

Planning and Design for Resiliency, Reliability, Acceptability, and Sustainability

Nature-based Breakwater Islands for the Fort Pierce Marina

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FORT PIERCE MARINA, FLORIDA

CHALLENGE: Planning, Permitting and Constructing Coastal Storm Damage Reduction with Sustainability under Difficult Site and Regulatory Conditions

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Marina Location and Layout



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2004 Hurricane Season



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Project Challenges

Site Conditions

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- Strong tidal currents
- Dynamic flood shoal
- Seagrass
- **Permit Constraints**
- State policy barrier
- Project character and scale
- Essential fish habitat
- Aquatic Preserve



Project Planning

Rebuilding Options

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- Rebuild like original
 - Risk of future damage
 - Future reconstruction funding issues
- Rebuild with storm protection
 - Explore FEMA Hazard Damage
 Mitigation funding
 - Improved project with reduced risks



Project Planning

FEMA Hazard Damage Mitigation Funding requires:

- Technical feasibility and effectiveness
- Cost effectiveness

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- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Environmental planning/historic preservation
- Statutory, regulatory and other requirements

Project Planning – Stakeholder Coordination

Regulatory

- USACE
 - USFWS
 - NOAA NMF
 - NOAA PRD
 - EPA
- FDEP
 - FWC
 - State Lands
 - ERP
 - SHPO
 - Governor and Cabinet

Other Stakeholders

- FEMA
- FIND
- FDOT
- St Lucie County
 - Harbor Advisory Committee
 - Port Authority
 - Artificial Reef Program
 - St Lucie Waterfront Council
- FDOT
- Audubon Society
- State and federal legislators



Planning – Technical Feasibility/Effectiveness

Project Design Objectives

- Provide 100-yr wave/current protection
- Reduce basin currents
- Minimize changes in sedimentation patterns
- Improve access channel navigability
- Protect seagrass beds
- Provide for manatee transit
- Provide ecological enhancements with structural performance
- Protection of adjacent city waterfront



Planning – Technical Feasibility/Effectiveness

Hydrodynamic Modeling

- Finite element
- Model domain of 3 by 25 mi





Planning – Cost Effectiveness

Concept Design Development



FEMA Storm Return Period Evaluation

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Planning – Technical Feasibility/Effectiveness

Conceptual Design Development





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Planning – Technical Feasibility/Effectiveness

Physical/Numerical Modeling







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Planning – Technical Feasibility/Effectiveness

Technical Reviews

- FEMA independent technical reviewer
- USACE
 - Local office
 - District office
 - Engineer Research and Development Center
- FL DEP
 - District office
 - HQ
 - Florida Governor and Cabinet
- FDOT
- Final Construction Plan Reviews





Planning – Environmental

Field Investigations

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- Marine resource surveys
- Bathymetric, sidescan and magnetometer surveys
- Sediment and water sampling and testing





Planning - Environmental

Permitting Issues

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- Initial agency reaction
- State sovereign submerged land policy
- Precedence issue
- Technical concerns
 - Active flood shoal
 - Marine resources
 - Essential fish habitat
 - Aquatic preserve
 - Marine resource valuations
- EA/FONSI



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Environmental Planning

Mitigation

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- Most of environmental enhancements don't count
- Extensive off-site mitigation
- Extensive monitoring
 - Turbidity Control / Monitoring Plan
 - Island Performance Plan
 - Habitat Creation Plans
 - Habitat Monitoring Plan
 - Island Maintenance Plan
 - Four Mitigation Project Plans



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Planning - Environmental

Mosaic Habitat Creation

- Total island area = 15 acres
- Total habitat created = 21.7 acres
 - Oyster habitat = 1.3 acres
 - Artificial reef /riprap substrate = 6.3 acres
 - Mangrove communities = 1.5 acres
 - Coastal dune habitat = 2.2 acres
 - Seagrass recruitment = 8.1 acres
 - Shorebird habitat = 2.3 acres









"I was very impressed by the breakwater habitat islands - I've never seen a proposal with such a welldesigned net environmental benefit before; you really did a great job." – Alexis Meyer, NOAA – NMFS Protected Resources Division



Habitat Developing







Design



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Design - Marine Mattresses



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TETRA TECH **Design – Structure Section** Armor stone Marine mattress Geotextile tubes

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Design – Tee Groins





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Construction Monitoring

Special Construction Issues

- Construction sequence
- Proximity to marine resources
- Cost control

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- City purchased materials
- FEMA budget limits





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Construction Progress



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Construction Progress



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Breakwater Island Applications

Shallow Water

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Wave-affected Areas

QUESTIONS ?