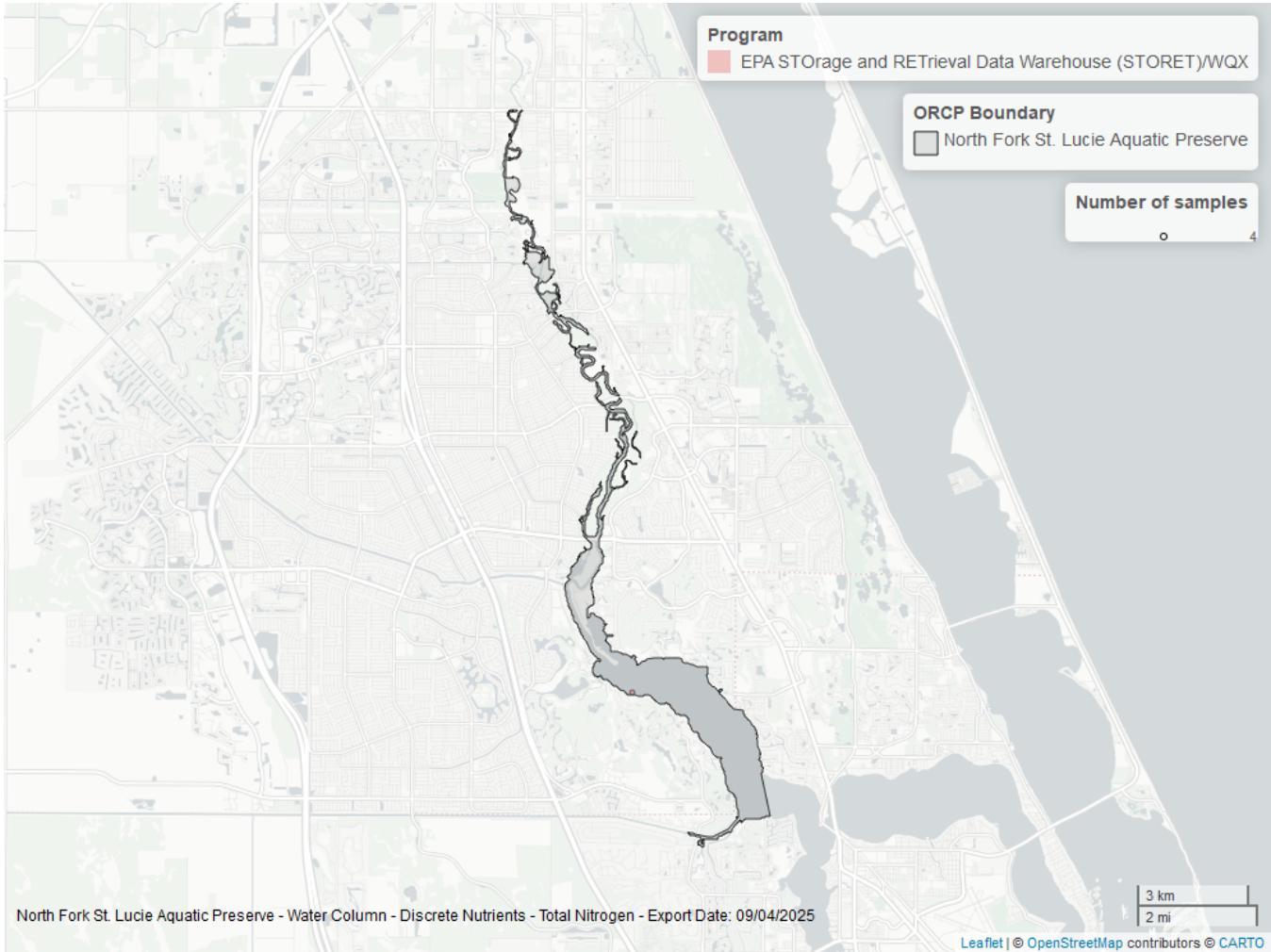


Figure 14: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 19: Programs contributing data for Total Nitrogen

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	611	1999	2025
103	4	2004	2004

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>  
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Total Phosphorus - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

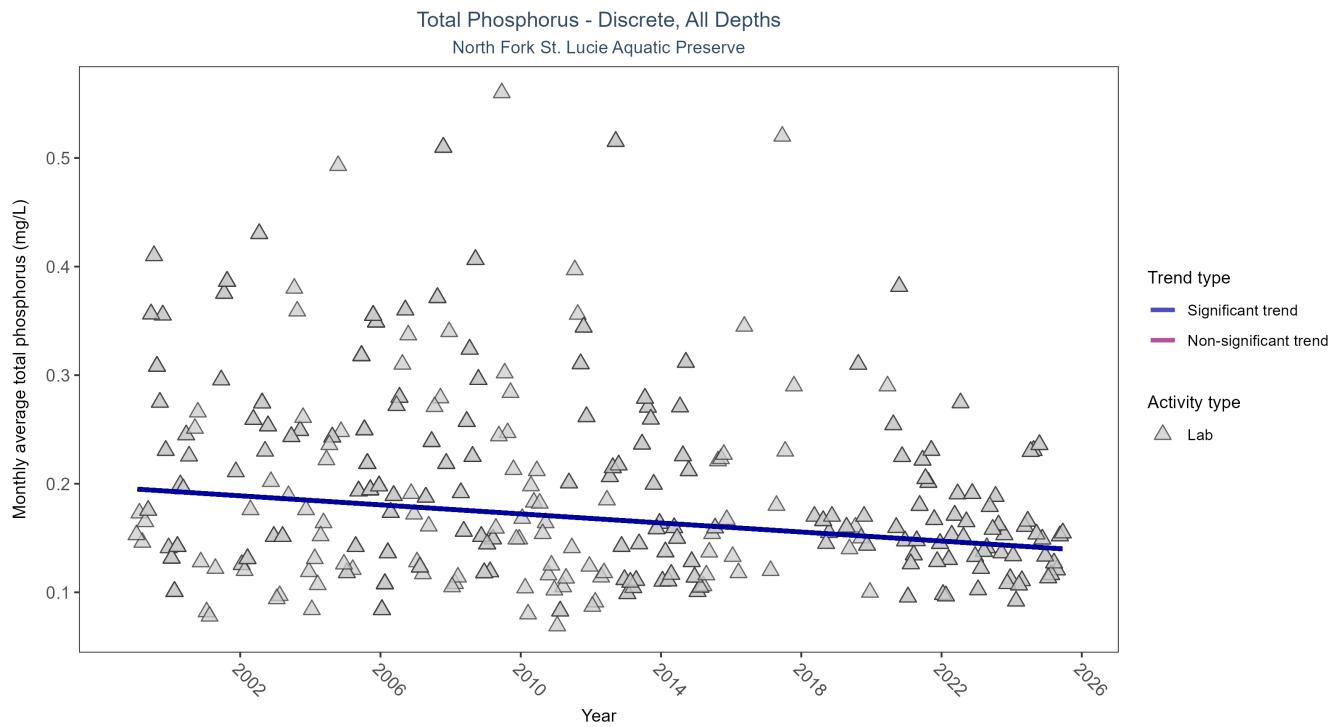


Figure 15: Scatter plot of monthly average total phosphorus over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only phosphorus values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 20: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Phosphorus

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly decreasing trend	1042	27	1999 - 2025	0.176	-0.2655	0.1951	-0.0021	0

Monthly average total phosphorus decreased by less than 0.01 mg/L per year.

