

April 2019 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



Derelict Vessels: Two derelict vessels were removed from the Jupiter area in partnership with LagoonKeepers.org. The removal was paid for by the County (25%) and the Florida Inland Navigation District through their Derelict Vessel Removal Program (75%).

County Administration Tour: ERM staff held a swamp buggy tour of Hungryland Slough Natural Area for many members of County Administration. Contracts Administration and Office of Financial Management & Budget (OFMB) staff appreciated learning about how ERM manages the County's public lands and better understanding ERM's needs when helping with contracts and financial administration issues.

Gopher Tortoise Day: April 10th was Florida Gopher Tortoise Day. A proclamation was given by the Board of County Commissioners on April 2nd acknowledging the importance of this keystone species and the efforts that go into protecting it. In honor of the day, ERM staff led a gopher tortoise hike at Jupiter Ridge Natural Area.

Loxahatchee Slough Public Use Facilities:

Construction of the public use facilities at Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area has begun. The pilings for the fishing pier have been installed and the wood work is underway. When complete, work will begin on the clearing of the parking lot and construction of the south observation platform.



Tarpon Cove: The project continues to receive sand from maintenance dredging of the intracoastal waterway in partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). The sand is being used to construct the first two islands of the project. The partnership results in significant cost-savings to both parties while benefitting restoration efforts within Lake Worth Lagoon. Upon completion of the sand placement, rock will be installed to create two mangrove islands, oyster reefs, and submerged seagrass habitat.



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Natural Areas Events: ERM staff once again had the privilege to host a fishing excursion with a group of veterans from the West Palm Beach Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center at the Limestone Creek Natural Area. In addition, ERM hosted another Inclusive Sensory Tour at North Jupiter Flatwoods Natural Area. These tours are designed to be inclusive to all members of our community and focus on the use of all of the senses when enjoying nature. Finally, a Growing Up Wild event was held at High Ridge Scrub Natural Area, where children learned all about the life cycle of butterflies. They were able to get an up-close look at some real caterpillars through scopes and observe adult butterflies in the wild.



Prescribed Burns: During the last month, ERM staff conducted prescribed burns at Pine Glades, Cypress Creek and Sweetbay Natural Areas. In all, 477 acres were burned. All burns were successful in meeting the ecological objectives.



Wildlands Task Force Training Day: On April 26th, ERM held the 12th annual law enforcement training day. This training experience is led by the Wildlands Task Force deputies and is intended to teach law enforcement officials from various agencies and municipalities how to effectively patrol the natural areas. Commissioner Kerner was on hand to address the officers. After a morning of training talks, the 32 attendees took a tour of Cypress Creek Natural Area for further discussion and onsite training.

Adventure Awaits: Register NOW for a **FREE** event at [PBCERM.EVENTBRITE.COM!](https://PBCERM.EVENTBRITE.COM)

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- May 9: **AUTISM FRIENDLY DEDICATION** at North Jupiter Flatwoods
- May 16: **MOONRISE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP** at Pine Glades
- May 18: **SWAMP TROMP** at Loxahatchee Slough



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