



Our Path Forward

DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Every conservation story told within these pages is made possible thanks to donors like you.



In 2018, The Nature Conservancy Florida launched Our Florida, Our World — our first campaign in over 20 years. The projects we launched were critical to shoring up the resilience of nature and people in the face of a changing climate. They were projects where we could partner to protect Florida’s lands and waters for people and nature. They helped local economies and bolstered biodiversity. They were proving grounds for innovative conservation.

We trusted where science was leading us and now many of these innovative projects are top priorities for The Nature Conservancy as we transition into the “decade of delivery.” This is the decade in which TNC’s 2030 goals must become a reality in Florida and around the world. We are up against enormous challenges, from the loss of biodiversity, to the climate crisis. But working together, we can face planet-sized problems with planet-sized ambitions.

Every conservation story told within these pages is made possible thanks to donors like you. Every gift, large and small, helps us reach new milestones in protecting Florida from the panhandle to the keys. Our collective future is not written in stone. You have already helped change the history of Florida, and we invite you to join us in continuing to change Florida’s future. We are excited to feature some of your stories in this 2022 edition of our Impact Report.

Generous supporters like you are a source of inspiration as we work to save Florida. We’ve spent the last 60 years beating the odds, and we can’t stop now. We hope you are inspired by the accomplishments detailed within this report. Thank you for making this work possible, and for your dedication to The Nature Conservancy. Together, we will find a way.

Temperince Morgan, Executive Director, TNC Florida

Pat Balthrop, Board Chair

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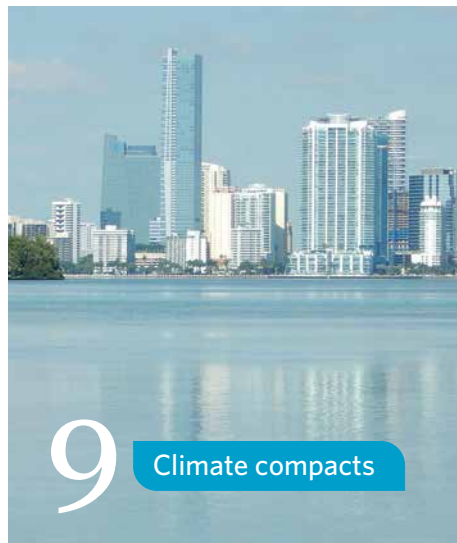
The Nature Conservancy in Florida

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

ON THE COVER The Nature Conservancy's Blowing Rocks Preserve © Kinzie + Riehm
THIS PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT A stink bug © Mac Stone; Temperince Morgan © Roberto Gonzalez; Pat Balthrop © TNC

Our Florida, Our World Milestones 2018 – 2022

Leveraged Funds: \$133,307,909.59



THIS PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT TOP Florida panther © Remi Escudie/TNC Photo Contest 2018; Aerial view with Arbuckle Creek meandering through the Ravensworth Farm property. © Russell C. Mick; Adam Peterson on a prescribed fire © Kevin Main; BOTTOM Mangrove roots with oysters attached © Chris Gillies; Miami skyline © Josh Mahoney; Completed oyster reefs off Escribano Point in Pensacola's East Bay. © Russell C. Mick

The Bluffs of St. Teresa

This conservation milestone has been almost 25 years in the making and carries great significance for TNC, FDEP, Florida’s nature and its residents.



As the newest addition to the system of Florida state parks, the Bluffs of St. Teresa offers a wilderness with trails winding through wooded habitats and wetlands with amazing views of Ochlockonee Bay from the bluffs. The 7,700-acre park lies between Bald Point State Park and Tate’s Hell State Forest, creating a contiguous protected landscape that includes the Apalachicola National Forest, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Ochlockonee River State Park.

The protection of the Bluffs marks a conservation milestone that will benefit climate resilience, preserve crucial rivers and lakes, and safeguard the habitat of countless native and migrating species. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of The Nature

Conservancy and its donors and partners, this iconic Florida property has been preserved and protected.

“Keeping this land in its natural state will ensure good water quality in the Bay and afford oysters the opportunity to flourish; stimulating the economies of Franklin and Wakulla counties through active commercial aquaculture. Additionally, having 17,080 acres of land protected provides a natural climate solution to protect the shorelines of Franklin and Wakulla county the next time a storm comes ashore.”

