



Palm Beach County Department of Environmental
Resources Management
**Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration Division**
February 2009 Status Report

Snook Islands Natural Area: Recent survey information confirmed the continued expansion of seagrass recruitment in the project area. The progression began one year post-construction, 2006 with 1.2 acres, 14 acres were mapped in 2007 and now 45.8 acres in 2008. Construction of the Public Use Facility is scheduled to begin this summer.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative: The LWLI Working Groups (Habitat, Water, Pollution Prevention and Public Outreach) are now organizing and holding initial meetings. The Habitat Group discussed upcoming restoration projects and future monitoring studies. They will meet again on March 24 to establish a plan of action to be reported to the Executive Committee in April. Public Outreach is scheduled for February 27 and Water Resources plans to meet March 5th. Go to www.LWLI.org to get updates and get involved.

Jupiter/Carlin Structures: Staff provided a project and program update to local residents and legislative staff during a meeting held at the Ocean Trails Condominium. Work continues on developing design alternatives with the expectation of submitting a Joint Coastal Permit application (JCP) to the regulatory agencies this summer.

Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment: Initial design work on both the borrow area and the fill area templates is nearing completion in anticipation of submitting a JCP in May.

County and Jacksonville Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) staff again discussed the County's December 24, 2008 request to use the original SDM (Storm Damage Model) for the Section 934 Report along with other project scheduling milestones during the monthly conference call. The BCC approved a task order to begin work on the decision document on February 24. A federal project appropriation request for \$5m was submitted to the legislative delegation.

The upcoming Jupiter Inlet District sand trap dredging is presently scheduled to begin in March. JID will place the approximately 60,000 CY of material south of the Jupiter Inlet.

South Palm Beach: A hardbottom edge measurement report is being reviewed for inclusion into the JCP. The County received an updated Environmental Impact Statement scope of work which is anticipated to go before the Board of County Commissioners on April 7. Now that the Town of Lantana's new seawall is in place, staff will coordinate planting the restored dune with sea oats, sea grapes and variety of other native, salt-tolerant dune vegetation.

Sea Turtle Lighting Compliance: Sea Turtle lighting compliance and enforcements efforts will begin March 1st. Lighting inspections will be conducted county wide. Please contact Jacey Biery at 561-233-2461 for more information, to request educational materials or to report a lighting violation.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project: The Erosion Control Line public workshop and hearing were held on February 11. After the 30 day public commenting period, the State Hearing Officer will submit a recommendation to the Director of State Lands. Staff presented a project update at the February 17th Singer Island Civic Association (SICA) meeting. Request for Additional Information (RAI) #4 was received from the USFWS on February 12th. A response to DEP RAI #3 is ready for submittal pending consensus of the Downdrift Impact Mitigation Plan.

South Lake Worth Inlet: The BCC approved the \$7M contract with Lucas Marine Construction to construct the new sand transfer plant, rehabilitate both jetties, and construct a new seawall at Bird Island. A pre-construction meeting was held on the same day, and a Notice to Proceed has been issued for the work.

Juno Beach Renourishment: A draft ACOE permit was received February 18th. An invitation for bids to construct the project could be advertised as early as March 8th.

Breaker's Reef Restoration Effort: Approximately 120 hard corals were reattached to the damaged reef bottom using Portland cement and willing volunteers over a 3 day effort.



Several dozen sea fans and sea whips were also reattached to the bottom using cut nails and epoxy cement. The site will be monitored by volunteers for coral survivorship over the next several years.

Annual Marine Contract: Work on the first two Work Orders issued under the annual marine construction contract includes a breakwater project along the Intracoastal north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge in Ocean Ridge and Boynton Beach to protect mangroves and a limestone boulder and pre-cast concrete

module mitigation reef to be constructed just north of the City of Riviera Beach's Municipal Beach in 8-12' of water.

Reef Monitoring and Management: The Reef Research Team surveyed S. Colonel's and Jolly Jacks Reefs this month, both sites are situated several miles north of the Lake Worth Inlet. In addition to fish counts, the reef edges were videotaped with a GPS tracker in tow. This was to document where the video track occurred for future monitoring of the next beach nourishment project. A lookout for staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) colonies occurred as well, but none were observed.

Juno Dunes Natural Area Wetland Restoration and Public Use Facility: Clearing and hauling of exotic vegetation was completed and mangrove ditch excavation is underway.

Hydrographic and Muck Sediment Surveys: hydrographic (depths) and muck sediment surveys for 11 restoration sites with the Lake Worth Lagoon is scheduled to begin the first week in March and be completed by the end of April.

Ibis Isles Restoration Project: A formal response addressing the project's modifications will be submitted to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and US Army Corps of Engineers by the end of February. Presentation of the project before the Town Council was postponed until the March 10th meeting.

