



Phil Foster Park Artificial Reef and Snorkel Trail

Lake Worth Lagoon

- 20 miles long, stretching from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge.
- Largest estuary in Palm Beach County.
- Separated from the ocean by Singer Island and Palm Beach Island.
- Two permanent, man-made inlets.

Project Location

- Phil Foster Park, 900 E. Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach.
- South of the Blue Heron Bridge.
- South of the park's life-guarded beach area in a buoyed boater exclusion area.

What are Artificial Reefs?

- Man-made habitats built from rocks, steel ships, concrete structures and pre-fabricated modules.
- Structures placed in areas away from natural reefs, creating new marine life communities.

Benefits

- Increased reef habitat benefiting hundreds of species of fish and other marine organisms.
- Increased recreational opportunities for both beginner and experienced snorkelers and divers.
- Increased opportunities for environmental education and ecotourism.

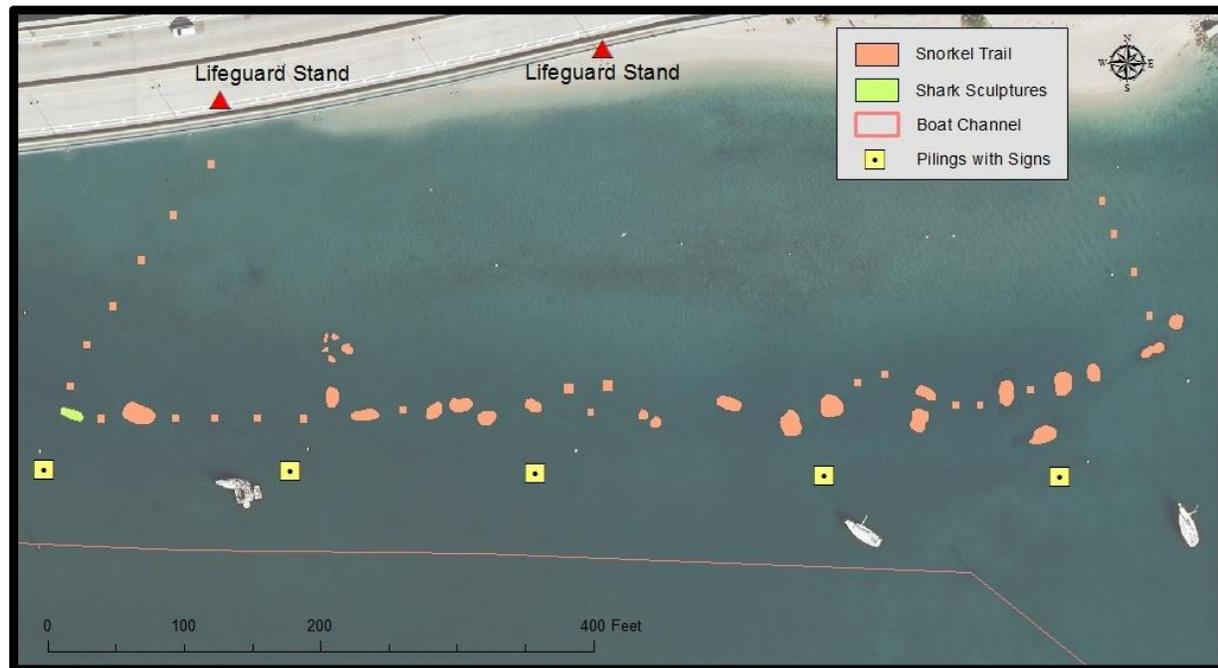


Photo credits: Lureen Ferretti (left) and Elaine Blum (center)

Project Overview

- An 800-foot-long snorkel trail was created just south of Phil Foster Park in Lake Worth Lagoon.
- The location is bathed in clear oceanic water with each incoming tide due to its proximity to Lake Worth Inlet.
- Concrete and cinder block reef modules, piles of limestone rock, and shark sculptures, all connected by trail of small boulders that serve as breadcrumbs to guide snorkelers between the larger features.
- The materials, which also function as an artificial reef, are located in 6 to 10 feet of water, within reach of snorkelers.
- The reef components include ledges and small spaces that attract a variety of sea life.
- An informational kiosk on the park's shoreline helps visitors identify sea life, such as pipefish, spotted eagle rays, banded coral shrimp and sea stars, that may be observed along the trail.
- The trail is easily accessible to snorkelers from the park's shoreline.
- Parking at the county park is free.
- The trail was opened in 2012.

Project Partners

Palm Beach County, Materials Donated by Chris O'Hare, Reef Cells, Inc.; Boy Scout Troup 327 Eagle Scout Michael DeLuca; Artist Thomas R. McDonald; and Andrew "Red" Harris Foundation, Inc.



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