

NAME: Indian River Lagoon

LOCATION: Brevard and Indian River Counties, Florida

ACRES/RIVER MILES: 47.5 acres

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR(S):

Marine Resources Council
Florida Department of Transportation (DOT)
Indian River Lagoon Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project is to restore 47.5 acres of estuarine habitat in the Indian River Lagoon by removing invasive species, such as Brazilian pepper, and planting red and white mangroves. Invasive species will be removed using the basal bark and cut stump method. Once the invasive species are removed, 4,500 smaller red mangroves and 300 large red and white mangroves will be planted. The larger mangroves will be established within 30 to 90 days and will immediately provide habitat for aquatic species and birds.

EXPECTED BENEFITS:

The Indian River Lagoon has long been purported to be one of the most diverse estuaries in North America and is an Estuary of National Significance. It is the home of more protected species than any estuary in the U.S. The restored area will support over 50 rare, threatened or endangered species including the West Indian manatee, the Florida scrub jay, Johnson seagrass, and seven species of fish. This project supports the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans for the Indian River Lagoon and the Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan. The mangroves will reduce erosion, filter runoff, and improve water quality. They will also help reduce wave and wind energy.

STATUS: Construction