



The Intracoastal Waterway Plan for Palm Beach County is a multi-tiered, multi-agency document that embodies scores of different programs and projects. Within each of the six topic chapters, a series of generalized findings and recommendations is set forth. There are many on-going programs and projects that are supported in the recommendations, particularly with regards to the protection of natural systems, recreation and environmental enhancement, and public access. In addition to these, this Implementation chapter highlights a series of key projects that should be prioritized in the next five to ten years.

The marine industry was of particular focus during the charrette, and accordingly, this report suggests special measures be taken to better understand the industry, assist with job creation, protect with marine industrial districts and/or “working waterfronts” designation, creation of a “megayacht mile” overlay, and establishment of a task force to commandeer these efforts. Participants also strongly emphasized a series of marina villages, complete with water taxi service to interconnect them, and a special marketing/management effort is recommended to aid in the development of these uses. Three of the marina village projects are new concepts identified through the charrette, and each needs special planning to further refine the projects. Increased public access to the ICW was a strong point of consensus, and this report recommends expanding public access via waterfront development and redevelopment, the creation of street-end parks, and enhanced public recreational amenities with environmental restoration efforts.

The implementation of this plan is a long-term undertaking that will require interagency agreement to develop appropriate partnerships, action plans, time frames, and funding. Thus, a County Intracoastal Waterway Commission is suggested to coordinate these efforts and assist with the realization of the plan. A county-wide effort is also critical to assist with the funding competitiveness of projects, to elevate them from local to regional in nature.

IMPLEMENTATION

Regulatory Overview

The Intracoastal Waterway Plan for Palm Beach County is a multi-tiered, multi-agency document that embodies scores of different programs and projects. Each of the six topic chapters contains a listing of generalized findings and recommendations. The plan supports the continuation of many of Palm Beach County’s extensive, on-going programs related specifically to the protection of natural systems, recreation and environmental enhancement, and public access. This Implementation chapter highlights a series of key projects which should be prioritized in the next five to ten years. While some projects can be initiated immediately, others will require interagency agreement to develop appropriate partnerships, action plans, time frames, and funding. With the continued discussion and adoption of this plan, Palm Beach County can select consensus projects for advance planning and design such that they can be positioned for immediate action as funding opportunities present themselves. Individual projects will also be more competitive for regional, state, and national funding as they are components of a larger-scale plan, developed with the extensive public participation that granting agencies reward.

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Establish a “Working Waterfronts Task Force” to assemble and track marine industrial uses along the ICW and work with local governments to develop model Comprehensive Plan policies and land development regulations to protect working waterfronts. This commission should include participation by industry groups and the Business Development Board. Financial incentives such as deferred property tax programs or industrial land trusts should be explored as well as a state “working waterfronts” designation.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO & Planning Local Governments (particularly Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach)</p> <p>Collaborating entities: BDB, Marine Industries Association</p>	<p>1 – 2 Years</p>
<p>Explore a Marine Industry Cluster. A set of key industry sectors should be identified and examined, including a County-wide effort to track the number and classifications of marine-related jobs (by North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] Code) over multiple years to develop a better understanding of this job sector. County and regional entities should be encouraged to officially recognize marine industries to be cultivated.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO</p> <p>Collaborating entities: TCRPC BDB</p>	<p>2 – 5 Years</p>

