

## THE LAGOON GREENWAY PARTNERSHIP

While developing the Greenway Plan, it was determined that three entities – the Indian River Land Trust, Indian River County, and the Indian River Mosquito Control District, are best suited to collectively provide most of the services needed to promote, manage and maintain the Greenway as follows:

**Indian River Land Trust:** provide overall promotion, coordination and tracking of the Lagoon Greenway, fund and oversee its design & development, and assist with management (with the Friends of the Lagoon Greenway)

**Indian River County:** obtain permits, secure funding, oversee development, and manage Lagoon Greenway facilities.

**Indian River Mosquito Control District:** assist with maintenance work and provide a trail presence.

In November 2009 a Memorandum of Agreement, addressing the roles of the Indian River Land Trust and Indian River County, was signed to officially establish this public-private partnership.

**WHAT'S NEW?** In fall 2010, the Lagoon Greenway was awarded a grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District matched by the County for construction of the first phase of the Greenway. This phase includes an 11-car shell rock parking area nestled among a stand of mature oaks, a trailhead information kiosk, and a loop trail with a small picnic area. Construction of the project began in March 2011 and should be completed, and open to the public, by June. The Land Trust and the County recently applied for additional grants to construct the second phase of trails and boardwalks which, if funded, should be completed in 2012.

### ABOUT THE INDIAN RIVER LAND TRUST

Since 1990 the Indian River Land Trust has been dedicated to helping retain the character that makes this county unique by protecting environmentally important land and conserving its wildlife habitat and water quality.

As we prioritize projects and develop our programs it is our goal to:

- Preserve** environmentally important land and water resources
- Protect** scenic areas from further development
- Provide** open space for public recreation and education



Prototype for Greenway Observation Deck



## Lagoon Greenway



The mission of Indian River Land Trust is to promote the preservation, conservation, and improvement of Indian River County's natural resources and special places for the benefit of the general public and future generations.

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For information on how you can get involved with the IRLT or support our efforts, please visit our website or call our office.



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## PURPOSE OF THE LAGOON GREENWAY

To create a recreational and educational trail system on nearly 200 acres of conservation land for public access to the Indian River Lagoon between the South Relief Canal and the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.



## GOALS OF THE LAGOON GREENWAY

1. Create publicly accessible pathways for non-motorized use along the Indian River Lagoon.

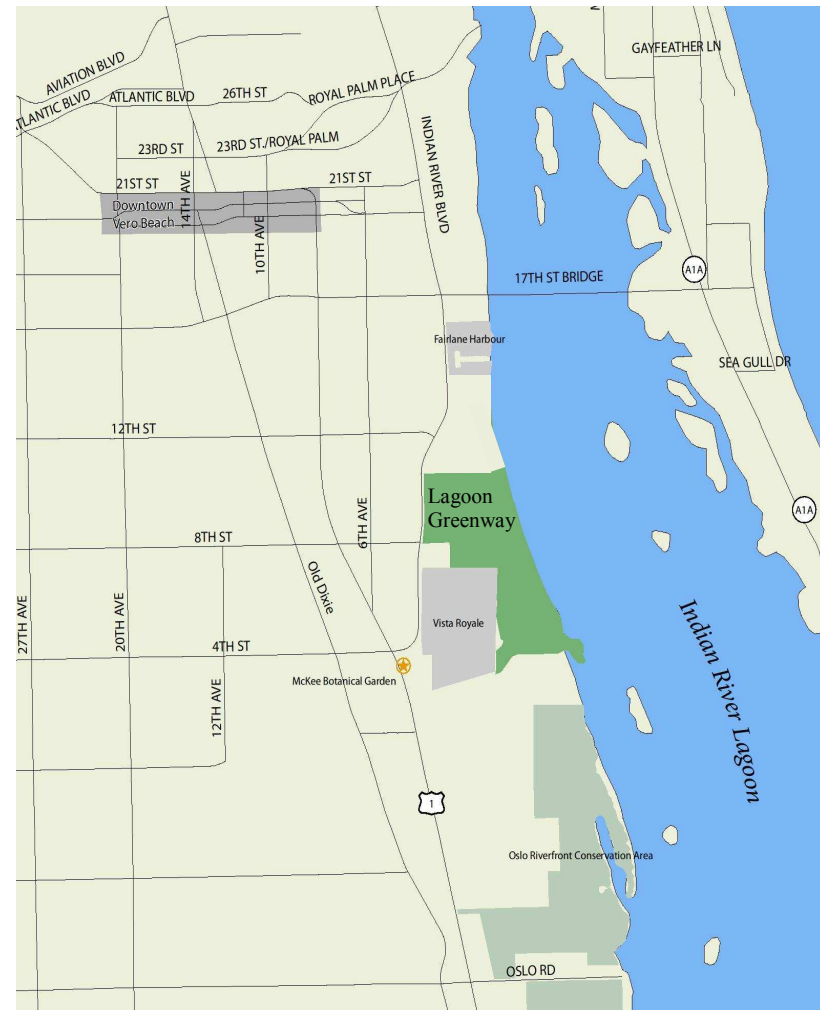
2. Provide recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of Indian River County, which may include:

