

The \$100-plus million [restoration of Jacksonville's McCoy's Creek](#) is underway. The project will remedy flooding in the area, add green space and recreational space, and return the waterway to a meandering natural channel design with an expanded flood plain through the addition of natural water containment features, such as lagoons and tidal pools. The creek was channelized in the 1930s which destroyed its natural flow and vastly reduced its ecological benefits.

The rehabilitated section will be part of Jacksonville's Emerald Trail when complete.

LINK: <https://www.thejaxsonmag.com/article/mccoys-creek-restoration-project-now-underway/>

You'll need a \$1 subscription to read this article, but it may be worth it. How secrecy and [the coontie palm helped bring back the atala butterfly](#) which was once thought to be extinct. The coontie palm is one of the few native plants widely used by landscapers and, as such, its prevalence is bringing the butterfly back from the brink. Imagine what else might be saved if landscapers and homeowners used native plants?

LINK: <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/weather/2021/08/02/considered-extinct-butterfly-may-your-florida-yard-now/8092575002/>

Agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to climate change and biodiversity collapse and it's also one of the biggest opportunities for correcting both. Here's a deep dive on how better food production and rethinking [the way we treat soil](#) offer breakthrough solutions to confront the world's two great ongoing ecological catastrophes.

LINK: https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/soils-revealed-climate-biodiversity-food-solutions/?s_src=NewSch.WJEMSA2108NPNZNZZE02Z00-ZZZZ-ST00&lu=cd668c06-3202-416c-aa82-1a74b7d58ac5&src=e.ch_fl.eg.x.gpn.0804.n.sas.unv

The ultra-rare [super ghost orchid is blooming](#) at the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Fort Myers. An amazing place if you have the chance to visit any time of year.

LINK: [https://corkscrew.audubon.org/news/super-ghost-orchid-blooming?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement%20\(fl\)%20statewide%20news%20852021&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement%20\(fl\)%20statewide%20news%20852021&emci=75036a4d-f3f5-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=f47195c4-f6f5-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=4030367](https://corkscrew.audubon.org/news/super-ghost-orchid-blooming?ms=fl-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement%20(fl)%20statewide%20news%20852021&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement%20(fl)%20statewide%20news%20852021&emci=75036a4d-f3f5-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=f47195c4-f6f5-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=4030367)

North Florida has more natural freshwater springs than anywhere else on earth. They provide much of the state's drinking water, habitat for numerous endemic species and recreation for hundreds of thousands of residents and tourists – like the mermaids at Weekie Wachee. However, due to development, agriculture and mining – and bottling – they are in great peril. [This week on my "Welcome to Florida" podcast](#), I learned all about north Florida's springs and the threats they face.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-59-floridas-freshwater-springs-85854971>