



Environmental Enhancement & Restoration Division

May 2009 Status Report

Manatee Protection: The manatee season in Palm Beach County ended on March 31st. Funding provided for additional on-water law enforcement in the County's waterways, as part of the implementation of the Manatee Protection Plan (MPP), has produced impressive results for the second year in the row. The 10 agencies participating in this effort logged more than 2000 additional hours, 2900 educational contacts, 1000 warnings and 600 citations in the speed zones. It is expected that this increased law enforcement presence during manatee season will improve speed zone compliance and reduce risks to manatees and boaters alike.

Ibis Isles Restoration Project: With all permits in hand, preparation of the site will commence on June 1st with relocation of oysters from the project area to an adjacent

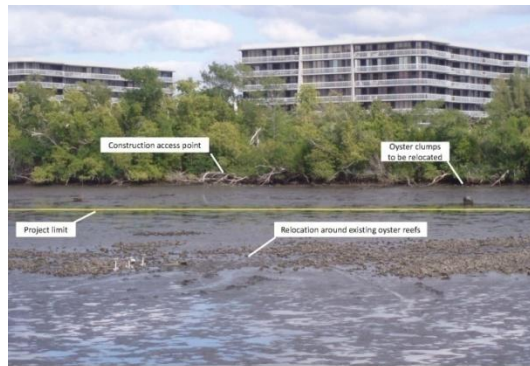


segment as his Master's degree thesis.

reef. Placement of sand is anticipated to begin June 22nd and continue through September.

Lake Ida Restoration: New wetland areas have been sculpted into the county park and are now being planted with native vegetation. Shoreline stabilization work will continue as new walkways and a pedestrian bridge are added to the project.

Nearshore Reef Mapping: Florida Atlantic University has developed a method to partially automate the digitized mapping of nearshore resources using rectified aerial photographs, thus greatly speeding up the process and reducing the costs. Through a new contract with PBC, a backlog of annual photography along our coastline will be analyzed and compared, and one student will be analyzing the data for the Jupiter to Palm Beach Inlet



IBIS ISLE RESTORATION PROJECT
- OYSTER RELOCATION -

Juno Beach Renourishment: Weeks Marine Inc. submitted the lowest bid for the Project at \$9,037,107 and is now under contract to begin the work in early November.

Dubois Park Redevelopment: The County awaits the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) comments on the County's Request for Additional Information (RAI) response submitted on May 1. The SFWMD has until June 1 to issue an additional RAI.

Jupiter/Carlin Beach Renourishment: Several tasks have been completed for the Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) application including beach fill design, total fill template volumes and the construction plan footprint. During June, the refinement of the borrow area design and sediment characterization will continue based on the recommendations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Also initiated was the development of permit drawings and the natural resources narrative. Submittal of the JCP is scheduled for the summer.

The County is working on amending the current Section 934 Report scope of work to include the required Beach fx economic model.

Jupiter Structures: FDEP provided comments on the second in a series of three FDEP reports (model calibration & verification). Sediment transport validation simulations are now being run on several structural alternatives.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project: In response to FDEP comments, a sediment depth analysis and relief characterization of the exposed hardbottom has been completed to revise the mitigation strategy. The foundation design survey, used to refine the construction plans for individual structure segments, has been completed. Components of the biological monitoring plan are being modified to incorporate some comments received as part of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Request for Additional Information (RAI) #5. Staff is finalizing the response to RAI #5 which will include the revised biological monitoring plan and revised marine turtle monitoring plan.

South Palm Beach/Lantana Erosion Control Project: Breakwater design characteristics are being modified to provide a more uniform beach response. The Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) engineering consultant submitted to the ACOE for review the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Statement of Work, QA/QC Plan, and Public Participation Plan. Public Scoping efforts have begun with the development of materials for public presentation and the project fact sheet. Staff is assisting the

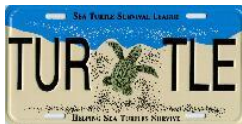


Town of Lantana with a planting plan for the dune area located behind their new sea wall.

South Lake Worth Inlet Restoration Projects: The contractor has begun driving concrete pilings for the sand transfer plant. A temporary bridge to Bird Island was constructed to begin preparations for seawall construction.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update: Leatherback nesting continues to increase and is currently 140% higher than the 5-year average and 47% higher than that documented during the record 2007 nesting season. Loggerhead nesting is similar to the 5-year average, but 8% lower than the 2008 nesting season. Sea turtle nesting season continues through October.

Sea Turtle License Plate Grant: A \$6,060 grant was received from the Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program to fund the production of educational materials designed to increase awareness regarding the cumulative impacts of artificial lighting on sea turtles. The Florida Sea Turtle Grants Program is funded from proceeds from the sale of the Florida Sea Turtle License Plate. Learn more at www.helpingseaturtles.org.



NENA Bluegill Trail: Geotechnical work necessary for the design of a new bridge across the SFWMD canal C-18 is underway.

NENA Pântano Trail: The Bicycle Greenways and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the Metropolitan Planning Organization ranked ERM's application to fund Phase 1 of this trail number three of the fifteen applications in competition for Transportation Enhancement funds in this year's cycle.

NENA Jesup Trail: County staff met this month with Martin County Environmentally Sensitive Lands program staff for an in-the-field review of options for cross-county connections. Martin County and the SFWMD own three sections of land that border Palm Beach County's Cypress Creek Natural Area. The Jesup Trail will run through this land to connect Riverbend Park with Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

South Cove: County staff participated in depositions and continues to prepare for the June 15th Chapter 120 Administrative Hearing for the DEP Environmental Resource Permit.

LWL Seagrass Fixed Transect Monitoring: The ninth year of seagrass monitoring was completed this month. Preliminary observations during the fixed transect monitoring suggested conditions were very similar to those documented in 2008. While at some of the transect seagrass continue to expand to the deeper depths, others remain unchanged. A detailed analysis of this year's results will be compiled into a report that will compare data from all monitoring years.

Peanut Island: The SFWMD approved an Environmental Resource Permit at their May 14th Governing Board meeting. With all permits in hand, work to include dredging the sand surrounding the boat docks and fishing pier, stabilization of the

eastern shoreline, and re-contour the swimming lagoon this expected to begin the first week of June.



Riviera Beach Nearshore Reef:

Nineteen rock structures have been placed to date using approximately 3,000 tons of limestone boulders spaced over a 1.5 acre area. Work will continue at this site over the summer months. Some of these reef pods

lie within 100 feet of shore and are easily accessible by snorkelers.

Boynton Beach-Ocean Ridge Mangrove Riprap: Now that the placement of approximately 4,000 tons of rock along the Intracoastal Waterway north of the Ocean Avenue Bridge is nearly finished, work crews are shifting their sites toward a new oyster reef at John's Island. The oyster reef project will likely take most of the summer to complete.



Mooring Buoys at the Breakers: A solicitation for bids is underway for installing 4 mooring buoys and 8 mooring pins offshore of the Breaker's Hotel in depths of 15' to 20'. The successful contractor will have until the end of July to complete this work. This Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funded effort will include the maintenance of the buoys for an additional 2 years post-placement.

Program Management: Staff participated in a Shore Protection Summit organized by Congressman Ron Klein.

FDOT Mitigation: A Joint Project Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation was approved by the BCC and preliminary design work is underway on a 7 acre, \$4.85 million seagrass & mangrove mitigation project to offset impacts from various bridge improvement projects.