

Twin Rivers Natural Shoreline Restoration: Maintaining Accessibility While Enhancing a Mangrove and Spartina Shoreline

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ABSTRACT

This presentation discusses the design and performance of a unique living shoreline protection and habitat creation project along a Florida Martin County Park (Twin Rivers) property situated along the Atlantic intracoastal waterway (ICW). The park was historically a dredge spoil site that has experienced chronic erosion over a period of several decades largely due to boat wakes resulting in a receding and generally degraded shoreline. This erosion has resulted in the loss of natural mangrove and

spartina habitat. The passage of two hurricanes within 10 miles of the project during the summer of 2004 had significant impacts to the project's planning and construction – not all of them negative.

The project construction was completed in 2006, and the project's living shoreline provides high quality shoreline habitat and the park also serves as a high-value recreational amenity for the public. Overall, this project enhanced approximately 1,000 feet of shoreline and has secured the park's shoreline against future erosion due to boat wakes, wind-wave action, and storm impacts. The project components include oyster bed substrate, *spartina* grasses, and mangroves.



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