



Customer Pipeline

E m e r a l d C o a s t U t i l i t i e s A u t h o r i t y

Bayou Marcus Boardwalk Reopens After Major Restoration

The Bayou Marcus Boardwalk is once again open to the public after a 13-month, \$4 million restoration project by the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA). On July 30, the ECUA welcomed community members, local leaders, and environmental enthusiasts, all braving a triple-digit heat index to celebrate the much-anticipated milestone.



In attendance were ECUA Board Chair Vicki Campbell, District 2 Representative Lois Benson, and District 3 Representative Larry Williams, along with Mr. Dave Murzin, member of ECUA's Citizens' Advisory Committee.

ECUA Executive Director J. Bruce Woody welcomed guests and opened the ceremony, introducing Chair Campbell, who reflected on the personal connection she has with the site.

"When I was first elected to the ECUA Board, I visited all our facilities and this boardwalk was one of my favorites," said Ms. Campbell. "We used to have all sorts of wildlife such as turkeys and bunnies. This is such a wonderful place for our community to get exercise and get in touch with our local wildlife! We're thrilled to welcome everyone back."

The Bayou Marcus Boardwalk was originally constructed in 1996. Nearly 30 years later, the time had come for a full rebuild. Executive Director Woody explained that the structure serves primarily as a support for the piping system that delivers reclaimed water to the Bayou Marcus Wetlands, an important infrastructure component at the facility.

"We saw this as an opportunity to do something for the community and for the environment, and took it one step further by creating a boardwalk that can be enjoyed by the public for several decades ahead," said Woody. "I would like to recognize the excellent contribution from all ECUA staff and the partner companies that worked together to make this project a reality." That durability of the new decking comes in part from the use of MoistureShield's Vantage™ composite decking, a sustainable, weather-resistant material expected to hold up for approximately 50 years.



From left: Erik Warrington, Talcon Superintendent; Tammy Thurow, President/CEO Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce; Vicki Campbell, ECUA Board Chair; Lois Benson, ECUA Board District 2; Larry Williams, ECUA Board District 3; J. Bruce Woody, ECUA Executive Director.

Ms. Tammy Thurow, President and CEO of the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce, praised ECUA's commitment to environmental stewardship and community partnerships. "It's so wonderful being partners with ECUA; they truly care about the environment and our community," she said during the event.

The restored Bayou Marcus Boardwalk offers a mile-and-a-half elevated trail through the Bayou Marcus Wetlands, a pristine ecosystem and recognized site along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. Located near Perdido Bay, the boardwalk provides visitors of all ages with an immersive natural experience, ideal for birdwatching, photography, and quiet reflection in nature.

For more information and to view drone video of the board walk, visit the Bayou Marcus Boardwalk page on the ECUA website at <https://ecua.fl.gov/live-green/bayou-marcus-boardwalk>.

Join Our Team!

Are you ready for a career move? We're hiring across all areas of our organization and would love to have you join our team of 600-plus dedicated and passionate individuals who contribute so much to our community every day. We provide career development, training opportunities, and one of the best benefits packages in the area. ECUA's Human Resources team is ready to hear from you! Check out current openings at: ecua.fl.gov/human-resources/careers



Help Us Serve You Better

ECUA water is withdrawn from the Sand-and-Gravel Aquifer. Twenty-six active wells in the ECUA water system and over 1700-plus miles of water mains combine to deliver water to your home. Last year, ECUA pumped and treated an average of 35.17 million gallons per day (mgd). This year, the ECUA's average water production during the month of May was approximately 37.96 mgd. ECUA has more than sufficient pumping and water distribution capability to accommodate this demand, but we need your help.

In order to moderate some of the extreme peaks in usage, and to maintain balanced system pressures, **we suggest that our customers irrigate between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., which is our optimum off-peak time.**

Following this suggestion will greatly enhance our system capabilities and extend the life of our equipment, **while also optimizing water pressure during the times when our customers need it most.** You, the customer, will be the ultimate beneficiary. Lower operating costs mean lower rates to our customers. Please help us serve you better.



Be on the Alert!

Sign-up to be a part of the ECUA Notification System! You'll receive time-sensitive alerts regarding pertinent information related to your ECUA service. Alerts will be directed to whichever device(s) you specify such as: home or work

phones, mobile devices, email, text messages and more! Look for the link below on the home page of our website to register:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085611910#/signup>

Does Your Automatic Irrigation System Have a Fully Operational Rain Shut-off Device?

Did you know that Florida Law requires residents with an automatic irrigation system to have a fully operational rain shut-off device?

These devices range from rain and soil moisture sensors to smartphone controllers that monitor local weather data. Properly installed and maintained devices are crucial in preventing overwatering, which can lead to plant disease, polluted runoff into freshwater systems, and high water bills. See Florida Statute 373.62, for more information.

