

Restoring the Gold Coast

Biodiversity and Community Engagement in Southern Palm Beach County

Beach Property Owners' Association
March 20, 2019



International Policy Lead

George D. Gann

www.regionalconservation.org

www.ser.org



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

Chief Conservation Strategist

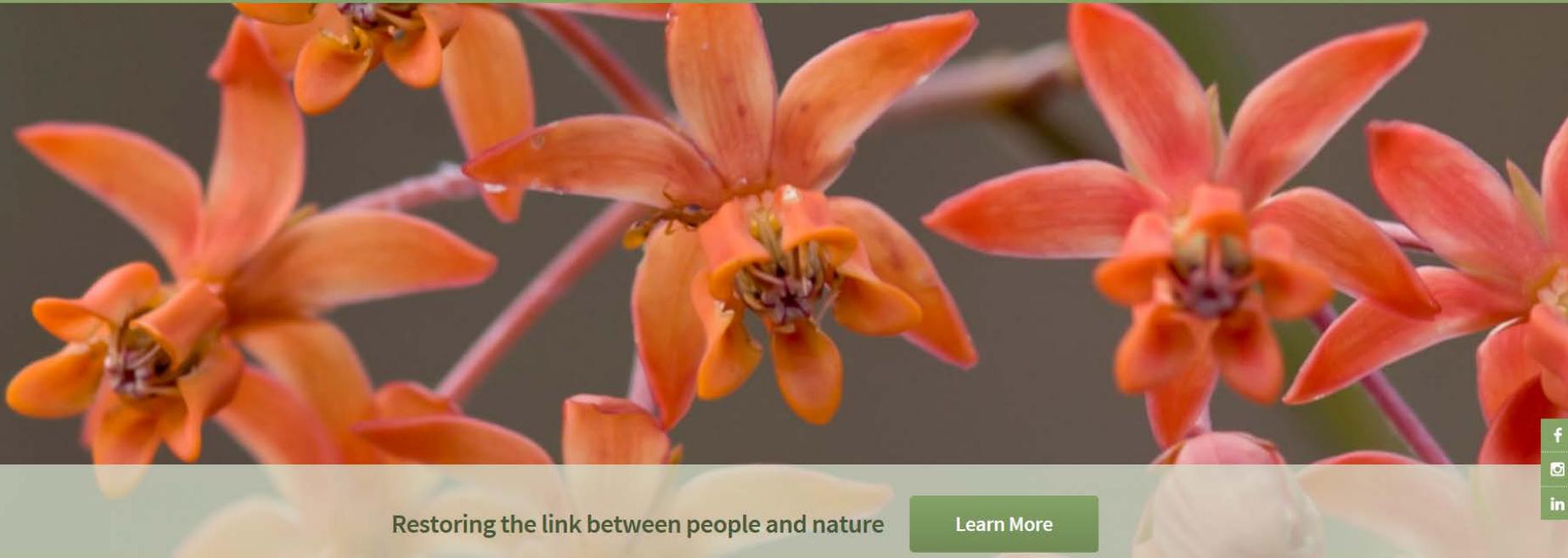
Acknowledgements

- **BPOA Board of Trustees** for the invitation and for voting to support our Restoring the Gold Coast Program.
- **All the IRC folks**, past and present, including our Program Manager and Education & Outreach Coordinator **Cara Abbott**.
- **Photographers**, including Roger Hammer, Keith Bradley, Shirley Denton, James Johnson and many others.

Outline

- **Background on IRC** and our mission.
- **Conservation context** of biodiversity in South Florida.
- **Restoring the Gold Coast Program** and how it works.
- **Questions and Answers**.

IRC and its Mission



Restoring the link between people and nature

[Learn More](#)



Rather than focusing on charismatic animals or plants with narrow global ranges, IRC seeks to protect, restore and manage all biodiversity on a regional basis, and to **prevent regional extinctions of rare plants, animals and ecosystems**. All conservation is ultimately local. **2019 is our 35th Anniversary Year!**

IRC in South Florida

Since 1995, dozens of projects in collaboration with federal, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations and educational institutions:

Floristic and faunistic inventories

Rare species research

Ecological restoration design and implementation

Educational training and workshops

Online Tools and Resources



Some IRC Online Resources



Natives For Your Neighborhood

Conservation of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems

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South
Florida



The Floristic Inventory of South Florida

Conservation of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems

Floristic Inventory of the Florida Keys



The Institute for Regional Conservation

Floristic Inventory of the
Bahama Archipelago Database Online
(RECAL DO NOT CITE DATA)



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Plantas para todos

The Institute for Regional Conservation
Programa para la Península de Yucatán



INICIO La Flora del Mayab BuscaPLANTAS GuiaVERDE del Mayab Listas para USARSE BiblioFLORA

Plantas de la Isla de Plants of the Island of **Puerto Rico**

Un servicio para la conservación de flora / A conservation service for the flora



The Institute for Regional Conservation

The screenshot shows a Facebook group page for "Amigos de Plantas de Puerto Rico / Friends of Plants of Puerto Rico". The page features a cover photo of a green leaf and orange flowers. The group is a "Closed Group" with 1,185 members. The left sidebar shows navigation options like "Home", "Feed", "Messages", and "Events". The main content area includes a "Write Post" section and a recent post by "Josy Gonzalez" dated April 15 at 10:20pm, which discusses buying a plant and caring for it. The post text reads: "Buena noches acavo de comprar esta planta alguien save cual es y como la puedo cuidar. Mil gracias anticipadas 😊".



