

# Jensen Beach Mooring Field

Revised 2/12/19

**Category** Non-concurrency  
**CIP Rating Score** 44  
**Project Number** 9933  
**Location** Jensen Beach Causeway  
**District** District 1

**Project Limits** The Southwest side of the Jensen Beach Causeway.

**Related Projects**  
**Lead Dept/Division** Public Works/Coastal  
**Year Project Initiated** 2001



## DESCRIPTION

This project is located in a protected area of the waterway popular with boaters. The mooring field would provide a safe and secure anchorage, along with amenities such as bathrooms, showers, laundry and a lounge and would be governed by a management plan that would provide a standard for boaters' activities, ensuring proper anchoring, pump out, maintenance and appearance of vessels. The project includes 51 moorings, a dinghy dock and a Harbor Master facility. When operational, the mooring field will be managed by the Martin County Parks Department.

## BACKGROUND

There is an ongoing problem with derelict and unsightly vessels in the area just south of the Jensen Beach Causeway, on the west side of the Indian River. Water quality is impacted from presumed direct release of sewage and debris from these vessels into the Indian River Lagoon. Seagrass beds have been damaged from direct impacts of shading and grounding of vessels in insufficient water depths. Improperly anchored vessels have been known to "drag anchor" during storms and damage nearby private property. The degraded condition of some vessels increases the likelihood that fuel and other contaminants could be released into the waterway. Current state laws limit the ability of the County to control these water-based activities in the absence of a viable mooring alternative. This project has competed well for grant funding in the past. Additional permit work may be required, including environmental monitoring, time extensions, installation of a boat lift, public workshops, outreach and boater education. There has been a conceptual design created for the Harbor Master facilities that will then need to be completed as well as a business operations plan needs to be created with public input. Grant applications for this project have been submitted to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). Additionally, the live-aboard boaters tend to congregate on the causeway island and have presented safety concerns to families visiting the causeway island. The presence of a mooring field manager, along with a proactive management plan, will resolve these security issues.

## PROJECT ORIGINATION

Commissioners

## JUSTIFICATION

The Martin/St. Lucie County region of the Indian River has no managed mooring fields, although there is one mooring field operated by the City of Stuart in the St. Lucie River. These are attractive amenities to boaters and "Cruisers" and would provide an additional tourism draw to the County. It would also provide added security to nearby residents and patrons of the Causeway Park. This properly situated facility would eliminate boats anchoring in improper depths and impacting sea grass beds. Fees collected from customers will fund the management and upkeep of the mooring field.

Expenditures	Total	To Date		Funded					Unfunded
				FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24-FY28
Design	96,000	69,000		27,000					
Land	0								
Construction	1,420,000			1,420,000					
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>1,516,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>		<b>1,447,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Revenues	Total	To Date	Carryover	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24-FY28
Vessel Registration Fees	716,000	69,000	255,483	391,517					
Grants	800,000		800,000						
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>1,516,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>1,055,483</b>	<b>391,517</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Unfunded</b>									<b>0</b>

## OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To be determined.