

Giving Thanks to Volunteers!

FAU's Pine Jog Environmental Program



LOXAHATCHEE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

RIVER TIDINGS

Students from Palm Beach Community College, part of FAU's Pine Jog Environmental Program, gathered on November 17 at the River Center to help spruce up the outdoor spaces. They planted trees on the south side of the building to provide additional

shade for the building and outdoor education programs. But they didn't stop there! This group was dedicated and really wanted to help out. They got down and dirty pulling out weeds, overgrown ferns, and trimming back shrubs.



Volunteers plant trees and remove overgrown landscaping at the River Center.

For information about volunteering, please contact 561-743-7123.

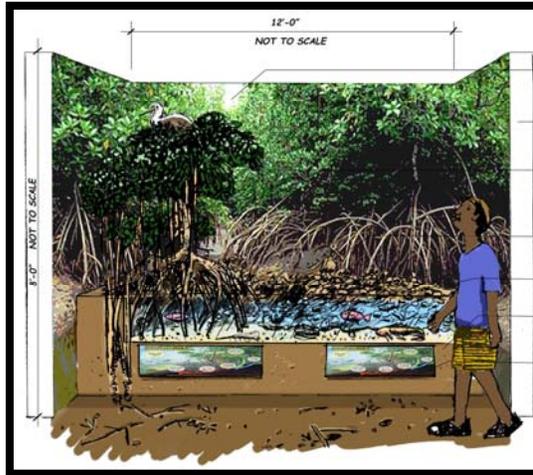


Exhibit 9—The Estuary

Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of water, such as a bay or lagoon, that receive both freshwater and saltwater sources. They provide critical habitats for many juvenile fish. Mangroves and oyster beds are two essential habitats found in the Loxahatchee River Estuary.

Oysters are a key species in estuaries and perform several functions. They are filter feeders, meaning they draw water into their bodies

(plankton and nutrients), and then release clean water back into the estuary, increasing water clarity. They are an important food source for many species of crabs, snails, sea stars, and fish. Finally, their oyster reefs provide shelter for crabs and small juvenile fish that need to avoid larger predators. Incredibly, they are able to adapt to one ever changing condition in an estuary – the tides. Oysters live in the intertidal zone, the area between high tide and low tide, so at

Featured Exhibit— The Estuary

through a siphon, filter out the food that they need

different times of the day they may be covered by water and then left “dry”. When above the water, oysters close their shells tightly to trap moisture inside their bodies and to avoid predation. This tank will feature a tidal cycle so that visitors will be able to see the oysters alternately exposed and covered by water.



Oyster Reef Restoration

If you have a home on the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, and would like to participate in an exciting, community-based project to restore oyster reefs, please call 561-744-6668 for more information.

Special points of interest:

- Friends of the Loxahatchee River meetings are regularly held at the River Center on the 1st Thursday of the month..
- The River Center office is now open. Contact Jocelyn O'Neill for more information at 561-743-7123 or jocelyn@loxahatcheeriver.org.
- The River Center signage has been approved by the County and will be fabricated in December.