



Phil Foster Park Artificial Reef and Snorkel Trail

Lake Worth Lagoon

- 20 miles long, stretching from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge.
- Largest estuary in Palm Beach County.
- Separated from the ocean by Singer Island and Palm Beach Island.
- Two permanent, man-made inlets.

Project Location

- Phil Foster Park, 900 E. Blue Heron Blvd., Riviera Beach.
- South of the Blue Heron Bridge.
- South of the park's life-guarded beach area in a buoyed boater exclusion area.

What are Artificial Reefs?

- Man-made habitats built from rocks, steel ships, concrete structures and pre-fabricated modules.
- Placed in areas away from natural reefs, creating new marine life communities.

Benefits

- Increased reef habitat benefiting hundreds of species of fish and other marine organisms.
- Increased recreational opportunities for both beginner and experienced snorkelers and divers.
- Increased opportunities for environmental education and ecotourism.

Project Location



Photo credits: Elaine Blum

Project Overview

- Constructed an artificial reef spread across a two-acre area just south of Phil Foster Park in Lake Worth Lagoon. This location was selected due to its proximity to the Lake Worth Inlet and clear oceanic water.
- The reef consists of discrete piles of limestone boulders and prefabricated reef modules placed in 6 to 10 feet of water.
- 600 tons of rock were used to build the 800 foot-long snorkel trail. The various shaped piles are separated with a trail of smaller boulders.
- Six concrete reef modules, two tons each, were deployed between the piles of rock. These unique structures contain tunnels, half bowls, indents, interior cavities and ledges.
- The design of the rock reef includes ledges and small habitat spaces for fish, octopus, seahorse and other types of sea life.
- A kiosk constructed near the shoreline includes information to help snorkelers identify various sea creatures.
- Snorkelers have easy access from the Park's shoreline and parking is free.
- The project was completed in August 2012.

Project Partners

Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management and Parks and Recreation Department.



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