

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MEMORANDUM**

**DEPARTMENTAL**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Richard B. Szpyrka P.E., Public Works Director

**FROM:** Alexis Peralta, Stormwater Educator & Fertilizer Enforcement

**SUBJECT:** **Egret Marsh Stormwater Park Tours**

**DATE:** March 13, 2019

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**DESCRIPTION**

In recent months Stormwater Staff has received great interest for tours at Egret Marsh Stormwater Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. Promoting one of our most innovative and effective projects not only shows the community the effort the County has put in to protecting our Indian River Lagoon and cleaning our local waterways but also encourages citizens to do their part in reducing pollution, protecting our stormwater runoff, and connecting more with nature.

Since November 2018, many diverse groups (including the Clean Water Coalition, Lagoon wide IFAS Extension agents, and students through the Audubon Advocates Program) have gone out to enjoy all Egret Marsh has to offer, totaling at over 200 people. Each tour is limited to 15 people maximum for safety as well as to preserve the wildlife in their natural habitat; parking is also limited. Tours include a presentation of the algal turf scrubber, stormwater pollution education, and a walkthrough of the facility to view the wildlife living within the manmade wetlands.

It is important to point out to guests that while Egret Marsh is filtering approximately 10 million gallons of stormwater a day, it is also protecting threatened listed species of birds that have come to the facility to nest and seek shelter, and this has become just as an important part to protecting our local environment. Florida's Department of Environmental Protection Aquatic Preserves has come out to record the Wood Stork sightings and agree that Egret Marsh has become much more valuable in its regard to protecting special wildlife species and preserving our wetland habitats.

Tours are scheduled through the Stormwater Educator, are free of charge, and can last from 30 minutes to 90 minutes. For more information please contact Alexis Peralta at [aperalta@ircgov.com](mailto:aperalta@ircgov.com) or call 772-226-1565.

**FUNDING**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the promotion of tours available at Egret Marsh via the website, County Facebook pages, and the Government TV channel.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Egret Marsh Tour Flyer
- Egret Marsh Presentation for TV

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR MARCH 26, 2019**

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