- Temperince Morgan, Executive Director,
The Nature Conservancy in Florida



How to visit Visitors to the Bluffs of St. Teresa can enjoy winding trails through wooded habitats and wetlands, with breathtaking views of Ochlockonee Bay. It's open from 8 a.m. to sunset every day of the year, no fee required. Visit: 4449 U.S. 98 East, St.Teresa, FL 32358 | Contact: 850-962-2771

Panther Corridor

The Florida panther now has more room to roam within the ranchlands north and south of the Caloosahatchee River thanks to several important acquisitions by the State of Florida with help from TNC. We are currently working on two additional projects with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Florida Forest Service that will add even more protected acreage for Florida panthers and other wildlife to thrive.

Chaparral Slough

The 6,864-acre Chaparral Slough conservation easement closed in August 2022. The State of Florida purchased a conservation easement on this 11-mile-long wildlife corridor. Chaparral Slough is part of an area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Primary Dispersal and Expansion area for the Florida panther. This conservation easement not only provides Florida panthers with necessary habitat to live but will also add protection to a major water renewal area. This acquisition is especially exciting news because the southern boundary of the Chaparral Slough tract connects to the northern boundary of the 460-acre conservation easement TNC secured in 2017 on Cypress Creek Grove, which connects Chaparral Slough and the Caloosahatchee River. This area has been identified as the most important area for Florida panthers to naturally migrate across the river.

Devil's Garden

The Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management area has grown by 23,451 acres, thanks to four acquisitions by the State of Florida that filled a gap in a critical landscape corridor within the Florida panther's primary habitat. This area is vitally important to the core Florida panther population existing south of the Caloosahatchee River and these acquisitions contribute to a much larger conservation area totaling nearly 90,000 contiguous acres of agricultural lands mixed with forested and non-forested wetlands and pinelands that provide habitat for a suite of wildlife species.

Hendrie Ranch

Hendrie Ranch is part of a strategically located landscape connectivity project that is nearing completion. TNC is assisting the Florida Forest Service in the purchase of a conservation easement on 663-acres of this working cattle

ranch within panther habitat north of the Caloosahatchee River. TNC will fund a land management endowment to assist with future management, such as prescribed fire and exotic species control, on the property. The ranch contains outstanding natural resources and is home to many native species including Florida black bear, Florida scrub-jay, Eastern indigo snake, and crested caracara.

G Road Grove, LLC

A new project located near the southern end of the Florida panther Dispersal Zone. The G Road Grove tract is an 862-acre working citrus operation with a natural wooded wetland fringe around the perimeter. TNC is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase a conservation easement. This property is adjacent to several protected tracts, so if we successfully bring this project to the finish line, we will have protected another piece of the extremely important Dispersal Zone.



JILONA Lighthouse

Just two miles down the road from Blowing Rocks Preserve, a campus preserve of TNC's Center for Conservation Initiatives (CCI), the iconic Jupiter Lighthouse is a historic landmark that illuminates the city and the coastline. In the lighthouse's shadow sit four former Coast Guard barracks built in 1962, each spanning around 2,300 square feet.

In the summer of 2020, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA) called for proposals from local nonprofits to renovate the buildings with one catch — they'd have to fund it themselves.

TNC sprang to action and developed a proposal to transform one of the barracks into much needed lodging to house visitors to Blowing Rocks — including employees, scientists, interns, and college students.

When former TNC trustee JoAnn Tredennick and her husband Jack Meeks heard about the opportunity to renovate the bunkhouse, they stepped up to the plate. JoAnn's mother served in the Coast Guard and her father served in the Navy, both during WWII. She felt called to bring the historic structure back to life on behalf of her parents and TNC.

