

Citizens of Jacksonville Protecting Public Preserves is a local group fighting to save parks and reserves from irresponsible development. The community activists have steadfastly challenged development projects slated for the Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park and adjacent preservations, including the Seven Creeks Recreation Area.

Three years ago, a cluster of development was proposed in this area, and when the proposal was submitted to Jacksonville City Council, the group voiced its concerns resulting in officials voting unanimously against the project.

Less than two years later, however, another developer submitted to City Council to have the same property rezoned for development. Despite the community's best efforts, in the end, the corruption that plagues the city won and residents lost with the Council voting 10-9 in favor of allowing the rezoning.

Citizens of Jacksonville Protecting Public Preserves is now in the process of appealing the decision. The group is asking for the support of conservation minded residents to help with their work by donating money in order to fund their research, time, effort and legal expenses. Their goal is to raise \$25,000 – couch cushion money for the developers opposing them – and [you can make a donation, if you're so interested, here.](#)

LINK: https://www.gofundme.com/f/time-to-stop-irresponsible-development-now?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy link all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

Following the terrible manatee die off in 2021, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to take the drastic measure of supplementing the mammals' diet with human provided lettuce. [How is the program working?](#)

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/04/06/good-news-bad-news-on-florida-manatee-deaths-this-year/>

Seagrass is a native plant and speaking of native plants, don't miss the [Ixia NATIVE PLANT SALE](#) next Saturday at Native Park (3306 Park Street, Jax 32205).

Plants for sale include flowers, shrubs, trees, vines, ferns and ground covers, all native and appropriate for northeast Florida. The selections are tried and true as all have come from seeds or seedlings from Ixia volunteers' yards & the Native Parks.

Knowledgeable volunteers will be available to answer questions and offer advice about specific plants.

LINK: <https://ixia.fnpschapters.org/events/>

Master gardener evades restrictive lawn policy in the Villages creating a landscape with [more than 100 native Florida plants.](#)

LINK: https://www.dwell.com/article/master-gardener-steve-turnipseed-lawn-alternatives-0fad16dd?ICID=ref_fark&utm_content=link&utm_medium=website&utm_source=fark

If you've been alarmed by the recent spate of major chemical spills around America, know this, there's nothing new about them, they have just suddenly been receiving more media attention, and they are all [connected by the oil and gas industry](#).

LINK: <https://www.vox.com/climate/2023/4/2/23591075/oil-gas-petrochemicals-water-contamination-east-palestine>

Shorebirds are a passion of many residents along the First Coast. Sadly, new research indicated nearly all shorebird species along the Atlantic Coast of the U.S. and Canada have experienced steep population declines with [many losing more than 50 percent of their numbers](#) over the last three decades.

Habitat loss driven by development is the big reason why.

LINK: <https://americanornithology.org/north-american-shorebirds-declining-faster-than-we-ever-imagined/?fbclid=IwAR0IIHXhSezaY3tV-6UrxXbY7L6G59jk2lynIRALrEva-gVxmvA7bKpEoo4>