



# Snook Islands Natural Area

## A Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration Project

### 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

- In the Lagoon adjacent to the Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course.

### The Problem

- In the 1920s, dredging and filling along the edge of the Lagoon left deep holes. Over time, they accumulate sediments, become devoid of oxygen, and provide little habitat value.

### Benefits

- More seagrass beds in the Lagoon, providing a food source and nursery habitat for many species.
- Improved habitat for birds using the open areas of shoreline and mudflats.
- Improved habitat for fish. Anglers report catching numerous large snook and other desirable fish species around the islands.



### Project Overview

- Restored 100 acres of wetland habitat in the Lake Worth Lagoon.
- Filled deep holes with 1.2 million cubic yards of sand from Peanut Island that had been previously dredged to maintain the Intracoastal Waterway and inlets.
- Graded fill to wetland elevations, creating four islands and submerged land suitable for seagrass.
- Eliminated erosion and created a natural shoreline along 1.2 linear miles of the Lagoon.
- Removed exotic plant species like Australian pine, Brazilian pepper and seaside mahoe, from five acres of shoreline and restored 1.7 acres of existing mangrove fringe.
- Planted 11 acres of mangroves and 3.8 acres of spartina (commonly known as cordgrass) along the shoreline and on the islands.
- Stabilized mangrove planting areas with 28,000 tons of limestone boulders.
- Created 2.2 acres of oyster reefs.
- Restored 50 acres of shallow sub-tidal habitats to promote seagrass colonization.
- The Snook Islands Natural Area was completed in 2005.
- Public use amenities include:
  - Boardwalk and gazebo.
  - Fishing pier.
  - Two educational kiosks.
  - Three small day-use docks to accommodate six boats including a water taxi.

### Project Partners

PBC Department of Environmental Resources Management, Florida Inland Navigation District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, City of Lake Worth



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Department of Environmental Resources Management  
2300 North Jog Road - Fourth Floor, West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
Phone: 561-233-2400 [www.pbcgov.com/erm](http://www.pbcgov.com/erm)

