

## St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan

**Category** Non-Concurrency  
**Project Number** 2026  
**Location** St. Lucie Inlet  
**District** Countywide  
  
**Project Limits** St. Lucie Inlet, flood shoals and county coastal beaches  
  
**Related Projects** Bathtub Beach-Sailfish Point Nourishment/Resilience  
**Lead Dept/Division** Public Works/Coastal Division  
**Year Project Initiated** 1978



**Project Life Cycle** 3 Years  
**Resilience Requirements**  2040 Vulnerability  2070 Vulnerability  2100 Vulnerability



### DESCRIPTION

This federal navigation project provides maintenance of the St. Lucie Inlet and associated infrastructure, along with state-mandated sand bypassing to adjacent beaches in compliance with the 2016 St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan and the 2023 Sediment Budget update. Maintenance projects remove sand from the navigation channel, impoundment basin, and interior shoals and provide for safe navigation through the Inlet.

### BACKGROUND

In 1978 the County entered into a Project Cooperation Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding their responsibility to maintain the St. Lucie Inlet. Despite this agreement, federal funds allocated by Congress to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Inlet maintenance had become unpredictable. As a result, the County proactively developed a dedicated local funding source capable of fully funding the project in the absence of state and federal funds. Some level of continued federal participation is expected, and this federal designation qualifies the project for a higher ranking in the state's grant program. Funding from this state program is expected to cover up to 50% of local project costs, however, this funding is not guaranteed. In 2016 the St. Lucie Inlet Management plan was revised along with changes to state statutes and updated in 2023. Under the new guidelines, sand bypassing to mitigate inlet-induced erosion is required to address impacts both north and south of the inlet. Sand may be either pumped directly to the beach or for the Town of Jupiter Island, may be transported to a temporary offshore holding area and moved to the beach under the Town's direction at a later date. All costs of bypassing are borne by the county. The County has also purchased and placed additional sand on the Town's beach to maintain compliance with the Inlet Management Plan. Future joint beach placement projects with the Town of Jupiter Island are scheduled at 5-7 year intervals and projects placing sand on beaches north of the inlet are planned on a 2-3 year cycle. Inlet maintenance projects are planned on a 3-year recurring cycle. Annual costs for permit-required monitoring, data analysis, and reports are \$810,000. The construction costs in FY24 are for the Bathtub Beach Nourishment project. The cost for the permit required monitoring of the 2022 Inlet maintenance projects is shown here.

### PROJECT ORIGATION

Strategic Planning

### JUSTIFICATION

Policy 14.1A.10 of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan has requirements to "(1) identify projects that eliminate public hazards; and (2) repair, remodeling, renovation or replacement of obsolete or worn out facilities that contribute to achieving or maintaining standards for level of service." This project restores a county recreational facility. The St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan mandates the inlet maintenance and location of material placement. Safely navigating the St. Lucie Inlet is a top priority for boaters.

Expenditures	Total	To Date	Carryover	Funded					Unfunded
				FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29-FY33
Design	2,250,000				450,000		450,000		1,350,000
Construction	95,310,300			527,600	6,612,400	11,527,600		10,468,800	66,173,900
CEI	4,000,000			500,000	500,000	500,000		500,000	2,000,000
Monitoring	8,100,000			810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	810,000	4,050,000
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>109,660,300</b>	-		<b>1,837,600</b>	<b>8,372,400</b>	<b>12,837,600</b>	<b>1,260,000</b>	<b>11,778,800</b>	<b>73,573,900</b>
Revenues	Total	To Date	Carryover	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29-FY33
Ad Valorem	52,266,300		7,766,300	4,000,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	22,500,000
Tourist Development	5,000,000		-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,500,000
Federal	22,000,000		15,000,000					2,000,000	5,000,000
Grant(s)	29,294,000			1,168,800	880,000	6,168,800	630,000	4,668,800	15,777,600
Vessel Registration	1,100,000		-	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	550,000
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>109,660,300</b>	-	<b>22,766,300</b>	<b>5,778,800</b>	<b>5,990,000</b>	<b>11,278,800</b>	<b>5,740,000</b>	<b>11,778,800</b>	<b>46,327,600</b>
<b>Total Unfunded</b>									<b>-</b>

### OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

Staff time to administer the program.