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION – INCLUDING PRINCIPLES
AND KEY CONCEPTS

FIRST EDITION: December 2016

Tein McDonald, George D. Gann, Justin Jonson,
Kingsley W. Dixon



Institute for
Regional
Conservation

George Gann (IRC, SER)
Tein McDonald (Society
for Ecological Restoration
Australasia, Australia)



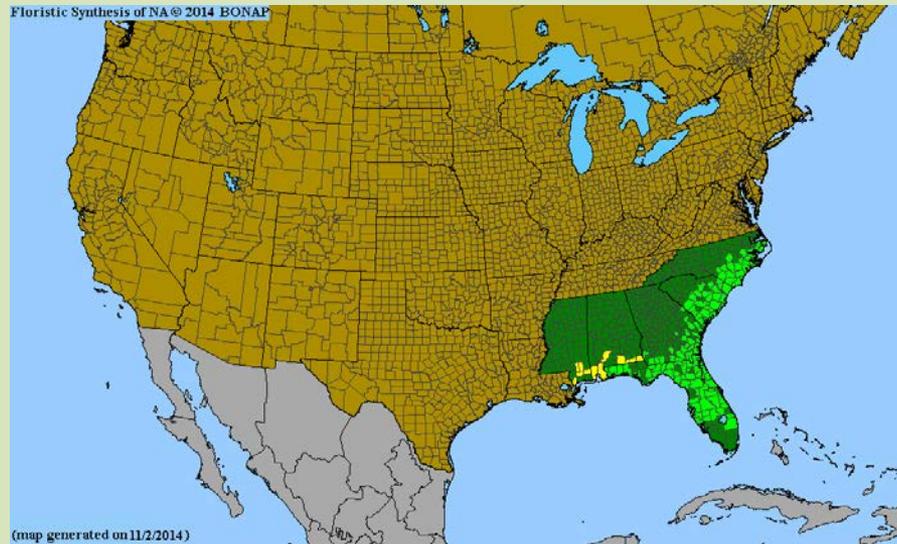
UN **BIODIVERSITY**
CONFERENCE
COP13-COPMOP8-COPMOP2
CANCUN, MEXICO 2016

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY FOR WELL-BEING

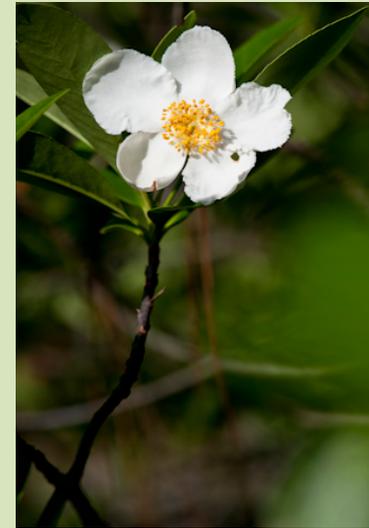


The Conservation Context

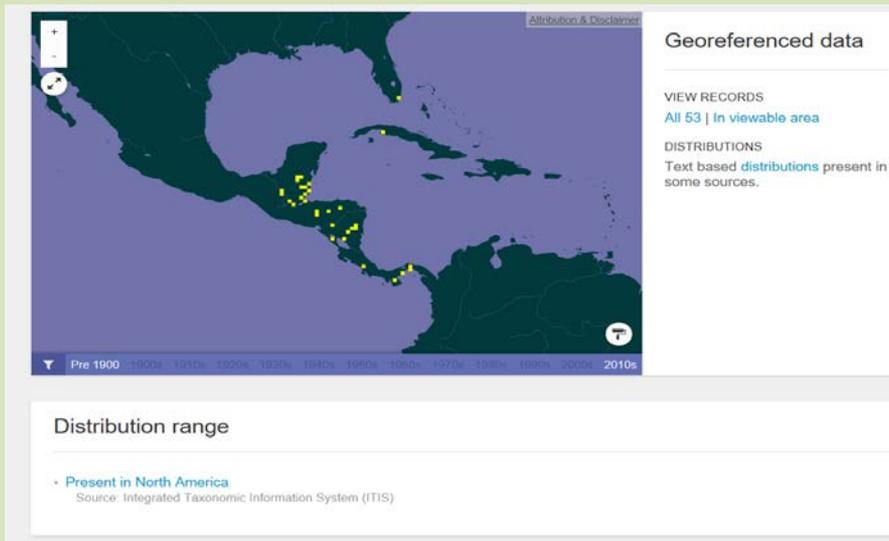
South & North Range Limits in South Florida



Gordonia lasianthus (BONAP.org)



