

[Florida Native Plant Society responds](#) to a recently published article advising Floridians to remove all milkweed from their yards – native and non.

LINK: <https://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2024/05/florida-native-plant-society-position.html>

Jacksonville residents, [the Jacksonville Civic Council seeks your online input](#) regarding your hopes for the city’s future. Opportunity to speak up for the environment and nature.

LINK: <https://mqiz46muzd0.typeform.com/to/aSDFmtkz>

The first leg of Jacksonville’s Emerald Trail [opened last week](#). Ultimately, the Emerald Trail will feature 30-miles of biking and walking trails surrounded by green space connecting 14 urban neighborhoods. The project will also have [major climate and resilience benefits](#) for Jacksonville thanks to the restoration of two urban creeks.

In my “day job” as an arts and travel writer I routinely tour urban renewal projects, parks, cultural centers, festivals, arts districts, etc. across the country. When compared to other similarly sized cities around the nation and region, Jacksonville generally falls short when it comes to its built environment and quality of life amenities. Not the Emerald Trail. This is the most exciting thing happening in Jacksonville and stacks up favorably against other similar projects nationwide.

LINK: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/realestate/long-planned-emerald-trail-s-first-leg-opens-in-downtown-jacksonville/ar-BB1V546>

LINK: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2024/03/28/jacksonville-emerald-trail-climate-change-resiliency-mccoys-creek-groundwork-jacksonville/>

It’s too early to call this a trend, and way too early to call it a movement, but here and there in Florida, disused golf courses are [being returned to a more natural condition](#) providing urban habitat for birds and other wildlife.

As you know, golf courses cover tens of thousands of acres across Florida, consuming millions of gallons of water daily for irrigation while dumping tons of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides into the environment. Still, they are undeveloped, include water features, and generally host mature trees, making their conversion back to ecologically beneficial spaces a relative breeze.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/05/09/on-idled-florida-golf-courses-nature-stages-a-comeback/>

Are you aware of the Department of Interior’s [National Seed Strategy Keystone Initiative?](#)

LINK: https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-02/national-seed-strategy-keystone-initiative_1.pdf

Here’s a weird one: [a “sand volcano” in Apopka](#). Of course it was man’s attempt to engineer the environment which caused this unnatural phenomenon.

LINK: <https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/crews-trying-to-fix-sand-volcano-impacting-central-florida-reservoir>

Bestselling climate change author Jeff Goodell will give a talk about his book, “The Heat Will Kill You First,” on Saturday, May 18th at 2 PM at the main branch of the Jacksonville Public Library.

Attendance is free, but pre-registration is suggested. You’ll need a library card to register, which is only available to Duval residents. Or, just show up in person as I’ll be doing and take your chances on seating: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/lit-chat-interview-bestselling-environmental-writer-jeff-goodell>