



Snook Islands Natural Area

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

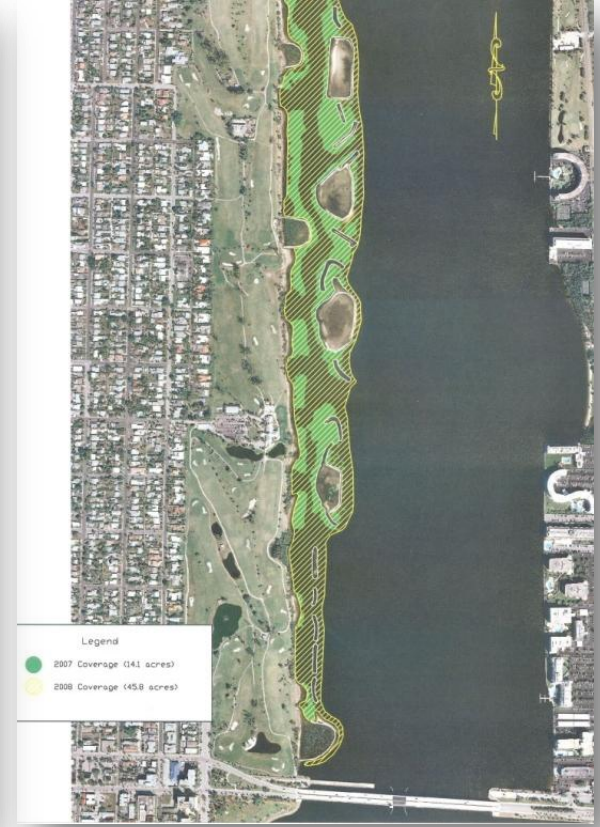
- In the Lagoon adjacent to the Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course.

The Problem

- In the 1920s, dredging and filling along the edge of the Lagoon left deep holes. Over time, they accumulate sediments, become devoid of oxygen, and provide little habitat value.

Benefits

- More seagrass beds in the Lagoon, providing a food source and nursery habitat for many species.
- Improved habitat for birds using the open areas of shoreline and mudflats.
- Improved habitat for fish. Anglers report catching numerous large snook and other desirable fish species around the islands.



Project Overview

- Restored 100 acres of wetland habitat in the Lake Worth Lagoon.
- Filled deep holes with 1.2 million cubic yards of sand from Peanut Island that had been previously dredged to maintain the Intracoastal Waterway and inlets.
- Graded fill to wetland elevations, creating four islands and submerged land suitable for seagrass.
- Removed exotic plant species like Australian pine, Brazilian pepper and seaside mahoe, from five acres of shoreline and restored 1.7 acres of existing mangrove fringe.
- Eliminated erosion and created a natural shoreline along 1.2 linear miles of the Lagoon.
- Planted 11 acres of mangroves and 3.8 acres of spartina (commonly known as cordgrass) along the shoreline and on the islands.
- Stabilized mangrove planting areas with 28,000 tons of limestone boulders.
- Created 2.2 acres of oyster reefs.
- Restored 50 acres of shallow sub-tidal habitats to promote seagrass colonization.
- The Snook Islands Natural Area was completed in 2005.

Project Partners

PBC Department of Environmental Resources Management, City of Lake Worth, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Inland Navigation District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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