

The next opportunity for you to speak up on behalf of more green space, parks, trees and native plants along Jacksonville's north bank riverfront comes this month at a series of community meetings hosted by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund which is organizing local feedback on design plans. A virtual public meeting takes place on [Tuesday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m.](#)

Both the City Council and Downtown Investment Authority are largely unanimous in their fealty to Shad Khan, so, unfortunately, a massive, luxury hotel will anchor the north bank river, but how much other development goes along with it can still be influenced.

Register to participate in the virtual meeting: <https://jbdftypeform.com/to/Taxi1HWf>

Once thought extinct, the Florida moccasinshell mussel could be on the road to recovery with a recent decision designating 190 miles of stream channel in the Suwannee, Upper Santa Fe and Withlacoochee rivers [as critical habitat](#). The mussel is endemic to north Florida and threatened by phosphate mining waste which poisons the waters of these rivers as well as decreased water levels due to development and farming.

Link: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/florida-freshwater-mussel-threatened-by-phosphate-mine-receives-190-miles-of-lifesaving-critical-habitat-2021-06-30/>

Speaking of phosphate, and phosphate mining – one of the greatest threats to Florida's environment – the Environmental Protection Agency has [withdrawn a crazed decision](#) by the Trump Administration to allow radioactive phosphogypsum – another byproduct of phosphorus mining – to be used in road construction. Some 1 billion tons of the material are stored in "stacks" around Florida, one of which recently breached in the Tampa area.

Link: <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/561377-epa-withdraws-rule-allowing-use-of-radioactive-material-in-road>

This week's episode of my ["Welcome to Florida" podcast](#) was all about seashells in Florida and around the world. Did you know the largest collection of seashells was built by a Jacksonville man?

Link: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-55-seashells-85229737>

Did you know there was a [YouTube show called "Flip My Florida Lawn?"](#) It's working with the Florida Wildflower Foundation on projects. The show is apparently taking applications if you're interested in having your lawn flipped.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qy2iildyt8>