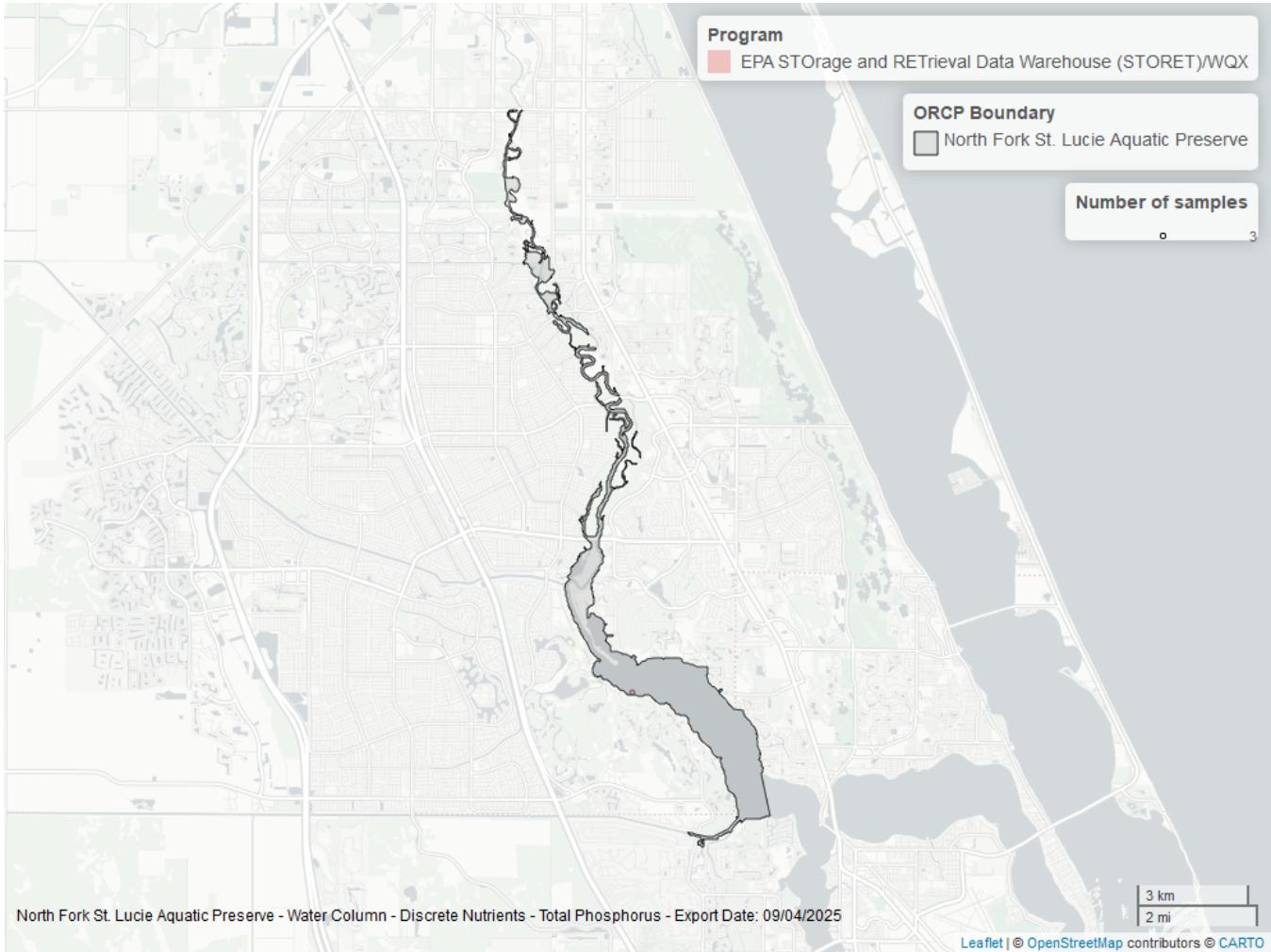


Figure 16: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 21: Programs contributing data for Total Phosphorus

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	1046	1999	2025
103	4	2004	2015

#### Program names:

103 - EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse (STORET)/WQX<sup>2</sup>  
 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Total Suspended Solids - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

