



# Lake Worth Lagoon

## Overview

### What You Can Do to Help Lake Worth Lagoon

- Become informed about Lake Worth Lagoon. Review the current Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan and learn about habitat restoration projects in the lagoon.  
[www.pbcgov.com/erm/lakes/estuarine/lake-worth-lagoon](http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/lakes/estuarine/lake-worth-lagoon)
- Learn more about the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative.  
[www.LWLI.org](http://www.LWLI.org)
- Sign up to receive the Lake Worth Lagoon E-News to get updates on lagoon management, research, restoration efforts, and volunteer opportunities.  
[www.LWLI.org](http://www.LWLI.org)
- Create a Florida-Friendly Yard with native plants.  
[www.FloridaYards.org](http://www.FloridaYards.org)
- Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals wisely.
- Be a responsible boater.
- Be an ethical angler.
- Dispose of waste properly and recycle whenever possible.

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### The Lagoon

Lake Worth Lagoon is...

- Palm Beach County's largest estuary, a place where salt and fresh waters mix.
- separated from the Atlantic Ocean by Palm Beach and Singer islands.
- connected to the ocean by two permanent, man-made inlets: Lake Worth Inlet and South Lake Worth Inlet (also known as Boynton Inlet).
- 20 miles long and about a half mile wide.
- surrounded by 13 waterfront communities from North Palm Beach in the north to Ocean Ridge in the south.
- a valuable urban estuary, which is home to...
  - seagrass beds, which cover about 1700 acres.
  - mangroves, which cover more than 290 acres.
  - manatees and juvenile sea turtles, which are present year round.
  - several major oyster reefs.
  - a variety of wading birds, migratory songbirds and raptors.
  - more than 250 documented fish species.
  - numerous invertebrates, such as crabs.

Lake Worth Lagoon was...

- historically a freshwater lake called "Hypoluxo," meaning "water all around—no get out," by the Seminole Indians
- used by pioneers who settled in the area in the 1870s and who constructed the first stable inlet in 1877.

### The Challenges

Altered by human activities over the past 100 years, the lagoon faces many challenges, including stormwater runoff, muck deposition, freshwater discharges, pollution and loss of habitat.

### The Restoration

- [The Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan](#) summarizes progress made toward understanding, restoring and enhancing the lagoon ecosystem and charts the course for continuing improvements.
- [The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative](#) is a multiagency and stakeholder collaborative that provides support for increasing awareness of the lagoon and its valuable resources, and for carrying out action plans and projects outlined in the management plan.
- Since 1998, more than \$16.5 million in Florida legislative funding has been combined with local and federal matching funds to support 45 projects, totaling more than \$76 million, to benefit water quality and habitat in the lagoon. More than 250 acres of mangrove, seagrass and oyster habitat has been restored.
- For more than 20 years, government agencies, community organizations and individuals have worked to improve the lagoon's water quality, restore wildlife habitat, prevent pollution and get the community involved in taking care of the lagoon.



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Published August 2014