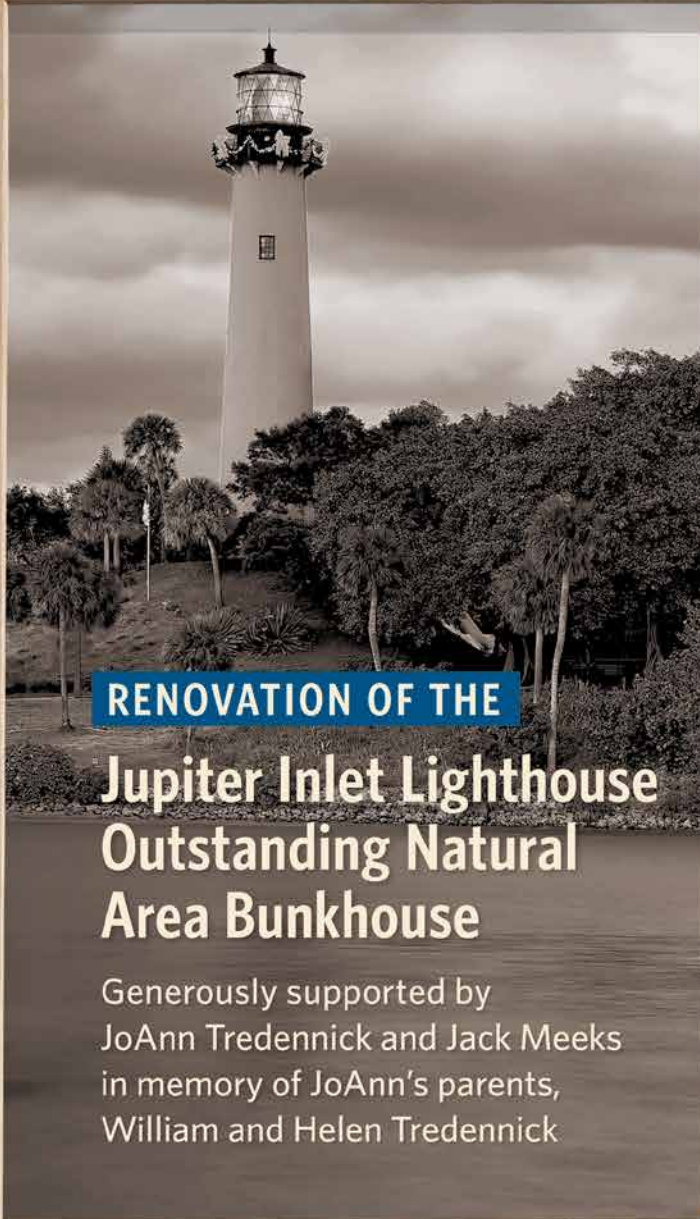


With its official ribbon-cutting in June, the house is now open, serving as an essential housing facility for visiting researchers and scientists working with us on marine and coastal conservation projects at nearby Blowing Rocks.

“Thanks to the generosity of our donors, CCI will allow us to better shape the future of conservation in Florida and beyond,” said Temperince Morgan, executive director of TNC in Florida.

Dedication

This commemorative placard tells the story of the memorial dedication of the bunkhouse, honoring Florida trustee and donor JoAnn Tredennick's parents' military service in the Coast Guard and Navy during WWII.



RENOVATION OF THE

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Bunkhouse

Generously supported by
JoAnn Tredennick and Jack Meeks
in memory of JoAnn's parents,
William and Helen Tredennick



My parents introduced our family to Jupiter Island almost fifty years ago when they purchased a condominium on the south end of the Island. Many fun family memories reside here. And, it is my parents who first instilled in me a love of the outdoors and the natural world through fishing, hunting, and appreciating wildlife and nature.

The presence and history of the Coast Guard on this property is also a continual reminder of my parents and how they served our country.

During World War II, both Dad and Mom left their jobs and careers to volunteer for military service. Ensign Helen Martha Weingartner Carr served in the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve as a Communications officer. Lieutenant Commander William Treloar Tredennick served in the United States Navy. A ceramic engineer, William served as a refractories specialist based at the Naval Boiler and Turbine Laboratory in Philadelphia, PA.

Jack and I are pleased to see this historic house come back to life supporting the work of The Nature Conservancy. The renovation of this property combines our passion for nature and for historic preservation with the opportunity to express our deep gratitude to my parents for the enduring legacy they have left us.

- Written by JoAnn Tredennick

Protecting And Stewarding Florida's Land

Since the launch of the Our Florida, Our World campaign, TNC has partnered to acquire and protect over 60,000 acres that are essential to knitting together enormous landscapes of tremendous conservation value. These landscapes provide corridors for wildlife, support healthy rivers and oceans, and boost local economies through recreation. Your gifts large and small have helped protect more than acres, they've also helped us steward lands across the state. With your support, we've improved forest health across 500,000 acres in Florida. In 2021, we

lent our controlled burning expertise to partner organizations across 127,000 acres in Florida alone! Utilizing prescribed fire, planting new trees, and thinning dense forest, we're protecting communities from wildfires while helping ensure biodiversity for the wildlife that relies on regular fires to stay healthy.



Engaging the Next Generation of Conservationists and Nature Lovers

When it comes to conservation, land stewardship, and fire management, TNC's expertise runs deep — and a new initiative is extending that knowledge to Florida's next generation of conservationists.

