

Good news from Groundwork Jacksonville: Work on Phase 1 of [the McCoys Creek restoration](#) project began in late June. The City's three-year, \$105 million project includes removing sections of the low-lying McCoys Creek Boulevard to create a floodplain for the creek as well as green space for the Emerald Trail. The project also will provide parks, creek access and recreational amenities.

The restoration design plan that Groundwork initiated returns the creek to a natural channel that will mitigate flooding, improve water quality and create habitat for fish and wildlife.

Link: <https://www.groundworkjacksonville.org/creek-cleanups/mccoys-creek/>

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Bad news for those of who've relied on tropical milkweed to help support monarch butterflies. The Florida Native Plant Society is calling for [the removal of tropical milkweed](#) from gardens and yards. The plant has become increasingly invasive in south and central Florida and by not dying back in winter, supports a dangerous parasite.

Unfortunately, tropical milkweed is favored by nurseries and big box stores because its easy to grow industrially at scale for mass distribution, unlike any native milkweed to Florida which are much more difficult to grow in those settings.

Link: <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2021/06/tropical-milkweed-is-harmful-to.html>

Find native milkweed for your landscape by visiting the Florida Association of Native Nurseries: <https://www.fann.org/>

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The idiots [harassing the alligator in this video](#) may or may not be in Florida as the Tweet suggests. If you recognize them, call Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission so they can be prosecuted. This video demonstrates how far we are as a society from respecting the wildlife we share the planet with.

Link: <https://twitter.com/selfpr0tect/status/1415923843516878851>

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Were you expecting the Biden Administration to slow down oil and gas drilling in the United States as it campaigned on? They have lied thus far as drilling for oil and gas on U.S. public lands are on pace this year to reach [their highest level since George W. Bush](#) was president.

Link: [https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-science-environment-and-nature-6ac8ff49970e4b052489678b40e3ba82?utm\\_id=33239&sfmc\\_id=1642332](https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-science-environment-and-nature-6ac8ff49970e4b052489678b40e3ba82?utm_id=33239&sfmc_id=1642332)

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[The Florida Wildlife Corridor](#) could be the boldest conservation project being undertaken in the eastern U.S. What is it? How did it start? Why does it matter? How can you get involved? All of these questions and more answered on my "Welcome to Florida" podcast this week.

Link: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-56-the-florida-wildlife-corridor-with-carlton-ward-jr-85399986>

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