



South Cove 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

- Within the City of West Palm Beach, north of Royal Park Bridge, adjacent to Flagler Drive.

The Problem

- Accumulated muck sediments within the dredged hole provides little habitat value.
- Loose, fine-grain, organic-rich muck sediments are easily resuspended causing increased turbidity which impacts surrounding habitats.

The Solution

- Cap the muck sediments with clean sand.
- Create mangrove, seagrass, and oyster habitat.

Benefits

- Increased nursery areas and habitat for fisheries, benthic organisms, and wildlife.
- Improved water quality.
- Increased opportunities for environmental education, recreation, and ecotourism.



Project Plan View



Mangrove Islands Taking Shape



Project Components



View From the Boardwalk

Project Overview

- Capped (covered and contained) muck sediments located in an existing anoxic (lacking-oxygen) dredged hole with over 150,000 cubic yards of sand.
- Graded sand to wetland elevations, creating three intertidal red mangrove/saltmarsh cordgrass islands and submerged land suitable for seagrass.
- Planted about 5,000 red mangroves and 40,000 saltmarsh cordgrass plants on the islands.
- Stabilized the islands with more than 9,500 tons of limestone boulders.
- Created over 6 acres of habitat to support local fisheries, wading and shorebirds, manatees, and sea turtles:
 - 2 acres of red mangrove/saltmarsh cordgrass habitat
 - 3.5 acres of seagrass habitat
 - about 1 acre of rock revetment/oyster reef
- Constructed a 556-foot elevated boardwalk, observation deck and educational kiosk for public use.
- Project completion – September 2012

Project Partners

- Palm Beach County, City of West Palm Beach, Florida Inland Navigation District, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



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