

An interesting [survey opportunity here](#) from the University of Florida which is looking for public input on perceptions of plants benefitting wildlife. The survey is lengthy.

Reading the tea leaves, UF may be exploring the development of some kind of certification process for the future distribution and sale of “wildlife friendly” plants in state with an emphasis on natives.

LINK: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCFGP6mWWsobHpA

[Publix recently donated \\$2 million](#) toward Everglades restoration. Part of the donation will be provided to the National Audubon Society over a period of five years to help remove invasive willows and other plants from approximately 500 acres in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in the western Everglades.

LINK: <https://corporate.publix.com/about-publix/newsroom/news-releases/publix-commits-two-million-dollars-to-everglades-restoration?emci=048fc8bd-a8c3-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=ff1e8122-ddc3-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=4030367>

[The annual Florida Python Challenge](#) has been set for July 9 – July 18. The Challenge offers python hunters an opportunity to win prizes for biggest and most pythons captured. Exotic and invasive Burmese pythons released into the Everglades by pet owners have devastated the ecosystem there, killing 99% of small mammals – raccoons, mice, etc. You read that right: 99%.

On my “Welcome to Florida” podcast [I spoke to a python hunter](#) about the scope of the problem and what is being done to try containing it.

LINK to Challenge: <https://flpythonchallenge.org/>

LINK to my podcast with a python hunter: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-3-pythons-75218073>

Two development-heavy proposals for Jacksonville’s riverfront – long on concrete and high-rises, short on green space – were revealed this week. [Here’s one](#). [The other](#) comes, again, from Jaguars’ owner Shad Khan.

The lack of green space, trees, native plants, resiliency and access for the public these proposals offer are major reasons why the Ixia Chapter has become involved in advocating a Riverfront for All with [Riverfront Parks Now](#).

LINK: <https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/article/dollar1-1-billion-riverfront-master-plan-proposed-for-downtown-jacksonville>

Khan Development LINK: <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2021/06/03/jaguars-layout-plans-to-develop-shipyards-add-four-seasons-hotel-and-more-to-northbank/>

Riverfront Parks Now LINK: <https://www.riverfrontparksnow.org/>

This week on the podcast, I learned all about Florida’s state tree, [the Cabbage palm](#). Great for pollinators with a connection to Elvis and the mafia to boot.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-50-the-cabbage-palm-floridas-state-tree-84384049>