

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has lashed out at a federal proposal aimed at reducing greenhouse-gas emissions from power plants. You read that correctly, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection wants power plants to be able to [continue emitting greenhouse gases at their current levels](#).

A reminder, the Florida DEP is a political, not an environmental, body, with political appointees serving at the pleasure of the governor filling its ranks.

LINK: <https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2023-08-10/florida-department-environmental-protection-fights-power-plant-rules>

In response to actions like this, Diane Roberts, an author, journalist, professor and 8<sup>th</sup> generation Floridan living in Tallahassee writes, [“GOP death cult is holding the earth hostage to white privilege.”](#)

All of the tools, tactics, strategies and funding exists to meaningfully fight and slow climate change, to save the world; what is lacking in America is the interest in doing so. Too many of the most powerful politicians and corporations here refuse to act, refuse to place the interests of the planet and humanity above their financial gain, so, here we are.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/08/07/gop-death-cult-is-holding-the-earth-hostage-to-white-privilege/>

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Here’s a fun idea: replace the turfgrass lawn on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. [with a wildflower meadow](#).

It’ll never happen, but forwarding “radical” ideas like this – in the *New York Times* no less – bring the topics of native plants, monoculture lawns, pesticide, the extinction crisis, etc. to a forefront, raise awareness, encourage people to ask questions, and, ultimately, result in lesser, but still meaningful, actions.

LINK: [https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/10/opinion/national-mall-wildflower-meadow.html?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20230810&instance\\_id=99713&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=94622599&segment\\_id=141605&te=1&user\\_id=22c72b5cf0663c6784557ed8747380db](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/10/opinion/national-mall-wildflower-meadow.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20230810&instance_id=99713&nl=the-morning&regi_id=94622599&segment_id=141605&te=1&user_id=22c72b5cf0663c6784557ed8747380db)

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Construction continues on the southern end of [the Emerald Trail](#) LaVilla Link in Jacksonville. The Emerald Trail is now complete along Lee Street including a new traffic island between Bay and Forsyth streets, to add greenspace and help slow traffic.

Further north along Lee Street, the LaVilla Pond is taking shape. Crews are building a boardwalk and an overlook deck that will feature seating and swings. The pond will also feature a living shoreline of native plants to attract birds, fish and pollinators.

The construction project includes adding native plants and trees and installing lighting along the entire length of the LaVilla Link from Brooklyn to the S-Line. Wayfinding and educational signage also will be added. Plans are underway for the official opening in November.

Groundwork Jacksonville also recently received [a \\$500,000 donation from Swisher](#) to help completion of another link in the Trail.

LINK: <https://www.groundworkjacksonville.org/swisher-commits-500k-to-emerald-trail-s-line/>

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Members of Conserve Nassau along with the City of Fernandina are putting [a native plant garden in at the Eagen's Creek Park](#) on Atlantic Avenue. The garden is currently tarped over to kill off weeds, but will be planted on September 9, a project the public is welcome to participate in. Email Joyce Tuten at [joyce.tuten@conservenassau.org](mailto:joyce.tuten@conservenassau.org) if you'd like more information on how to help out.

LINK: <https://www.conservenassau.org/egans-creek-native-garden>