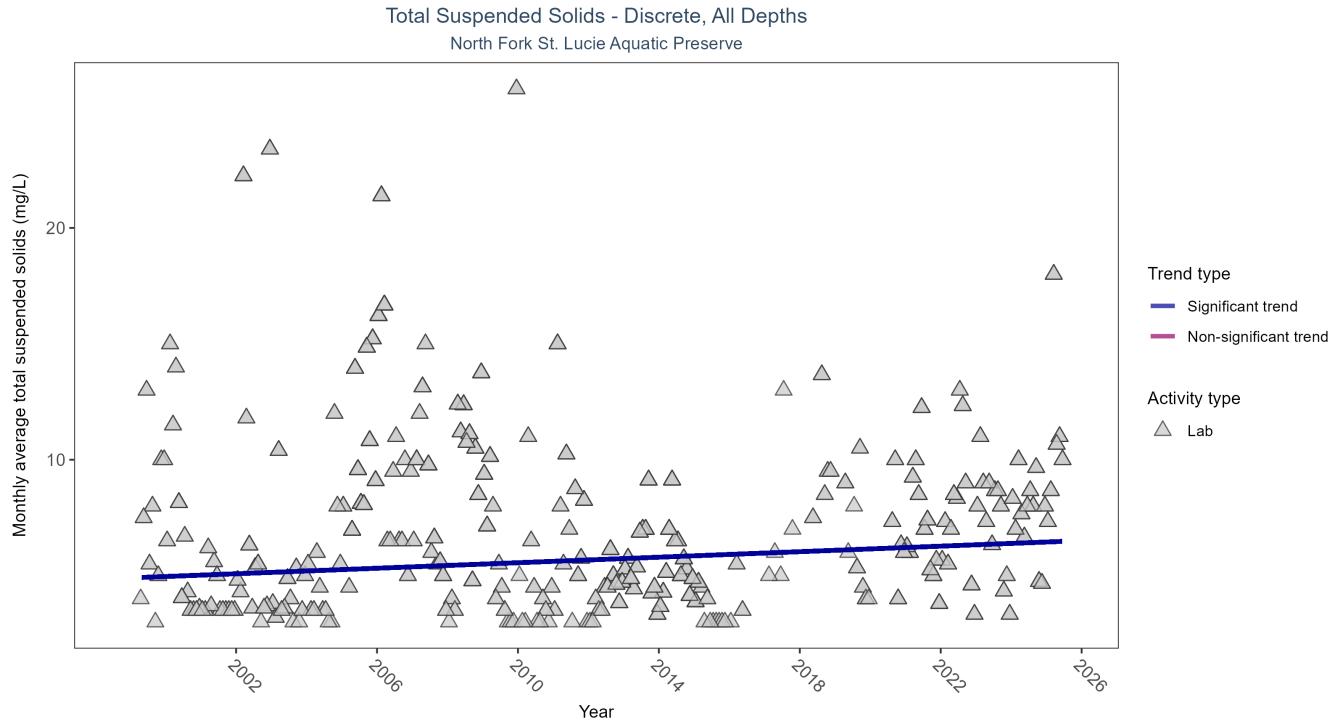


Figure 17: Scatter plot of monthly average total suspended solids (TSS) over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only TSS values obtained from laboratory analyses (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 22: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Total Suspended Solids

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	Significantly increasing trend	1064	27	1999 - 2025	6	0.1132	4.902	0.0595	0.0076

Monthly average total suspended solids increased by 0.06 mg/L per year, indicating a decrease in water clarity.

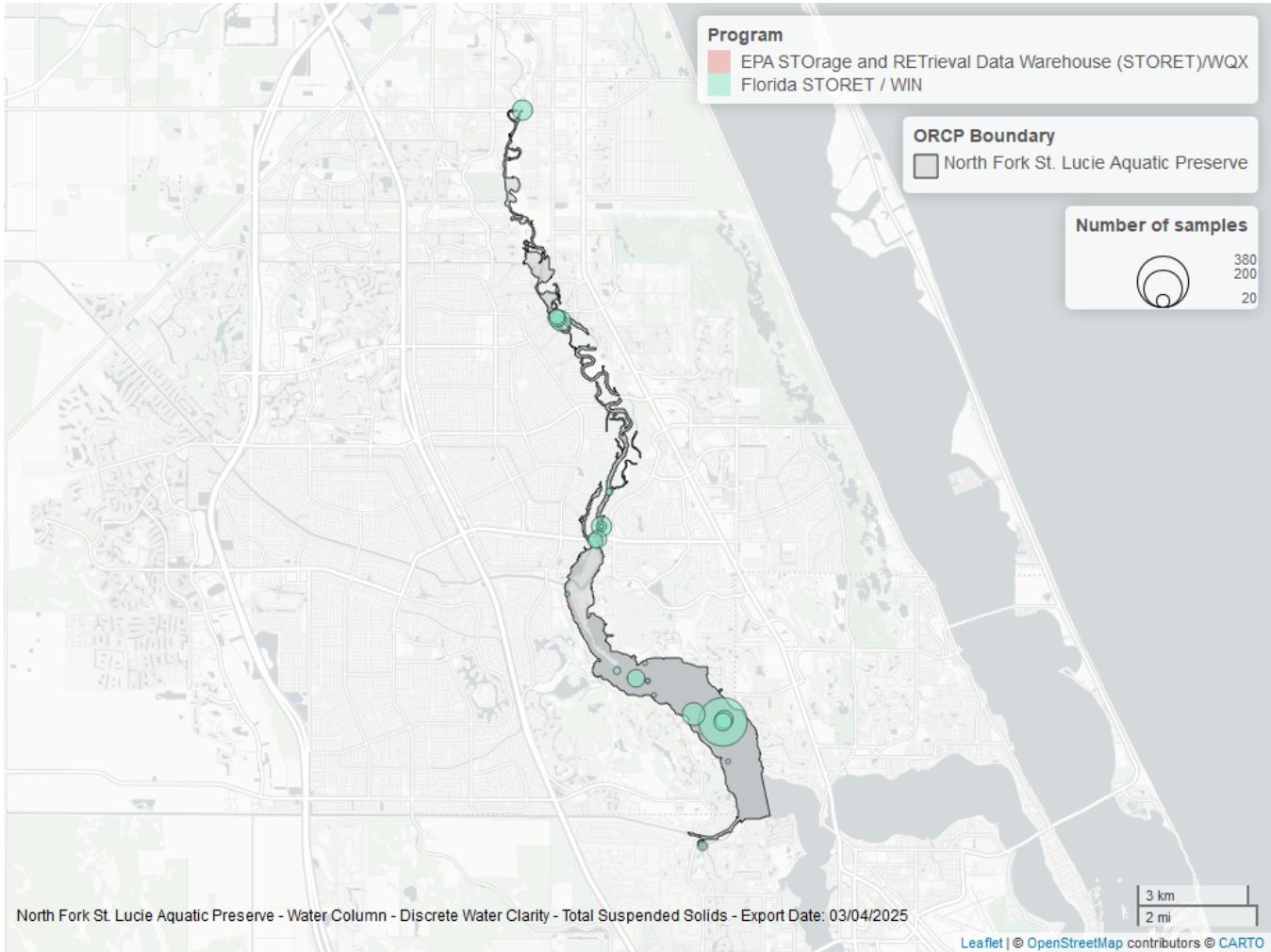


Figure 18: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 23: Programs contributing data for Total Suspended Solids

