

# Mosquito Lagoon

# AQUATIC PRESERVE

*"No wetlands, no seafood. ... Cooperative efforts among all levels of government are critical to restore coastal wetlands. These efforts are called for in the National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Lagoon."*

*Ron Brockmeyer  
St. Johns River Water Management District*

## Key Accomplishments

- Initiating diamondback terrapin turtle surveys to assess population density and distribution. The presence of this rare turtle has not been studied in Mosquito Lagoon.
- Established our Citizen Support Organization (Coastal Preserve Alliance of East Central Florida) and organized "GobyFest" an annual event. We have increased community awareness of the invaluable resources in our aquatic preserve and accomplished special volunteer projects.
- Participated in Space Coast Birding Festival guiding the ecoboat tour in Mosquito Lagoon. Staff promote aquatic preserves at local environmental events and conduct public educational workshops such as hosting a hurricane anchoring and mooring regulation workshop.



Dragline ditching historically created for mosquito control

## Project Spotlight

### High Marsh Restoration Project

Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, St. John's River Water Management District, Volusia County Mosquito Control District, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Volusia County restoring wetlands to historic elevations by removing spoil material

are partnering on ongoing marsh restoration activities. The high marsh restoration project involves re-establishing marsh elevations to historic levels allowing recruitment of native vegetation and species

such as fiddler crabs. The aquatic preserve staff has agreed to assist with resource monitoring of existing conditions of impoundments and mosquito control ditches and document post-restoration effects.

# Mosquito Lagoon Aquatic Preserve

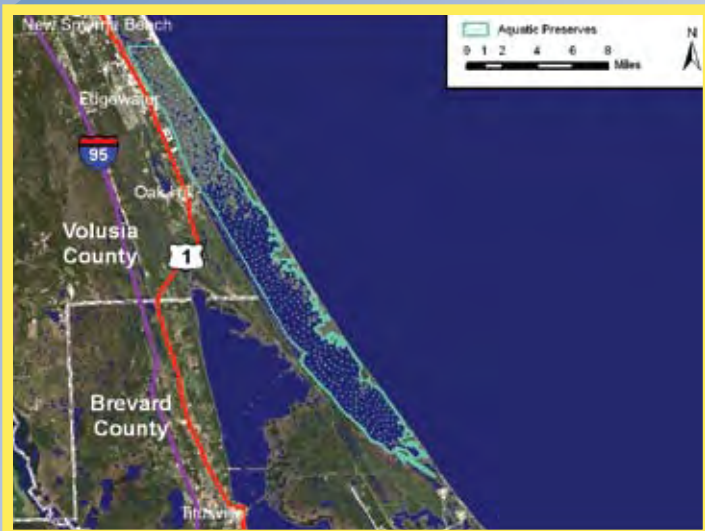


## Location:

Volusia and Brevard counties

## Acreage:

23,000 acres of sovereign submerged lands



## Local Contact:

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## Aquatic Preserve Facts:

- This aquatic preserve represents one of the state's most pristine waterbodies.
- The northern Mosquito Lagoon supports 160 species and 56 families of fish.
- The fish within the estuarine system form a species-rich assemblage important to commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Salinity levels in the Mosquito Lagoon are comparable to ocean levels (32-34 ppt) allowing several fish species to spawn in the lagoon that would normally spawn in the ocean.
- The Mosquito Lagoon supports the northernmost extent of red and black mangrove habitat, low marsh and high marsh habitats, extensive oyster bars, and tidal flats.



Oyster bed



Black-crowned night heron surveying the exposed oyster beds



Sunset in Mosquito Lagoon



Alligator ready to enter water



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