In 2022, TNC publicly launched the Center for Conservation Initiatives (CCI). One of its four initiatives is to provide education and professional training opportunities online and across CCI's campus preserves. The backbone of CCI's education training initiative is the Hixon Environmental Stewardship Program (CCI-HESP), made possible by a transformational gift by longtime TNC supporters Joseph and Renate Hixon. CCI-HESP supports in-person and virtual educational experiences for students from elementary school through college as well as mentoring and training through an internship and fellowship program. CCI-HESP also supports workforce training for early-career conservation professionals in areas such as prescribed fire, invasive species management, and habitat restoration.

One goal of CCI is to recruit and train a more diverse population of conservationists to make a bigger impact across Florida's communities. The state's booming population is putting pressure on natural landscapes. But the influx is also an opportunity, says Amanda Thompson, CCI's Training & Education Coordinator. "It means the more people we can teach about conservation, the more people we can empower to take small steps at home to protect our environment," she says. "Conservation is built into every fiber of CCI and its Hixon Environmental Stewardship Program."





COASTAL RESILIENCE

Natural Solutions and Powerful Partnerships in Palm Beach

In Lake Worth Lagoon, the Palm Beach Resilient Island has officially opened its sandy shores to nesting shorebirds such as American oystercatchers. TNC spearheaded construction of the new one-acre island, which is planted with mangroves and native grasses and ringed with oyster reefs — natural breakwaters that protect against waves and wakes while providing critical marine habitat. The island was designed to demonstrate how nature-based solutions can enhance climate resilience. The project also reveals the power of partnerships.

With initial support from the Batchelor Foundation, TNC recruited Palm Beach County as a partner, then leveraged that support to secure additional funding from the Carrier Corporation and the Florida Resilient Coastlines Program. By pooling resources and expertise, the team was able to expand on the original plan, creating significantly more habitat for shellfish and marine life. The result is a powerful model of what can be accomplished when conservation groups, private companies, and government agencies work together toward a common goal.

Restoring Oysters in the Gulf of Mexico

Healthy oceans and coastal areas depend on healthy marine fisheries. TNC has a long history of protecting and managing coastal and ocean areas throughout the world – for not only the habitats and species but also for the cultural and economic value they provide.

Nearly a decade ago, a landmark study published in *Bioscience* by leading researchers revealed that shellfish habitat, namely oyster reefs, had declined by 85 percent worldwide. This finding was striking given the multiple and essential roles that oysters play in our marine ecosystems as a species, a fishery, and habitat creators. Oysters are not just central to providing habitat for numerous fish, shellfish, birds and other animals, they stabilize bottom sediments and help improve water quality.

Of particular relevance to Florida, the study underscored that oyster fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico are the last remaining opportunity to achieve both large-scale oyster reef conservation and sustainable fisheries. Unfortunately, there has been a sharp decline in both the fisheries and habitat since the study was conducted. The Pensacola Bay system in Florida's panhandle region has also experienced the same precipitous decline of oyster reef area, amounting to at least 72% loss since the 1980's and the fishery is all but gone.





The deep roots and traditions of the oyster fishery that shaped the waterfront communities in the Pensacola Bay System are vanishing. Solutions to reverse this trend require investing in and accelerating recovery of oysters at a pace and scale that brings oysters, and their ecosystem benefits back to the bays where they once thrived. The *Oyster Fisheries and Habitat Management Plan for the Pensacola Bay System* – is the first comprehensive solution in the state completed this year by TNC and a collection of informed, invested, and motivated stakeholders.

These partners saw the need and value in taking decisive action to restore and safeguard this unique bivalve and all it can contribute to the community, economy and environment. The plan addresses management of the wild oyster harvest fishery and aquaculture farming in harmony with the recovery of oyster habitat. It can also serve as a model for management of oyster resources not only throughout Florida’s estuarine systems and the Gulf of Mexico, but across the United States and globally.