ProgramID	N_Data	YearMin	YearMax
5002	1067	1999	2025

#### Program names:

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Turbidity - Discrete

#### Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

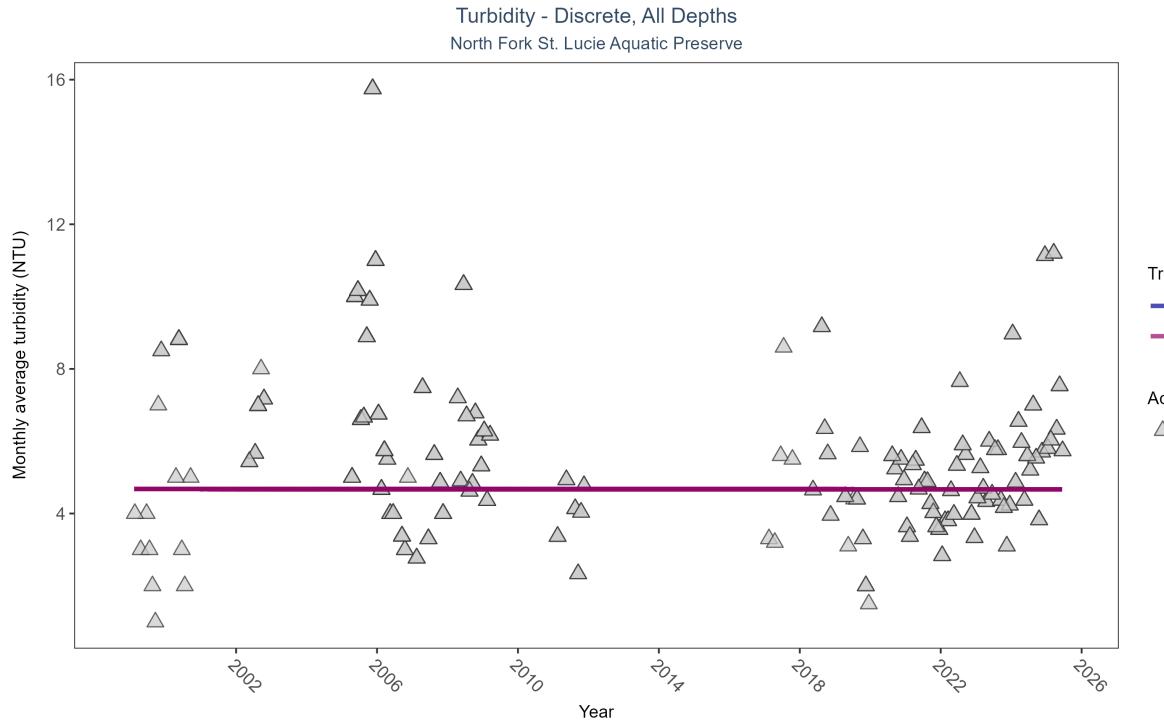


Figure 19: Scatter plot of monthly average turbidity over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only turbidity values measured in the laboratory (triangles) are included in the plot.

Table 24: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Turbidity

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Lab	No significant trend	574	18	1999 - 2025	5.1	0.012	4.6784	-0.0004	0.9515

Turbidity showed no detectable trend between 1999 and 2025.

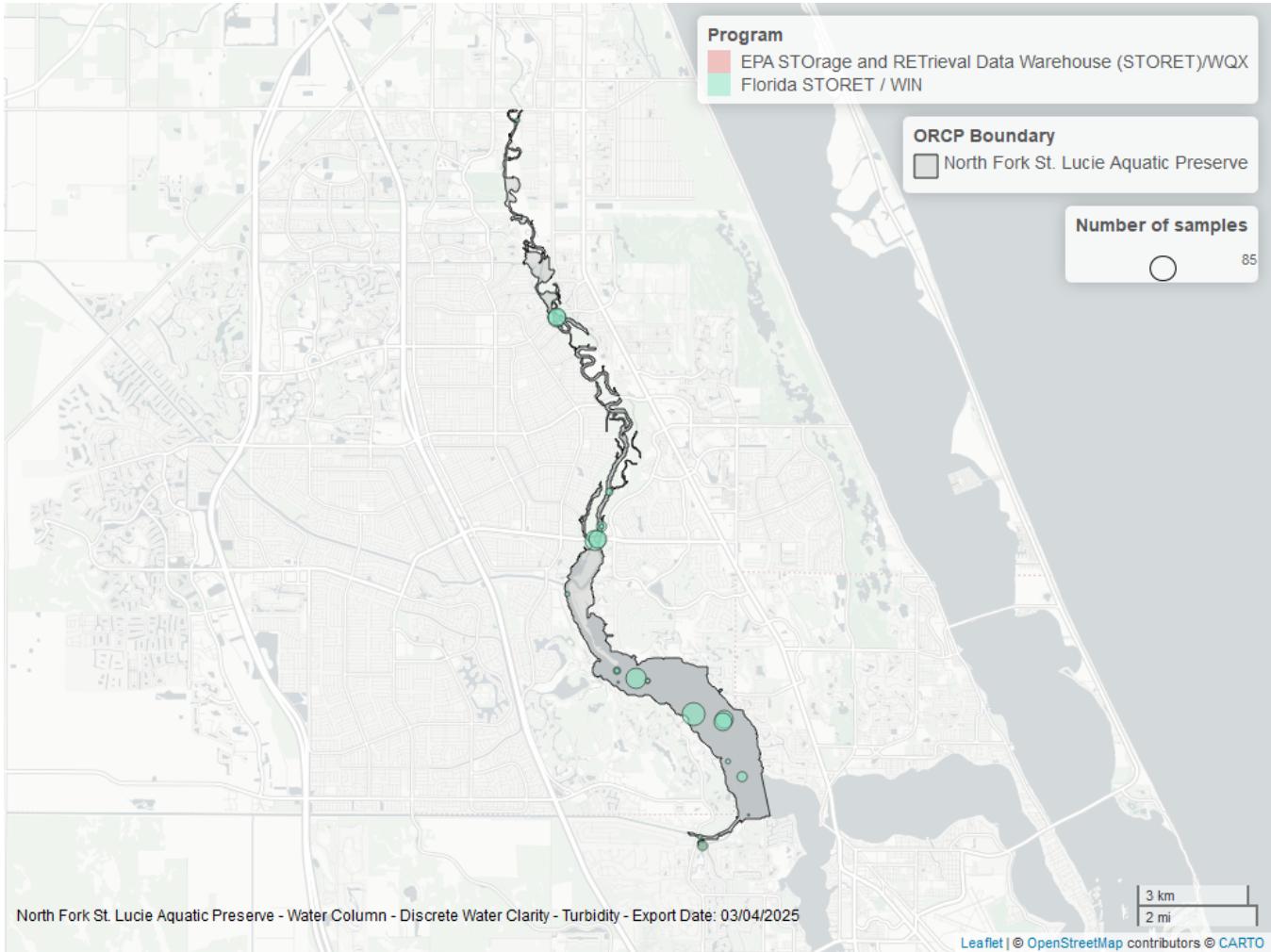


Figure 20: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 25: Programs contributing data for Turbidity

