



Phone: (954) 545-7004

City of Pompano Beach
ENGINEERING

Fax: (954) 545-7046

MEMORANDUM NO. 21-07

DATE: January 8, 2021
TO: City Commission
VIA: Tammy Good, CIP Manager
FROM: Anthony Alhashemi, Project Manager I *AA*

SUBJECT: Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 91, "Boats and Water Recreation"- Establishing New Section 91.16, "Hillsboro Inlet Park; Public Swim Area"

Background:

This project involves habitat creation inside a 0.5-acre area inside the Hillsboro Inlet, adjacent to Hillsboro Inlet Park, in Pompano Beach, FL. Construction includes various mangrove planter type structures along an existing featureless seawall, and the deployment of several concrete artificial reef modules secured to the sand bottom designed to attract marine habitat. Mangroves are a vital component of the estuarine environment in south Florida and have a significant ecological role providing nursery grounds for a number of federally managed marine and estuarine species, which are vital to commercial fishery values.

Additionally, the project will create a public snorkel area where snorkelers can interact with and learn about the marine/estuarine environment. This artificial reef project will create an underwater educational experience as well as preserve and enhance the existing natural resources. Primary and Secondary Institutions of higher education will be invited to conduct live lab experiments as part of relative educational curricula. The site will be equipped with underwater cameras, weather devices, and water quality monitoring systems for collecting data, which will be uploaded to a host website for analysis. With the assistance of students conducting periodic surveys and experiments, and the use of monitoring equipment, managers will be able to evaluate the efficacy of the project in creating and conserving the habitat within the park.

Recommendation:

As a provision of permit issuance from Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) and approval from the Division of Law Enforcement Boating and Waterways Section, the City is required to set forth an Ordinance establishing a vessel-exclusion zone for areas designated as a public beach or swim area. Thus, to ensure marine habitat protection and allow for a safe public snorkel zone, the area will be designated as a vessel-exclusion area delineated by water marker buoys.

At this time, staff is seeking City Commission approval of Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 91, "Boats and Water Recreation"- Establishing New Section 91.16, "Hillsboro Inlet Park; Public Swim Area"