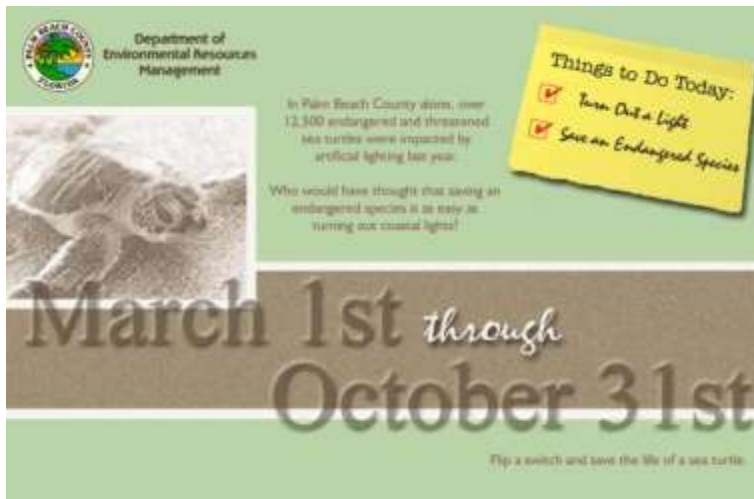


Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental Resources
Management
Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration Division
March 2008 Status Report

Sea Turtle Lighting

Compliance:

Lighting inspections are conducted in areas where PBC has jurisdictional authority or a current shoreline project. Early season lighting inspections have been conducted in Riviera Beach, Palm Beach Shores, Lake Worth, Jupiter and Ocean Ridge and portions of unincorporated Palm Beach County. Initial inspections will be completed by mid-April and follow-up inspection will be conducted throughout the sea turtle nesting season. Contact Jacey Biery at 233-2461 for more information, to request educational materials or to report a lighting violation.



John Prince Park/Chain of Lakes Restoration



The two fishing piers located south and northeast of Square Lake are now in place. They were built on plastic encased lumber pilings which resist rotting and have two benches at the end for nature lovers and

fishermen to utilize. The piers are constructed of Ipe wood which is a tropical hardwood from well managed forests that adhere to strict environmental standards. The piers are located within viewing distance of "Bird Island", lying just north of the lake where several pairs of great blue herons are nesting and a third pair was observed building a nest last week.

South Lake Worth Inlet

Southwind Construction Corp. completed dredging 60,000 cubic yards of sand from the interior sand trap, the ICW and the Boynton Boat Club Channel to the nearshore at Ocean Hammock Park.



Manatee Protection

The Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) includes funding for additional on-water law enforcement in the County's waterways. Funding agreements with 9 agencies have been signed (Tequesta, Jupiter, West Palm Beach, Lantana, Boynton

Beach, Boca Raton, PBSO, FWC, and Delray Beach), and 3 are pending (Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, and North Palm Beach). These agreements will provide enhanced enforcement activities until the end of the manatee season (March 31st). To date, the increased enforcement has resulted in 205 educational contacts, 296 warnings and 112 citations.

Jupiter Beach

The Florida Inland Navigation District will begin maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) near the Jupiter Inlet during week of March 31. Beach-quality sand will be placed south of the Jupiter Inlet. Dredging must be completed by April 30. Two ADP (Acoustic Doppler Profiler) instruments were deployed near the 30' depth contour and inside the ebb shoal return bar to record incoming wave characteristics. Data retrieved from those instruments and from two auto-recording tide gauges will be used to calibrate the wave models that help

determine breakwater design. Staff is reviewing a draft 48 month post-construction report for the 2002 renourishment project. The ACOE informed the County on March 24th that a GRR (General Reevaluation Report) will have to be completed instead of the anticipated LRR (Limited Reevaluation Report) for the upcoming Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment in order to secure Federal funding for this project. A GRR will both delay the project and increase project costs

South Palm Beach

Two ADP instruments were deployed off South Palm Beach and Lantana in order to characterize winter wave conditions. The data will be used to calibrate computer models designed to anticipate shoreline response to the proposed engineering alternatives. PBC is seeking FDEP critical erosion designation for the shoreline along the Towns of Lantana and northern Manalapan. The critical shoreline designation is warranted because of persistent threats to both recreational interests and upland development.

Juno Beach Renourishment

Staff met with FDEP in Tallahassee to resolve outstanding permit issues. The reef monitoring plan for the borrow area is being revised and a second draft is forthcoming. The Reef

Research Team provided a preliminary characterization of the natural reef nearest the borrow area. The borrow area is being reconfigured to exclude the potential for excavating rock fragments. Alternative turbidity monitoring methodologies are being developed to better protect adjacent resources.