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	575	1999	2025

#### Program names:

5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

#### Water Temperature - Discrete Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis

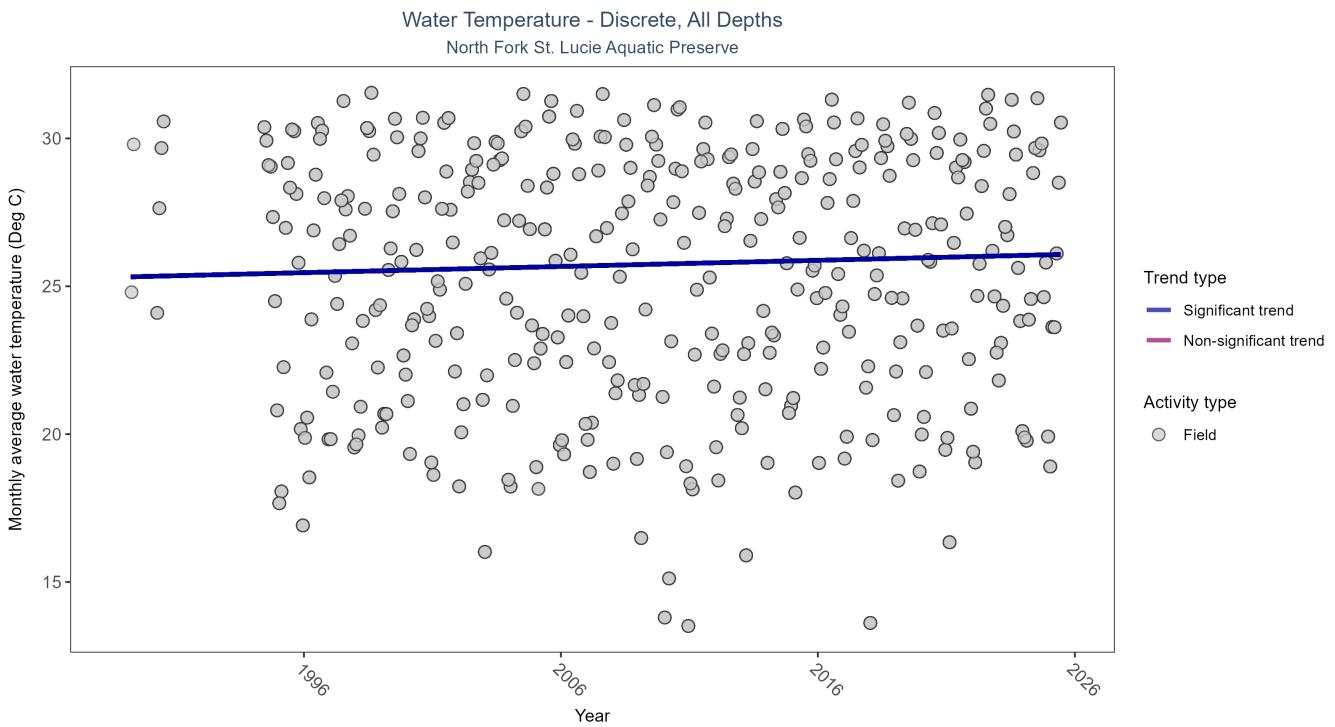


Figure 21: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time. If the time series included ten or more years of discrete observations, a significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend line is also shown. Only water temperature measurements taken in the field (circles) are included in the plot.

Table 26: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Trend Analysis for Water Temperature

Activity Type	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
Field	Significantly increasing trend	7614	34	1989 - 2025	25.9	0.0988	25.3152	0.0209	0.0066

Monthly average water temperature increased by 0.02°C per year.

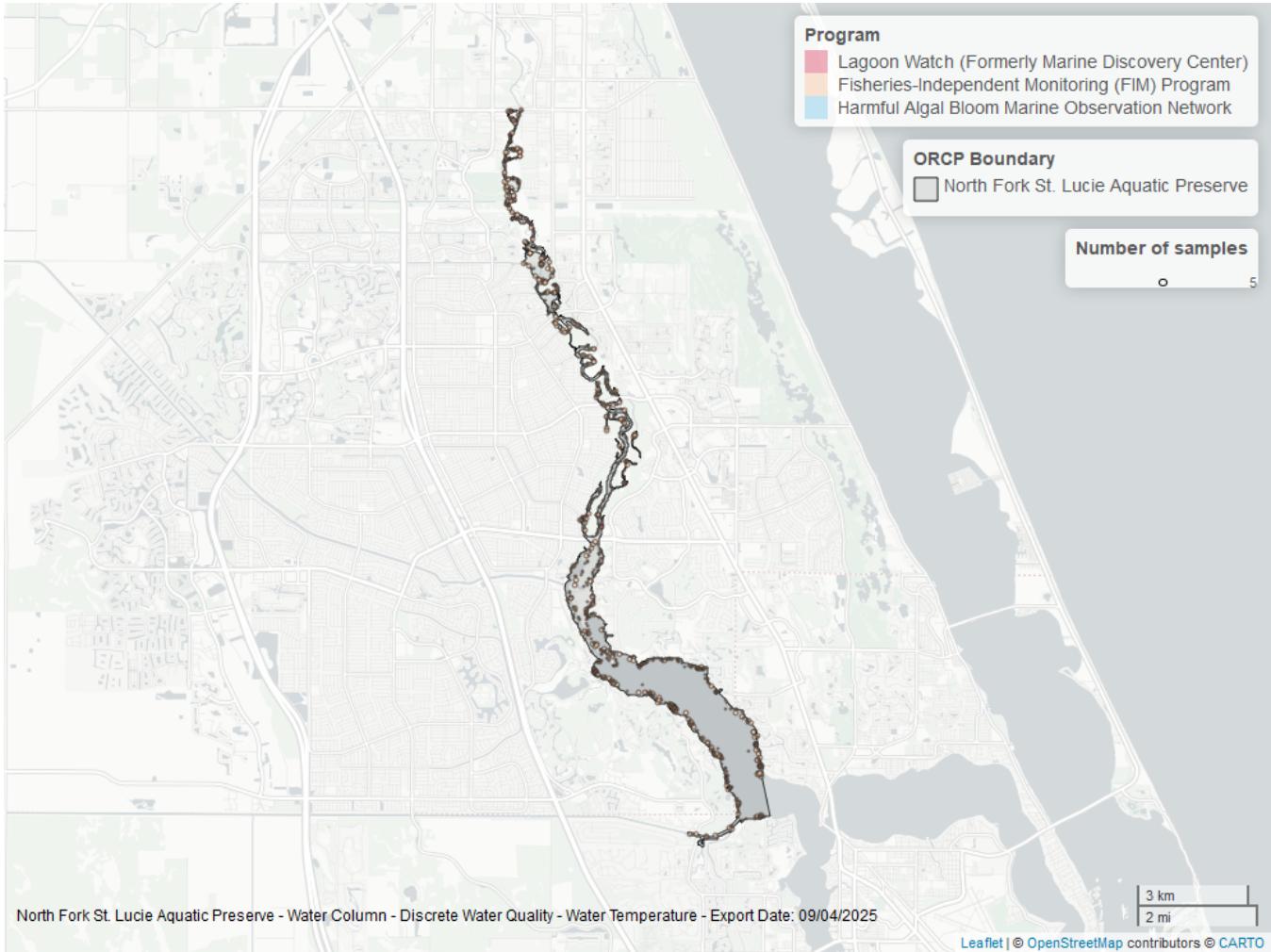


Figure 22: Map showing location of discrete water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

Table 27: Programs contributing data for Water Temperature

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>N_Data</i>	<i>YearMin</i>	<i>YearMax</i>
5002	5122	1989	2025
69	2529	1998	2024
3001	6	1996	2009
95	1	2011	2011

#### Program names:

- 69 - Fisheries-Independent Monitoring (FIM) Program<sup>3</sup>
- 95 - Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network<sup>6</sup>
- 3001 - Lagoon Watch (Formerly Marine Discovery Center)<sup>5</sup>
- 5002 - Florida STORET / WIN<sup>1</sup>

