

January 2020 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



SINGER ISLAND – RESTORED DUNES



Singer Island Dune Restoration: Over 30,000 cubic yards of sand has been placed to date, which brings the project to 87% completion. The last sections are expected to be completed in early February, then native dune vegetation will be planted to help stabilize the restored dune.

LOXAHATCHEE SLOUGH



Loxahatchee Slough Public Use Update: The public use facilities are substantially complete. With delivery and installation of a composting toilet, the site is expected to open Summer 2020.

Oystercatchers in the Lagoon: Since 1999, over 3,000 American Oystercatchers (AMOY) have been banded in the United States. Color banding individual birds helps researchers learn about demographics, movement, habitat requirements, and survival. In 2019, the FWC banded 4 AMOY chicks hatched at ERM restoration projects, 2 at Snook Islands and 2 at Tarpon Cove. This AMOY, X57, was spotted January 7th on the oyster reef restoration site behind John's Island in West Palm Beach. It was banded as a chick this past nesting season on the Indian River Lagoon. This information will go into the master database of all banded AMOY.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative: The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative hosted a joint “Habitat and Water Resources Working Group” meeting at South Florida Water Management District headquarters. The meeting format included five breakout groups comprised of stakeholders who discussed key action plans from the 2013 Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan, which is being updated.

Representatives from over 20 organizations comprised of state agencies, local municipalities, non-profit groups, private companies and county residents, provided feedback which included, expanding educational campaigns on reducing stormwater impacts throughout the lagoon's watershed; and increasing the lagoon's resilience and sustainability by promoting the implementation of living shorelines, green infrastructure and low impact development.



LWLI JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING



AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER WITH LEG BANDS



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Dave Kerner, Mayor, Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor, Hal R. Valeche, Gregg K. Weiss, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay, Mack Bernard

Manatee Protection: Frappuccino, a male manatee weighing 1,300 pounds, was released into the Lake Worth Lagoon after rehabilitation at the Miami Seaquarium. Frappuccino was rescued in November near the Port of Palm Beach with watercraft related injuries. Before his release back into the lagoon, scientists inserted a microchip, measured his length and photographed him for future identification, particularly taking note of his scar patterns on his back (yellow markings in photo). The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) uses these photos and individual manatees' scars to be able to identify specific manatees, and track their progress, once back in their natural habitat.

Please remember, manatee season runs from Nov 15th to March 31st each year and it's important to keep a lookout for them while out on the county's waterways.

If you encounter an injured or distressed manatee, please call the FFWCC Wildlife Alert Hotline: 1-888-404-3922.



MECHANICAL VEGETATION REMOVAL

Tarpon Cove: Volunteer planting events are scheduled for the first two islands created as part of Lake Worth Lagoon's newest habitat restoration project. Planting events will be held on March 5th and March 18th, with participants set to plant over 5,000 red mangrove seedlings, *Spartina* plugs and other native vegetation on the new islands.

Hazardous Mitigation Grant: In February, ERM staff will commence on the "Wildfire Mitigation on Natural Areas" project through a federally funded Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program administered by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). The purpose of the project is to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural wildfire hazards. The project involves mechanical chopping/shredding of vegetation to reduce highly flammable fuel loads of saw palmetto and other shrubs that have encroached and increased in size and density in the midstory of the natural area habitats. Total project cost is \$750,000 with up to \$562,500 reimbursed by FDEM. Work will occur on various county natural areas until contract expiration in March 2021.



TARPON COVE – JUST ADD PLANTS

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

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- March 14: **NATURAL AREAS FESTIVAL** at Winding Waters
- March 14: **RUN FOR THE NATURAL AREAS 5K/10K TRAIL RACE** at Winding Waters



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