Singer Island Dune Restoration

The restored dunes weathered the gusty month favorably with no significant impacts. The sea oats and sea grapes planted on the dune have benefitted from the unusually rainy dry season and have responded with very little mortality.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project

As a follow-up to discussions with DEP staff, a history of hardbottom exposure in the project area was compared to an analysis of weather related wave events. The results of this analysis indicate a correlation. After a modification to the task order for collection of environmental data was approved at the end of February, a FWC permit application was prepared for the required fish collection sampling. The field work is scheduled to start on April 14. A response to the Request for Information from FWS was submitted on March 12th. Additional information for the NMFS responses will be submitted pending completion of environmental field work, further technical analysis and modeling of alternatives to the currently proposed segmented breakwater configuration.

NENA Loxahatchee Slough Trail, North

As part of a suite of "Bike Month" activities, ERM sponsored a bike ride up the C-18 right-of-way from Palm Beach Gardens' Sandhill Crane Access Park into Riverbend Park. Over 40



hearty souls joined the approximately 10.5 mile venture and got to experience the "before" conditions of this NENA trail project. The enhancement will provide curves, a new surface, plantings and trailside amenities such as a shade shelter for the route between the two parks.

NENA Historic Jupiter-Indiantown Trail

PBC is applying to the FDEP's Office of Greenways and Trails for a grant to fund improvements in the County's Cypress Creek Natural Area portion of this regional trail. The Trail is being developed in the alignment of Old Indiantown Road, which once served as the major route of commerce.

NENA trail head at Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail

Construction of the Northeast Everglades Natural Area (NENA) trail head to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) will begin March 25 and is scheduled for completion by August.

FWCC Artificial Reef Construction Grant

A grant application was submitted to FWC for the construction of an artificial reef at the Boynton 3 Reef Site in 65 ft of water. The proposal was made to add 2000 tons of limestone boulders to the site to augment an existing reef (RAGGS Reef). The project is expected to cost \$200,000.

Reef Monitoring and Management

The Reef Research Team visited the Royal Park Bridge reef (RPBR) and its natural reef comparison. The side plates of the large barge on the north side of RPBR have recently fallen out, exposing the ship's structural cross-braces. This is now full of fish with large goliath groupers and a diversity of invertebrates colonizing the structures.

Mitigation for FDOT/County Bridge Projects

ERM staff is working with state and county engineers to plan and construct their environmental mitigation requirements for bridge construction. An estimated 20 acres of seagrass and mangroves would be necessary to satisfy the 8-9 bridges planned over the next 5-7 years.

Juno Dunes Natural Area FIND Basin

A SFWMD permit for the work was approved in January and the ACOE permit is pending. Construction for this approximate 12 acre mangrove wetland restoration project is scheduled to begin this fall.

South Cove Natural Area

A short video describing the project, produced with the City of West Palm Beach, will air on the City's Channel 18. Staff has been working with DEP to finalize the construction permits.

Peanut Island Breakwaters

Construction permits have been issued and the work is expected to begin in April.

Peanut Island Lagoon

ERM and Parks are working to replumb the lagoon waterfall with tidal water rather than the previous ground water source. This should decrease the amount of nutrients entering the system, in turn decreasing the amount of algae. Options to improve tidal flushing of the reef system are also being explored.



Oyster Monitoring

A 12 month oyster monitoring project at three locations in the Lake Worth Lagoon is underway. FAU / HBOI staff are looking at changes in health, abundance, and spat (oyster larva) recruitment at each site. The data during this monitoring effort will be helpful when designing future restoration projects.

Sea Turtle Update: Leatherback nests have been documented in Jupiter, Juno, Singer Island, Palm Beach, and Boca Raton.

Destroyer USS ARTHUR RADFORD



In a joint venture, both Palm Beach and Broward Counties have submitted letters of interest in acquiring the USS Radford as an artificial reef. The 550' destroyer, built in 1974, would cost an estimated \$3 million dollars to clean, tow and scuttle in our area. Provided that funds can be raised, the war ship would be placed within a permitted reef site in approximately 150-200' of water on the Palm Beach/Broward line.

Ibis Isle Restoration

A SFWMD permit application was submitted for a project to cap 20 acres of muck sediments with a layer of sand and create mangrove, spartina grass, and oyster reef habitat. The objective is to restore a muck lagoon bottom to a healthy benthic environment. The Town of Palm Beach is in the process of notifying the residents surrounding Ibis Isles looking for input regarding this restoration project. Construction is scheduled for summer 2009.