## Water Quality - Continuous

The following files were used in the continuous analysis:

- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Dissolved\_Oxygen\_Saturation\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_pH\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Salinity\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Turbidity\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*
- *Combined\_WQ\_WC\_NUT\_cont\_Water\_Temperature\_NE-2025-Sep-19.txt*

### Continuous monitoring locations in North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve

Table 28: Station overview for Continuous parameters by Program

<i>ProgramID</i>	<i>ProgramLocationID</i>	<i>Years of Data</i>	<i>Use in Analysis</i>	<i>Parameters</i>
7	02276575	10	TRUE	Sal , TempW

### Program names:

7 - National Water Information System<sup>7</sup>

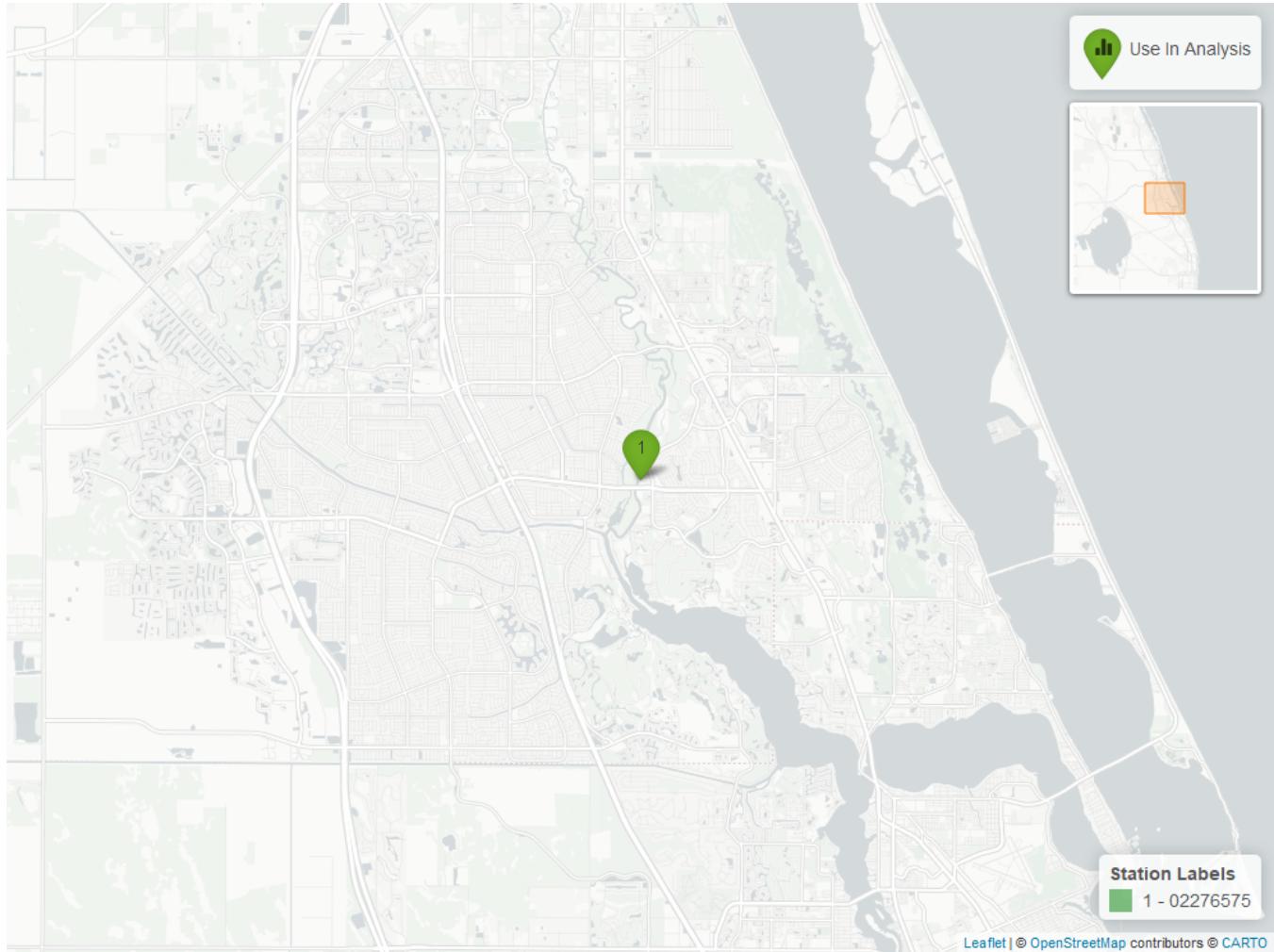


Figure 23: Map showing continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. Sites marked as *Use In Analysis* (green) are featured in this report.