- bicycling, jogging and walking
- lagoon viewing
- canoe/kayak access
- fishing
- wildlife observation & study
- dog walking
- fitness

3. Protect and conserve the natural resources of the Lagoon and adjoining wetland and upland habitats.

4. Establish interpretive facilities for educating the public of the significance of the Greenway's local natural and historic resources and the need for their management, which may include:

- trail and interpretive signage
- gathering places to accommodate individuals and/or groups
- informational materials
- wildlife viewing areas



Lagoon Greenway Location

## LAGOON GREENWAY BACKGROUND

During the 1990's, several properties along the Indian River Lagoon south of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in Vero Beach were protected from development by a combination of outright purchases or with development mitigation easements resulting from projects along Indian River Boulevard. They were protected primarily to conserve the native wetland habitat and buffer the shoreline of the Lagoon. These properties which are in both public and private ownership are made up primarily of mangrove swamps ringed by impoundment roads managed by the Indian River County Mosquito Control District for minimizing the mosquito populations of eastern Indian River County.

The mangrove swamps along the Indian River Lagoon are very important wetlands for a variety of reasons. They are an important nursery for spawning and early growth stages of a variety of native fish species. They provide an important natural protection during tropical storms to prevent erosion and destruction of shoreline and nearby structures from wave action, wind and flooding. Lastly, they harbor a large variety of native plants and wildlife important for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

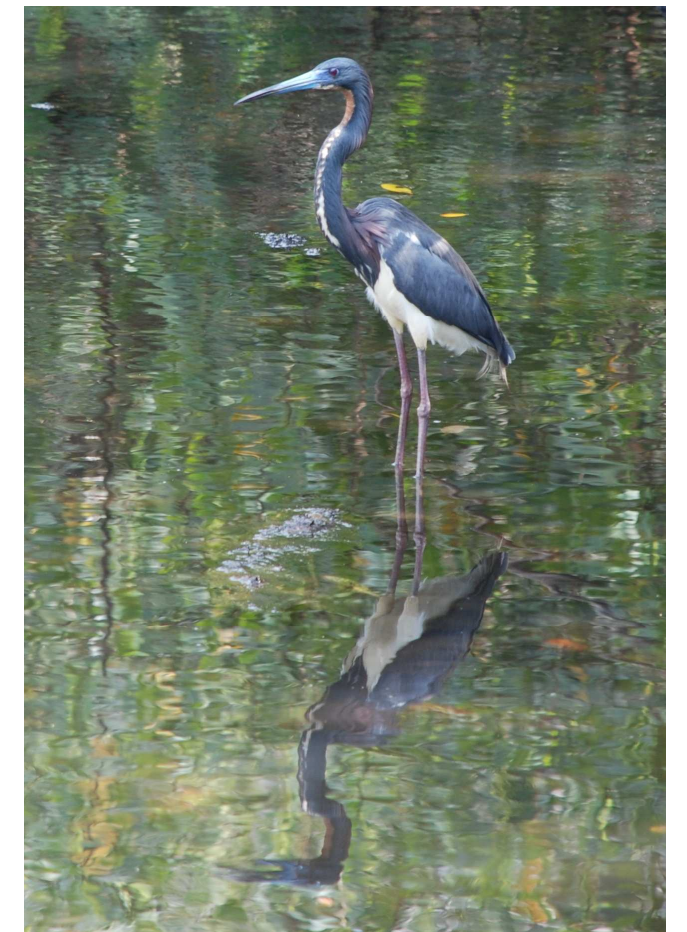
In 2007, a local citizens group and the Indian River Land Trust, which owns 66 acres in this area of the Lagoon, established the idea for an Indian River Lagoon Greenway. Working with the citizens group, now the Friends of the Lagoon Greenway, together with staff from the Indian River Mosquito Control District, the Florida Inland Navigation District, and the Indian River County Environmental Lands Program, IRLT set forth a Lagoon Greenway Plan in 2008.

## THE LAGOON GREENWAY PLAN

The Greenway Plan depicts a series of trails and facilities to be improved/ constructed during the development of the Lagoon Greenway. The following table lists each proposed improvement, and provides an estimated cost for the Greenway's construction.

### Lagoon Greenway Primary Components:

Entrance & Parking:	\$ 30,000
Trailhead & Upland Trails:	\$ 6,000
Elevated Boardwalks:	\$ 266,000
Observation Deck: (incl. walkway to Lagoon)	\$ 92,000
<b>Total Estimated Costs:</b>	<b>\$ 394,000</b>



Tri-colored Heron