

What does it cost to protect a coastal city from increasingly powerful hurricanes fueled by climate change? In Galveston, TX, the answer is \$34 billion. You read that correctly.

Galveston has proposed [the most aggressive anti-hurricane barrier ever conceived](#) that combines 25-miles of new dunes being built in addition to a dizzying array of dams and locks and sea walls and... you name it.

Will it work? Maybe.

Is this idea scalable? Doubtful.

In Florida alone, imagine replicating this – and its cost – on cities the size of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Sarasota, St. Pete.

LINK: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/galveston-texas-plan-stop-next-big-storm-hurricane-ike-180984487/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=editorial&utm\\_term=6272024&utm\\_content=new](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/galveston-texas-plan-stop-next-big-storm-hurricane-ike-180984487/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_term=6272024&utm_content=new)

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Breaching the Rodman Dam and restoring a free-flowing Ocklawaha River has been a conservation priority in Florida for over 50 years. For all of its potential ecological benefits, I consider it the single greatest conservation opportunity in the state of Florida. [Here's a deep dive on why.](#)

Sadly, as mentioned in a previous Conservation Newsletter, the governor recently denied funding for a study to consider the costs and benefits of removing the dam, delaying any action for at least another year.

LINK: <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/ocklawaha-river/?emci=568015a2-222f-ef11-86d2-6045bdd9e096&emdi=b470293b-b237-ef11-86d2-6045bdd9e096&ceid=17966252>

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There are no links whatsoever between offshore [wind development and humpback whale mortalities](#). None. Zero. But oil, gas, and shipping interests want you to think wind energy is what's killing whales... and birds.

While offshore windmills do kill birds, they don't kill them in anywhere near the numbers as do fossil fuel infrastructure and its resultant climate change.

Industry is spending big money confusing issues around clean energy, spreading misinformation in communities where clean energy projects are proposed in an attempt to sway local opinion against the projects.

LINK: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/whales-are-dying-but-not-from-offshore-wind/>

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More definitive plans for a redesigned Metropolitan Park are taking shape. Sadly, all options include [removing big, old trees and replacing them with small, new ones.](#)

As has been mentioned here previously, almost no amount of new tree planting makes up for the loss of mature trees. Mature trees take vastly more carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere than new trees, suck up much more water via their larger roots to mitigate flooding, provide more shade,

reducing the urban heat island effect, and offer astronomically more habitat and welfare for birds, insects and other animals.

New trees are great, but compared to old trees, they're minor league.

LINK: <https://jaxtoday.org/2024/06/25/heres-what-theyre-considering-for-metropolitan-park/>

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If you're in St. Johns County, the Matanzas Riverkeeper hopes you'd be willing to contact the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to increase funding for the Land Acquisition and Management Program. [They've made it easy to do with this form.](#)

LINK: [https://www.matanzasriverkeeper.org/lamp\\_funding\\_cta\\_2024](https://www.matanzasriverkeeper.org/lamp_funding_cta_2024)