

More information on the new, 4-million-acre [Everglades to Gulf Conservation Area](#).

By comparison, Yellowstone National Park is 2.2 million acres. This new National Wildlife Refuge unit won't have the same stringent conservation/environmental restrictions as a national park, but it's a generational win for biodiversity and resiliency in southwest Florida.

LINK: [https://fl.audubon.org/news/everglades-gulf-conservation-area-founded-seven-acres-donated-paul-gray?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_march_2024&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_march_2024&emci=c5ef7bdb-86e7-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=554e7c18-4ce8-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=907790](https://fl.audubon.org/news/everglades-gulf-conservation-area-founded-seven-acres-donated-paul-gray?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_march_2024&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_march_2024&emci=c5ef7bdb-86e7-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=554e7c18-4ce8-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=907790)

Wrapping up the 2024 legislative session where [the worst of the proposed bills](#) relating to the environment were defeated.

LINK: [https://fl.audubon.org/2024session?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_march_2024&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_\(fl\)_statewide_news_march_2024&emci=c5ef7bdb-86e7-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=554e7c18-4ce8-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=907790](https://fl.audubon.org/2024session?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_march_2024&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_(fl)_statewide_news_march_2024&emci=c5ef7bdb-86e7-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=554e7c18-4ce8-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=907790)

“Gopher Games: The Fight to Save the Heart of Florida” is a new documentary focused on the Gopher Tortoise and the threats it faces from Florida’s unchecked development.

Keep an eye on [this website for screenings](#).

LINK: <https://gophergamesfilm.com/>

Cryptocurrency, blockchain and crypto “mining” may seem hopelessly confusing, but from a conservation standpoint, understand this: the “mining” of crypto, which requires massive warehouses of computers running programs to “find” new money, requires outrageous amounts of energy. Cryptocurrency mining now represents more than 2% of all energy consumption in the United States. Without widespread green energy fueling the energy grid in the U.S. that means carbon emissions.

More information on [the energy demands of crypto mining](#) and its environmental toll.

LINK: https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/reports/mining-for-power/?sourceid=1018455&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&emci=37e4a6b4-3be6-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=3ae4a6b4-3be6-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&ceid=3939184

A town in France is going to [cover its cemetery](#) with solar panels.

New York City is opening [8500 acres of parking lot space](#) to solar panels.

The biggest “problem” with solar as an energy source is the amount of space required for the panels. Municipal grade solar power generation – the scale of which can fuel cities – requires hundreds of acres, acres that oftentimes are undeveloped and suitable habitats for plants and animals squeezed out of other areas.

These two projects show, if there's a will, there's a way, and if people are able to get creative and use the incredible amount of built infrastructure which already exists to house solar panels, taking undeveloped land for the projects would be unnecessary.

For example, imagine St. John's Town Center with solar panels covering its roofs and parking lots? The panels would also create shade for pedestrians and help cool the buildings.

LINK: <https://electrek.co/2024/03/07/cemetery-solar-canopies/>

LINK: <https://electrek.co/2023/12/08/new-york-city-opens-8500-acres-parking-lots-to-solar-canopies/>