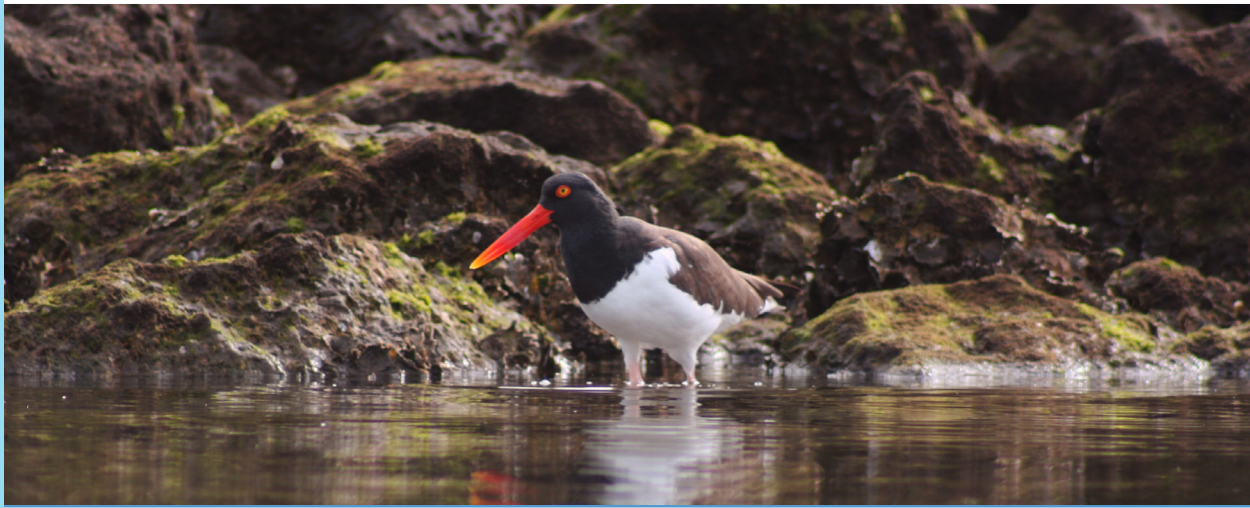




lake worth
LAGOON

LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE



Working to improve water quality, increase resiliency and restore habitat

2025 Legislative Funding Request

Thank you for your support of water quality improvements and habitat restoration in **Lake Worth Lagoon**. Your commitment is making a positive difference for coastal systems state-wide. Since 1998, the Florida Legislature has appropriated over \$26 million for restoration and enhancement of the lagoon, a 20-mile estuary extending from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge in **Palm Beach County**. These legislative funds have been effectively leveraged with local funds to support 60 projects totaling just over \$94 million.

While the **Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI)**, a multiagency and stakeholder collaborative established in 2008, has made considerable progress to reverse impacts to this estuarine habitat from human activities during the past century, challenges remain within the lagoon and its watershed.

For the 2025 legislative session, LWLI requests \$525,750 in state legislative appropriations to fund the ranked projects identified below that will continue to benefit the lagoon's water quality and habitat.

Rank Order	Project Name	Funding Request	Matching Funds	Estimated Project Cost
1.	Lake Worth Lagoon System Assessment	\$154,500	\$154,500	\$309,000
2.	9th Avenue South Outfall Restoration	\$371,250	\$371,250	\$742,500
TOTAL		\$525,750	\$525,750	\$1,051,500



www.LWLI.org

FY 2025 PROJECT PROPOSALS

Lake Worth Lagoon's economic, environmental and recreational value is connected to its resources, which include seagrass beds, mangroves, reefs, recreationally and commercially important fish, and imperiled species such as manatees and sea turtles. The water quality, sediment and habitat improvements associated with these projects will continue to protect, restore and enhance the lagoon's valuable resources.



