

Palm Beach County Department of Environmental
Resources Management

Environmental Enhancement &
Restoration
Division

March 2009 Status
Report

**Boynton/Ocean
Ridge Mangrove
Protection**

A series of five breakwaters are being built along both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway just north of Ocean Avenue to protect the eroding shoreline. To date, about 670 tons of limestone boulders covering 20% of the project area have been installed.



Economic Stimulus Grant Applications

Staff are preparing funding applications for South Cove Environmental Restoration, Ibis Isles/John's Island Wetlands Restoration and Oyster Habitats, Stepping Stone Artificial Reefs, Stone Crab and Snapper Reefs in the Lake Worth Lagoon and the procurement and scuttling of a military vessel as an artificial reef. The funding requests are due to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by April 6th.

Juno Dunes Natural Area Environmental Restoration

Site grading is scheduled for completion by mid-April and the balance of the work, including the construction of the public use facilities and mangrove wetlands creation will begin this fall.



**Jupiter/Carlin
Structures**

A draft report detailing model calibration and verification as well

as a critical assessment of the modeling approach was submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for their review. This latest submittal is part of a series of three milestones in the initial design process. The first report included a site assessment, description of available models & data, and a plan to acquire calibration data. The final and third report will be submitted after review of the design alternatives is complete. The County expects to submit a Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) application for the structures project in August.

Jupiter/Carlin Renourishment

A negative response to the County's December 2008 request to use the original SDM (Storm Damage Model) for the required federal funding decision document is expected from Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) shortly. The Corp's new model, which is used to calculate the cost of the project as compared to its benefits, provides the same information at a much higher cost and delays the project schedule by several months.

The Jupiter Inlet District will begin dredging on April 7, placing material from their sand trap on the beach to the south.

South Lake Worth Inlet

Work on the infrastructure restoration project is underway and is expected to continue through October, 2010. Public access and parking will be limited throughout the construction period as required for public safety. Informational signs have been installed at Ocean Inlet Park. Schedule updates and progress information are available at our web site pbcgov.org/erm/coastal/shoreline/south-lake-worth-inlet/ and much of the work will be visible on our web-cam: pbcgov.org/webcams/slwi/. Staff provided an update of the project at a recent Manalapan Town

Council meeting.

South Palm Beach

The draft JCP application is under review. Field work to collect additional hardbottom edge measurements and the erosion control line field survey are scheduled for next month. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scope of work will be considered by the Board of County Commissioners on April 21. County and Town of Lantana staff met on site to coordinate planting of the project area. The Town will remove exotic vegetation from the back portion of their dune system before the County plants sea grapes, saw palmetto and sea oats.

Singer Island Erosion Control Project

An agency meeting was held to bring all permitting and resource agencies together and discuss the outstanding issues. As a result, ACOE initiated a Biological Assessment (BA) to submit to the resource agencies (USFWS, NMFS). To address all the issues raised at the meeting, ACOE requested the County draft a marine turtle monitoring plan and alternative analysis to incorporate into the assessment. The BA was completed and sent to the agencies on March 24th. The response to FDEP's Request for Additional Information (RAI) #3 was submitted on March 20th. A Compensatory Mitigation Plan to satisfy the agencies requirement to offset the impacts to exposed nearshore hardbottom from the breakwater structures was also provided.

Sea Turtle Nesting Update:

Sea turtle nesting season began on March 1st and is off to a great start.

Leatherback nests have already been recorded in Juno Beach, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, Palm Beach Shores, and Palm Beach, with additional nesting occurring each night. Sea



turtle nesting season continues through October 31st.

Juno Beach Renourishment:

A pre-bid meeting was held March 18th. Bids are due April 14th. Construction is planned to begin November 1st.

Ibis Isles Restoration Project

A response addressing the project's modifications was submitted to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and ACOE on March 5th. The modified project has been approved by the Town of Palm Beach.

Peanut Island

On March 24, a RAI response was submitted to SFWMD for the shoreline improvements and the lagoon enhancement. The Department is planning on completing this project before the upcoming storm season.

LWLI

The two initial Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Working Group meetings have had good attendance and interest from the public, stakeholders, and partnering agencies.

NENA Bluegill Trail (Canal C-18 Levee between Riverbend

Park and Sandhill Crane Park)

The trail project is under review by SFWMD's Right of Way Division. The project takes advantage of the fact that there is a 50-60 foot wide levee on the east bank of the canal that is elevated as much as ten feet above the natural ground elevation where it passes through the County's Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area. The project involves resurfacing a ten foot wide strip along the levee top to furnish a stable surface for use by cyclists and those in wheel chairs.

NENA Pântano Trail

Pântano Trail is the NENA connector being planned to provide hikers, off-road bicyclists and horseback riders a route from Riverbend Park to Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Sixty people got an advance view of a portion of this trail March 7th during a Florida Bike Month NENA bike-N-hike event.

NENA Jesup Trail

Jesup Trail is the NENA connector being planned to provide hikers, off-road bicyclists and horseback riders a route from Riverbend Park to Jonathan Dickinson State Park. On its way there, the trail is proposed to pass through parts of the Loxahatchee Wild and Scenic River Corridor, the County's Cypress Creek Natural Area and conservation lands in Martin County jointly owned by the South Florida Water Management District and Martin County. Still in the early planning stages, NENA partners are working to incorporate Jesup Trail into



various management plans for the affected conservation lands.

