

March 2020 Project Status Report

Department of Environmental Resources Management



OCEAN RIDGE

Ocean Ridge Beach Nourishment: The cutter suction dredge Texas widened 1.07 miles of beach south of Boynton Inlet with approximately 475,000 cubic yards of sand from a borrow site less than one-half mile offshore. The project began March 14th and should be completed in early April. It is the fourth restoration of the Ocean Ridge beach; the first project was constructed in 1998.



DELRAY BEACH

Tarpon Cove: On March 5th, the sandy shores of Tarpon Cove became green. Nearly 100 volunteers from the community, West Palm Beach Fishing Club, Lagoon Keepers, Palm Beach Day Academy, Conservation Conservatory School, MANG, Lake Worth Waterkeepers, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission helped plant 2,500 mangroves and 4,000 cordgrass plants on the first two intertidal islands. A second volunteer planting event will be scheduled for later this year.

Delray Beach Nourishment: Dredging operations wrapped up March 13th. A total of 365,000 cubic yards of sand were dredged from an offshore borrow area and placed along southern Delray Beach in the vicinity of Atlantic Dunes Park. The project repaired storm damages from Hurricane Irma and was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Delray Beach and ERM.

North Boca Raton Beach Nourishment: Dredging operations have begun. Approximately 550,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed along 1.45 miles of shoreline between Spanish River and Red Reef parks. Construction is scheduled to be finished around the end of April. The project will repair storm damages from Hurricane Irma and is being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Boca Raton and ERM.



TARPON COVE



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Dave Kerner, Mayor, Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor, Hal R. Valeche, Gregg K. Weiss, Mary Lou Berger, Melissa McKinlay, Mack Bernard

Sea Turtle Nesting Season: March 1st marks the official start of sea turtle nesting season in southeast Florida. Although there are nearly 100 eggs per nest, experts predict that only 1 in 1000 will survive to adulthood. Therefore, it's important to aid in conservation efforts where you can. Residents and beachgoers are urged to turn lights off at night or use turtle friendly fixtures and bulbs, remove furniture from the beach before sundown, fill holes and knockdown sandcastles, place trash in designated areas and not disturb nesting turtles, hatchlings, nests or eggs.

If you do find a sea turtle in distress please call FWC's wildlife hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Palm Beach County begins lighting compliance efforts for sea turtles this month as well; should you have any questions you can contact ERM at 561-233-2400.



FLORIDA SCRUB LIZARD

Florida Scrub Lizards: Scrub lizards are thriving and the population is expanding at Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area. The lizards were part of a program to reintroduce the species. What makes Hypoluxo Scrub such a good habitat are the open sandy areas found throughout.



NESTING GREEN SEA TURTLE

Swallow-tailed Kites: After a winter holiday in Mato Grosso, Brazil, a swallow-tailed kite outfitted with a GPS-GSM transmitter, returned to his nesting site in Palm Beach County. The transmitter was installed by members of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) with assistance from ERM staff and funding from the Palm Beach Zoo. The journey lasted



SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

around a month and a half and included an ocean crossing of 930 miles and 38 hours without rest or food. Most kites only cross about 600 miles of the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatán Peninsula to Florida. For more information, visit arcinst.org/arci-tracking-studies.

Based on Palm Beach County (PBC) Emergency Order No. 2020-003, all PBC Natural Areas are closed to the public until further notice. This order will remain in effect until the expiration of Palm Beach County's Declaration of Emergency or until terminated or amended by further order. All events have been cancelled or postponed for the time being.

ERM will continue to monitor the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area and will communicate any changes in the status of our PBC Natural Areas as those changes are made.

Please be safe and continue to monitor our social media (@PBCERM on Facebook and Instagram) and website (www.pbcerm.com or www.pbcnaturalareas.com) for updates on the status of our PBC Natural Areas. For updates on other PBC operations and services, please visit the county's dedicated COVID-19 page: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.



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