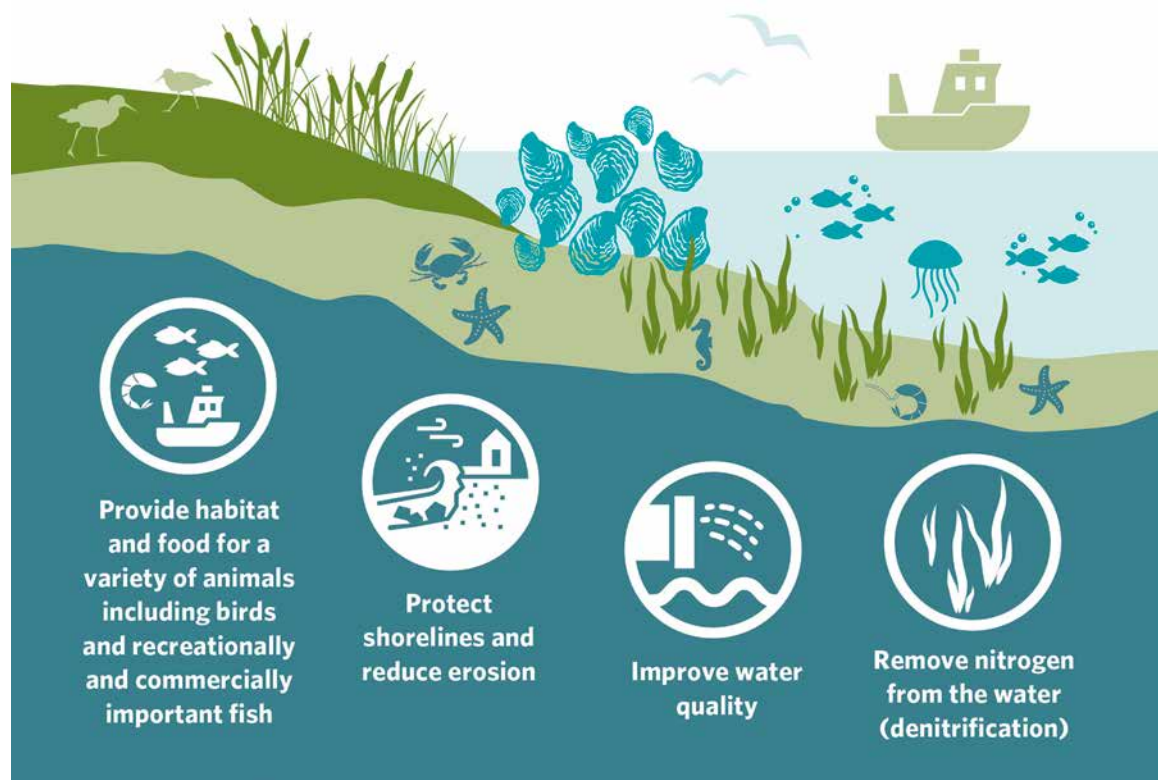
Oysters found on newly-built reef. © MelodyRay Culp USFWS; INSET TOP TO BOTTOM Oyster reef © Daryl Boudreau/NFWFMD; Spotted Sea Trout © Russell C. Mick

TNC, the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, and many other partners throughout the region are now putting the plan into action with an audacious goal. They intend to accelerate restoration throughout the bay system utilizing pioneering construction approaches at a scale never before seen in the Gulf of Mexico or the history of oyster restoration. When completed, they will have recovered the habitat and wild harvest fishery, restoring the benefits they bring to the ecosystem and communities.

The Pensacola East Bay Oyster Habitat Restoration project, led by TNC and funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is an important piece of this restoration effort. A project milestone of constructing 33 individual reefs along six miles of shoreline in Santa Rosa County, Florida was recently achieved, and live oysters were discovered just 10 months after construction. The reefs are already teeming with fish prized by the many anglers fishing in the bay. This is an early encouraging find, and monitoring over the next several years will reveal how well the oysters fare in the long-term. This project and the promise of much more to come is bringing hope to the oyster fishers and the community at large that restoring oysters to the bay is possible.



“The bay system has changed dramatically over my 50 years of working on it. We’ve had to revamp our business of making a living on the water,” says north Florida oysterman Pasco Gibson. “We used to have an abundance of oysters. I’d like to see our oyster fishery come back and I think it’s able to be done,” Gibson adds.



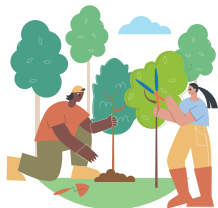
Growing a Healthy Urban Tree Canopy in Orlando

A resilient urban tree canopy offers a long list of benefits: lowering air temperatures, filtering rainwater, storing carbon, improving air quality, providing wildlife habitat and edible fruit, and improving the physical and mental health of people living nearby. Yet communities with low wealth are less likely to house a healthy tree canopy — even as they're more likely to be impacted by climate change and weather-related hazards. Vulnerable homeowners may also lack the resources to maintain damaged trees, which can lose

limbs or topple during hurricanes and storms, causing power outages, property damage, and even injury or death.

