

# March 2019 Project Status Report

## Department of Environmental Resources Management



SWAMP BUGGY TOUR

**Commissioner Tour:** ERM staff were proud to lead a swamp buggy tour of Pond Cypress Natural Area for Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss. ERM staff were able to share with the Commissioner both the joys and challenges of managing public lands.

**Lyman Kayak Park Living Shoreline:** On March 14<sup>th</sup>, fourteen adults with disabilities from Sea Turtle Adventures, a local non-profit group, came to the Lyman Kayak Park Living Shoreline to plant mangroves along the living shoreline. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they prepared bundles of mangroves in coconut fiber and placed them among the rocks. The mangrove prop roots will grow out into the water to help the shoreline withstand the destructive action of tides, waves, and storm surges.



LYMAN PARK VOLUNTEERS

**Tarpon Cove:** In partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), Tarpon Cove began receiving sand in early March. This re-use of sand from dredging the intracoastal waterway will aid in efforts to complete 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.



TARPON COVE CONSTRUCTION

**Jewell Cove Living Shoreline:** The Adventure Awaits program held a Growing up Wild – Meet the Creatures of the Lake Worth Lagoon event on March 13<sup>th</sup>. A group of youngsters participated in seining, netting, and looking through viewfinders to learn about life in our local estuary. The Lake Worth Lagoon serves as a “living classroom” for students of all ages to learn about coastal habitats and the natural world.



MEETING THE CREATURES OF THE LAKE WORTH LAGOON



### 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



NESTING SEA TURTLE

**Sea Turtles:** Sea turtle nesting season has begun in southeast Florida. March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the official start of the season. Endangered leatherbacks were the first species to begin nesting and the more common loggerheads and green sea turtles will follow shortly. Residents and beachgoers can help keep sea turtles safe by keeping our beaches clean and dark. Turn off all coastal and unnecessary lighting that can disorient nesting turtles and hatchlings. Remove all garbage and objects from the beach, fill in all holes, knock down sand castles, and if you come across a nesting turtle, do not approach her or use any lights.

**Natural Areas Festival:** From March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, ERM held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Natural Areas Festival. The event was filled with adventures at various natural areas around the county and culminated with a festival on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, celebrating Palm Beach County's beautiful open spaces. The day began with a 5K race with 188 runners, some from as far away as Wisconsin! Festival participants enjoyed a variety of activities including hikes, paddles, a swamp tromp, a bike event, and wildlife encounters with alligators, snakes, and apple snails. Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard lent a hand in releasing a rehabilitated Cooper's hawk back to the wild. Another highlight of the day was a live prescribed burn demo. ERM estimates that at least 700 visitors came to Saturday's festival, despite the rainy weather. Planning is already underway for next year!

**Prescribed Burn:** ERM staff conducted two prescribed burns since the last update. The first occurred on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This was a 3-acre burn at Winding Waters Natural Area and was conducted during the Natural Areas Festival. This burn allowed the public to get an up-close look at how land managers operate a prescribed burn. The second burn occurred on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Creek Natural Area. This 122-acre burn met all the ecological objectives of the prescription.



PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION AT THE NATURAL AREAS FESTIVAL



RUN FOR THE NATURAL AREAS 5K

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

## UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- **April 3: GROWING UP WILD – BUTTERFLY HIKE** at High Ridge Scrub
- **April 4: INCLUSIVE SENSORY BASED WALK** at North Jupiter Flatwoods
- **April 10: FLORIDA GOPHER TORTOISE DAY HIKE** at Jupiter Ridge
- **April 12: MEET THE SNOWBIRDS – BIRDWATCHING** at Winding Waters
- **April 13: BUTTERFLY HIKE** at Cypress Creek
- **April 17: MOON RISE HIKE AND PADDLE** at Jupiter Ridge
- **April 20: ANCIENT ADVENTURES PADDLE** at Loxahatchee Slough
- **April 25: MORNING PADDLE** at Loxahatchee Slough



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