



“Save Bee Gum Point/David Cox Consulting”  
c/o David Cox Consulting  
2044 14th Avenue, Suite 24  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

# INDIAN RIVER SHORES RESIDENTS OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS THREATENED!

## SAVE BEE GUM POINT

Development of Bee Gum Point threatens our quality of life, and the health of the Indian River Lagoon. We live in a place that is better than most. We have invested in homes and lifestyles, and the quality of these investments hangs on the quality of our natural environment. We are taking a stand now to protect ourselves, our quality of life and our environment from this “dumb growth.” Won’t you join us?

## A LOOMING DISASTER

Bee Gum Point is a 100 acre mangrove-forested wetland at the west end of Fred R. Tuerk Drive in the Town of Indian River Shores. The wholesale destruction of the Town’s last wetland for “The Pointe” development is a recipe for disaster, with negatives that range from pushing our overloaded roads over the brink into dangerous grid-lock, while exposing Town residents to unhealthy silica dust, to degrading our water quality and threatening the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

## TROUBLING TRUTHS

Some troubling facts about The Estuary's plans to develop Bee Gum Point as "The Pointe":

**Fact 1** **Bee Gum Point is the last remaining undeveloped wetland in the Town.**

The Town of Indian River Shores has virtually no open or green spaces. If this wetland is destroyed for another development, the opportunity to preserve this piece of "old Florida" will be forever lost.

**Fact 2** **Filling this mangrove forest will destroy 100 acres of one of the world's most threatened ecosystems: mangrove forest.**

This is not sound stewardship, or prudent policy. Is this the legacy you want the Town to leave for future generations?

**Fact 3** **Traffic from The Pointe will cause grid-lock on State Road A1A, and widening the road is the only way to increase its capacity and meet its legal level of service.**

State Road A1A from Beachland north to Fred R. Tuerk Drive is at 119% capacity. It's "broken," and is carrying more traffic than it was designed for, and more than is safe. Traffic concurrency cannot be met by new developments impacting A1A, unless the capacity is increased by road widening. Does the Town support widening State Road A1A? Is this really what the residents and voters want?

**Fact 4** **Development will mean years of trucks hauling fill through Town, years of dangerous dust, noise, and added traffic to endure.**

Chronic exposure to sand dust can lead to silicosis, which poses a real threat to residents near the construction area, or near the corridor of constant sand truck traffic. The dust, noise, and traffic will last for years. The threat to public health and safety is real. The potential for litigation against the developer and the Town for hazardous air pollutant damages costing millions of dollars is also real.

**Fact 5** **Destroying this mangrove forest will increase risks of storm related flooding, as shown by recent events.**

In both the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, mangrove forests protected shorelines and people by attenuating wave forces. Recent studies clearly establish this protective role in the Asian tsunami of 2004, where areas with mangroves and tree shelterbelts were significantly less damaged than nearby areas lacking mangrove forests.

**Fact 6** **Destroying this wetland will harm growth of adjacent seagrass beds and degrade water quality in IR Lagoon.**

The massive filling operation required to build houses on this mangrove wetland will substantially degrade water quality in the Lagoon. Damage to seagrass beds can harm manatees too, since they feed on the seagrass.

**Fact 7** **This wetland destruction will cause losses to recreational and commercial fishing, a \$300M per year industry that is critical to our area's economy.**

These losses result from destroying spawning and nursery areas for vast numbers of fish and shellfish. Economic losses extend beyond the fisheries, to include the boating industry and the tourism-ecotourism industries.

**Fact 8** **Developing these coastal wetlands will destroy essential habitat for over 1,000 different animal species that are essential to the health of the Indian River Lagoon, North America's most diverse estuary with over 4,300 kinds of plants and animals.**

Many of these plants and animals cannot survive elsewhere: they have no other home. Filling this wetland will destroy a bird and wildlife sanctuary - feeding, roosting, and nesting areas for 181 bird species, including federally-listed species like the Wood Stork. Bee Gum Point is a vital link in a "blueway" sanctuary that protects the remaining wildlife along our Lagoon.

**Fact 9** **The consequences of destroying wetlands at Bee Gum Point will impact people in a five county region along the entire length of the Indian River Lagoon.**

At first glance these may appear to be local issues, but they aren't. The impacts of poorly considered, inappropriate growth along the Lagoon cost us dearly in degraded quality of life, and threaten our long-term economic vitality.

**Fact 10** **No park is planned for Bee Gum Point. This malicious idea is part of a disinformation campaign designed to deliberately deceive and alarm people.**

Preserving Bee Gum Point as a true conservation area does not mean turning it into a public park.

## THERE IS HOPE!

We are part of a dramatic sea-change as reflected in the recent City of Vero Beach Council election. No more development is in! We have strong support from the Audubon Society, and other local organizations are poised to join us.

Think it over. As concerned citizens, we must protect our quality of life and the quality of the environment on which it depends, so that future generations may also benefit from this valuable natural legacy. Let your elected officials know how you feel. Call Town Hall at 231-1771.

Join us today by giving us your financial support through a non tax deductible donation to:

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