

Manatee Bays



This is a proposal to create a set of tourist / student / environmental parks in the Intra-coastal bay of South Florida. The proposed clusters of islands will be safe havens for manatees, large water gardens with walking paths and many species of native flora which will naturally attract butterflies, birds, insects, bats and lizards. There could even be south-facing ‘aquarium walls’ where visitors may view the marine life at eye level.

Benefits of this project:

1. A protected environmental site for manatees, lizards, bats and migrating birds and butterflies.
2. An educational site for visiting students of manatees, birds, bats, lizards and butterflies.
3. This island cluster will naturally enforce the “no-wake zone” that is posted at the area and protect the manatees from fast boats and speeding personal craft, and reduce the noise pollution for the nearby homes and apartments which line the bay on all sides, enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood.
4. South Florida will have another set of attractions for visitors. Photographs of the island clusters can be assembled into calendars, postcards, place-mats and such and sold to South Florida businesses with their logos as promotional items.
5. Small café houses on the islands could provide revenue to help maintain the island gardens. During the day the café can offer lunch and refreshments for the visitors and tourists. On weekends, at night, the café can offer a dining & dancing atmosphere with soft lights and soft environmentally acceptable music.
6. Because of their proximity, the hotels and restaurants in the area can expect to benefit from the visitor traffic.

Requirements of the project :

1. Architecture & Landscape Design
2. Foundation & Infrastructure:
 - a. Base - concrete, rocks, old boat hulks.
 - b. Soil and landscaping.
 - c. Paths, walkways, bridges, small ferryboats.
 - d. Electrical system.
 - e. Water and Plumbing.
3. Plantings:
 - a. Advisory Reports from Manatee, Bird, Lizard & Insect environmental experts.
 - b. Gathering, purchase and installation of the resources required in the advisory reports.

Community Sponsorship:

Several individuals, foundations and commercial companies have expressed interest in the project:

WebSite for publicity and advertising for participants and corporate sponsors

Barbadi Software

Construction

Rocks, cement, foundation - Tarmac

Electrical contracting, night-lights etc.

Plumbing drainage

Glass viewing windows

Water Gardens, plants

Gardening, Landscapers, pathways

Marine experts

Woods Hole, Mass, FIU, FAU, Seaquarium

Cultural Activities: Several Restaurants & Snack Bars & Musicians & Artists Organizations

Volunteers:

Some of the work can be done with the help of students from schools and colleges in the area.

Divers can be recruited at dive shops to help place the underwater plants for the manatees.