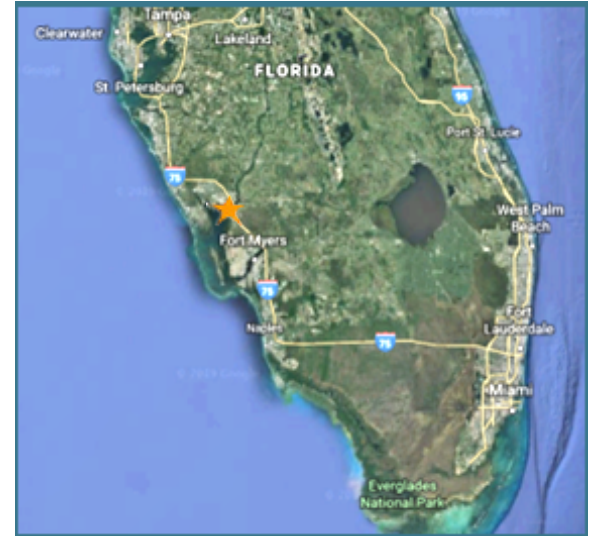


Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Pilot Project

FISH, WILDLIFE, & HABITAT RESTORATION



Summary

In 2018, the City of Punta Gorda completed a conceptual level living shoreline pilot project study, Tiki Point at Harborwalk fronting the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in the downtown area. The Harborwalk is a waterfront promenade that connects Trabue Park, Laishley Park, the Charlotte Harbor Events Center, Gilchrist Park, and Fishermen's Village. A public-private partnership was formed between the city, CHNEP, TNC, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Aquatic Preserves, Four Points Sheraton, and Jacobs Engineering. The hotel expressed interest in improving the natural aesthetics and habitat value along the hotel's seawall (Figure C2.1), within a public easement that exists along the City's Harborwalk.

The city, with its public and private partners, will advance the Tiki Point Harborwalk (TPH) living shoreline project from conceptual design to construction. The project will collect data needed for final design and permitting of a nature-based solution, such as a hybrid living shoreline as outlined in the plans; enhance the existing waterfront promenade which connects two City parks; creates a more resilient public park space with flood protection, habitat & eco-tourism benefits; and provide lessons learned for future nature-based projects for other at-risk urban waterfront area. It will include data collection, final design and permitting, and construction.

Location: Charlotte County, FL

Partners: City of Punta Gorda

Implemented: 2022

Status: Ongoing

CHNEP Cost: \$320,000

Funding Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

2025 CHNEP Plan Activity:

Fish, Wildlife, & Habitat Restoration 1.2: Research and promote best management practices for tidal creeks, rivers, canals, dredged channels, and stormwater conveyances that support habitats and native aquatic life.

Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Protection 2: Protect, monitor, and restore environmentally sensitive lands and waterways including critical habitat areas.



COASTAL & HEARTLAND NATIONAL ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

Anticipated Results and Benefits

The project will increase resilience and mitigate the risks of flooding and sea level rise using a hybrid nature-based solution to improve habitat and water quality, reduce erosion, and buffer storm effects as outlined in the city's Adaptation and Comprehensive Plans.

Flood Reduction:

Adding living shorelines offshore of existing seawalls helps reduce wave impacts on the coast and inland property. This living shoreline project will buffer wave and flood impacts to the downtown area and help mitigate the storm risk to the vital downtown infrastructure. The project will also help promote additional flood resilience projects in the downtown area.

The project aims to naturally increase its initial footprint through habitat growth and sediment accumulation such that, over time, the project's initial baseline elevation, in reference to the still water level, is maintained and expected to keep pace with the sea level rise trends. The increased elevation will continue to provide temporary storage of flood waters and a buffer for wave overtopping.

Improved Habitat:

Charlotte Harbor has long been recognized as an exceptionally important Florida estuary and has been designated by the US Congress as an "estuary of national significance." The area is rich in biological diversity – 86 of Florida's endangered and threatened species, and numerous recreational and commercial species reside in Charlotte Harbor. Living shorelines are typically designed to function as living space for wildlife, providing foraging and nesting areas for many of these species. The Tiki Point living shoreline project is intended to provide habitat (subtidal, intertidal oyster reefs and mangroves) for dozens of aquatic and terrestrial species of conservation, recreational and commercial interest.



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Uniting Central and Southwest Florida to protect water and wildlife