

A Little History

1918 The island is created with material dredged from the construction of Lake Worth Inlet.

1923 The Lake Worth Inlet District (known today as the Port of Palm Beach) purchases the 47-acre "Inlet Island."

1930 Congress authorizes the building of Lake Worth Inlet Coast Guard Station, which opens in 1936. The Station closes in 1995.

1946 Plans to use the island as a terminal for shipping peanut oil are abandoned, but the island continues to be known as "Peanut Island."

1961 The Kennedy Bunker is built in secrecy to provide a shelter and command post.

1984 Palm Beach County and the Port of Palm Beach enter into an agreement for maintenance of the island, provided it remains a passive recreation area.

1991 The Port of Palm Beach sells 50 acres of the now 79-acre island to the Florida Inland Navigation District.

2003 The US Army Corps of Engineers awards a contract for the Peanut Island Environmental Enhancement Project. Invasive nonnative vegetation and spoil material are removed to create over 30 acres of wildlife habitat.

Project partners included:

- Palm Beach County
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- FL Department of Environmental Protection
- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- Port of Palm Beach
- US Department of Agriculture

2005 The island's newly enhanced environmental and park amenities officially open.

Today – Peanut Island Park is open from sunrise to sunset for day use. Reserved and limited camping is available in designated areas. The primary use of the interior area continues as a dredged material management area for the Port of Palm Beach and the Florida Inland Navigation District.



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Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Department

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www.pbcparcs.com

Peanut Island Park & Campground

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Toll Free: (866) 383-5730

www.pbcgov.com/parks/peanutisland

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative



www.LWLI.org

The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative is an informal forum for the exchange of information about the Lagoon. Together, Palm Beach County, government agency partners, organizations, businesses, and citizens increase awareness of environmental enhancement and monitoring efforts and discuss opportunities to restore and protect

the Lagoon. The initiative includes a Steering Committee and three working groups focused on Habitat, Water and Public Outreach. Everyone with an interest is encouraged to attend and participate. The ideas generated by these discussions result in collaborative efforts that enhance the Lagoon and raise public awareness of its valuable resources.

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Spent a Day Away at...

PEANUT ISLAND

...And Enjoy Your
Own Eco-Adventure!



Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental
Resources Management



Osprey



Brown Pelican



White Ibis



Dune Sunflower



Rosemary



Railroad Vine

Look up, down, and all around!

Its spectacular location and water conditions make Peanut Island one of the premiere boating destinations in Florida. The island is uniquely situated at the mouth of the Lake Worth Inlet in Lake Worth Lagoon.

At high tide, Gulfstream-fed ocean water enters through the inlet, bathing the island with crystal-clear water that delight swimmers and snorkelers. You'll discover inshore reefs, seagrasses, oyster reefs, and mangroves. All are critically important habitats for the survival of fish, birds, manatees, sea turtles, and other marine life in Lake Worth Lagoon.



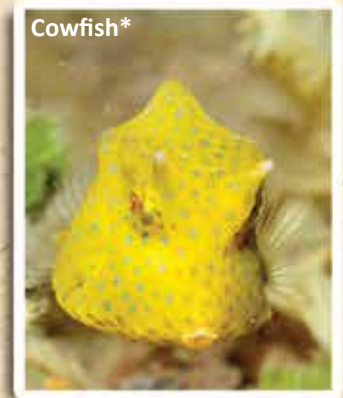
Red Mangrove



Sea Oats



Hermit Crab*



Cowfish*



Sea Star



Florida Manatee



Spiny Puffer*

*Photography by Anne DuPont

Plan Your Peanut Island Eco-Adventure!



Enjoy the “Quieter” Side *Boat Docks, West Side*

The west dock boat basin provides easy boat access to the more natural part of Peanut Island. Boat slips are available for day-use without charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Tie up your boat and explore the island away from the crowd.



Explore the Mangroves *Mangrove Boardwalk*

As you move along the 230-foot boardwalk past the mangroves to the beach, you’ll see a series of flushing channels extending north and south from the boardwalk. These channels were cut to improve tidal flow to three acres of restored mangroves. Kayakers won’t want to miss this area. Paddling quietly inside the slender mangrove channels provides opportunities to see manatees, wading birds, and other wildlife.



Extend Your Stay *Campground*

Reserve a campsite and continue your adventure after sunset. The park offers 20 campsites that include a tent pad, grill, and picnic table. For more information about the campsite and designated areas for beach camping, stop by the park office on Peanut Island or call (561) 845-4445.



Begin Your Adventure *Boat Docks, East Side*

Before you get to dry land, don’t forget to look down! You’ll see an array of tropical fish swimming and feeding among the pilings. Boat slips are available for day use without charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Peanut Island Park is open sunrise to sunset. After sunset, only those in the reserved campground may keep their boats at the dock.



Watch the Birds

Maritime hammock is one of the most rapidly-disappearing habitats in Florida. During the Peanut Island environmental enhancement project, invasive nonnative plants were removed and replanted with gumbo limbo, seagrape, cabbage palm, firebush, sea-lavender, and railroad vine. This hammock is an important habitat for wildlife and provides a lush, shady habitat for humans too!



Get Your Feet Wet *Beach*

The beach area is a great place to watch boats of all shapes and sizes, from small open-water fishing boats to large cruise ships, pass through the Lake Worth Inlet. Cool off and enjoy a swim.



Enjoy the View *Observation Deck*

Don’t forget to stop and enjoy the view! This observation deck on the south side of the island offers excellent views of Lake Worth Lagoon. The lagoon is the largest estuary in Palm Beach County, measuring approximately 20 miles long and a half-mile wide. It stretches from the Village of North Palm Beach to the Town of Ocean Ridge.



Take a Walk *Walking Path*

A 1.25-mile walking path along the entire perimeter of the island provides easy access to island amenities. It’s also a great way to explore the island’s mangrove, maritime hammock, and coastal dune habitats.



Learn a Little History *Historic Coast Guard Station, Boathouse and John F. Kennedy Bunker*

The red-roofed Coast Guard Station and Boat House, placed in service in 1930, and the Kennedy Bunker are reminders of days gone by. This area is operated by the Palm Beach Maritime Museum.



Stay High and Dry *Reef Boardwalk*

This boardwalk extends 280 feet over the water. It is a perfect place to view the reef habitat without getting wet. You might even see a manatee lounging in the area. These gentle “sea cows” frequent Peanut Island, grazing on abundant seagrasses.



Bring Your Snorkel Gear *Snorkeling Reef and Shallow Lagoon*

At high tide, Gulfstream-fed ocean water enters through the inlet, bathing the island with crystal clear water that delights snorkelers. From the beach, you may access the rock breakwaters or enter the snorkeling reef and shallow lagoon area to see colorful marine life such as angelfish, damselfish, parrotfish, and crabs that make the reef’s many nooks and crannies their home.



Why is the park only along the perimeter of the island?

In the center of the island, a 12-foot-high levee surrounds the Florida Inland Navigation District’s (FIND) 23-acre dredged material management area. This area has the capacity to store sand dredged from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Lake Worth Inlet during maintenance activities for the next 50 years. On the southwest corner of the island, the Port of Palm Beach has a 15-acre area designated for storage of material removed from the port’s turning basin and docks during maintenance dredging work. Through long-term agreements between FIND, the Port, and Palm Beach County, residents and visitors will be able to enjoy Peanut Island Park for generations.