K. Bradley

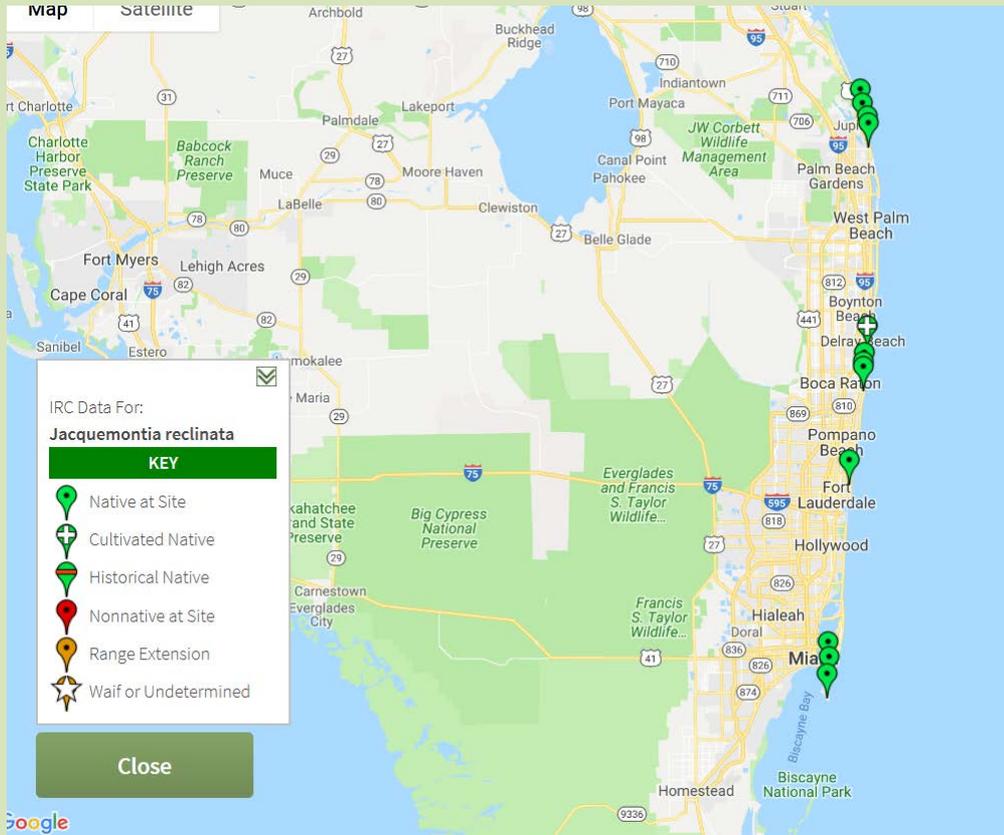


Oncidium ensatum (GBIF.org)



C. McCartney

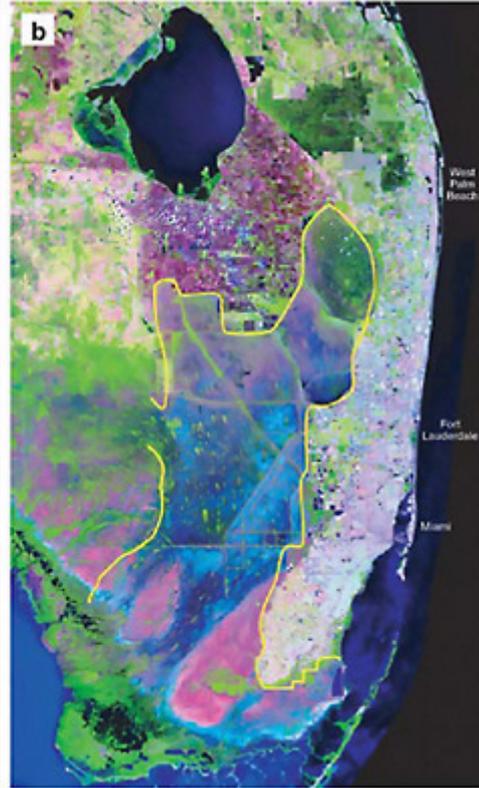
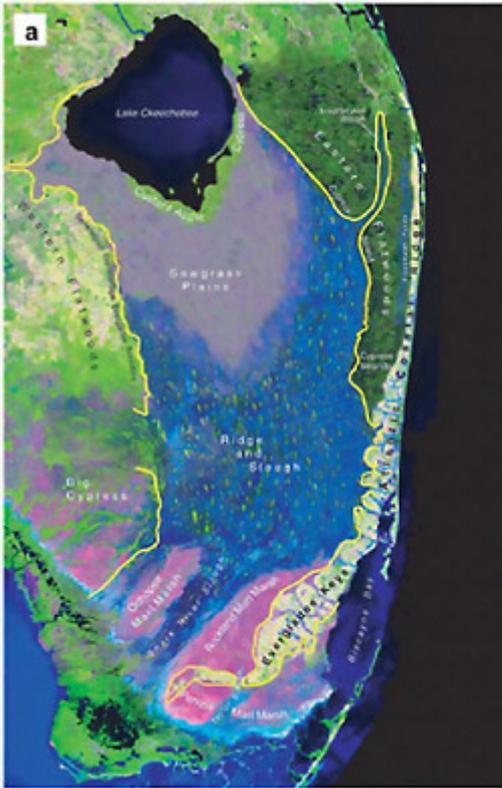
South Florida Endemics (probably >50)



Jacquemontia reclinata
Beach clustervine

>50% of region in conservation; United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2020 Protected Areas Target = 17%. So everything should be great – but its not.





- Everglades transformation
- Coastal development & erosion
- Destruction of critical upland habitat in the interior

The Floristic Inventory of South Florida 1995 – present

South Florida  The Floristic Inventory of South Florida
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Plants of South Florida [Plants by Conservation Area](#) [Plants by County](#) [Plants by Habitat](#)
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Please scroll to the bottom for more images.
Simarouba glauca DC.
Paradise tree

Family: Simarubaceae
Group: Diicot
Substrate: Terrestrial
Habit: Tree
Perennation: Perennial
Native Range: Peninsular Florida, the West Indies, southern Mexico and Central America.
[Map of select IRC data for peninsular Florida](#)
IRC SOUTH FLORIDA Status: Secure
SOUTH FLORIDA Occurrences: Present
SOUTH FLORIDA Native Status: Native
SOUTH FLORIDA Cultivated Status: Cultivated
Comments: Visit our [Natives For Your Neighborhood](#) website for more information and images. For a digitized image of [Simarouba glauca](#) Florida range map, visit the [Exploring Florida](#) website.

