

OCEAN REEF PARK

SINGER ISLAND, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Named for the Anastasia formation reef close to its shore, Ocean Reef Park is a popular recreation area for scuba diving, snorkeling and swimming. Although the park covers more than 13 acres, over five acres of land is set aside for dune preservation. Primary and secondary dune formations stretch the length of the park, and major activity areas are located to protect this natural terrain.

Urban Design Kilday Studios was hired by Palm Beach County to develop a site plan for the park. Providing 244 parking spaces, the parking lot is buffered from park activity areas by the many Australian pines that were existing on the site. In the shade of these large evergreens are picnic tables, barbecue grills, a tot lot, showers, and restroom facilities. A sloping lawn area accommodates not only sunbathing, but facilitates drainage by leading to a sunken garden retention area.

A system of boardwalks extends from the activity areas to the two-acre beach on the Atlantic, protecting the dunes from foot traffic and to allow for the installation of interpretive plaques explaining the dune ecosystem. A vast expanse of seagrape and grasses were preserved and enhanced to ensure dune stabilization. Ocean Reef Park is proof that recreational uses can coexist with the preservation of native beachfront environments.



Client: Palm Beach County, FL

Site Area: 131 acres

Building Information: Restroom/shower facilities: 1,858 SF

Dune Preservation Area: 5 acres

Architect: OGS&P