

Dit-Dot-Dash Bird Islands

PID# 1131700005

Fiscal Year: 2018	Rank: 7
Parcel Size: 1.18 acres	County: Manatee
Project Size: 0.37 acres	Landowner: State of Florida / Carlton Arms of Bradenton

Location: Confluence of the Braden and Manatee Rivers, Manatee County

Owner/Contact Information: State of Florida Sovereign Submerged Lands; FDEP, (813) 632-7600 / Audubon Florida, (813) 623-6826

Existing Land Use Description

	<u>FLUCFCS Type</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Wetland	Bays and Estuaries	540	0.04	Natural
	Mangrove Swamp	612	1.14	Natural

Summary

The Dit-Dot-Dash Bird Islands comprise approximately one acre in the Braden River. The group of mangrove islands is, in part, sovereign submerged land owned by the State of Florida and managed by the Audubon Society and, in part, owned by Carlton Arms of Bradenton. The project is at the confluence of the Braden and Manatee Rivers immediately north of the SR 64 Bridge. The mangrove islands are surrounded by unconsolidated sandy bottom. The islands are an important roosting and nesting location for many protected bird species. The islands' northwestern edges currently show signs of erosion from wave action generated in the boat channel and are at further risk of land mass loss due to sea level rise. This project proposes the installation of a breakwater structure at each island to dissipate wave action and encourage the deposition of sediments on the island's shore (see attached Figure – Potential Restoration Options). All proposed work occurs in sovereign submerged land owned by the State of Florida.

The breakwater structure could be constructed of either oyster bags or pH-balanced artificial reef balls. Oyster bags are less expensive, easier to install, and easier to permit while reef balls more effectively dissipate wave energy and attract larger fish species. Both options occupy the same footprint. These are both viable breakwater components which will bolster the vulnerable mangrove island shore while increasing EFH in the rivers. Initial inspection revealed no seagrass in the areas designated for breakwater structure however; this would need to be more thoroughly investigated prior to initiating this project. If present, seagrass impacts would require appropriate permitting. Installation of the structure would not occur during the breeding season.

**Project has not been designed or proposed by owner.*