Other data on *Simarouba glauca* available from:

[Florida Conservation Plants](#) [Plants of the West Indies Catalogue of the Seed Plants of the West Indies](#) [Florida Inventory of the Florida Keys](#)
[USFWS](#) [Puerto Rico Botanical Inventory of the Florida Keys](#) [TROPICOS.ORG](#)
[USDA](#)

Simarouba glauca has been found in the following 95 conservation areas:

| Conservation Area | Occurrence | Native Status |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Alice C. Wainwright Park | Present | Native |
| Arch Creek Park | Present | Native |
| Atlantic Dunes Park | Present | Native |
| Barley Barber Swamp | Present | Native |
| Bartlett Estate | Present | Native |
| Big and Little George Hammocks | Present | Native |
| Big Cypress National Preserve | Present | Native |
| Big Torch Hammocks, Florida Keys Wildlife and | Present | Native |

There are 182 taxa reported for Red Reef Park

Group By Family: [Show Results](#)

| Scientific Name: | Occurrence: | Native Status: | Introduced Status: | Invasive Status: | Cultivated Status: | Reference: | Voucher: |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Adonia merrillii | Present | Not Native, Cultivated Only | Not Introduced | Not Invasive | Cultivated | | |
| Agave decipiens | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Ageratina jucunda | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Alternanthera flavescens | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Alternanthera maritima | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Ambrosia artemisiifolia | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Ruderal | | 15297 | |
| Ampelopsis arborea | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Amyris elemifera | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Andropogon virginicus var. glaucus | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |
| Andropogon virginicus var. virginicus | Recorded as Present in Error | | | | | 15297 | |
| Annona glabra | Present | Native | Not Introduced | Native | | 15297 | |

SOME QUESTIONS

- Are very small, fragmented conservation areas important?
- How well does the current conservation system protect rare vascular plants?
- Have there been regional extirpations?



1990s - Contributed to original management plans for several Palm Beach County Natural Areas, including Delray Oaks, Seacrest Scrub and Jupiter Ridge.

PALM BEACH COUNTY'S NATURAL AREAS

1. NORTH JUPITER FLATWOODS • 3377 Church St., Jupiter



This 160-acre natural area preserves slash pine habitat. Other plants found at North Jupiter Flatwoods include saw palmetto, giant wild pine, St. John's wort, largeflower rosegenet and pink sandew. Parking is available at Jupiter Community Park.

2. JACKSON RIVERFRONT PINES



This 3-acre natural area preserves a small portion of the Loxahatchee River shoreline. Even a tiny piece of protected habitat makes a difference – osprey, great horned owl, and gopher tortoise have been recorded at this site.

3. JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE • Jupiter



Explore endangered scrub habitat within this 120-acre natural area located in the shadow of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. A boardwalk leads to a covered observation deck overlooking a mangrove wetland restoration area.



4. DELAWARE SCRUB • 47 R. Delaware Blvd., Jupiter



A twenty-minute walk takes visitors through a pine flatwoods forest, over a cypress swamp, across desertlike scrub habitat, and ends at a mangrove overlook. Wildlife observed on the 16-acre site includes gopher tortoises, wood ducks, and red-bellied woodpeckers.



5. LIMESTONE CREEK • 6570 Church St., Jupiter



This 52-acre natural area protects remnants of Limestone Creek – a “blackwater” tributary of the Loxahatchee River. Wetland restoration along the C-18 Canal provides habitat for wading birds, manatees, and schools of fish.



6. CYPRESS CREEK • 10035 Indian Rd., Jupiter



A two-mile stretch of NENA's Historic Jupiter – Indian Town Trail passes through the western half of this 2,041-acre natural area. The multi-use trail allows hikers, bikers, and equestrians access to several wetland overlooks and shade shelters. Additional hiking and equestrian trails are located in the eastern portion of the natural area.



7. PINE GLADES



A wetland wonderland, the 6,55-acre Pine Glades Natural Area attracts colorful wading birds including roseate spoonbill, great blue heron, little blue heron, and white ibis. Restoration projects within the natural area restored water levels and removed invasive non-native plants.

8. C-18 TRIANGLE



Wetlands are found throughout this 138-acre natural area. During the rainy season (June – November) up to three feet of water fill the depression marshes. The water disappears during the winter and spring, leaving behind muddy circles on the land.



9. JUPITER RIDGE • 1019 S.E. Highway 1, Jupiter



Jupiter Ridge preserves 270 acres of scrub – one of Florida's rarest habitats. Walk ancient sand dunes covered with sand pine trees and pricklypear cactus. The western edge of the natural area meets the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway where red mangroves flourish.



10. LOXAHATCHEE SLOUGH • Palm Beach Gardens



The 12,841-acre Loxahatchee Slough is the county's largest natural area. Cypress domes dot the landscape and depression marshes fill with water during the summer and fall. White-tailed deer, bobcats, and bald eagles are just a few of the animals found here. A five-mile stretch of NENA's Bluegill Trail passes through Loxahatchee Slough allowing hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians a grand view of the natural area. Fishing permitted from the banks of the C-18 Canal. Parking, canoe launch, observation tower, and restrooms are available at Sandhill Crane Access park – 8175 PGA Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens.



11. HUNGRYLAND SLOUGH



A portion of the Florida Trail Association's Ocean-to-Lake Hiking Trail travels through this 2,967-acre natural area. Much of Hungryland Slough is underwater during the rainy season (June – November). The best time to travel the trail is in winter and early spring.



12. SWEETBAY • 12560 Indian Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens



This 1,094-acre natural area is adjacent to the North County Airport located off of the Bee Line Hwy. (S.R. 710), on the side west of PGA Blvd. The wetlands attract many wading birds, including snowy egret, black-crowned night-heron, and the endangered wood stork.



13. JUNO DUNES • 1189 S.E. Hwy. 1 (Oceanfront trail) 1601 S.E. Hwy. 1, Palm Beach



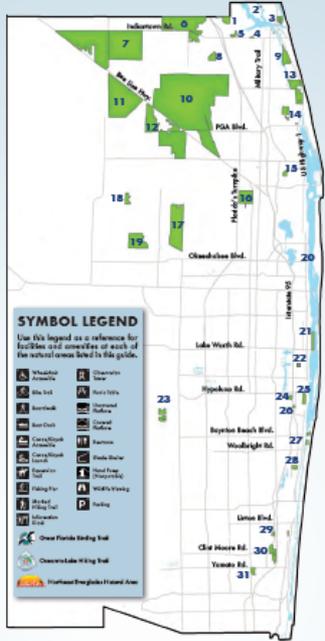
Visitors to the 569-acre Juno Dunes Natural Area can travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The oceanfront trail has a great view of the surrounding area atop an ancient sand dune. The west trail has several miles of trails and floating docks to allow boaters access to the site. Restrooms available at Loggerhead Park.