Lake Worth Lagoon System Assessment

Local Sponsor: Palm Beach County

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Funding Request: \$154,500

Proposed Match Amount: \$154,500

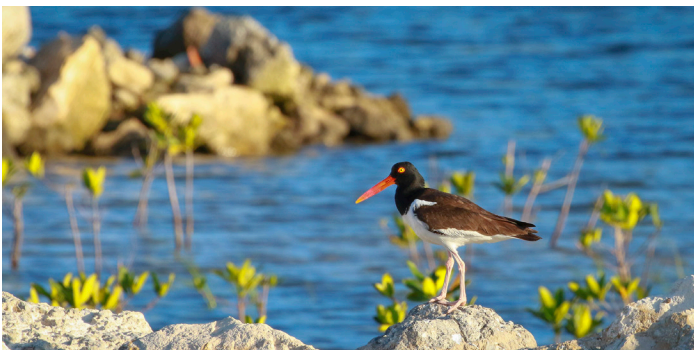
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$309,000

This project includes the continuation of long-term data collection within the lagoon to monitor sea turtles, oysters, fish and seagrasses. Data and analysis from these efforts are used to drive management strategies for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the lagoon, its resources and watershed.

Identifying opportunities for future enhancement and restoration



Maintaining habitats to improve ecosystem health and resiliency



9th Avenue South Outfall Restoration Project

Local Sponsor: City of Lake Worth Beach

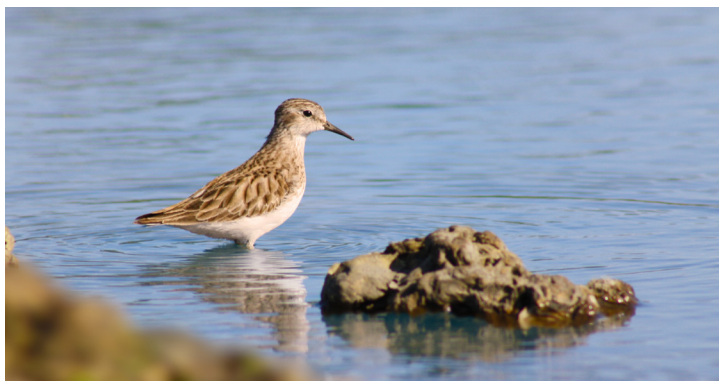
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Funding Request: \$371,250

Proposed Match Amount: \$371,250

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$742,500

The proposed stormwater improvement project includes the restoration and replacement of an existing culvert and the creation of a living shoreline feature. The system enhancements will improve water quality by increasing local drainage capacity, improving discharge and limiting trash and debris from entering the lagoon, while providing intertidal habitat adjacent to the outfall.