## Salinity - Continuous

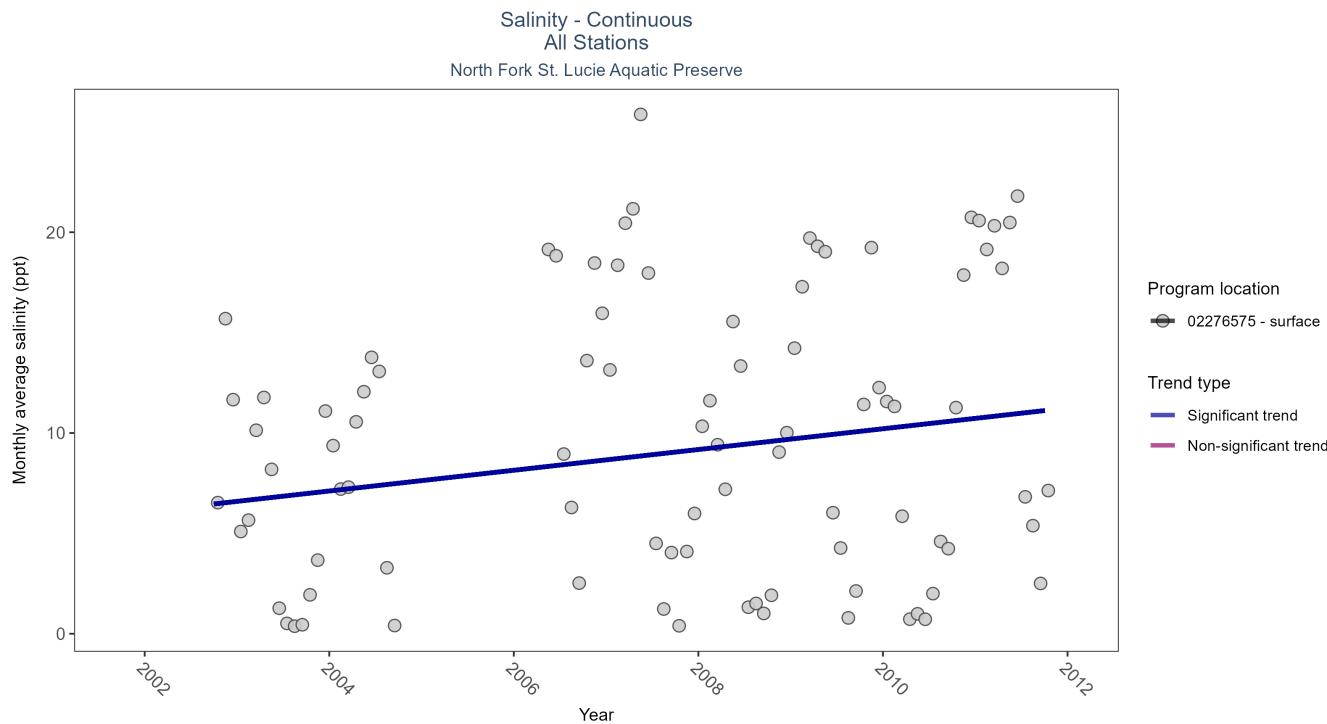


Figure 24: Scatter plot of monthly average salinity over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 29: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Salinity - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
02276575	Significantly increasing trend	2666	9	2002 - 2011	9.1	0.22	6.08	0.52	0.02

At one program location, monthly average salinity increased by 0.52 ppt per year.

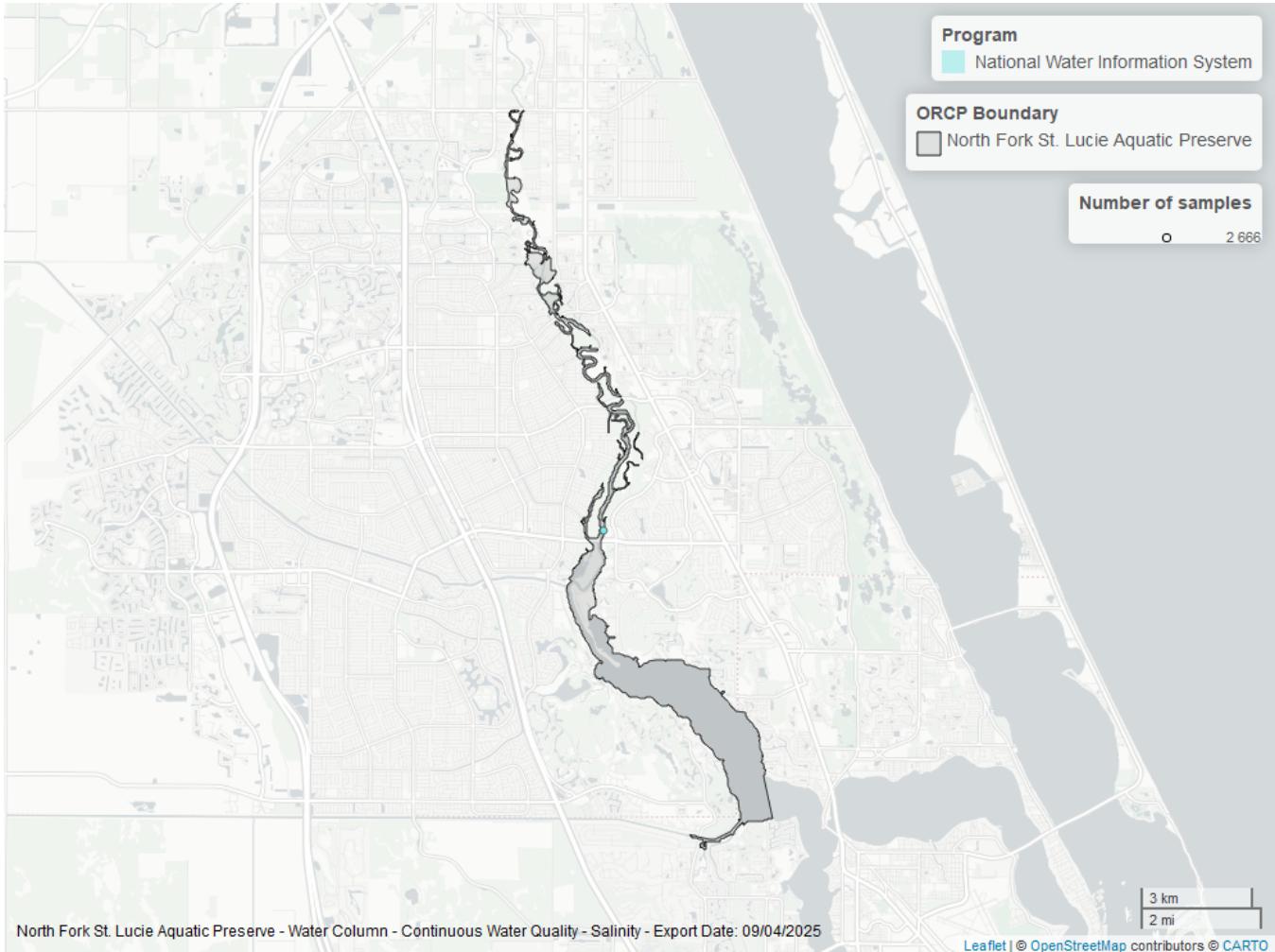


Figure 25: Map showing location of salinity continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

