

The Value of Protecting, Preserving & Restoring Native Vegetation

As development continues, Palm Beach County's once abundant pine flatwoods are becoming increasingly rare. The impact of the loss of this native vegetation, including the critical upper layer known as tree canopy, can have devastating impacts on the county's human population, as well as its resident wildlife and migrating visitors.

How You Can Help

Protect and preserve the native vegetation that exists on your property or in common areas in your community association. Plant native plants to restore lost habitat. Remove invasive exotic plants that threaten native plants on your property. Invasive exotics can eventually spread to natural areas where they can displace both plant and wildlife species and interrupt natural processes like fire regimes, nutrient cycling and water flow.

The Benefits of Preserving Native Canopy & Vegetation

For Us

Retaining or restoring native canopy can benefit you and your family directly and indirectly.

- Mature native plants can help increase your property values
- Mature native trees can provide shade and lower utility costs
- Existing native vegetation can make excellent privacy screens
- Existing native plants can help reduce air pollution, stormwater runoff, and noise from nearby homes or roads
- Native plants are adapted to Florida's climate and rainfall patterns and tend to fare better in hurricanes than many shallow-rooted exotics
- Native plants provide ample bird- and butterfly- watching opportunities. It's fun and educational for the whole family.
- Native canopy sequesters carbon, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change
- Numerous studies show that observing a natural green environment can have positive health benefits

For Our Wildlife Friends

Native vegetation provides nutritious food and excellent cover for resident and migrating birds and butterflies. Preserving and restoring native vegetation also can provide our wildlife friends with crucial corridors that connect remaining fragments of natural habitat. Restoring native vegetation can offer safer passage to creatures as they forage for food and water, search for mates, rear their young and migrate.

Native vegetation also supports important pollinators.

For Our Environment

Native canopy is critical for protecting vital ecosystem processes. In addition to sequestering carbon, canopy trees can help reduce stormwater runoff. This runoff can carry pollutants like improperly applied fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals into ponds, lakes, canals, wetlands and precious water bodies, like Palm Beach County's Lake Worth Lagoon.

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