



Summer 2012

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Manatee Patrol Program Earns National Award

Palm Beach County's Manatee Enhanced Patrol Program has received a 2012 National Association of Counties Achievement Award. The awards program recognizes new and innovative methods to carry out county services and programs. PBC ERM is charged with implementing a state-approved plan to protect the Florida manatee. Ongoing efforts include a collaborative effort between county, state, and local law enforcement agencies to increase patrols in manatee protection speed zones. To learn more, read the entire [press release](#).



Two Down, One to Go: South Cove Natural Area Nears Completion

Construction is ongoing with two mangrove islands complete and a third under construction along with the oyster reef, mangrove shoreline planter, and boardwalk. Mangroves and spartina have been planted on the two completed islands. Project completion is scheduled for July. To learn more, read the [South Cove Natural Area Project Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#) and the Palm Beach Post article, [Lagoon Project Restoring Natural Life to Waterway](#).



Contractor Selected for Snook Islands Phase II/ Bryant Park Wetlands

Project bids were opened on March 20 and a contractor was selected for the job. The project contract goes before the PBC Board of County Commissioners for approval on June 19, and construction is expected to begin in early July. The project should take approximately one year to complete. Read the [Snook Islands Phase II/Bryant Park Wetlands Project Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#).



Underwater Snorkeling Trail Coming to Phil Foster Park

This summer, an artificial reef spread across a 2-acre area just south of Phil Foster Park in the Lagoon will be constructed. Reefs will consist of discrete piles of limestone boulders and prefabricated reef modules. The design of each reef will include ledges and small habitat spaces for fish, octopus, seahorse and other types of sea life. The reefs will be spaced to create an underwater snorkel trail. To learn more, read the [Phil Foster Park Artificial Reef and Snorkel Trail Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#).



Peanut Island Snorkel Reef and Breakwater Enhancements

The Peanut Island snorkel reef and breakwaters will be augmented this summer. Work includes removing some rock boulders to increase flow to the snorkel reef. The rock will be relocated to fortify existing breakwaters and construct one new breakwater on the east side of the island. The rock formations are a great place to snorkel and observe many species of fish & invertebrates.



Grassy Flats Project Gains Partner Support

PBC ERM is working with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop a \$1 million proposal for funding of the Grassy Flats project through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The proposal includes letters of support from the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, and the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. Applications are due at the end of June and funding will be awarded in January 2013. To learn more, read the [Grassy Flats Restoration Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#).



Surveying Seagrass From the Sky

Aerial surveys are an effective tool to determine current seagrass locations and changes over time. This summer, the entire county will be flown and seagrasses will be mapped using color aerial photography. These 2012 maps will be compared to aerial digital imagery acquired in 2007 to document significant trends in the status of this important resource. To learn more, visit PBC ERM's [Lake Worth Lagoon](#) web page.



Seagrass Transect Surveys Continue

To learn more about species type, health, and whether selected seagrass beds are stable, expanding or receding over time, researchers are conducting fixed transect seagrass monitoring in the Lagoon. Nine transects throughout the Lagoon have been monitored every summer since the year 2000. The 2011 survey showed an increase in seagrass abundance since 2010. Overall, it was the third highest frequency of occurrence recorded during the entire 12-year monitoring period. Stay tuned to see what this year's data reveals.

Study Finds Little Munyon Island Area Important to Green Sea Turtles

During a six year study on the Lagoon's sea turtle population, turtles were observed 560 times and 82 turtles captured. Research results indicate that the Little Munyon Island area is a valuable developmental habitat for juvenile green turtles, the turtles are primarily eating seagrasses, and turtles using Lake Worth Lagoon are born on beaches throughout the Western Hemisphere, some as far as 6,000 miles away in the middle of the South Atlantic. This study also documented health of turtles by counting cases of fibropapillomatosis (FP), a disease that causes tumors on a turtle's body. About 40% of turtles captured show external signs of FP. To view the report, visit PBC ERM's [Lake Worth Lagoon](#) web page.



LWLI Working Groups Are Updating Lagoon Management Plan

Participants of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative's three Working Groups (Habitat, Water, and Public Outreach) are beginning to update the March 2008 Management Plan. This is a great time to get involved. Each group is documenting the accomplishments made over the past five years and identifying new goals for the future. To learn more, please visit www.LWLI.org for Working Group contact information and to view the 2008 Management Plan.



"Edward the Kayak Guy" Takes You on A Video Journey Through the Lagoon

The new 40-minute video, "Lake Worth Lagoon: Discover a Local Treasure", features Edward Carr, Channel 20 videographer/producer, as "Edward the Kayak Guy" who takes the viewer on a video journey to explore the Lagoon. The video focuses on the Lagoon's history, ecology, and restoration. It features on-site interviews with County staff and local experts who have intimate knowledge of the Lagoon. Go to the [PBC Channel 20](#) to view the video online and to see the "Program Guide" for dates and times the video will air.



New "Paddling Treasures" Brochure

The new [Paddling Treasures: A Guide to Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River Estuary](#) brochure highlights kayak launch points and environmental restoration projects. The brochure also includes GPS coordinates, paddling tips, resources, and suggested paddling adventures. The brochure is now available online. Hard copies will be available in mid-July. To request a copy contact Alyssa Dodd, PBC ERM, at (561) 233-2448 or ADodd@pbcgov.org.



Thank You Lagoon Cleanup Volunteers!

Various cleanup events were hosted throughout April as part of the [Great American Cleanup](#). Lake Worth Lagoon Cleanup sites included Munyon Island (North Palm Beach), Phil Foster Park (Riviera Beach), Summa Beach (West Palm Beach), Bryant Park (Lake Worth), Boat Club Park (Boynton Beach), and Ocean Inlet Park (Ocean Ridge). Thank you to all the local organizations, agencies, municipalities, and individuals who participated!



"Kayak to Cleanup": LagoonKeepers.org Keeping Our Waters Clean & Safe

As a card carrying member of LagoonKeepers.org you may go six different locations to access kayaks to use for FREE, but there is a catch. When you see trash pick it up! Send in pictures of your new found treasures and you're entered into a monthly drawings. To learn more visit LagoonKeepers.org.



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Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

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