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Establish a “Megayacht Mile” overlay from the Blue Heron Bridge, south through Riviera Beach into West Palm Beach. This effort should be coordinated with the development of a marine industry cluster by the Palm Beach Economic Development Office. An inventory and assessment of existing and necessary working waterfront lands, uses, skills, and products should be developed for this area, and a funding program should be developed to identify capital improvements, industry incentives, recruitment, and training. This overlay should be amended into the Comprehensive Plans of Palm Beach County, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach and incorporated into the TCRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO & Planning Local Governments (particularly Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach), Industry Groups</p> <p>Collaborating Entities: TCRPC BDB</p>	<p>3 – 6 years</p>
<p>Create a Palm Beach County Intracoastal Waterway Commission to oversee implementation of this plan, including management and marketing of the waterway. This Commission should coordinate and assist in implementation of public policy and strategic projects for key waterfront areas, including benchmarking indicators over time. A common signage and marketing theme for the County’s marina villages should be developed, including thematic signage, common amenity features, coordinated water taxi services (e.g., stop locations, multi-modal interconnectivity with upland transit services), and special events coordination. This Commission should become an advocate for the funding and implementation of the recommendations of this plan.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO, Local Governments, Tourist Development Council</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Create a workforce development program for the marine industries sector to support and expand the industry. A regional assessment should be conducted to assess marine industries workforce readiness, and training programs should be developed for current and future employees. The program components should include development of hands-on internship and apprenticeship programs, hands-on training workshops (on-site and off-site) to introduce potential employees to marine industry opportunities, and coordination with local colleges and technical schools. The program should also evaluate creation of a region-wide funding mechanism to support the development of specifically targeted marine industry job training programs.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County Workforce Alliance Palm Beach County EDO Industry Groups</p> <p>Collaborating entities: Palm Beach EDO TCRPC</p>	<p>2 – 4 years</p>
<p>Develop marine district overlay zones, in conjunction with working waterfront designations, to identify supporting ancillary uses and promote their co-location with marine industrial uses. The County Economic Development Office should assist in identifying appropriate cluster industries (technical, mechanical, etc.) with synergistic products and services as well as supporting workforce housing.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: Marine Industries Association, BDB</p>	<p>1 – 2 Years</p>
<p>Conduct a planning analysis to further evaluate the Palm Beach Gardens/North Palm Beach “Four Corners” marina village concept. The City and Village should initiate a dialogue with property owners to gauge interest, timing, and potential for the concept along with identification of any necessary amendments to the City/Village comprehensive plans and land development regulations.</p>	<p>City of Palm Beach Gardens Village of North Palm Beach</p> <p>Collaborating entity: Palm Beach County</p>	<p>1 – 2 Years</p>

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Conduct a planning analysis to further evaluate the Lake Worth “Jewel Cove” marina village concept. The City should review ownership restrictions associated with the old Lake Worth Bridge and develop a specialty zoning overlay to allow its redevelopment with limited concessions. The City should initiate a dialogue with the private owner (southeast quadrant) to gauge interest in the concept. Working with Palm Beach County DERM, the City should initiate discussions to install primitive camping facilities where appropriate on Snook Island and increase public access. The City should also investigate potential expanded canoe/kayak access along Bryant Park (southwest quadrant).</p>	<p>City of Lake Worth Palm Beach County DERM</p>	<p>1 – 2 Years</p>
<p>Conduct a planning analysis to further develop the Lantana Public Point. The City should consider locations for water taxi stops, upland support amenities, and integration with a potential FEC corridor station on Dixie Highway.</p>	<p>Town of Lantana</p>	<p>1 – 2 Years</p>
<p>Initiate a water taxi working group to explore County-wide water taxi service. This working group should include applicable local governments, transit providers, and water taxi operators. The water taxi “Recommended Network” map in this report should be further refined, with additional potential water taxi stop locations and land use data from local governments to identify transit nodes and multi-modal connections. Further analysis should be conducted to determine potential demand, market, headways, operating speeds, and optimal water taxi stop spacing. Local governments should specify transit-supportive criteria in land development regulations applicable to water taxi nodes. The recommendations of this group should be incorporated into the TCRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to enable federal funding.</p>	<p>MPO Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: US Coast Guard Palm Tran Tourist Development Council FDOT</p>	<p>1 – 3 Years</p>

