THE TIGERTAIL LAGOON / SAND DOLLAR ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT FAQS

What is all the work going on in the lagoon and on Sand Dollar Island?

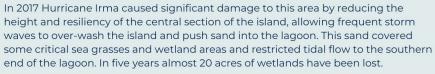
The construction work you are seeing on Sand Dollar Island and in the Iagoon is part of the City of Marco Island's Tigertail Lagoon / Sand Dollar Island Ecosystem Restoration Project that was permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

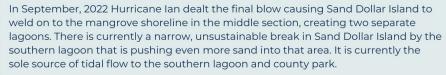
Why are you doing this work?



The Project's goal is to restore the lagoon and island as closely as possible to the conditions prior to Hurricane Irma in 2017. The lagoon and island form the Big Marco Pass Critical Wildlife Area that is important to several protected species including birds, turtles, manatees, fish, and sea grasses.

As a result of gulf-side currents, the island's northern tip has grown 15 acres in five years. It is encroaching on the Marco River navigation channel and threatening closure of the lagoon entrance.





Finally, Sand Dollar Island, the lagoon, and the associated mangrove shoreline provide an important natural barrier against storms for the northwest side of Marco Island that is prudent to maintain



How are we accomplishing this goal?



The equipment you are seeing is doing 4 things:

- Opening up the lagoon's northern entrance and deepening the lagoon channel to improve tidal flow/water quality and restore habitat.
- Reconnecting the northern & southern lagoon sections by excavating the channel that previously existed.
- 3. Recycling the sand from the island's northern tip and the lagoon channel to rebuild the protective dune in the island's middle section.
- Shaping and grading the island's northern tip to create optimal conditions for shorebird nesting.

When will the work be complete?

The work on the northern tip of Sand Dollar Island is scheduled to be completed by the end of February and the overall project is scheduled to be completed by May 2023.