



Palm Beach County

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Cross-Department Team

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND  
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

January 30, 2024



# OUR TEAM



**KEITH CLINKSCALE**  
Strategic Planning



**MARCELA MILLET**  
Strategic Planning



**RON RICE**  
Cooperative Extension



**MEGAN HOUSTON**  
Office Of Resilience



**NATALIE FRENBERG**  
Office Of Resilience



**MATTHEW KING**  
Environmental Resource Management



**JIMMY BENO**  
Facilities Development & Operations



**WILLIAM WYNN**  
Community Revitalization



**PAUL LINTON**  
Water Resource Management



**STEVE CARRIER**  
Engineering



**CLIFF BATTLES**  
Parks & Recreation



**TAMMY BURTON**  
Parks & Recreation



**URIAH MCCALLA**  
Airports



**DEBORAH DRUM**  
Environmental Resource Management



**JERRY LODGE**  
Planning Zoning & Building



**KRYSTIN BERNTSEN**  
Water Utilities



**JAYME BOSIO**  
Libraries

# GOALS



**Promote healthy,  
vibrant beaches**



**Maintain diverse,  
resilient ecosystems**



**Protect and support  
human health, safety,  
water quality, and  
quality of life**



**Ensure positive  
environmental experiences  
for residents and  
visitors**



**Promote sustainable,  
resilient practices and  
principles**



**Preserve and enhance  
our thriving  
agriculture**

# Goal 1. Sustain vibrant, healthy beaches

## BEACH RENOURISHMENT



## IMPACTS

- **1.5 million** cubic yards of sand on the County's beaches
- **\$4.3 million** spent on beach renourishment
- **99% compliance** on regulatory sea turtle lighting inspections
- **Protected** endangered species
- **Maintained** critical protection of coastal properties and infrastructure

## COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION





# Goal 2. Maintain diverse resilient ecosystems

- **4 nesting pairs** of American Oystercatchers hatched and raised eight chicks
- **51 acres** of land area that's been added for future conservation purposes
- **50%** of County Parks tree inventory was completed
- **\$10,000 funding** for bird and pollinator gardens at Busch Wildlife's new Rocky Pines Campus in Jupiter, FL
- **57,781 volunteer hours** dedicated to environmental stewardship = \$1.7 million cost savings



# Goal 3. Protect and support human health, safety, water quality and quality of life



Petroleum Storage Tank



WUD Water Quality Testing

## WATER QUALITY

- **85,300+** tests were performed by the WUD with **100%** regulatory compliance
- **1,605** miles of street sweeping to improve water quality and prevent storm sewer clogging
- **\$183 million** in grant funding to provide **4.8 billion gallons** of long-term water storage in the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2

## SAFETY

- **3 community improvement projects completed** within 3 Countywide Community Revitalization Team areas
- **\$2 million committed** to the Corbett Levee upgrade project

## COMPLIANCE

- **100% completion** of Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Program
- **100% completion** of all permitted wellfield facilities inspections



# Goal 4. Ensure positive environmental experiences for residents and visitors

- **1,050 events & 37,000+ participants** at Park's nature centers, Riverbend & PBC natural areas
- **78 programs & 1,684 participants** at library environmental programs
- **10,292 youth** attended Mounts Botanical Garden environmental programs
- **7,500+ participants** attended the ERM LagoonFest & Natural Areas Festival
- **Expanded park facilities**, including Paulette Burdick Park, Gramercy Park Neighborhood Center, Villages of Windsor Phase I, Green Cay Phase II





# Goal 5. Promote sustainable, resilient practices and principles

## EMISSIONS REDUCTION

- 2,363 streetlights converted to LED
- 288 light fixtures at parks upgraded to LED
- 2,201 permits issued for solar installations
- 69 permits for electric vehicle charging stations

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- 27 million gallons of water reclaimed per day for use as landscape irrigation
- 19 touchless water refill stations installed

## OUTREACH

- 162 attendees to climate risk community workshops
- 42 PBC municipal representatives attended the Palm Beach County Flood Workshop
- Collaborated with the SE FL Regional Climate Change Compact to host the Regional Climate Summit & Resilience Affordable Housing Workshop



