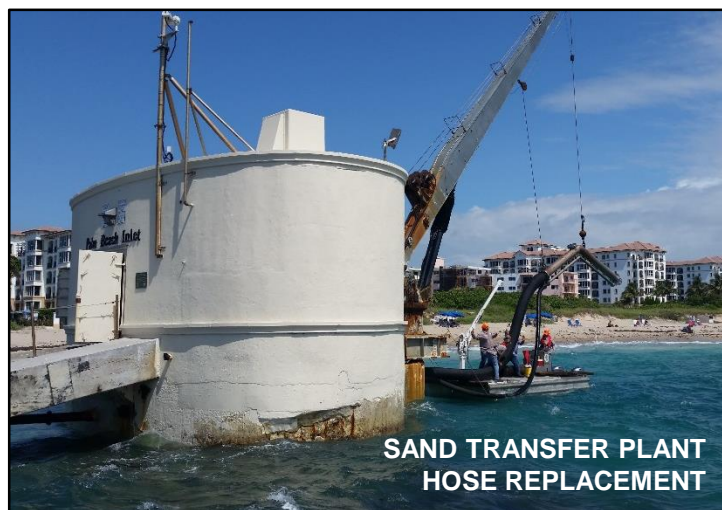
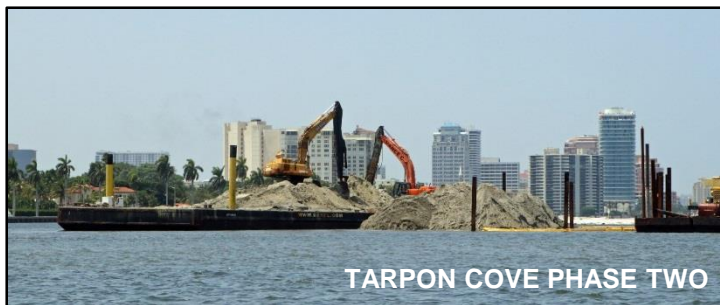


June 2019 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



Tarpon Cove: In partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District, over 4 acres of sand were placed to finish phase one of the project. Phase two began on June 21st with sand from the Rybovich Marina expansion, which will be placed on the southern end of the project, adjacent to Monceaux Park. Once the additional sand has been placed, the contractor will grade it and install rock to create three intertidal islands and oyster reefs.



Lake Worth Inlet Sand Transfer Plant: ERM coordinated the purchase and installation of a new suction hose for the plant. The Town of Palm Beach owns the plant and paid for the \$10,000 hose, which was installed by Palm Beach County Road and Bridge staff.



Derelict Vessel Removal: Two derelict vessels were removed from the Phil Foster Park area and one from Bryant Park. The removals were paid for through Palm Beach County's Pollution Recovery Trust Fund.



Seagrass: In partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, ERM staff conducted seagrass monitoring at four permanent monitoring sites in the Lake Worth Lagoon. Several species of seagrass were documented in the northern lagoon sites, including turtle grass, shoal grass, and paddle grass. Paddle grass was also found at one site in the central lagoon after several years of being absent.

Pondhawk Natural Area: A research permit has been issued to a graduate student from FAU. The focus of the student's research is to document the use of gopher tortoise burrows by other animals. These commensal species use the burrows for food, refuge, and other benefits.



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

Turtles: We are nearing the peak of sea turtle nesting season and numbers are promising! Current trends show that loggerhead nesting on some beaches is nearly double that of last year. Green sea turtles are also nesting in record numbers. Hatchlings have begun to emerge as well. Sea turtle nests take approximately two months to hatch and each nest contains about 100 eggs. It is estimated that as many as 2,000,000 hatchlings emerged on county beaches in 2018.



LEATHERBACK
SEA TURTLE HATCHLING

Loxahatchee Slough Public Use Update: The south observation platform is complete and construction of the north observation platform is underway. The parking lot is 80% complete.

Adopt-a-Natural Area: ERM welcomes two new adopters to our Adopt-a-Natural Area program: Fleet Feet of Delray Beach and Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Fleet Feet will be hosting running events at Yamato Scrub Natural Area and Busch Wildlife will be using the natural areas to release rehabilitated native animals and give educational talks. Welcome aboard, Adopters!



LOX SLOUGH
CONSTRUCTION

Banding Oystercatcher Chicks: A team from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission along with ERM staff captured and banded two recently-hatched American oystercatcher chicks at the new Tarpon Cove project. The chicks were weighed and measured, and identification bands were placed on their legs. It is hoped that tracking these birds will help to understand their migration patterns and determine if they are residing in this area year-round.



AMERICAN
OYSTERCATCHER
BANDING

Pântano Trail Maintenance: The Pântano trail portion of the Jaega Wildways was resurfaced to address potholes and other issues. The trail is reopened for use.

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

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- Now until July 7: LAKE WORTH LAGOON FISHING CHALLENGE
- July 3: 5K TRAIL RUN HOSTED BY FLEET FEET at Yamato Scrub
- July 10: SUNSET HIKE AND PADDLE at Pine Glades
- July 18: GROWING UP WILD – SWAMP TROMP at Royal Palm Beach Pines
- July 20: FUN RUN HOSTED BY HARD EXERCISE WORKS at Royal Palm Beach Pines
- July 25: MOTH-ERS NIGHT OUT at Jupiter Ridge



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