## Water Temperature - Continuous

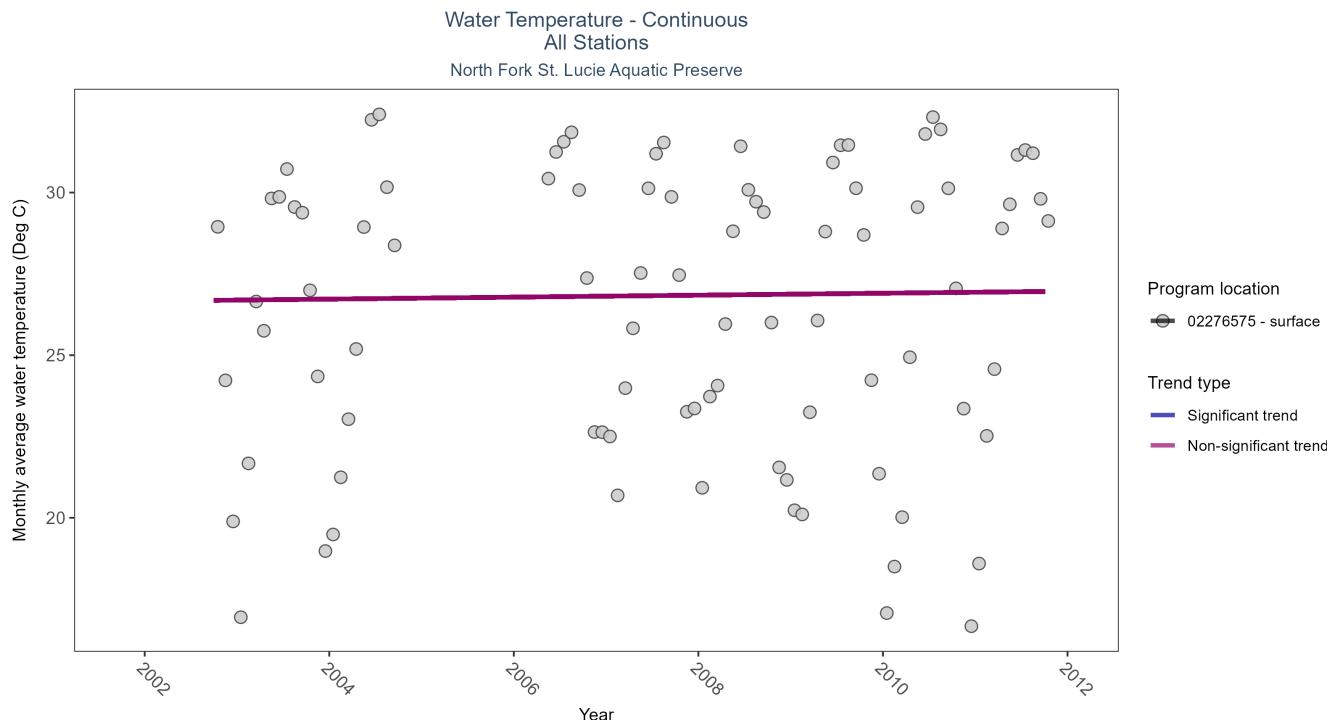


Figure 26: Scatter plot of monthly average water temperature over time at continuously monitored program locations. Each location is analyzed separately, with significant (blue) or non-significant (magenta) trend lines shown for time series that included five or more years of observations.

Table 30: Seasonal Kendall-Tau Results for Water Temperature - All Stations

Station	Statistical Trend	Sample Count	Years with Data	Period of Record	Median	tau	Sen Intercept	Sen Slope	p
02276575	No significant trend	2664	9	2002 - 2011	27.3	0.06	26.66	0.03	0.46

No detectable change in monthly average water temperature was observed at one location.

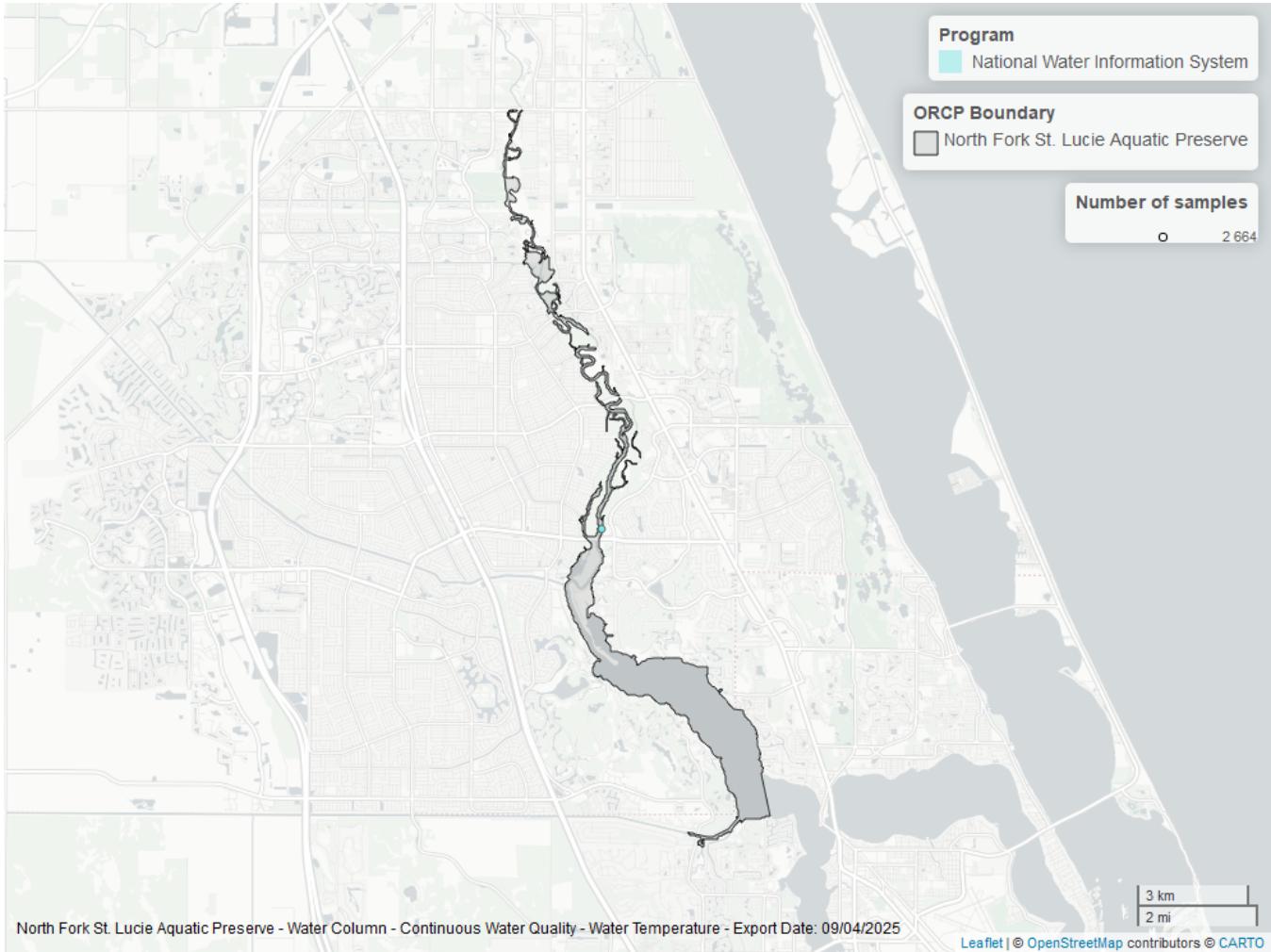


Figure 27: Map showing location of water temperature continuous water quality sampling locations within the boundaries of *North Fork St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve*. The bubble size on the maps above reflect the amount of data available at each sampling site.

## References

1. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). [Florida STORET / WIN](#). (2024).
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [EPA STOrage and RETrieval Data Warehouse \(STORET\)/WQX](#). (2023).
3. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). [Fisheries-Independent Monitoring \(FIM\) Program](#). (2022).
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Office of Water; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); National Estuary Program (NEP); coastal states. [National Aquatic Resource Surveys, National Coastal Condition Assessment](#). (2021).
5. Volusia County (Florida); Marine Discovery Center. [Lagoon Watch \(Formerly Marine Discovery Center\)](#). (2023).
6. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). [Harmful Algal Bloom Marine Observation Network](#). (2018).
7. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). [National Water Information System](#). (2024).