

Plants and Animals of Snook Islands

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Spartina



Blue Crab



Red Mangrove



Snook



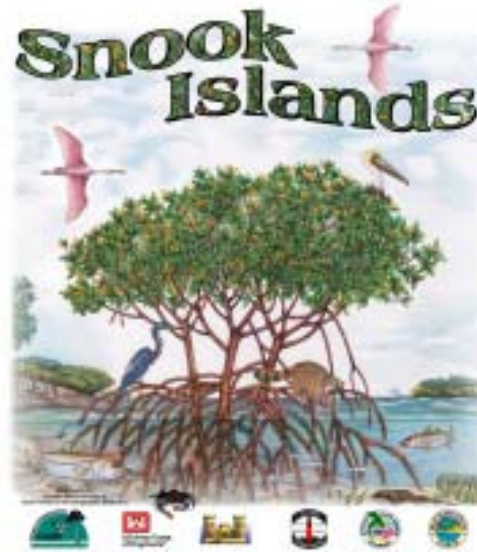
Little Blue Heron



Manatee



American Oystercatcher



**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners**

Palm Beach County Department of Environmental
Resources Management
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In accordance with the provisions of ADA, this brochure
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Snook Islands Natural Area



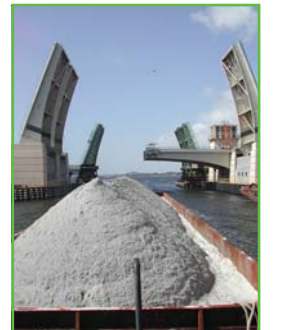
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History

In the early 1920s, dredging and filling along the western edge of Lake Worth Lagoon, adjacent to what is now the Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course, left a series of deep anoxic holes in the lagoon which accumulated many feet of silt and muck, providing minimal habitat value. The shoreline colonized with a few native trees as well as the invasive exotics Australian pine, Brazilian pepper and mahoe. In July 2003, after more than three years of planning, permitting and design, the County's Department of Environmental Resources Management and its partners began construction of an ambitious environmental restoration and creation project to improve this area...the Snook Islands Natural Area was born. This created wetland is 100 acres in size and includes 1.2 linear miles of shoreline.



How to Build an Island



Project Features & Benefits

Snook Islands Natural Area has effectively added 100 acres of good quality wetland habitat to the central part of the Lake Worth Lagoon. It is also expected to improve the poor water quality in this part of the lagoon. Seagrasses are already recruiting in the shallow water habitat, birds are utilizing the open areas of shoreline and mud flats, and fisherman have reported catching numerous large snook and other desirable fish species.

What was created or restored:

- Worked with the City of Lake Worth to eliminate erosion and create a natural shoreline along 1.2 linear miles east of the City's existing golf course;
- Removed all exotic plant species - Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, and seaside mahoe - from five acres of shoreline;
- Downloaded approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of spoil material from Peanut Island which was placed in the inter- and sub-tidal zone and graded to wetland elevations, and;
- Used approximately 28,000 tons of 1-3 foot diameter limestone boulder rip-rap to stabilize the planted area.
- Restored/created features include:
 - ◆ 1.7 acres of existing mangrove fringe
 - ◆ 11.0 acres of new mangrove wetlands on the shoreline & on four created islands
 - ◆ 2.2 acres of new oyster reefs
 - ◆ 40 acres of shallow sub-tidal habitat conducive to seagrass colonization

Over 350 volunteers planted 28,000 mangroves on the shoreline and on four islands at Snook Islands.