IMPLEMENTATION

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Explore a high-speed ferry service and “short sea shipping” to/from the Port of Palm Beach. Analysis of key high-speed routes (e.g., Fort Lauderdale, Miami, the Florida Keys, and the Bahamas) as well as local potential shipping destinations should be conducted. In conjunction with the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office, the Port of Palm Beach should develop a request for service providers for these types of services to be initiated at the Port. This project would especially complement the on-going redevelopment effort in Riviera Beach.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO Port of Palm Beach</p>	<p>2 – 5 Years</p>
<p>Develop a capital improvements program to develop the recommendations of this Intracoastal Waterway Master Plan. Input should be obtained from local governments and agencies, and key capital investments that generate the greatest economic and fiscal benefits should be prioritized. This CIP should be incorporated as appropriate into the Palm Beach County and local government comprehensive plans, and key programs should be incorporated into the TCRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to improve competitiveness for federal funding.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County EDO as lead with DERM, Planning & Parks/Recreation; Palm Beach MPO; Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: TCRPC</p>	<p>1 – 3 years</p>
<p>Require expanded public access to the ICW with new development and redevelopment. Local governments along the ICW should develop minimum public access requirements for new development and redevelopment, enabling direct public access to the waterway via publicly controlled easements or land dedications. Entitlements, including specifically increases in density, intensity, and building heights should be coupled with public access requirements. Special land development regulations should be adopted to ensure proper transitional relationships and urban design between private uses and public access points.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County & municipalities; develop through IPARC & League of Cities</p>	<p>1 – 2 years</p>

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Identify street-end park opportunities and develop regulations to require their establishment and maintenance. Given the diminishing amount of public waterfront property, local governments should develop street-end park programs including identification of rights-of-way that terminate at the ICW, Comprehensive Plan policies to require their preservation and prevent their abandonment, and locally appropriate land development regulations to require appropriate design and orientation of neighboring private uses, such that “eyes on the park” are created with buildings fronting the subject park properties.</p>	<p>Local Governments</p>	<p>1 year</p>
<p>Develop a detailed greenways/blueways mapping and information system with identification of launches (both formal and informal), portage locations, parking areas, and support facilities should be developed. A multi-disciplinary users group should be formed, ancillary to the MPO (Bicycle/Greenways/Pedestrian Advisory Committee) or PBC Parks/Recreation, including public agencies, local governments, private sector interests, non-profits, and citizens for broad information gathering and system development. Common signage and trail mapping information should be assembled and developed, linked into the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau “Palm Beach County Naturally” advertising and marketing. Interconnections with the East Coast Greenway should be identified, prioritized, and marked accordingly.</p>	<p>MPO or Palm Beach County Parks/Recreation as lead</p> <p>Collaborating agencies: SFWMD, FDEP, Chamber, TDC, PBC DERM, TCRPC, user groups</p>	<p>1 - 2 Years</p>

IMPLEMENTATION

Action	Participants	Time Frame
<p>Develop a public access program for spoil islands and other restoration efforts within and along the ICW. This program should include prototypical designs for primitive camping sites, canoe/kayak launch sites, trails, and educational signage and kiosks. A multi-disciplinary team should guide this effort, with participation from agencies, non-profits, users groups, and commercial interests.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County DERM & Parks/Recreation Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: FDEP, USACE, SFWMD, non-profit organizations, user groups</p>	<p>2 – 5 Years</p>
<p>Install portage facilities where appropriate to expand access by non-motorized watercraft. Conflicts with control structures and low bridges should be identified, and a standard portage design should be developed, with participation by regulatory agencies, for installation at points of conflict.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County Parks/Recreation as lead with input from Blueways / Greenways Task Force</p> <p>Collaborating agencies: SFWMD, FDEP, PBC DERM</p>	<p>2 - 5 years</p>
<p>Develop a County-wide plan to address sea level rise. Standards should be developed to establish minimum design criteria for all infrastructure and construction adjacent to the ICW. This plan should also include standards for new and upgraded seawalls with environmental enhancements.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County DERM Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: FDEP, PBC Planning & Engineering</p>	<p>2 – 4 years</p>
<p>Develop a stormwater utility with a coverage area, at a minimum, inclusive of properties within a half-mile east and west of the ICW. This utility should be operated through the Palm Beach County Utilities Department with local government and agency coordination. In addition to stormwater treatment facilities, this utility should develop upland and in-water treatment facilities to slow and treat canal discharges prior to their entrance into the ICW.</p>	<p>Palm Beach County Utilities, Local Governments</p> <p>Collaborating entities: SFWMD, FDEP, PBC DERM, Planning, and Engineering</p>	<p>2 – 5 years</p>