Redbank Road



PBC Airport



Vista Center



Climate Risk Workshop



PBC Flood Workshop



# Goal 6. Preserve and enhance our thriving agriculture



Ag field day – Pest traps

- 48 educational events for 2,206 commercial farmers and plant nursery operators
- 99 safety trainings for 1,769 agriculture workforce clients
- 2,597 CEUs delivered that support state-required licenses related to agriculture workforce safety



EAA – Leaf crops



Yard weed ID

- 239 urban horticulture teaching events reaching 5,597 citizens, emphasizing:
  - ✓ Home vegetable/herb gardening
  - ✓ Florida-Friendly™ Landscaping principles
  - ✓ Specialty plants (orchids, bonsai, succulents)
  - ✓ Cool plant biology
  - ✓ Environmental stewardship



Sweet Corn Fiesta





# UPCOMING CROSS-DEPARTMENT COLLABORATIONS:

- **Implementing** EPA \$1M grant to expand tree canopy in the Glades
- **Creating** Resilience Hubs at the Libraries
- **Collaborating** on the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
- **Managing** natural spaces together





# Environmental Protection Legacy In Palm Beach County

- 1984 - 1987** A citizen-led initiative recommended the best ecosystems for preservation to the BCC, which led in part to the creation of the Department of Environmental Resources Management in 1987.
- 1991 & 1999** Citizens approved \$300 million in bonds to acquire over 31,000 acres of conservation lands, improve parks, and create the Agricultural Reserve.
- 1992 - 2005** PBC Parks & Recreation built three nature centers.
- 1996 & 2004** Wakodahatchee & Green Cay Wetlands were constructed by WUD.
- 1997 - 2003** The Countywide Community Revitalization Team and the Office of Community Revitalization were created.
- 2014** State Water and Land Legacy Amendment approved by 84.7% of PBC voters, the highest of any Florida county.
- 2017** BCC created the Office of Resilience, which supports sustainable development and environmental resiliency.
- 2018** Environmental Protection Cross-Department Team created!





*It's all about the **Environment** !*





BCC Workshop - January 30, 2024

- Backup and Addendum
- Not presented in person during workshop

Palm Beach County  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Cross-Department Team





Palm Beach County  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Cross-Department Team

—  
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND  
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

January 30, 2024





# ABOUT US

We are a multi-disciplinary team comprised of 13 Palm Beach County departments. Our objective is to improve the County by implementing environmental, sustainable, and resilient strategies in an equitable way to better serve our communities and visitors.



# OUR TEAM



**KEITH CLINKSCALE**  
Strategic  
Planning



**MARCELA MILLET**  
Strategic  
Planning



**RON RICE**  
Cooperative  
Extension



**MEGAN HOUSTON**  
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Community  
Revitalization



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vibrant beaches**



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**Ensure positive  
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**Promote sustainable,  
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**Preserve and enhance  
our thriving  
agriculture**



