

January 2019 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



Manatees: It's that time of year! As the first cold fronts start rolling through the County in December, so do the manatees in search of warmer waters. ERM staff conducted surveys throughout Lake Worth Lagoon and found several manatees moving throughout the area, as well as resting and eating seagrass. Please remember to be on the lookout for manatees and obey all posted speed zones while enjoying the County's parks and boating along our waterways.



MANATEE SURFACING



RUNNING WILD AT ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES

Running in the Natural Areas: Two running events made a big splash with community residents in the last month. At Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area, over 60 runners came out to participate in a trail run through the natural area. This event was a part of the ongoing Running Wild series hosted by ERM. Meanwhile, at Jupiter Ridge Natural Area, 45 runners came out for the Sand Spur Ultra, with the option of a 50K or 50 mile run around the soft sugar sand and hills of the site. This run was organized with one of our Adopt a Natural Area adopters. Participants came from out of state and other countries to participate!

Tarpon Cove: In partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), plans were finalized for the Tarpon Cove project to resume construction in mid-February. FIND will complete maintenance dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway from the Port of Palm Beach to south of the Royal Park Bridge. The dredged material will be placed at the south end of Tarpon Cove with the goal of completing two islands. This beneficial use of dredged material will restore habitat in the Lake Worth Lagoon.



SMILING VETERAN



VETERANS FISHING

Veterans Fishing Event: ERM staff had the privilege of hosting a fishing field trip for a small group of veterans from the WPB Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). The VAMC is an adopter in our Adopt a Natural Area program. The veterans had a great time fishing on the pier at Cypress Creek South Natural Area. In all, five bass were caught during the two-hour event.



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

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



Prescribed Burn: ERM staff conducted a 277-acre prescribed burn at Hungryland Slough Natural Area in January. The burn was able to meet all of the intended ecological objectives. At this burn, another ERM staff member, Christian Thibaut, received his certification from the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to become a certified prescribed burn manager.

Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area: On January 15, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved work for the construction of public use facilities. Construction on the parking lot, observation tower, fishing pier, and ADA compliant trail is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2019.

Lake Worth Lagoon Volunteers: A volunteer mangrove planting event was held on Thursday, January 3rd. Thirty-five volunteers from the local community, including the West Palm Beach Fishing Club,



showed up and planted 780 mangrove seedlings at the Bryant Park Wetlands Site. Mang Gear donated their prize mangrove, “Big Bertha”, which has been growing at their farm for several years, along with 415 additional mangroves.



Natural Areas Festival: The 3rd annual Natural Areas Festival is just around the corner with planned activities beginning on Wednesday, March 6th through March 9th with the celebratory festival at Winding Waters Natural Area. The planned events will include hiking, biking and paddling tours, a stargazing event, 5k trail run, wildlife demonstrations and releases, and a prescribed fire demonstration. There is something for the whole family and all are welcome. Visit ERM’s Eventbrite page (www.pbcerm.eventbrite.com) to schedule your activity.

Adventure Awaits: Register NOW for a **FREE** event at PBCERM.EVENTBRITE.COM!

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- February 2: **GROWING UP WILD, SWAMP TROMP** at Royal Palm Beach Pines
- February 6: **SUNSET HIKE** at Sweetbay
- February 9: **TEN MILE TRAIL RUN** at Pine Glades
- February 13: **GROWING UP WILD, MEET THE CREATURES OF THE LAKE WORTH LAGOON** at Jewell Cove-Lake Worth Beach
- March 9th: **RUN FOR THE NATURAL AREAS 5K** at Winding Waters



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