

Thanks to your calls, emails, petition signatures, social media posts, conversations with family and friends, attendance at meetings, and general pressure, you – along with tens of thousands of other Floridians – and conservation organizations around the state like the Florida Native Plant Society have sunk the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s disastrous plans to bring golf courses and hotels to our state parks. At least until 2025. This fight is not over.

Don’t believe [Ron DeSantis’ lies about having no knowledge of the scheme](#). He rules the state and oversees FDEP with an iron fist, and records of his schedule have him meeting with the potential golf course developers.

One of seven FDEP commissioners is golfer Jack Nicklaus’ son, so you can image where he comes down on golf courses vs. state parks. Gary Nicklaus, like [the rest of the FDEP commissioners](#) – six white men and one white woman – have no meaningful experience or expertise in conservation or the environment. Remember, they serve on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Real estate developers, car dealers, golfers, but no one who has dedicated any part of their life to “environmental protection.”

All FDEP commissioners are appointed by the governor regardless of qualifications. Simply put, they’re hacks and political operatives doing DeSantis’ bidding, just like the hacks and political operatives he’s filled state education and college and university presidents’ offices with, the agriculture commission with, water management district boards with, and on, and on, and on. These are the hidden spoils of winning elections – state and federal – filling important government positions with acolytes.

VOTE!

When you vote, you’re not just voting for the candidate on the ballot, you’re voting for the hundreds and thousands – and in the case of the federal government, tens of thousands – of followers they’ll be hiring to execute their vision.

Rest assured; the parks development issue will come up again; until that time...

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/08/29/gov-desantis-heres-how-you-fix-your-florida-parks-problem/>

LINK: <https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commissioners/>

If you’re still fired up about DEP’s refusal to protect Florida’s environment from developers, our [springs could use your help](#).

LINK: <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/single-post/how-dep-ignores-the-law-to-help-nestle-and-other-water-users>

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Big news last month for the Everglades where The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Record of Decision for the [Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual](#) (LOSOM), completing the final step in the approval process for LOSOM to replace the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS08).

[In plain language](#), this new water management plan will lower the number of damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and Gulf of Mexico, provide greater operational flexibility to water managers, and ultimately send more water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay.

LINK: <https://sccf.org/blog/2024/08/13/losom-record-of-decision-signed/>

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We're #1!

Florida tops national rankings for [most polluted lakes and rivers](#).

LINK: <https://naples.floridaweekly.com/articles/bad-water/>

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[A native plant in California](#) not seen in 60 years was discovered growing in a traffic island in San Francisco. How conservationists have transplanted it and are concealing its identity because of its rarity.

LINK: <https://therevelator.org/manzanitas/>