14. FRENCHMAN'S FOREST • 12281 Property Farms Rd., Ft. Gardens



The wet, low-lying areas of this 172-acre natural area contain giant leather fern and cypress. The drier ridges are home to slash pine and saw palmetto. More than 5,000 red mangrove seedlings were planted around the tidal pond overlook to restore wetland habitat. Animals observed on the site include great horned owl, red-bellied woodpecker, and eastern gray squirrel.



Natural areas may be temporarily closed for environmental activities. Check the Department's web site for current information regarding natural area accessibility and public facilities.

15. LAKE PARK SCRUB • Lake Park



The 55-acre Lake Park Scrub Natural Area preserves scrub habitat, one of Florida's most endangered ecosystems. It is estimated that less than 2% of Palm Beach County's historic scrub remains. The natural area is an important refueling stop for migrating birds in the spring and fall.



16. WINDING WATERS • West Palm Beach



Roughly half of this 548-acre natural area was cleared for agricultural purposes. The impacted area was restored to shallow-water and deep-water marshes. Birdlife is abundant on this site. Bald eagle, anhinga, green heron, belted kingfisher, and loggerhead shrimp are just a few of the birds observed at Winding Waters Natural Area.



17. POND CYPRESS



The 1,737-acre Pond Cypress Natural Area is home to towering cypress trees covered in airplants such as the giant wild pine. Many areas of the site are underwater during much of the year.



18. ACREAGE PINES • 6405 10th Ave. N., Lantana



Acresage Pines Natural Area preserves 124 acres of wetlands and pine lands adjacent to Acresage Community Park. A boardwalk allows visitors an opportunity to watch dragonflies, herons, and osprey nest for food in the wetlands. A hiking trail winds through slash pines and saw palmetto. Keep an eye out for the acrobatic displays of common nighthawk!



19. ROYAL PALM BEACH PINES • Royal Palm Beach

Main Entrance: 110 Nether's Way • North Entrance: 12300 40th St.



Wetlands cover more than 40% of this 772-acre site. The natural area attracts many birds, including bald eagle, red-shouldered hawk, and Florida sandhill crane. Other animals sighted include bobcat, southern cricket frog, and eastern box turtle.

20. SOUTH COVE • Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach



Visitors can stroll down a 556-foot boardwalk that extends to one of three mangrove islands within the Lake Worth Lagoon. Six acres of restored wetlands support local fisheries, wading birds, manatees, and sea turtles. Motorist parking available along Flagler Drive.



21. SNOOK ISLANDS • 100 N. Golfview Rd., Lake Worth



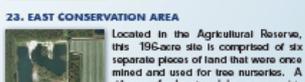
This 118-acre wetland restoration project created 11 acres of mangroves and 2 acres of oyster reefs within the Lake Worth Lagoon. Public use facilities include a boardwalk, kayak launch, and floating dock. Restrooms available at Bryant Park.



22. LANTANA SCRUB • Lantana



This 33-acre natural area was part of the now-closed A. G. Holley State Hospital property. The site contains Florida scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitats. Sand pine and saw palmetto are found throughout, along with Florida rosemary, powder-puff lichen, and hog plum.



23. EAST CONSERVATION AREA



Located in the Agricultural Reserve, this 196-acre site is comprised of six separate pieces of land that were once mined and used for tree nurseries. A 41-acre freshwater lake now exists in the mined section. Cypress strands are scattered throughout the East Conservation Area.



24. HIGH RIDGE SCRUB • 7300 High Ridge Rd.



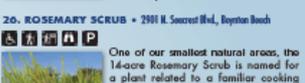
The 39-acre High Ridge Scrub Natural Area protects plants and animals that live in scrub habitat. Many of these species are protected, including the gopher tortoise. Other animals observed on the site include gulf fritillary butterfly, cicada, yellow garden spider, and American kestrel.



25. HYPOLUXO SCRUB • 150 Hypoluxo Rd., Hypoluxo



Three-story observation towers allow visitors a bird's-eye view of the 98-acre natural area. A postcard entrance off of Overlook Rd. allows for easy access to the center of the site. The dry scrub is home to Florida rosemary, sand live oak, hog plum, sixlined racemerum, coachwhip, and brown thrasher.



26. ROSEMARY SCRUB • 2901 N. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach



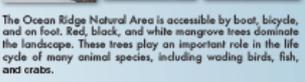
One of our smallest natural areas, the 14-acre Rosemary Scrub is named for a plant related to a familiar cooking herb – the Florida rosemary. Other plants found on the site include nodding pawpaw, cabbage palm, roosting pineweed, and several species of native bromeliads.



27. OCEAN RIDGE • Centra St., Ocean Ridge



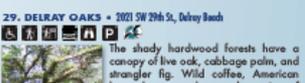
The Ocean Ridge Natural Area is accessible by boat, bicycle, and on foot. Red, black, and white mangrove trees dominate the landscape. These trees play an important role in the life cycle of many animal species, including wading birds, fish, and crabs.



28. SEACREST SCRUB • 3403 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach



The 54-acre Seacrest Scrub Natural Area is a grassy island of wilderness in the middle of an urban landscape. It is home to the protected gopher tortoise. Other animals observed on the site include American redstart, green anole, and eastern gray squirrel.