Enter Treesilience, a national TNC initiative focused on creating a resilient tree canopy in urban areas. In Orlando, we are working in historically underrepresented communities to maintain mature trees, plant new ones, and recruit at-risk youth for jobs in urban forestry. In year one, 15 Orlando-area families participated, and the team planted nearly

three dozen large trees including oaks, peaches, and mangoes. This year, the project will recruit 40 families. “This all happens through community engagement,” says TNC’s sustainable cities manager Christianah Oyenuga. “There’s a lot of mistrust of organizations that parachute in to change neighborhoods without input from the community. We’re building relationships and working together to improve community health and resilience.”

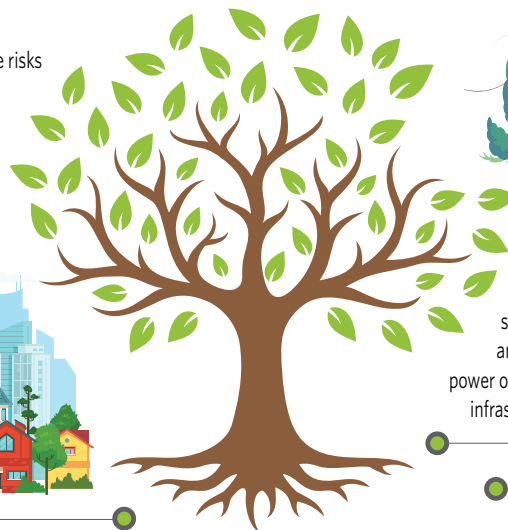


Tree Maintenance

- Replace dead/dying trees that pose risks to homes and people
- Maintenance of mature trees
- Planting new trees to increase tree canopy

Benefits of Trees

- Reduce heat
- Provide shade
- Boost physical and mental health
- Provide aesthetic value
- Block wind
- Create habitat
- Reduce flooding
- Capture and store carbon



Hurricanes

Damage caused by uprooted or falling tree limbs is one of the most severe impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms—causing power outages, loss of property and infrastructure and even fatalities.

Building Relationships

- Treesilience is building a strong tree care workforce in each community to improve access to career opportunities within the green industry.
- Building genuine relationships with communities and community-based organizations to address these inequities and promote healthy, resilient canopy.

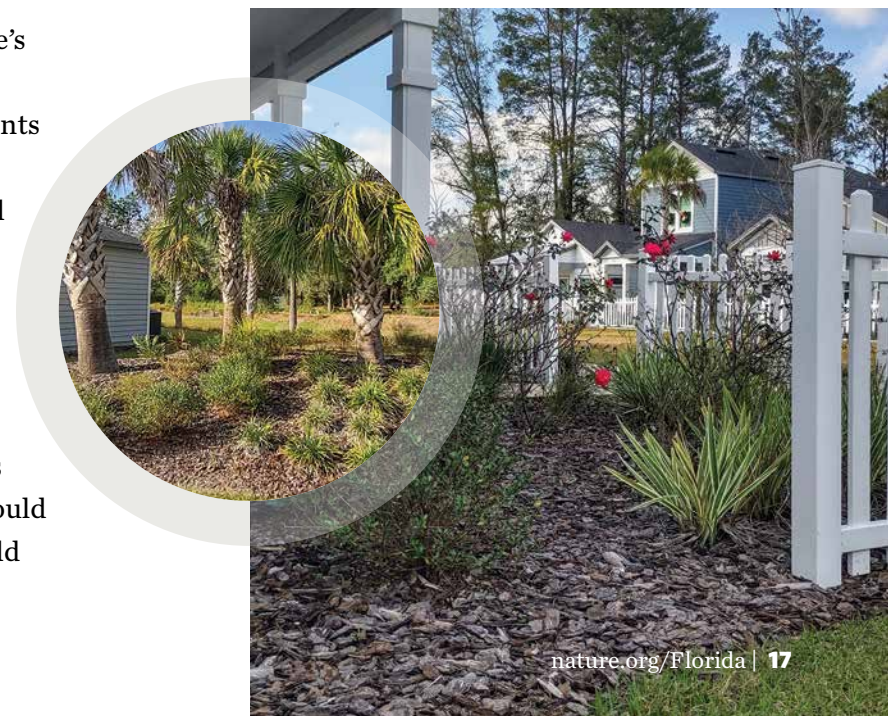


Precision Agriculture Gets a Boost From TNC's Nutrient Stewardship Program

From cabbage and peanut fields to citrus groves, TNC is helping Florida farmers adopt sustainable practices. Agriculture is a major contributor to the state economy, but requires huge amounts of water and can impair air and water quality through fertilizer runoff. TNC's Nutrient Stewardship Program has worked with hundreds of farms to implement precision agriculture methods, such as sampling nutrient levels in leaf tissue and measuring soil moisture with wireless probes. The result: Farmers apply water and fertilizer only when and where it's necessary, saving money and reducing environmental impacts. "Our farmers are using up to 35 percent less fertilizer and 60 percent less water," says nutrient stewardship project manager David Royal. Farmers want to be good stewards of the land, but often need help learning new technologies and practices, he adds. "With development pressure increasing, they have to learn to grow more food with less. We show them how precision agriculture can help them achieve their goals."

