

Exciting news in Jacksonville last week as the City Council approved legislation that will raise the gas tax there by six cents per gallon which is expected to generate \$1 billion over the next 30 years for major transportation and infrastructure improvements. \$132 million of that money has been earmarked to build the Emerald Trail, a 30-mile network of walking trails, parks and green space linking many of the city's neighborhoods. [Learn more about the Emerald Trail here.](#)

(<https://www.groundworkjacksonville.org/emerald-trail/>)

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After being off-limits to hunting for 30 years, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission [votes to open a season on goliath groupers.](#)

(<https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2021/05/27/goliath-grouper-making-a-comeback-in-florida-so-lets-kill-em/>)

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No plans this holiday weekend? Here's a DEEP DIVE from the Florida Bar Association on "application of the Florida friendly landscaping statute to homeowner disputes regarding violation of restrictive covenants." In layman's terms, if you're HOA is hassling you about planting native plants which don't adhere to the HOA's landscaping standards, this document can give you ammunition to fight those "restrictive covenants" when the issue is "Florida friendly" plants.

Save this link in case you ever need it: <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/application-of-the-florida-friendly-landscaping-statute-to-homeowner-disputes-regarding-violation-of-restrictive-covenants/?fbclid=IwAR0RN0SRtx4WdTQ4913-zpvvmCQIprRH1Be6YxRFFuCWDeBmSZGySFB2lxY>

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Shorter and more entertaining, I joined author Cathy Salustri on her "[Florida Spectacular](#)" podcast to discuss the benefits of landscaping with native plants. Listen.

(<https://www.stitcher.com/show/florida-spectacular/episode/episode-19-florida-native-plants-84193099>)

Here is an interesting opportunity for a better use of certain tree trimmings than just having it picked up as yard waste. The Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens is collecting trimmings from certain species of trees & shrubs for browse for the animals. They have a species list and frequently asked questions at the following link.

[https://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/browse?fbclid=IwAR3dUUv1dxsVhliqrVejA2vVyTuej\\_7xx8C7YKlqDQA1Ww3SX-cxKMxfOVO](https://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/browse?fbclid=IwAR3dUUv1dxsVhliqrVejA2vVyTuej_7xx8C7YKlqDQA1Ww3SX-cxKMxfOVO)