29. DELRAY OAKS • 3021 SW 29th St., Delray Beach



The shady hardwood forests have a canopy of live oak, cabbage palm, and strangler fig. Wild coffee, American beautyberry, and several species of ferns are present in the understorey. The 25-acre Delray Oaks Natural Area is home to many resident and migratory birds, including red-shouldered hawk, blue-gray gnatcatcher, and several species of warblers.



30. YAMATO SCRUB • 781 Clint Moore Rd., Boca Raton



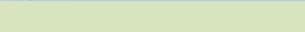
Florida scrub habitat covers 63% of Yamato Scrub. Plants found in this 217-acre site include sand pine, tallflower, and slybilis sapling. A 10-acre basin marsh located in the northern portion of the natural area contains maidencane, sawgrass, and sand cordgrass. More than three miles of trails are available for hiking. Bridges across canals and a tunnel underneath Clint Moore Rd. allow for easy access to all areas.



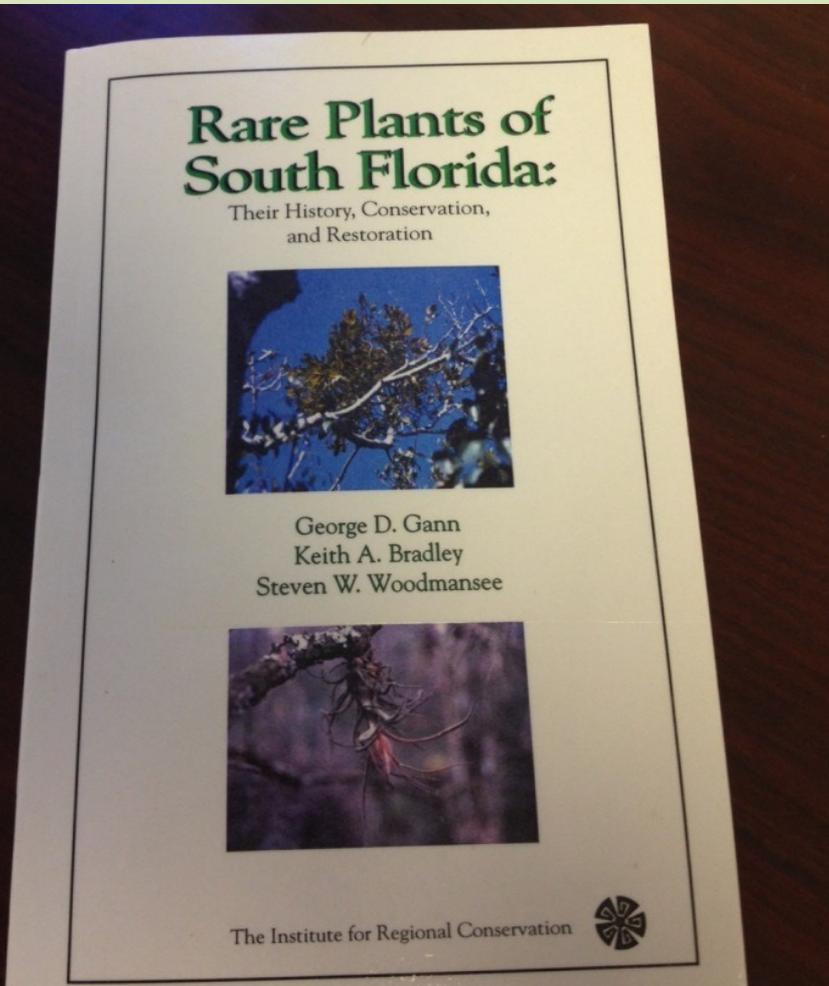
31. PONDHAWK • 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton



Access to this 79-acre natural area is through the Boca Raton Spanish River Library parking lot. A 12-foot-wide multiuse trail winds along Blue Lake – property once owned by the IBM Corporation. An eight-acre wetland restoration project inside the natural area provides habitat for osprey, mottled duck, black-necked stilts, great blue heron, and white ibis. The natural area is named for a common dragonfly found throughout the woodlands.



Rare Plants of South Florida



- About 1,435 native plant taxa in South Florida.
- About 1/4 either critically imperiled or possibly extirpated (the super rare). Only 1/4 was thought to be secure. About 8% were reported as possibly extirpated.
- The importance of both large and small conservation areas were documented.
- Patterns of rarity were explored (Pteridophytes, epiphytes, tropical plants)

Ecological Restoration and Community Outreach



Restoring the Gold Coast

Where Did the Native Biodiversity Go?



Delray Beach, circa 1980

What We Do Well



move sand



plant sea-oats



recover sea turtles

Success Stories





Initial restorative activities such as single-species revegetation projects can be transformed over time into diverse 4-star to 5-star restoration projects. Left, Bethany Beach, Delaware, USA, ©ER&M/Biohabitats. Right, Delray Beach, Florida, USA ©George D. Gann.

Delray Beach Municipal Beach

One of the most biodiverse restored beaches in Florida





2015 Survey and Assessment

183 of 196 historical species recorded (both natives and exotics)

101 native dune species, 7 possible extirpations in City

An additional 75 species within historical range are missing











Focal Gold Coast Species

Beach ragweed

Ambrosia hispida

- Florida Keys north to Brevard County, but nearly extinct along Florida east coast.
- Introduced at Atlantic Dunes Park (2016) and Delray Municipal Beach (1993; still present).



Beach Clustervine

Jacquemontia reclinata

- Federally endangered. Miami-Dade to Martin County (endemic).
- Reintroduced to Atlantic Dune Park (2016) and introduced to Delray Municipal Beach (2002-2006; still present).



Beach-tea

Croton punctatus

- Scattered and rare in southeastern Florida. Not common on re-nourished beaches.
- Present at Atlantic Dunes Park and Delray Municipal Beach. Plants added in 1995.



Pineland Croton

Croton linearis

- Florida Keys to St. Lucie County. Nearly extinct north of Miami-Dade County. Sole larval host for two federally endangered and endemic butterflies.
- Planted at Delray Municipal Beach (1995) but introduction failed.



Bartram's Scrub-hairstreak

Strymon acis bartramii

- Federally endangered. Monroe and Miami-Dade counties; extinct in Broward and Palm Beach counties.
- Larvae feed only on Pineland croton.



Florida prairieclover

Dalea carthagenensis var. *floridana*

- Federally endangered. Southern mainland north to Palm Beach and Collier counties. Extinct in Palm Beach County.
- Collected in the Palm Beach area only in 1895 and 1918.



East Coast lantana

Lantana depressa var. *floridana*

- Miami-Dade to St. Johns County along the east coast (endemic), but nearly extinct due to hybridization with the exotic weedy *Lantana camara*.
- Recorded for Atlantic Dunes Park (1993) but presumed extirpated there. Possibly present in Boca Raton but otherwise gone from South Palm Beach County.



Red mulberry

Morus rubra

- Widespread in south Florida in both inland and coastal locations, but very rare in South Palm Beach County.
- Previously recorded for Atlantic Dune Park (1991) but apparently extirpated there. Present in Boca Raton in maritime hammocks.



Partridge pea

Chamaecrista fasciculata

- Widespread in south Florida in both inland and coastal locations, but perhaps extinct on South Palm Beach County barrier islands.
- Provides food for birds. Larval host plant for ceraunus blue (*Hemiargus ceraunus*), cloudless sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*), little yellow (*Eurema lisa*), and gray hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) butterflies.



Spurred butterfly pea

Centrosema virginianum

- Widespread in south Florida in both inland and coastal locations, but very rare in South Palm Beach County.
- Previously documented at Atlantic Dunes Park (1991) but apparently extirpated.



Forked bluecurls

Trichostema dichotoma

- Widespread in South Florida in both inland and coastal locations, but very rare in coastal South Palm Beach County.
- Previously documented at Atlantic Dunes Park (1991, 1993) but apparently extirpated.



Marshhay cordgrass

Spartina patens

- Widespread in South Florida along the coast and sometimes planted in dune revegetation projects.
- Previously documented at Atlantic Dune Park (1991) but apparently extirpated there; present at Delray Municipal Beach.



Shoreline Resilience Working Group

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact

Beach/Dune Goals:

- A continuous, functional dune system complements every beach from Key Biscayne to Jupiter Inlet.
- Invasive exotic vegetation covers less than 5% of total vegetated area of the region's dunes.

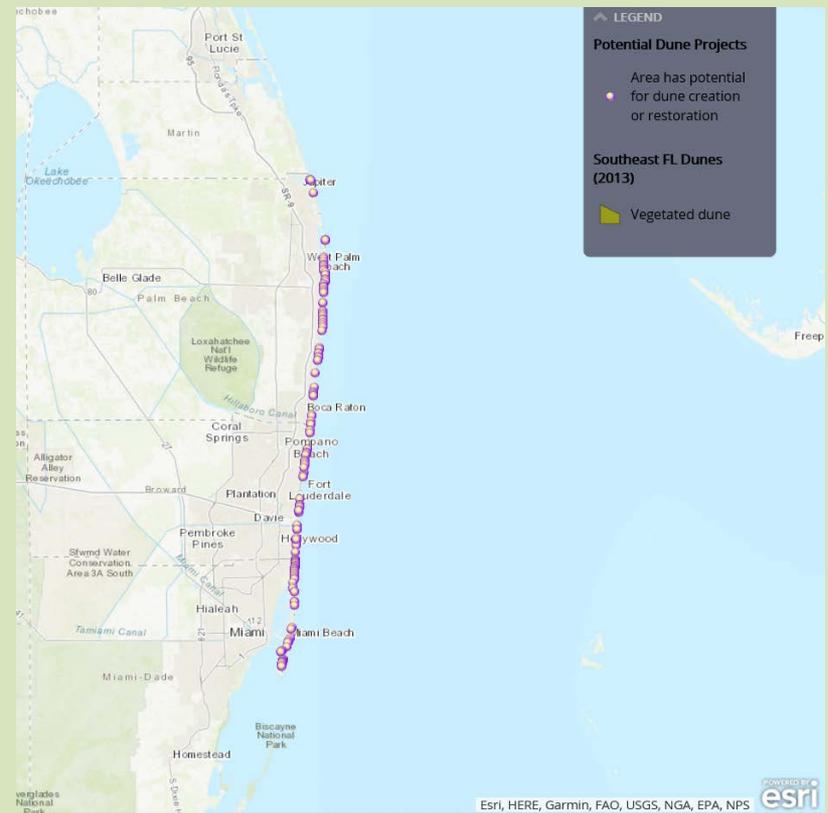


A Region Responds to a Changing Climate

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties

Regional Climate Action Plan

October 2012



Delray Beach Draft Comprehensive Plan Coastal Element

<http://alwaysdelray.com/>

COASTAL MANAGEMENT GOALS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| GOAL CME 1 | PRESERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND MANAGE CONTINUE TO PRESERVE, PROTECT, RESTORE, AND DILIGENTLY MANAGE THE NATURAL COASTAL ENVIRONMENT TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE ITS QUALITY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. |
| GOAL CME 2 | BALANCE BETWEEN BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS ENSURE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE COASTAL PLANNING AREA IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTING CHARACTER AND SENSITIVELY BALANCES THE NEEDS OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. |
| GOAL CME 3 | PREPARE AND ADAPT FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND PERIL OF FLOOD ENHANCE EFFORTS TO PREPARE, ADAPT, MITIGATE, AND MANAGE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO ACHIEVE A RESILIENT COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE COASTAL PLANNING AREA. |
| GOAL CME 4 | NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN THE COASTAL AREAS ENHANCE EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR AND MANAGE IMPACT FROM NATURAL DISASTERS |
| GOAL CME 5 | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. FOSTER AND PARTICIPATE IN PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS REGIONAL AND LOCAL COASTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES, PROVIDE FUNDING AND ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SUCH PROGRAMS. |

