

## PALMETTO ESTUARY PRESERVE HABITAT RESTORATION Palmetto, Florida

*First Place Winner of the 2002 Future of the Region Award – Environmental Category*

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

This project began when the developer of the adjacent Riviera Dunes project approached the City of Palmetto with an offer to restore the subject parcels and seek a grant to purchase the park. SCHEDA acted as the developer's consultant, helped promote this first-ever public/private partnership, and coordinated the design and construction of the project with the SWIM Program. Riviera Dunes funded the design of the site, cleared and mulched all of the exotic vegetation which had colonized the parcel, and assisted with hauling excess fill material away from the site



which was then put to beneficial use for the development activities. Upon finalizing a park management plan, the City took ownership of the land. Coordination with the FDOT assisted in resolving access and right-of-way issues. FDOT also provided input regarding the planting plan.

This cooperative project resulted in 1) the **creation** of 7 acres of intertidal estuarine habitat (1.3 acres high marsh, 2.08 acres low marsh, 3.4 acres open water/lagoon); 2) **enhancement** of 24 acres of mangrove forest along the Manatee River; and 3) **removal** of Brazilian pepper and Australian pine throughout the project area, and will benefit:

- **City of Palmetto** ~ *Environmental restoration within the City limits*
- **Riviera Dunes** ~ *Beautiful nature park at the entrance of their development*
- **SWIM** ~ *Cost-efficient restoration project*
- **FDOT** ~ *Roadside beautification*
- **Environment** ~ *Creation/enhancement of critical fish and wildlife habitat*
- **Public** ~ *Tax dollars saved and another park to enjoy!*

