

LAKE WORTH LAGOON DRIFT CARD STUDY: NOVEMBER 2025 AFTER-ACTION REPORT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The *Lake Worth Lagoon Drift Card Study*, or *Lagoon Drift*, is a community-oriented citizen science program designed to add new observational data to existing models and give South Florida a better sense of how localized currents affect the way marine debris and pollutants move in and around the Lake Worth Lagoon. This experiment was founded in 2017 as an extension of the Biscayne Bay Drift Card Study (*Bay Drift*), initiated by the University of Miami's Consortium for Advanced Research on Transport of Hydrocarbon in the Environment, and is the first of its kind in Palm Beach County. November 2025 marked the 14th experiment in the Lake Worth Lagoon citizen science study. Drift cards were also deployed into the Indian River Lagoon by Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves and partners for their 6th *Lagoon Drift* experiment in conjunction with that in the Lake Worth Lagoon.

PARTNERS

This Palm Beach County based experiment was executed by ANGARI Foundation in conjunction with local partners:

- Beach Bucket Foundation
- Cardinal Newman High School
- Flotilla Club
- Friends of Manatee Lagoon
- Friends of Palm Beach
- Independence Middle School SciQuest Academy
- Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc.
- Lake Worth Waterkeeper
- Manatee Lagoon - An FPL Eco-Discovery Center™
- Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management
- Palm Beach Day Academy
- SDPBC Sustainability Symposium
- SDPBC Sustainable Schools
- Seaside Marine Construction
- Solid Waste Authority's America Recycles Day
- Surface 71
- The Benjamin School
- The Loxahatchee River Center
- United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 5-4
- VoLo Foundation (also supported this experiment)
- >450 individuals who decorated/released/reported drift cards and/or provided access to a release site

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

At 1:00 PM on November 7th, 197 *Lagoon Drift* partners and citizen scientists executed the coordinated release of 280 eco-friendly, 4" x 6" degradable wooden drift cards from seven sites around Palm Beach County. Forty cards were deployed at each of the seven sites. Site selection was based on regional history, partner recommendation and accessibility. Sites were, from N to S: Burt Reynolds Park, North Palm Beach Intracoastal Waterway, C-17 Canal/Earman River, Manatee Lagoon - An FPL Eco-Discovery Center™, West Palm Beach Public Dock, the C-51/West Palm Beach Canal and the C-16/Boynton Canal.

RESULTS

In addition to 450+ citizen scientists directly contributing to this *Lagoon Drift* experiment, 570+ additional community members were engaged in related educational programming. The experiment also received media coverage from ABC WPBF 25 News.

Of the 280 cards deployed around the Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL) and Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) on November 7th, 2025

- 50 (18%) were recovered and reported by 52 members of the public.
- 35 of the 50 (70%) cards reported were recovered within the LWL, ICW, Loxahatchee River and canals. These originated from all of the seven deployment sites.
- 15 of the 50 (30%) cards reported were recovered on Atlantic beaches outside the LWL, ICW, Loxahatchee River and canals. These originated from all of the seven deployment sites.
- Found cards were reported from Satellite Beach, FL in the north to Ocean Ridge, FL in the south, spanning >118 miles of coastline.

