

SAWFISH ISLAND FIND/ERM RESTORATION PROJECT

Carolyn Beisner and Katie Steinhoff¹

FLORIDA INLAND
NAVIGATION DISTRICT

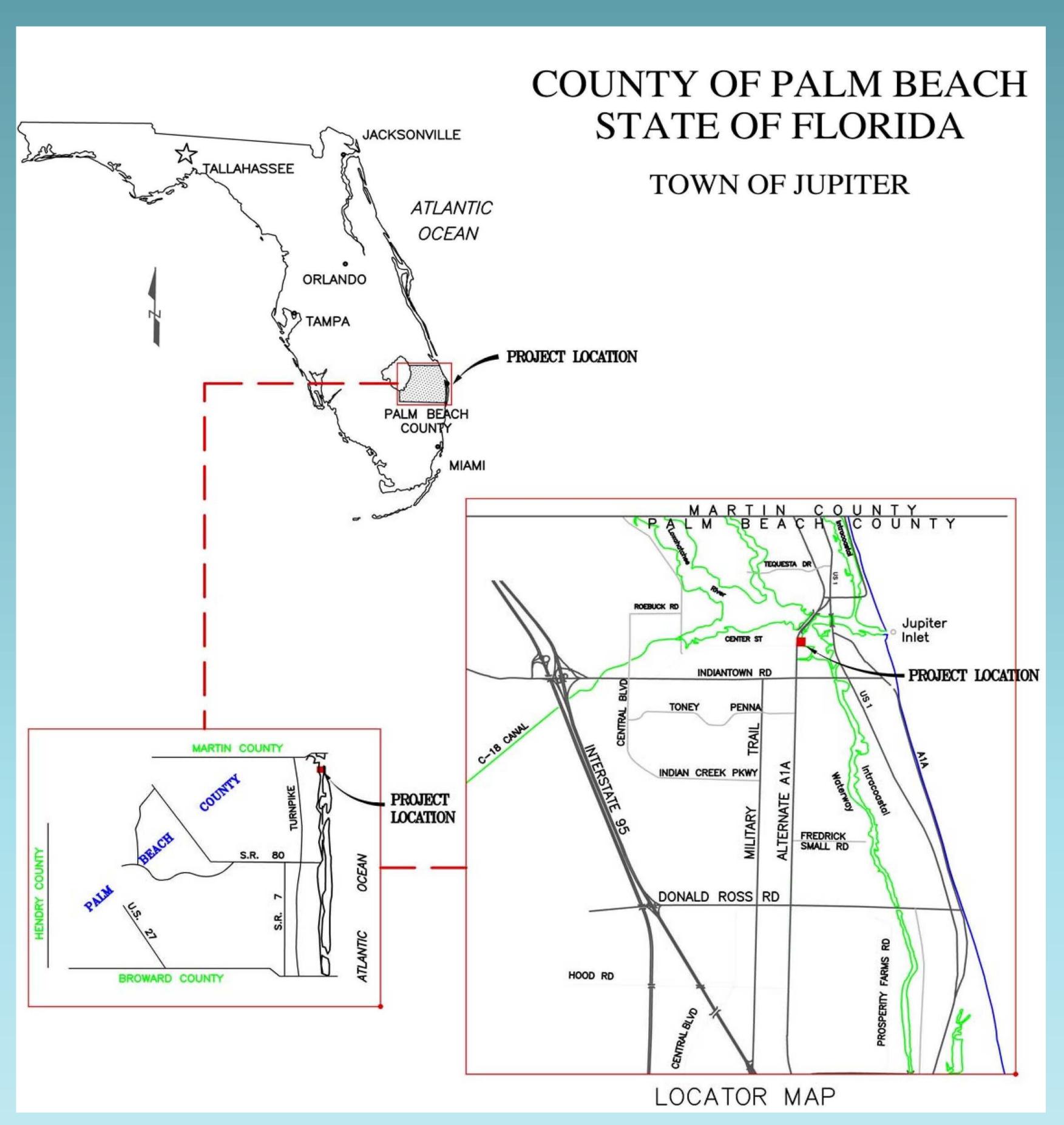


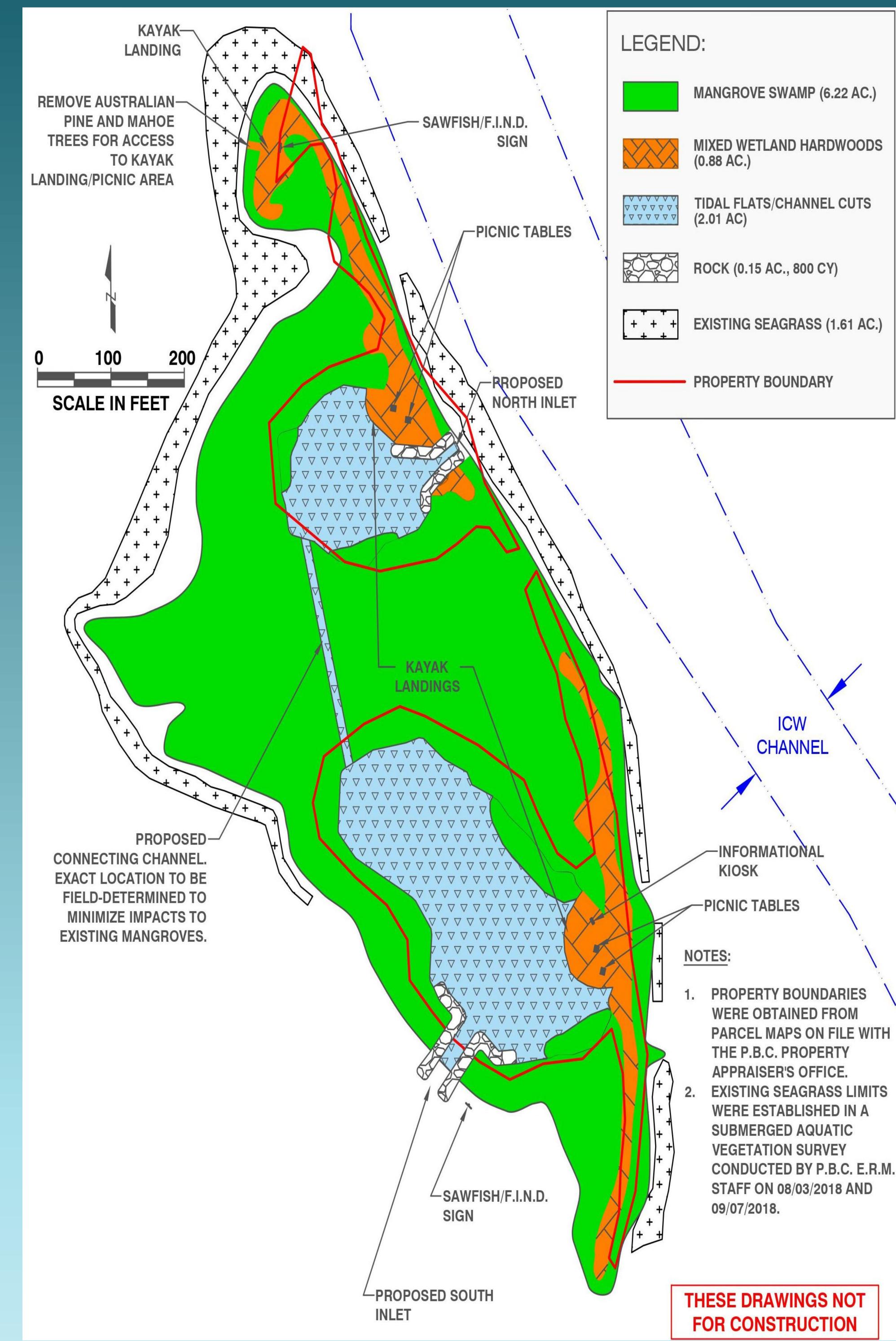
Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

¹Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, West Palm Beach, FL

INTRODUCTION

- Wetlands habitat in general in Palm Beach County has been lost due to degraded water quality, dredge fill activities, and coastal development.
- Wetlands are experiencing habitat loss due to exotic vegetation infestation.
- Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resource Management has partnered with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) to create a wetland restoration project.
- The 9.27 acre restoration project known as Sawfish Island will remove non-native vegetation and spoil material to create wetland habitat. It will also provide passive recreational opportunities.
- Sawfish Island is Located in the Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve NW of Burt Reynolds Park in Jupiter.





PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Construction of Sawfish Island will include removing approximately 2.5 acres of exotic plant species including Australian Pine, Mahoe, Acacia and Brazilian Pepper.
- Remove spoil material and construct coves to create wetland habitat and recreational paddling areas, provide kayak access to a quiet habitat refuge featuring unique wetland and upland habitats for fish, birds and wildlife.
- Place spoil material in nearby dredge hole in the Lake Worth Lagoon to provide additional benthic and seagrass habitat.
- Install picnic tables for public use.
- Restore approximately 6 acres of mangrove habitat and .58 acres of tropical hardwood hammock.



PROJECT PARTNERS

- Palm Beach County
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection