



# John's Island

## A Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration Project

### Lake Worth Lagoon

- Largest estuary in Palm Beach County.
- 20 miles long, stretching from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge.
- Separated from the ocean by Singer Island and Palm Beach Island.
- Two permanent, man-made inlets.

### Project Location

- In the Lagoon at the mouth of the C-51 Canal.

### The Problem

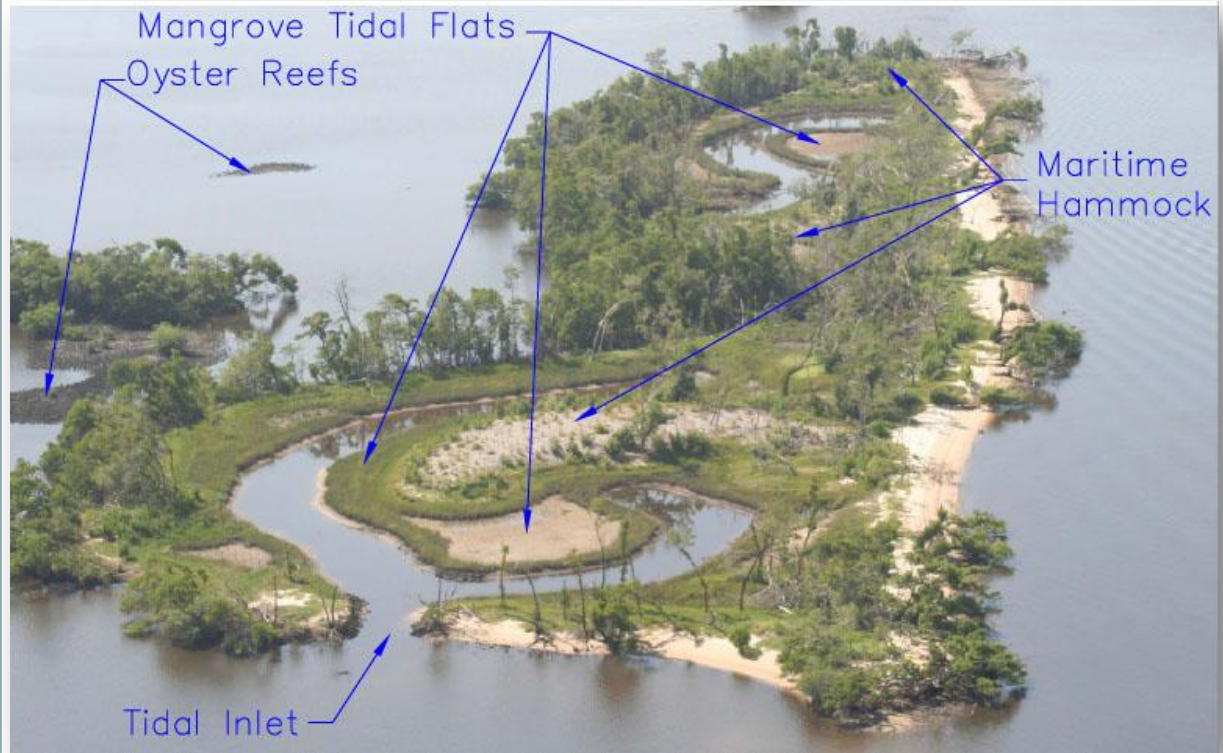
- Historically, John's Island was a small intertidal and submerged shallow water habitat.
- Over time the island grew to approximately 6.4 acres from the placement of fill dredged out of the Intracoastal Waterway and was taken over by exotic non-native vegetation.

### The Solution

- Remove exotic plants, return the island to its original elevation, and restore native habitats.

### Benefits

- Recreates a variety of intertidal habitats for fish, manatee, birds, and invertebrates.
- Creates increasingly scarce maritime hammock habitat.
- Provides excavated spoil to create seagrass recruitment at Snook Islands Natural Area.



### Project Overview

- Removed approximately 6 acres of exotic vegetation including seaside mahoe (*Thespesia populnea*), Australian pine (*Cassuarina sp.*), and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).
- Excavated and transported 17,000 cubic yards of dredge spoil to Snook Islands to create mangrove islands and seagrass habitat.
- Restored 1.7 acres of existing mangroves through the creation of a series of tidal channels to provide flushing to the mangrove community.
- Created 1.4 acres of tropical maritime hammock.
- Planted 3 acres of red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) and planted cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) along 1,190 feet of tidal channels.
- Mangrove seedlings used in this project were collected and planted by many volunteer groups including Forest Hill High School and Jupiter High School Environmental Academies and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.
- Project completed June 1, 2004.

### Project Partners

PBC Department of Environmental Resources Management, Audubon Society  
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection,  
Town of Palm Beach



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Department of Environmental Resources Management  
2300 North Jog Road - Fourth Floor, West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
Phone: 561-233-2400 <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/>

Published May 2009