

May 2019 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



Autism-friendly Natural Area Grand

Opening: On May 9th, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to announce the certification of North Jupiter Flatwoods Natural Area (NJF) as an Autism-friendly Natural Area by The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. It is believed to be the first park or open space in the state to receive such certification. The certification was achieved by a partnership between the County's Adopt-a-Natural Area program and The Learning Academy at the Els Center of Excellence. Autism-friendly improvements at NJF include resting benches, signage, fence modifications and sensory touch boards.

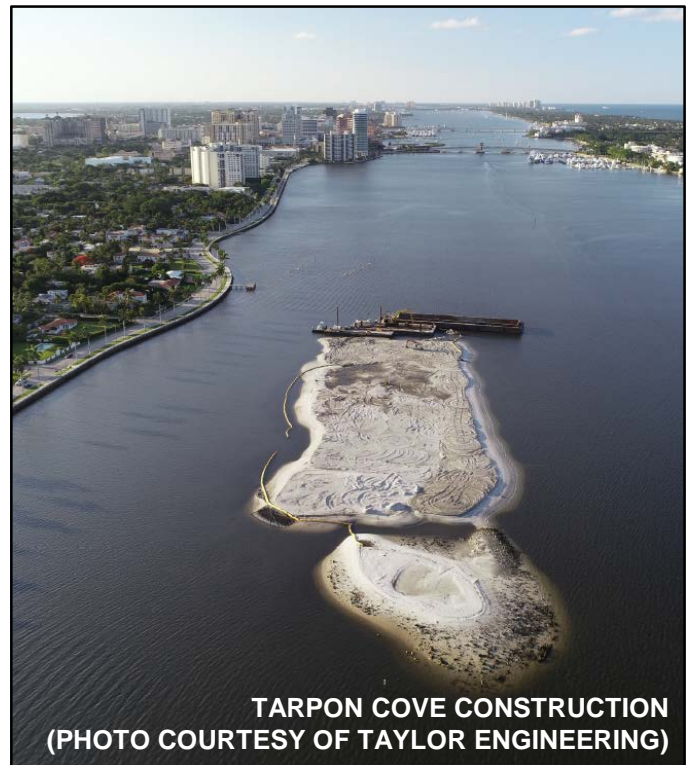


**AUTISM-FRIENDLY
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**



DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL

Derelict Vessel Removal: A derelict vessel was removed from the north end of Peanut Island in partnership with LagoonKeepers.org. The removal was paid for through Palm Beach County's Pollution Recovery Trust Fund.



**TARPON COVE CONSTRUCTION
(PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR ENGINEERING)**

Tarpon Cove: The project was awarded a \$1 million grant through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The project was one of 22 projects nationwide, and the only project in Florida, selected by the program. This federal grant will be matched with state and local funds to construct future phases of the project. The Florida Inland Navigation District dredging project finished on May 25th with an estimated total volume of 84,800 cubic yards.



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

Lake Worth Lagoon Seagrass Planting: Sea & Shoreline Aquatic Restoration, LLC planted 300 seagrass plugs in the Lake Worth Lagoon at Bryant Park Wetlands and Snook Islands Natural Area. Sea & Shoreline Aquatic Restoration cultivates, replants, and protects the seagrass until it is established and can serve as a home and food for sea life. ERM hopes to learn the growing techniques to one day grow seagrass for future restoration projects.



FRESHLY-PLANTED SEAGRASS



LOX SLOUGH CONSTRUCTION

Nesting Birds: Spring is almost over and with that, an end to the nesting season for much of our local avian wildlife. So far this year, ERM staff have seen owls, woodpeckers, ospreys, swallowtail kites and little blue herons nesting at several natural areas. American oystercatcher hatchlings were spotted at several Lake Worth Lagoon restoration sites, including Snook Islands and Tarpon Cove.



AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS

Loxahatchee Slough Public Use Update: Construction of the public use facilities at Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area continues. The fishing pier is complete. Pilings for both observation structures have been installed and wood installation has begun. The parking lot construction has begun. Work will begin soon on the first section of sidewalk.

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

UPCOMING ERM EVENTS

- Now until July 7: LAKE WORTH LAGOON FISHING CHALLENGE
- June 9: POST FIRE BIKE AND HIKE at Cypress Creek North
- June 12: SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP at Cypress Creek North
- June 20: GROWING UP WILD – SWAMP TROMP at Royal Palm Beach Pines
- June 21: INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY at Yamato Scrub
- June 27: SUNSET HIKE at North Jupiter Flatwoods



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