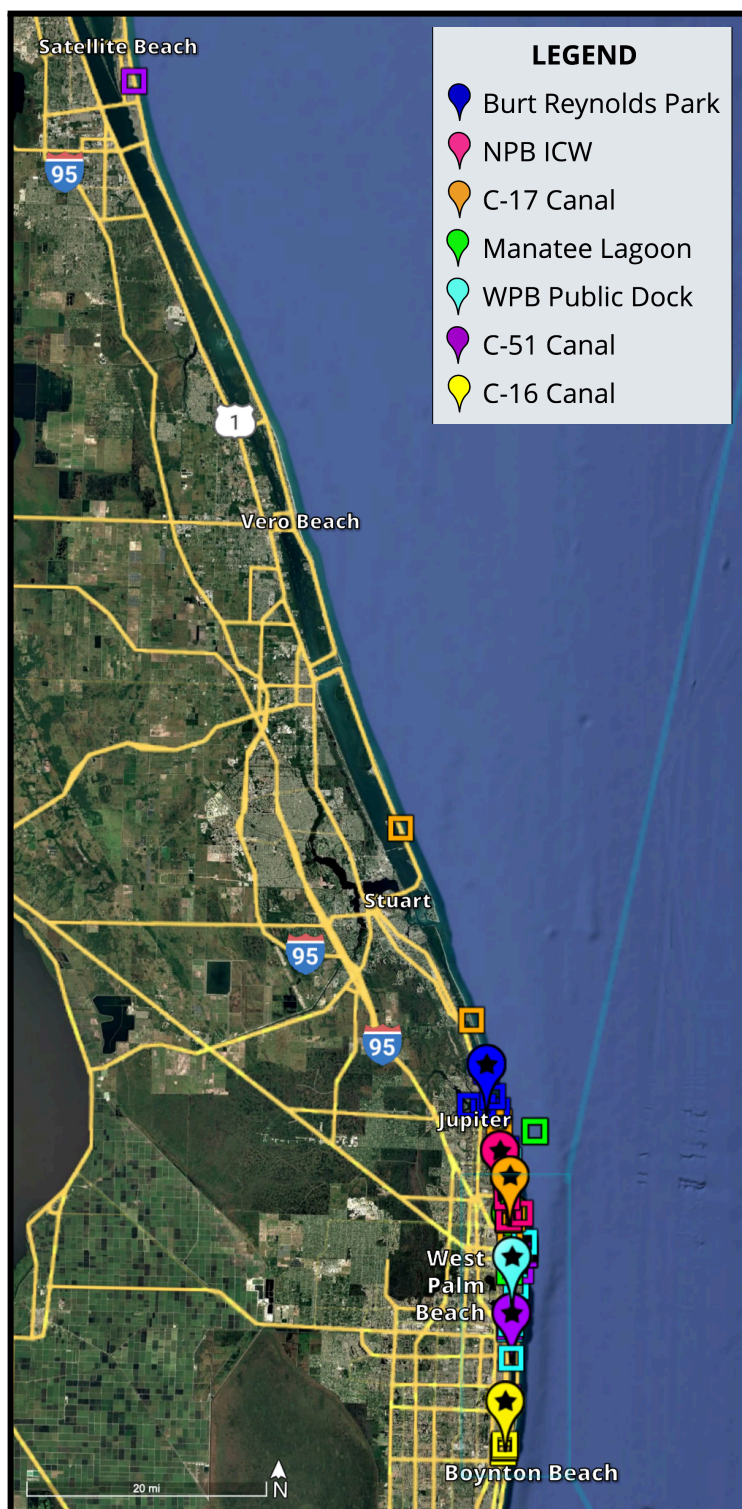
A color-coded summary figure of the study area with drift card deployment and recovery localities is shown on page 2.

NEXT STEPS

ANGARI Foundation and program partners plan to continue to grow participation, collaboration and educational offerings associated with the program in the future, including Lake Worth Lagoon Drift citizen science experiments intended for:

- Spring 2026 (around Earth Day / Great American Cleanup)
- November 2026

For more on *Lagoon Drift*, visit angari.org/lagoondrift and explore the experimental data at <https://angari.org/lagoondrift-data>.



Google Earth images of the Lake Worth Lagoon Drift Card Study area for the November 7th, 2025 experimental release. Left image provides an overview of full coverage area, while right image focuses on the LWL where most of the study activity occurred.

Color-coded marker bubbles indicate drift card release sites and open squares show locations where members of the public recovered drift cards.

Investigate all experimental data using our *Lagoon Drift* Interactive Dashboard and Map via <https://angari.org/lagoondrift-data/>.

