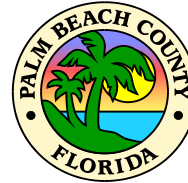




Lake Worth Lagoon E-News



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WHAT WE'RE DOING

- **Environmental Enhancement Status Reports** Find the latest information on recent restoration efforts.
- **Environmental Times** Read the latest issue of PBC ERM's Newsletter.

LEARN ABOUT THE LAGOON

- Visit the [Lake Worth Lagoon](#) web page.

GET INVOLVED

- Visit the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative web site at: <http://www.LWLI.org>

VOLUNTEER

- **Adopt-a-Spot!** Any size group can participate in this Solid Waste Authority program and make a positive impact on the Lagoon!

DID YOU KNOW?

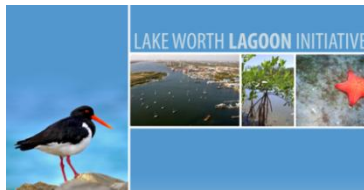
- March is **Seagrass Awareness Month!**
- Learn about **seagrass in the Lake Worth Lagoon**

CONTACT US

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Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Kicks Off the New Year

Over the past decade, partnership efforts have been the key to restoring, enhancing, and protecting the Lake Worth Lagoon. Now a new **Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative** (LWLI) formally recognizes partner commitments and brings new attention to this valuable natural system. The LWLI **Executive Committee**, with members representing Palm Beach County, the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Palm Beach County League of Cities was formed on January 9, 2009. The Committee adopted **guidelines** and established four program areas for agency staff, community leaders, and stakeholders to focus efforts: Water, Habitat, Pollution Prevention and Public Outreach. On January 23, the LWLI Executive Committee hosted the LWLI Kick-off Event to announce the new effort to more than 100 community leaders, local governments, agency staff, organizations, businesses and residents. We invite you to learn more about our work, the **Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan**, and to join us in supporting efforts and projects to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve and protect water quality, and increase public awareness and involvement. **Get involved** and discover your role by visiting www.LWLI.org.



In the News:

- **County Hosts Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Kick-off Boat Tour**
- **Palm Beach County Hopes to Raise Cash, Interest in Lagoon Cleanup**
- **Lake Worth Lagoon Enjoys a Rebirth**

Manatees on the Move: November through March

During the winter months, **manatees** are attracted by the warm weather in South Florida as water temperature drops in the north. Manatees seek out water above 68 degrees, congregating at natural springs, warm water discharges from power plants, and secondary warm water refuges such as canals. The area near the Florida Power and Light Power Plant at Riviera Beach hosts some of the highest numbers of manatees in the state after cold fronts.

The Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) and the Lake Worth Lagoon are the manatee's version of I-95. Just as local motorists need to share the road with vacationers, local and visiting boaters need to share these waterways with manatees as they travel. The Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management takes action year-round to help protect manatees. Efforts include a brochure with manatee speed zone maps, educational kiosks at boat ramps, habitat restoration and enhancement projects, and a new Law Enforcement Program. The program involves coordination with 10 law enforcement agencies and aims to increase compliance with manatee speed zones countywide.



A manatee enjoys lunch at Peanut Island.

Learn more at: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/coastal/manatees/>

Enhancing Public Access to Snook Islands Natural Area

The **Snook Islands Natural Area**, located within the Lagoon north of the Lake Worth Bridge and adjacent to the Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course, consists of four man-made mangrove islands and shoreline enhancement and restoration. It also includes spartina (commonly known as cordgrass) habitat, submerged seagrass beds that provide a food source and nursery habitat for many species, and oyster reef habitat. At this time, the natural area is only accessible by boat, but efforts are underway to enhance public access.

By the end of this year, county residents and visitors should have the opportunity to catch snook and other desirable fish species from a 650 foot fishing pier that will replace the old remnant bridge at the south end of the Natural Area. The public will also enjoy a close view of the mangrove islands from a 600 foot boardwalk and learn more about this successful habitat restoration project from an educational kiosk. A few small day-use docks will accommodate boaters.

Recently, a contract for engineering services was approved to conduct standard penetration tests at the site to determine how deep into the Lagoon bottom to drive piles for the structures. Design and engineering of the structures is ongoing. Project partners include Palm Beach County, City of Lake Worth, Florida Inland Navigation District and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.



Snook Islands Natural Area

Learn more at: <http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm/lakes/estuarine/snook/>

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