

Manatee County and Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring: A Successful Partnership for Sea Turtle Protection and Public Outreach

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Agenda

- Manatee County Beach Program Overview and Project History
- Coastal Environmental Protection Requirements
- Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring (AMITWSM)
- Sea Turtle Lighting – Protection and Enforcement
- AMITWSM Funding and Support
- Value of the Manatee County / AMITWSM Partnership



Anna Maria Island, Manatee County



Manatee County Beach Program Overview and Project History



City of Anna Maria

**Holmes Beach / Bradenton Beach
(Central Beach)**

**Bradenton Beach
(Coquina Beach)**

- Beach Nourishment
- Artificial Reef
- Jetty Sand Tightening / Test



Manatee County Beach Program Overview and Project History

Each project requires feasibility studies, structural evaluation/repairs, permitting, and pre- and post-construction physical and biological monitoring.

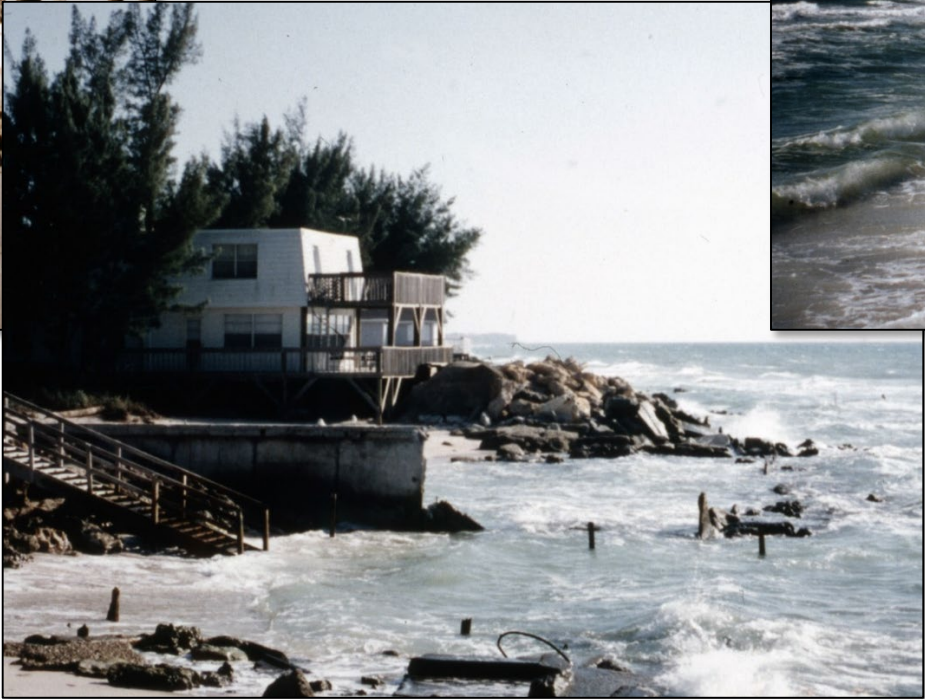
- **1992/1993** Anna Maria Island Central Beach Nourishment Project
- **2002** Anna Maria Island Central Beach Nourishment Project
- **2005/2006** Anna Maria Island Storm Repair Project
- **2011** City of Anna Maria and Coquina Beach Nourishment 2011 City of Anna Maria and Coquina Beach Nourishment Projects
- **2013/2014** Anna Maria Island Central and Coquina Beach Nourishment Projects
- **2020** Next Central and Coquina Beach Nourishment Projects



The building of coquina beach circa 1957



Anna Maria Island - 1992



Manatee County Beach Program Overview and Project History



2013/14 Beach Nourishment

- 888,000 cy (Central pay volume) and 260,000 cy (Coquina pay volume)
- Cost project \$11,320,000 (Central) and \$5,310,000 (Coquina)
- Combined Project Cost \$14.49/cy



Manatee County Beach Program Overview and Project History



Cortez Groins Removal and PAG Replacement

- Constructed February 2015 – December 2016
- 3 groins total
- Total construction cost = \$6.8 M



Coastal Environmental Protection and Monitoring Requirements



Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring

- 30+ years of conservation along Anna Maria Island shoreline
- Sea turtle monitoring and nest relocation, primarily for loggerhead also greens
- 2019 - 544 nests (~75 nests/mile), record high!



Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring

- Shorebird monitoring
 - nesting shorebirds (snowy plovers, black skimmers, least tern)
 - overwintering birds (red knots and piping plovers)



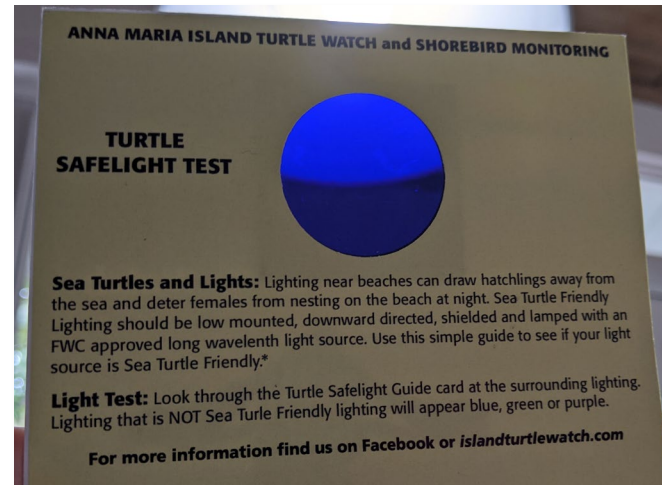
Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring

- Public outreach
- Beach cleanups



Sea Turtle Lighting - Protection and Enforcement

- Anna Maria Island - 3 municipalities and 3 lighting ordinances
- AMITWSM conducts lighting surveys with code enforcement officers
- Surveys conducted annually, May through October
- AMITWSM developed “the Turtle Eye”



Sea Turtle Lighting - Protection and Enforcement

- Code enforcement makes calls or issues violation letters and provides people with coupons from AMITWSM for a new turtle-friendly bulb
- Most people excited for the help and the light option, some take convincing, and a few are not receptive
- AMITWSM educates residents/businesses/tourists about proper lighting and helps them fall in love with sea turtles



Par-20 bulb: amber in color, emit long wavelength, must be set in a fixture that hides the light from view



AMITWSM Funding and Support

- Adopt-a-Nest program
- Dune Sign project with kids' art



Adopt-a-Nest Program



Dune Signs with Kid Art



Value of the Manatee County / AMITWSM Partnership

- Comprehensive islandwide datasets for sea turtles and shorebirds
- Support before, during and after project construction
- Ongoing communication on status of beaches and wildlife
- Shared dedication to preserving the island's beaches across 3 beach municipalities
- Dedication to proactive conservation of the island's wildlife
- Commitment to protecting Anna Maria Island's unique coastal setting and character now and for the future



Thank You

