

# Lake Hollingsworth Shoreline Stabilization Project

Lake Hollingsworth is one of the thirty-eight lakes in central Florida City of Lakeland. While Lake Hollingsworth is not the largest lake in the City, it is one of the five most prominent lakes in the City. On the north side of the Lake Hollingsworth is Florida Southern College with its dozen buildings designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. On the south side of the Lake Hollingsworth is the Lakeland Yacht and Country Club, founded in 1924.

Just to the east of the Lakeland Yacht and Country Club is a strip of public land which is used for public access to the lake and the popular fitness trail around the lake. The park area is heavily utilized by local boaters and the Lakeland Ski Club. A variety of events are held at this location, including road races, the annual Orange Cup Regatta, the Lake Festival and the annual Cardboard Boat Challenge.

Due to a combination of the heavy usage of this park and wind driven wave action, erosion along the southern shore of Lake Hollingsworth was becoming a safety issue for the park visitors. The erosion issues included:

- Large cavities forming in the shoreline
- Shoreline loss decreasing the available recreational area
- Exposure to tree roots, as well as, the loss of several trees along the shoreline
- Exposure of storm pipe outfalls
- Potentially hazardous conditions for the park visitors
- Impairment of the aesthetic value of the park

The City of Lakeland Public Works Department, Lakes and Stormwater Division identified the issues and began



working of the solutions in 2014. They contracted with the engineering firm of Amec Foster Wheeler to provide the design and permitting services for the project. Throughout the design phase, the City involved the citizens and stakeholders for input on the proposed project.

The primary focus was to stabilize the shoreline with a 408-foot long TRULINE retaining wall. The wall consists of hollow vinyl wall sections filled with concrete and reinforcing bar. The TRULINE-800 Series vinyl wall product was chosen for its 50-year life span and its affordability. The project included three sets of stairways for access to the lake shoreline. In addition, the project included repairs and adjustments to storm water outfall pipes which penetrated the wall.

In August of 2015, a public meeting was held to present the project design concept and accept the public comments. The design phase was completed in February 2016 and went out for bid in April 2016. The City of Lakeland Stormwater Utility Fund provided \$192,000 for the project.

The construction contract was awarded to Custom Built Marine of Port St. Lucie, Florida. The construction phase of the project began in August of 2016. The project was completed in March of 2017.

The City of Lakeland is very pleased with the project because it was not only on time and within the budget, it is aesthetically pleasing in appearance. The completed project will protect the park from further loss of shoreline. It will also provide greater and safer access to the lake. ☀