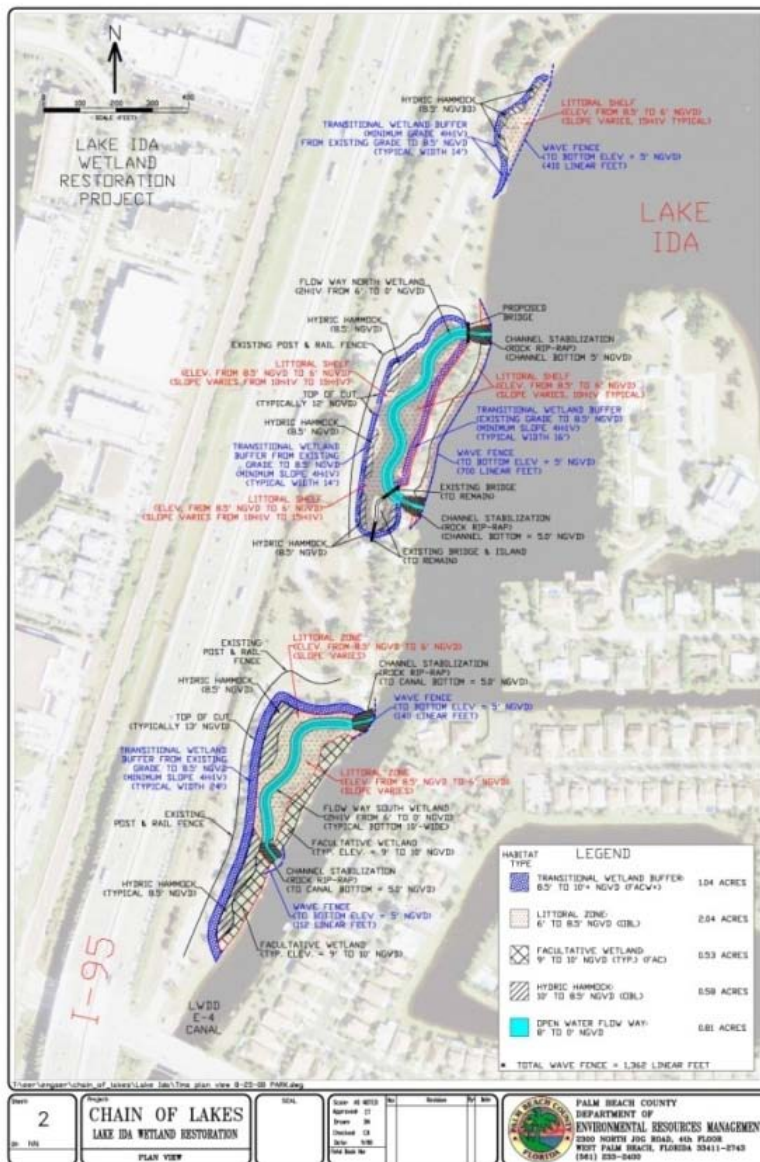
Peanut Island: A permit application has been submitted to the SFWMD for creating 0.4 acres of intertidal spartina habitat in the tidal lagoon, restoration of the eroded shorelines, and the removal of accreted sand from the area surrounding the fishing pier and boat docks on the northeastern side of the park.

NENA Bluegill Trail (C-18 Levee between Riverbend Park and Sandhill Crane Park): Environmental documentation for this shared-use trail project was completed and submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation for review. ERM is requesting that this project be exempt from the full Environmental Impact Study required for some federal projects. The project will be taking advantage of the fact that there is an existing berm along the bank of the C-18 canal that passes through the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. This makes it possible to construct a trail that is elevated above the slough without having any impacts to wetlands.

NENA Pântano Trail: Pântano Trail is the NENA connector being planned to provide hikers, off-road bicyclists and horseback riders a route from Riverbend Park to Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Bicyclists will all have an opportunity to preview parts of the future Pântano Trail during a NENA bike-N-hike event planned for March 7th. This easy 8-mile bicycle ride and casual ½ mile hike will visit several attractions within NENA including the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, FAU's Everglades Youth Conservation Camp, and the Hungryland Slough Natural Area. Contact Scott Lynch (slynch@co.palm-beach.fl.us or 561-681-3878) for more information. The Bike-N-

Hike flyer, Registration Form, and a Google Map are also posted on our web site at www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/hena

Lake Ida Wetland Restoration Project: The Lake Ida Wetland Restoration Project is slated for construction from March through May 2009. Improvements on the park shoreline will include removing exotic vegetation, excavating spoil and muck sediments and replanting with native wetland vegetation. Exotic



infested areas will become natural wetlands to attract fish and wildlife to the area.

Program Management: Staff presented a paper on mitigation reef construction at the recent Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association Meeting. FY 2010 State funding appropriations for Beach Management activities is likely to be limited to agency operations and permit-required monitoring. Restructuring of existing trust fund obligations may provide additional opportunities for projects that are ready for construction. Pending legislative activities to date include SB488/HB0527 addressing Public Beach Access issues.