Restoration and mangement efforts to conserve valuable natural resources

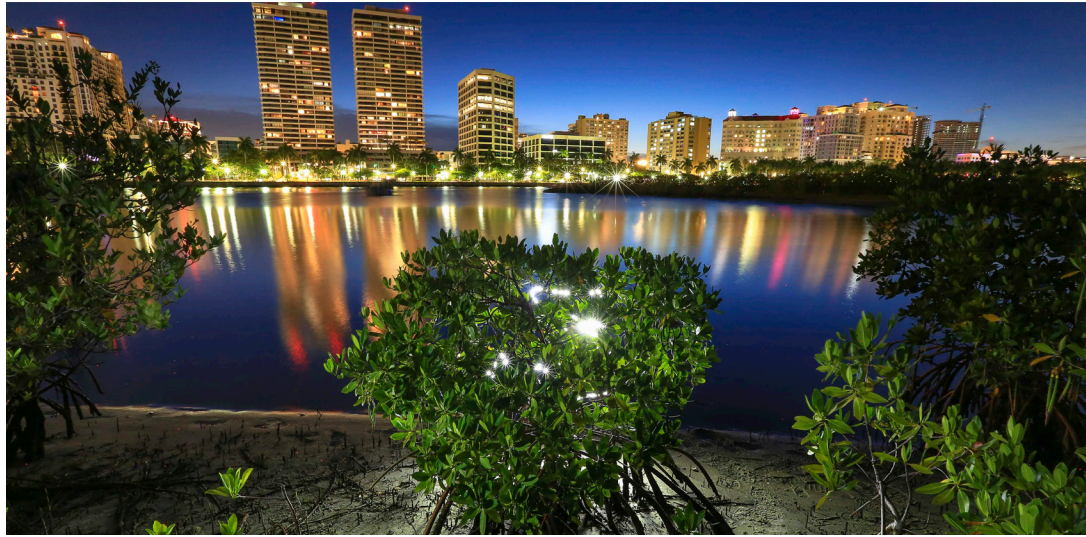


PAST SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS



Initiative Steering Committee

Palm Beach County
South Florida Water Management District
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Inland Navigation District
Palm Beach County League of Cities
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Restoring habitats to improve water quality for the benefit of wildlife and people



Top: A 550-foot boardwalk leads visitors closer to the mangrove islands created at **South Cove Natural Area** in downtown West Palm Beach. **Middle:** The creation of **Tarpon Cove** islands in central Lake Worth Lagoon was completed in 2023. Significant seagrass, intertidal and shorebird nesting habitats were created as well as capping of 13 acres of existing muck sediments.

Below left: Providing access to popular ecotourism activities like kayaking in Lake Worth Lagoon. **Below center:** Expanding immersive public outreach and education events to connect and educate our youth. **Below right:** If you build it, they will come, a variety of crabs at Tarpon Cove.

Enhancing recreational, ecotourism and educational opportunities

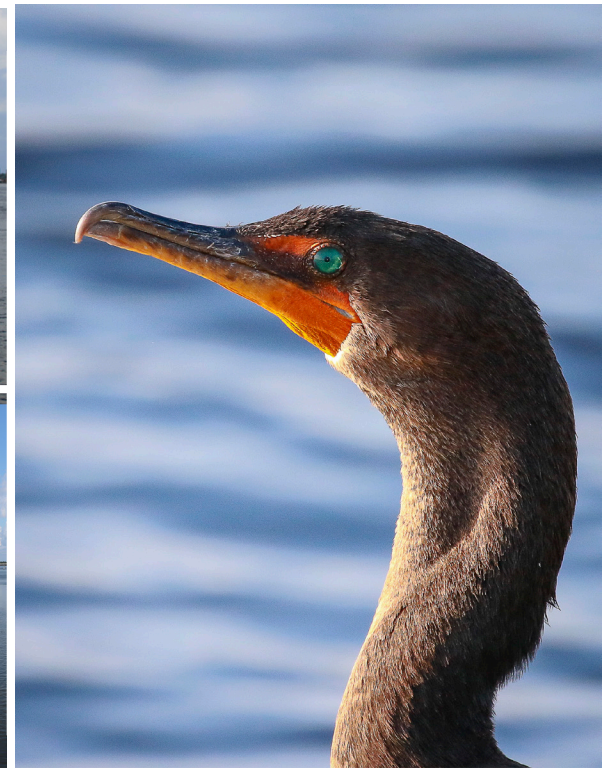




South Cove Natural Area - 2012



South Cove Natural Area - 2019



Applying technological innovation and community support for habitat restoration



Top: South Cove Natural Area structure completed in 2012 and in 2019 showing lush vegetation growth. Initially a challenge to gain public support, now the most visited Natural Area in Palm Beach County! **Top Right:** Cormorant

Bottom: A glimpse of the construction process of "Building an Island" at Tarpon Cove in Lake Worth Lagoon.



LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE

For more information on the efforts of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative, contact:

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Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Department of Environmental Resources Management
2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743
561-233-2400
www.LWLI.org

An expanded version of this report which includes summaries of additional past projects is available upon request.