Landscaping for People and Nature

Florida's population is growing by nearly 1,000 people a day, putting pressure on the state's natural systems. To ease the pressure, TNC's Sustainable Floridian Program is creating a roadmap to sustainable development. First target: water use. Landscape irrigation accounts for up to two-thirds of a household's water use. In partnership with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension, we're helping residential developers shift to resilient, sprinkler-free landscapes. Sustainable yards include mature trees, alternative groundcovers and native plants that support pollinators, thrive on rainfall alone and have little need for chemical fertilizer. In addition to choosing the right plants, developers are set up for success by minimizing soil compaction during construction and establishing healthy soils. "Imagine sprinkler-free yards with a variety of plants full of movement from butterflies, birds and bees," says Lesley Bertolotti, TNC's sustainable communities project manager, a water resource specialist at TNC. "Water would be cleaner and more abundant, pollinators and birds would have a home and people would spend more time outside in the fresh air."



Women in Climate

Women worldwide are more vulnerable than men to the impacts of climate change and are playing critical leadership roles across the globe. That is also true here in Florida, where we live at ground zero for the planet's greatest global challenge, and we feel the impacts of climate change each day.

This past year, we have continued our efforts to support and celebrate women's contributions in several ways.

TNC Florida launched a series of "Women in Climate" virtual panel events featuring some of our most esteemed climate leaders, including Jane Gilbert, Miami Dade's first chief heat officer, and Dr. Cheryl Holder who co-chairs the Miami-Dade Climate and Heat Health Task Force; Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, TNC's chief scientist, and award-winning journalists Cynthia Barnett and Alex Harris; Representatives U.S. Kathy Castor and Stephanie Murphy and Commissioners Nikki Fried and Janet Long.



The Nature Conservancy was also invited to participate in this year's Aspen Ideas: Climate conference in Miami Beach. The conference brought a solutions-focused approach to a city where climate impacts are top of mind.

Jennifer Morris, TNC CEO, participated in two powerful plenary panels during the summit. TNC Florida's executive director Temperince Morgan participated in Resilient Futures, an Aspen Ideas event hosted at the Faena Forum.

To cap off several days of incredible content and engagement, TNC hosted a celebration of Women Climate Leaders, featuring Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava, Amazon's VP of Sustainability, Kara Hurst and Miami-Based international art curator Ximena Caminos at the Faena Hotel in Miami Beach.

As our focus on climate issues continues to strengthen, so will our support of the essential role women play in our efforts to tackle climate change.



Donate to Our Mission

There are many ways to give to The Nature Conservancy. TNC's giving options may offer tax savings, income for life, and other potential benefits for you and the world you love. These gifts can have a big impact on critical conservation work during the year-end season of giving:

Enclosed Envelope

To support the TNC Florida's most pressing priorities, please use the envelope in this report and be a part of our next critical conservation win.

Give Online

You can give securely online at:
www.nature.org/giveflorida

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated stock, bonds, or mutual funds are a smart and simple way to support TNC. These gifts allow you to give more with less because you may be able to both take an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes.

The Legacy Club

TNC's Legacy Club encompasses people of all means who have included TNC in their will or estate plan or established a life-income gift with TNC. More than 1,500 Florida residents currently have designated a legacy gift to support TNC's future work.

