



# The Bonefish Cove Environmental Enhancement Project

*Dave Carson<sup>1</sup> and Dayana Castillo<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management, West Palm Beach, FL



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

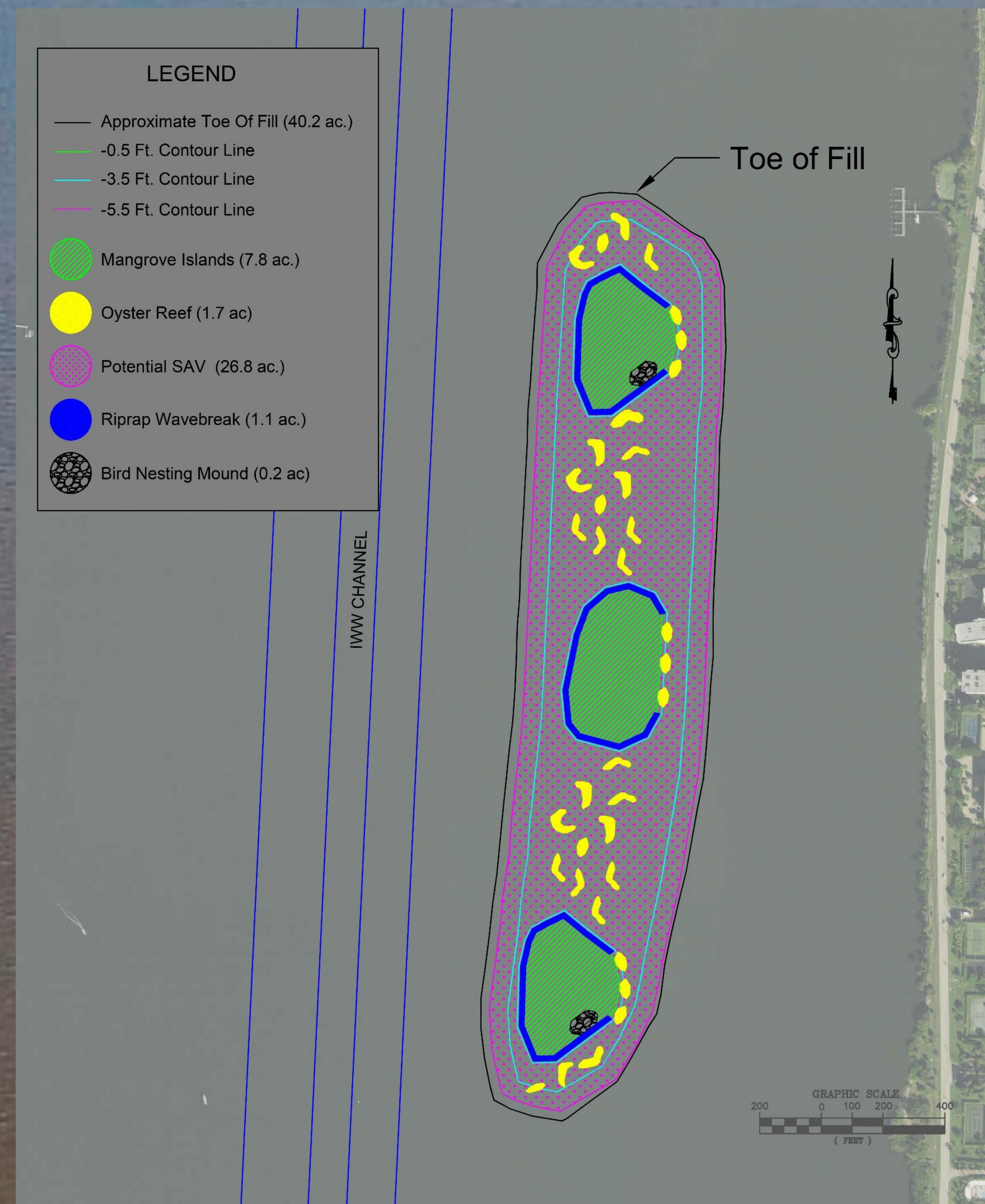
## INTRODUCTION

- The Lake Worth Lagoon has had extensive habitat loss and degraded water quality due to human development activities over the past century.
- Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resource Management has collaborated with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to construct a series of three-habitat islands to enhance water quality and seagrass habitat within the Lake Worth Lagoon.
- The Bonefish Cove Environmental Enhancement project was initially identified in the 1998 Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan as a potential habitat project location.
- The project will create 1.7 ac of oyster reefs, 26.8 ac of seagrass habitat and 0.2 ac of shore bird nesting habitat.
- The Bonefish Cove project will be similar to Snook Islands 100-acre wetland restoration project that created 11 acres of mangroves, 2 acres of oyster reefs, and 45 acres of seagrass habitat along the Lagoon shoreline in downtown Lake Worth.

## SNOOK ISLANDS



## BONEFISH COVE



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Construction of the Bonefish Cove project will involve removing 375,000 cubic yards of dredged material stored in the Port of Palm Beach and Florida Inland Navigation District's (FIND) Dredge Material Management Area (DMMA) on Peanut Island and placing it on barges for transportation to the project site.
- Once on site, the material will be offloaded and graded to the proper elevations.
- Construction is expected to take up to a year to complete. After construction is complete, ~35,000 red mangroves will be planted on the islands.
- The County has been fortunate to engage multiple partners to fund this project. The estimated cost of the project construction is expected to be on the order of \$15M.

## AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER AND CHICK



## PROJECT PARTNERS

- Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management
- The U.S Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
- Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
- Port of Palm Beach

