

Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental
Resources Management
Project Status Report
May 2016

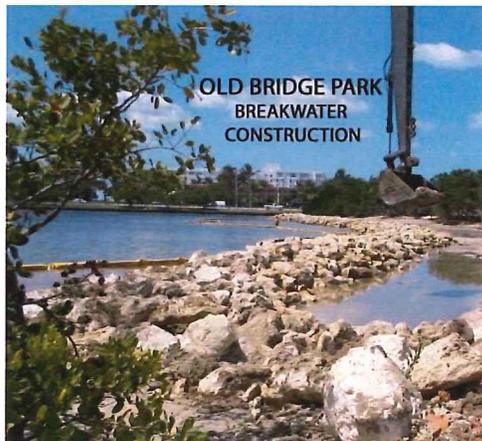
Cypress Creek Natural Area (Hatcher Tract):

Construction of the public use facilities for the Hatcher Tract portion of the Cypress Creek Natural Area has begun.

Prescribed Burns: Two prescribed burns covering approximately 362 acres were completed at the Hungryland Slough Natural Area.

Singer Island Shore Protection Project: A new permit application for the next dune maintenance and restoration project has been completed and submitted to FDEP for consideration. Anticipated construction for this project will take place during winter 2016/2017.

NENA: Bluegill Trail Phase 2 construction continues with contractors laying asphalt on the trail. Construction is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed in July.



Old Bridge Park: The project is 50% complete with the recent construction of four breakwaters and backfilling of sand behind the structures to create a living shoreline. Placement of armor stone along the southern shoreline to create a revetment is ongoing. The newly stabilized shoreline will provide mangrove, marsh and oyster habitat.

East Conservation Area: The 3.5 acre wetland mitigation restoration continues. Old nursery planted trees have been removed and the wetland scrape down to natural grade is complete.

Adventure Awaits: The Adventure Awaits program invites the public to experience the wild beauty of the County's natural areas with 13 events scheduled throughout the summer. A sunset photography workshop, sunset paddle, Growing Up Wild-Connecting Kids to Nature, and bike & hike are currently planned for the month of June. For more information about any of these **FREE** programs please visit us at www.pbcgov.com/erm or call (561) 233-2400.

Adopt-A-Natural Area (AANA): The County's Adopt-a-Natural Area program welcomed a local business and church as its two latest adopters. This program allows for individuals, civic groups, and

businesses to adopt a natural area and become a part of the local conservation efforts. For more information on the program, please visit us at www.pbcgov.com/erm or call (561) 233-2400.



Cargo Vessel to be Sunk as Artificial Reef: The M/V Ana Cecilia was the first vessel to move humanitarian goods from the U.S. to Cuba when trade restrictions were lifted in 2009 and now will serve as an artificial reef to be enjoyed by divers, fishermen, and marine life. In 2015, US Customs seized the M/V Ana Cecilia for illegal activity and approached ERM about making it an artificial reef. The vessel is now being prepped for an early summer deployment in 85' of water northeast of the Lake Worth Inlet. A celebration event will be held at the FPL Manatee Lagoon Eco-Discovery in June.

Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge: To collect

fisheries information on the County's largest estuary Palm Beach

County, and its partners in the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative, will hold the first-ever Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge throughout the month of June. The initiative is collaborating with the Snook & Gamefish Foundation and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, with support from Coastal Angler Magazine, to host the challenge as a fun, free, citizen science contest. For more information about the challenge, prize details, and how to register please visit www.LWLI.org/FishingChallenge.



ADVENTURE AWAITS

Firewalk-The Spirit of LBI
Tuesday, May 24 - 5:30-7:30pm
Sweetbay Natural Area

Newcastle-Yoga in the Natural Areas
Wednesday, May 25 - 5:00-6:30pm
Yamato Scrub Natural Area

Sunset Photography Workshop
Friday, June 10 - 6:00-9:00pm
Winding Waters Natural Area

Seaside Picnic
Wednesday, June 15 - 5:30-8:30pm
Fullerton Island-Jupiter

**Growing up Wild-Connecting Kids to Nature
Sheds in Your Backyard**
Saturday, June 18 - 9:00-11:00am
Royal Palm Beach Pines Natural Area

Lexshatchee Slough Hike and Hike
Saturday, June 25 - 8:00am-12:00pm
Lexshatchee Slough Natural Area

Seaside Picnic
Saturday, August 27 - 6:30-9:00am
Lexshatchee Slough Natural Area

**Growing up Wild-Connecting Kids to Nature
Bellington with a Purpose**
Thursday, July 14 - 9:00-11:00am
Delray Oaks Natural Area

Swamp Swamp Tramp
Wednesday, July 20 - 7:00-9:00am
Cypress Creek Natural Area

Sunset Photography Workshop
Friday, July 29 - 6:00-9:00pm
Lexshatchee Slough Natural Area

Sunset Firefly Hike
Thursday, August 4 - 7:00-9:00pm
Pine Glades Natural Area

**Growing up Wild-Connecting Kids to Nature
Volunteering Scavenger Hunt**
Thursday, August 11 - 9:00-11:00am
Frenchman's Forest Natural Area

Newcastle-Yoga in the Natural Areas
Sunday, August 14 - 6:30-9:00am
June Dunes Natural Area (Oceanfront)

For more information or to reserve your spot for these FREE events, please call (561)233-2400.
Check out our additional events at www.pbcgov.com/erm and on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/pbcerm/events



Connect with us! @PBCERM



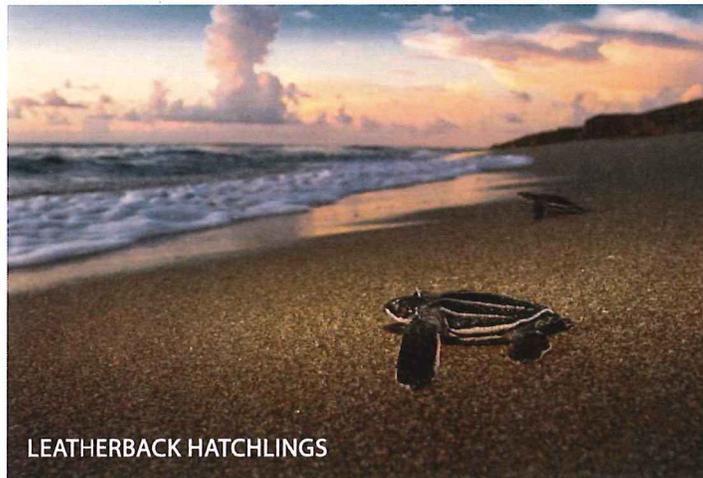
Agreement with the City of Pahokee to use part of the marina property as a staging site.

Lake Okeechobee Section 204 Funding: A draft Federal Interest Determination report has been received from the USACE, which indicates USACE interest in partnering with PBC to restore habitat in Lake Okeechobee.

Pahokee Marina Repair: Design work for repair/replacement of the marina docks is ongoing. The City of Pahokee is working to extend existing FEMA funding to repair the docks. Final engineering designs for the marina wave attenuation project are being prepared in support of the \$1M grant agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative

Grant: Palm Beach County is currently soliciting project proposals to provide collaborative support for a stronger Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI) legislative request and to assist local municipalities and special taxing districts in their efforts to improve water quality in the lagoon through projects such as habitat enhancement and restoration, storm water retrofits, or septic-to-sewer conversions. Please visit www.LWLI.org/grantprogram.asp for information.



LEATHERBACK HATCHLINGS

Sea Turtle Nesting: Sea turtle nesting season began March 1 and all three species of sea turtle are now nesting on Palm Beach County beaches. The first green sea turtle nests were reported last week. Green sea turtle numbers declined rapidly in Florida over the last few decades but in recent years have shown a tremendous recovery. Last year was the highest green turtle year since consistent record keeping

began.

Lake Worth Lagoon Photo Contest: Photographers are invited to submit their photos of Palm Beach County's largest estuary as part of the second annual Lake Worth Lagoon Photo Contest. Submissions must be received by **July 15**. Winning images in youth and adult categories will be featured in the 2017 Lake Worth Lagoon calendar to be distributed at the third annual LagoonFest in West Palm Beach on November 12. Complete contest details are available under "Photo Contest" at www.LagoonFest.com.

Snook Islands II: Fill placement was completed. A plan is in development to re-shape the island into mangrove, seagrass, and bird nesting habitat.

Torry Island Artificial Reef: A task order for construction of the artificial reef is being developed. Staff is drafting an Interlocal

Lake Worth Lagoon Bird Islands: Bird nesting is underway in central Lake Worth Lagoon. One pair of American Oystercatchers is nesting on the island at Bryant Park, and another at Grassy Flats. Least Tern nesting has exploded at the Grassy Flats site this year. Approximately 75 birds are using the island, with 30 nests counted so far this year. 2016 should be a good year for the birds at our habitat enhancement projects in the lagoon!

NESTING LEAST TERN AT GRASSY FLATS

