

# October 2019 Project Status Report

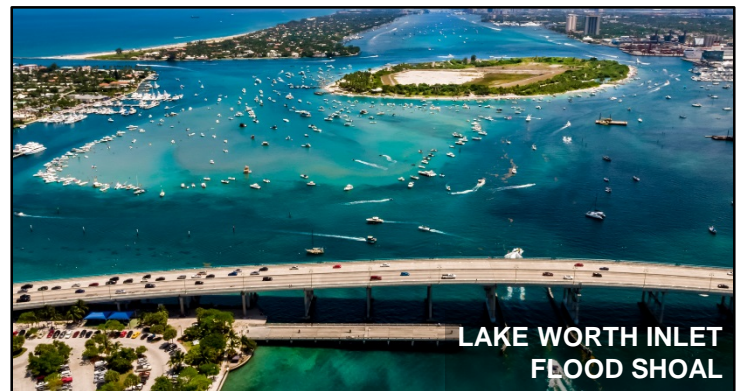
## Department of Environmental Resources Management



**Tarpon Cove:** The project has acquired an estimated 240,000 cubic yards of free sand in partnership with the local marine community. This is over half of the sand needed to complete the project. The sand is being graded down to create intertidal mangrove islands and submerged seagrass habitat. Armoring stone will be placed around the islands to stabilize them once they have been shaped. Work is expected to continue through December. Upon completion of the first two islands, the County will schedule a volunteer planting event to plant mangroves and cordgrass.



**Lake Worth Inlet Flood Shoal Dredging Project:** In partnership with the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, permit applications were submitted to both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The project was ranked #1 in the 2019-2020 Florida Inland Navigation District Waterway Assistance Grant Program. Awarded funds will help fund the Phase 1 engineering, design, permitting, and modeling of the project.



**FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant:** ERM has been awarded a State grant from the Florida Department of Emergency Management, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for wildfire mitigation involving mechanical reduction of hazardous vegetation to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. This \$750,000 project is funded by a 75/25 cost share grant, which allows up to half of ERM's 25% to be satisfied with in-kind services.



**Palm Beach State College Statue:** Students under the direction of Dr. Jessica Miles are building a statue that will be donated to the County for deployment as an artificial reef next summer. The statue will be comprised of a stainless steel double helix, made by the welding students at their Okeechobee Campus, set on a concrete base and featuring coral-like sculptures made by biology students at the Palm Beach Gardens Campus. Students were on campus in October to cover the double helix with mesh so that high-strength concrete can be added to reinforce it.



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

**Wildlife Observation:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff spotted two Audubon's crested caracaras (*Caracara cheriway*) mating in Hungryland Slough Natural Area. Caracaras have been sighted at several ERM Natural Areas in the past and have even been observed gathering nesting materials, but this is the first sighting of a mating pair. Audubon's crested caracara is found in Florida, the southwestern United States, and Central America. The Florida population is unique in that it is isolated from the remainder of the species. This population is a state- and federally-listed threatened species and is the only population of caracaras listed under the Endangered Species Act.



CARACARA PAIR



SCREAMS IN THE SCRUB

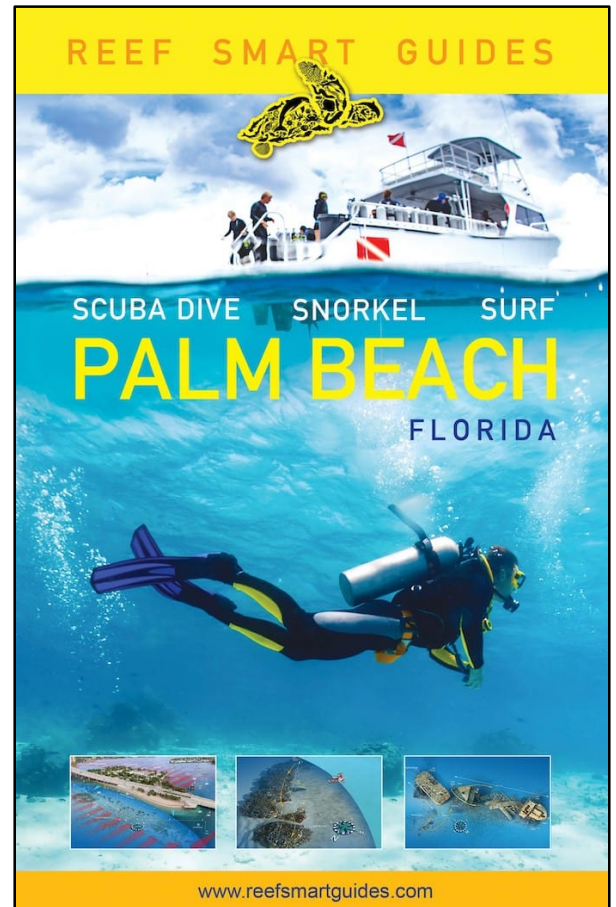
**Screams in the Scrub Trail Run:** ERM teamed up with our Adopt a Natural Area partner, Fleet Feet, to host a three-mile trail run at Yamato Scrub Natural Area. Even though it was a rainy day, 60 runners participated in an evening of Halloween fun. The run took participants through a variety of natural habitats.

**Reef Smart Guide Book:** After a year of complex mapping work and detailed three-dimensional modeling, the Palm Beach County Reef Smart Guide is now available. The book is a great guide to diving, snorkeling, and surfing off our County's coast. It showcases over 30 of the County's top dive and snorkel sites and includes information such as depths, currents, waves, entry and exit locations, and unique structures and species information for each site included. More information can be found at [www.reefsmartguides.com](http://www.reefsmartguides.com).

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

## UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- November 2: **LAGOONFEST** at Downtown West Palm Beach
- November 3: **WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?** At Yamato Scrub
- November 9: **RUNNING WILD 3 OR 5 MILE TRAIL RUN** at Juno Dunes



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