

Volusia County estuaries

Tomoka River



Halifax River



Indian River Lagoon



Photo credit: Mike Ring Photography

Spruce Creek



For more information about estuaries, please contact:



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Environmental Management

Growth and Resource Management Department

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Sign up for our listserv at:
<http://volusia.org/environmental/listserv.htm>

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Photo credit: Mike Ring Photography

Cradles of the ocean



It's in our hands

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**Volusia County Government
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What is an estuary?

- Estuaries occur in areas where freshwater meets and mixes with salty ocean waters. The term estuaries refers to sheltered waters, such as lagoons, sloughs, bays, harbors, sounds, inlets and bayous. These areas are sheltered from the wind and other environmental factors enabling abundant marine life growth.
- Estuaries are among the most biologically productive ecosystems on the planet.
- Estuaries are described as “cradles of the ocean” because more than 70 percent of Florida's recreationally and commercially important fishes, crustaceans, and shellfish spend part of their lives in estuaries, usually when they are young.
- Species can live in estuaries for a short time or remain there for life.



Photo credit: Mike Ring Photography

Plants and animals of our estuaries



Photo credit: Mike Ring Photography



Photo credit: Mike Ring Photography



Photo credit: Kelly Young Photography



It's in our hands



The Indian River Lagoon is an important economic resource which provides many and various ecological and economic benefits.

- The annual economic impact of the lagoon exceeded \$3.7 billion in 2007.
- Lagoon-related businesses provide more than 15,000 jobs in the region (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin), of which 2,400 are in Volusia County.
- The activities dependent on the Indian River Lagoon generated \$630 million in income to area residents including \$77 million to Volusia County residents.
- Property along the lagoon shoreline is valued in excess of \$934 million.
- During 2007, residents and visitors spent 10.9 million days recreating on the Indian River Lagoon.
- Recreational activities such as boating, water sports, hunting, shellfish harvesting, fishing and ecotourism are valued in excess of \$531 million each year.

Property owners wishing to alter estuaries should contact Volusia County Environmental Management at (386) 736-5927 to determine if the activity requires a permit.