Mayfield bill would revamp how state beach renourishment funding is decided

Dave Berman, Florida Today Published 5:00 p.m. ET Jan. 30, 2019 | Updated 9:51 a.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019

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Pipe is being positioned on Indian River County beaches just south of Sebastian Inlet to carry sand dredged from the inlet's sand trap for the Sebastian Inlet District's ongoing dredging and beach renourishment project. (Photo: SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT PHOTO)

Florida Sen. Debbie Mayfield has introduced a bill that would overhaul how state funding for beach preservation projects is decided.

Mayfield, a Melbourne Republican, said, under her coastal management bill, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's "criteria for ranking beach and inlet sand management projects will be refined to better capture the economic importance of healthy beaches to tourism, storm damage reduction and resource protection."

Debbie Flack, president of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association, which supports the bill, said Mayfield's proposal provides a "much more refined" set of criteria

MORE STORIES

 No arrests, names as investigators review circumstances in Port St. John shooting death
March 18, 2019, 4:55 p.m.

 Carnival president touts pluses of Port Canaveral
March 18, 2019, 6:15 p.m.

 2 pets killed after fire in Rockledge home
March 19, 2019, 7:49 a.m.

 House fire reported in south Brevard
March 18, 2019, 4:54 p.m.

 Melbourne councilman wants to name street for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
March 18, 2019, 3 p.m.

 West Melbourne man arrested after standoff, police report

"Our beaches are one of Florida's most valuable resources, serving as ***critical habitat for species of plants and animals***, attracting visitors and new residents to the state, as well as ***providing a line of defense during major storm events***," Florida Senator Debbie Mayfield, Melbourne. *Florida Today*, January 30, 2019

February 2019 Newsletter



Monthly Conservation Notes

Join us for our new monthly Conservation Notes, where we discuss topics important to our work. If you have ideas about topics you would like to see covered, please send us a note!

Diversity is Healthy

A diverse beach is a healthy beach! We have done well in southeastern Florida to re-nourish our beaches and restore sea turtle populations. Yet we have a long way to go to restore all of the native plant and animal diversity lost from our barrier islands in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. The fact is that diverse dunes are more resilient to sea level rise and climate change. That's why it's critical they are restored based on native ecosystems able to support hundreds of species of native plants and animals, including rare and endemic species! Bringing together all of the stakeholders - landowners, community members, politicians, students - to support a *regional conservation* vision for the dunes of southeastern Florida is the goal of our new Restoring the Gold Coast program. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more updates!

Preliminary Goals in Southern Palm Beach County (if funded by Impact 100)

- **Conduct outreach to all municipalities** with property in the project area, and at least 10 nonprofit or community stakeholder groups by August 31, 2019.
- **Assess coastal plant diversity** along at least 10 miles of coastline from the Broward County line to the Town of South Palm Beach/ Town of Palm Beach line by May 30, 2020.
- **Conduct at least 18 restoration/education events and 6 workshops** engaging at least 500 children, 50 college students, 100 tourists visiting the SPBC area, and 300 adults and seniors by December 31, 2020.
- **Increase depleted populations** of at least 25 species of native plants, by December 31, 2020.
- **Engage at least 50 public officials**, coastal resource managers and other influencers about the restoration of coastal biodiversity by December 31, 2020.

Building a Coalition

Letters of Endorsement

Beach Property Owners' Association
City of Delray Beach
City of Boca Raton
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
Florida Native Plant Society, Palm Beach
County Chapter
Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful
Gulf Stream School
Town of Briny Breezes

Funding Committed

Beach Property Owners' Association
Erin L. Deady Law (Green Delray)
New York Life Foundation
Individual Donors

Funding Requested

City of Delray Beach
City of Boca Raton
Palm Beach County Impact 100
New York Life Community Impact



Delray Beach Parks & Recreation



JOSEPH J. ZALUSKI
HEAD OF SCHOOL



Many Ways of Helping

Great American Beach Cleanup ADP

IRC is taking part in the Great American Cleanup day on April 27th by hosting a volunteer day at Atlantic Dunes Park as part of our Green Delray Program! We will be hosting this day in partnership with Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc., Erin L. Deady Law and the City of Delray Beach.

Help restore native biodiversity and clean up our coastline as people across the country take part in the Great American Cleanup. Come prepared to plant native dune species that support the coastal ecosystem, remove weedy invasive species that harm the coastal ecosystem, and pick up trash. We will provide all tools needed for the morning as well as light refreshments. Volunteers of all ages welcome! More info here.

Volunteers needed for Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration Event!

**When: Saturday, April 27th
9:00am - 12:00pm**

Volunteers of all ages needed to help plant native dune species that support the coastal ecosystem, remove weedy invasive species that harm the coastal ecosystem, and pick up trash.

Participant:
We advise to wear close-toed shoes, long pants, and sunscreens.
We are providing with gloves and all necessary tools.
We are offering a water and light refreshments.
We'll provide a free lunch for working staff.

Meet at Atlantic Dunes Park in the parking lot and look for a volunteer sign-up with Erin Deady Law.

Send RSVP to erindeady@erindeady.com or
561-327-6417

KEEP PALM BEACH COUNTY Beautiful
CITY OF DELRAY BEACH
Erin Deady Law
Institute for Regional Conservation



Thank You!



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