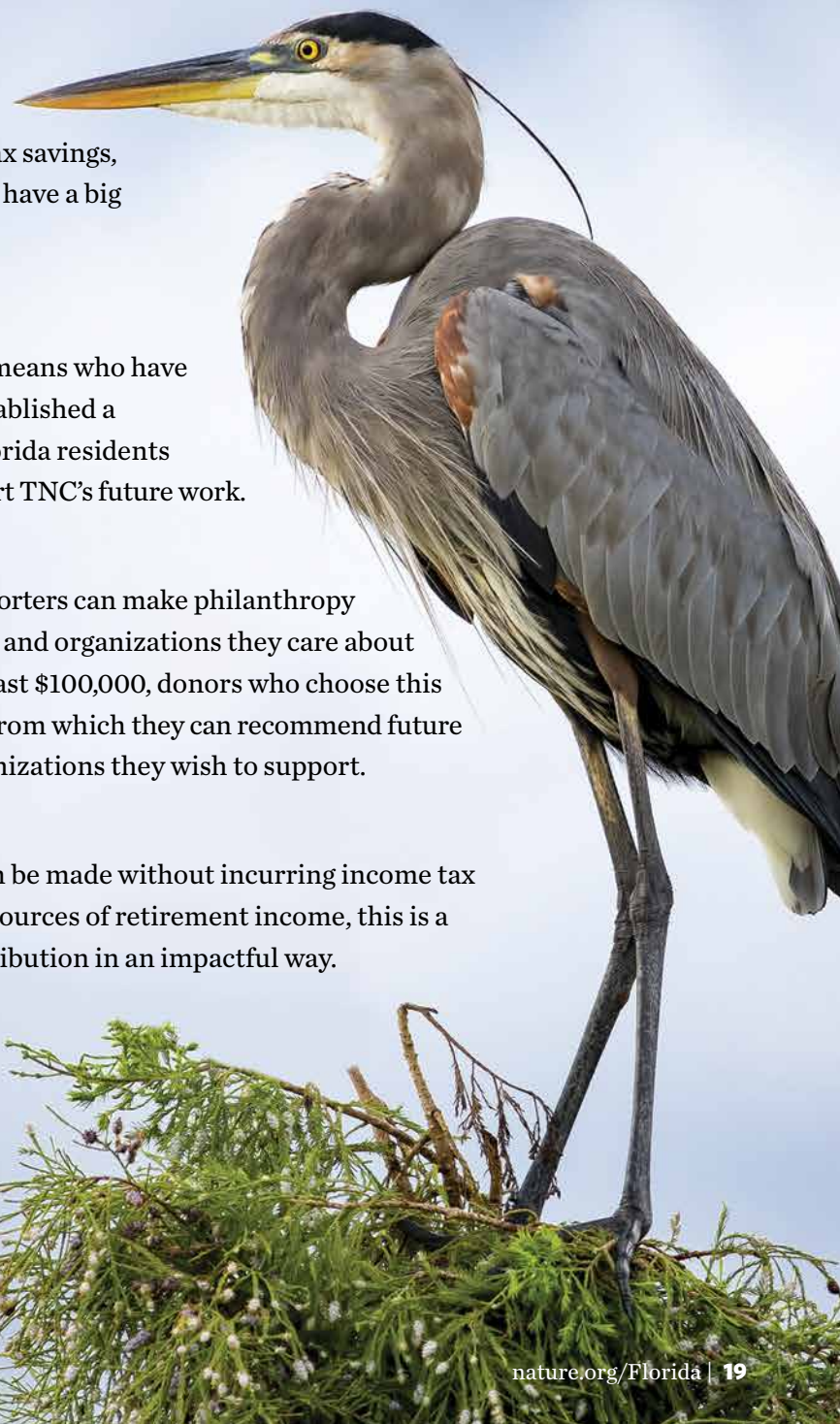
Donor Advised Fund

TNC's Donor Advised Fund is one way that supporters can make philanthropy a family tradition, easily supporting the causes and organizations they care about most—not just TNC. With an initial gift of at least \$100,000, donors who choose this path establish a professionally managed fund from which they can recommend future distributions to TNC and other charitable organizations they wish to support.

Charitable IRA Rollover

Direct distributions from one's IRA to TNC can be made without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. For those with alternative sources of retirement income, this is a great way to satisfy a Required Minimum Distribution in an impactful way.

The Nature Conservancy does not render tax or legal advice. Please consult your professional financial or tax advisor before making a charitable gift. If you are interested in having a conversation with a member of our Development Team about options for giving to TNC, please email us at floridaupdates@tnc.org



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We want to hear from you!

To learn more about how you can support nature in Florida, email us at floridaupdates@tnc.org.

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HELP US REACH OUR NEXT CONSERVATION MILESTONE

Sixty years ago, a group of people like you – passionate about protecting Florida’s lands, waters, and wildlife – united to save them. Those early volunteers established The Nature Conservancy in Florida.

Since then, you have been at the center of our story.

You helped us protect and preserve 1.3 million acres of Florida’s natural lands and waters; places that provide vital habitat for wildlife and supply us with fresh air, clean water, and joy.

Help us reach our next conservation milestone.

Learn more about ways you can support our most pressing priorities in Florida and be a part of our next critical conservation win!