# GOAL 1

## SUSTAIN HEALTHY, VIBRANT BEACHES





# BEACH RENOURISHMENT

# Coastal Resilience

# COASTAL HABITAT PROTECTION



Coral Cove

## 1.5 MILLION

Cubic yards of sand on the County's beaches



BEFORE

5/21/20  
Benny's On The Beach  
10 S Ocean Blvd, Lake Worth

Lake Worth Beach



Jupiter - Carlin

## 3 ROUNDS

Regulatory sea turtle lighting inspections

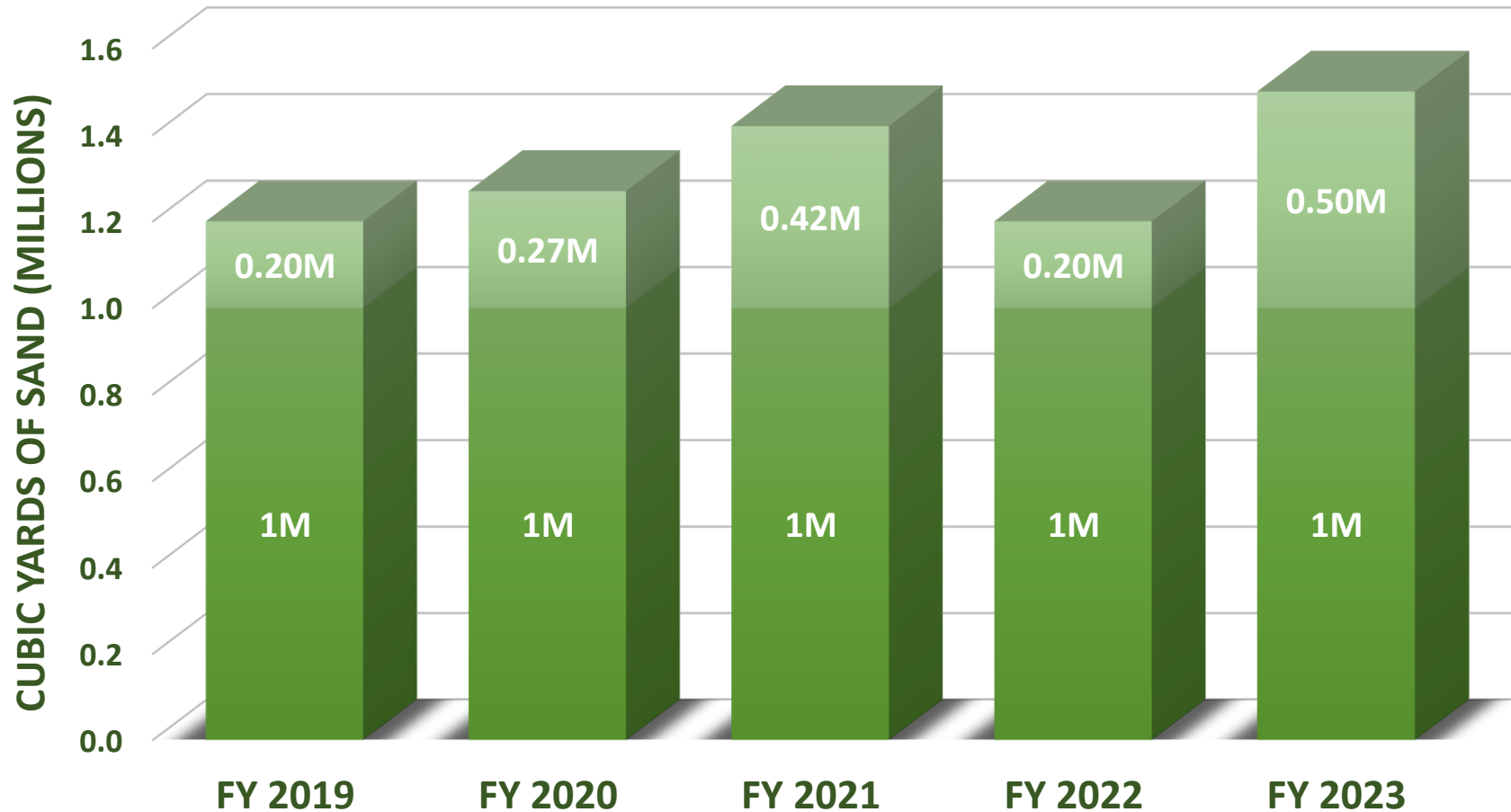


AFTER

7/27/22  
Benny's On The Beach  
10 S Ocean Blvd, Lake Worth



# 11-Year Moving Average of Sand Placed on County Beaches



FY 2023 sand volume would fill 161 Jupiter Lighthouses !

Beaches are a key economic engine for Palm Beach County. They are the #1 draw for both residents and tourists, with over 4.5 million visitors to life-guarded beaches in 2023.



# GOAL 2

MAINTAIN  
DIVERSE  
RESILIENT  
ECOSYSTEMS





# Wildlife & Habitat Preservation

## 4 NESTING PAIRS

American Oyster-catchers hatched and raised eight chicks

## 51 ACRES

Land area that's been added for future conservation purposes

## 50% COMPLETED

Parks tree inventory

## \$10,000 FUNDING

For bird and pollinator gardens at Busch Wildlife's new Rocky Pines Campus in Jupiter, FL



Recently returned to PBC at our Spoil Islands



Busch Wildlife, Rocky Pine Campus—Bird & Pollinator Gardens



# Environmental Volunteers

57,781 VOLUNTEER HOURS  
= \$1.7 MILLION COST SAVINGS

- Residential horticultural best practices
- Florida-Friendly™ Landscaping principals
- Beach, park, and natural area cleanups



IFAS Master Gardener  
Volunteer Program



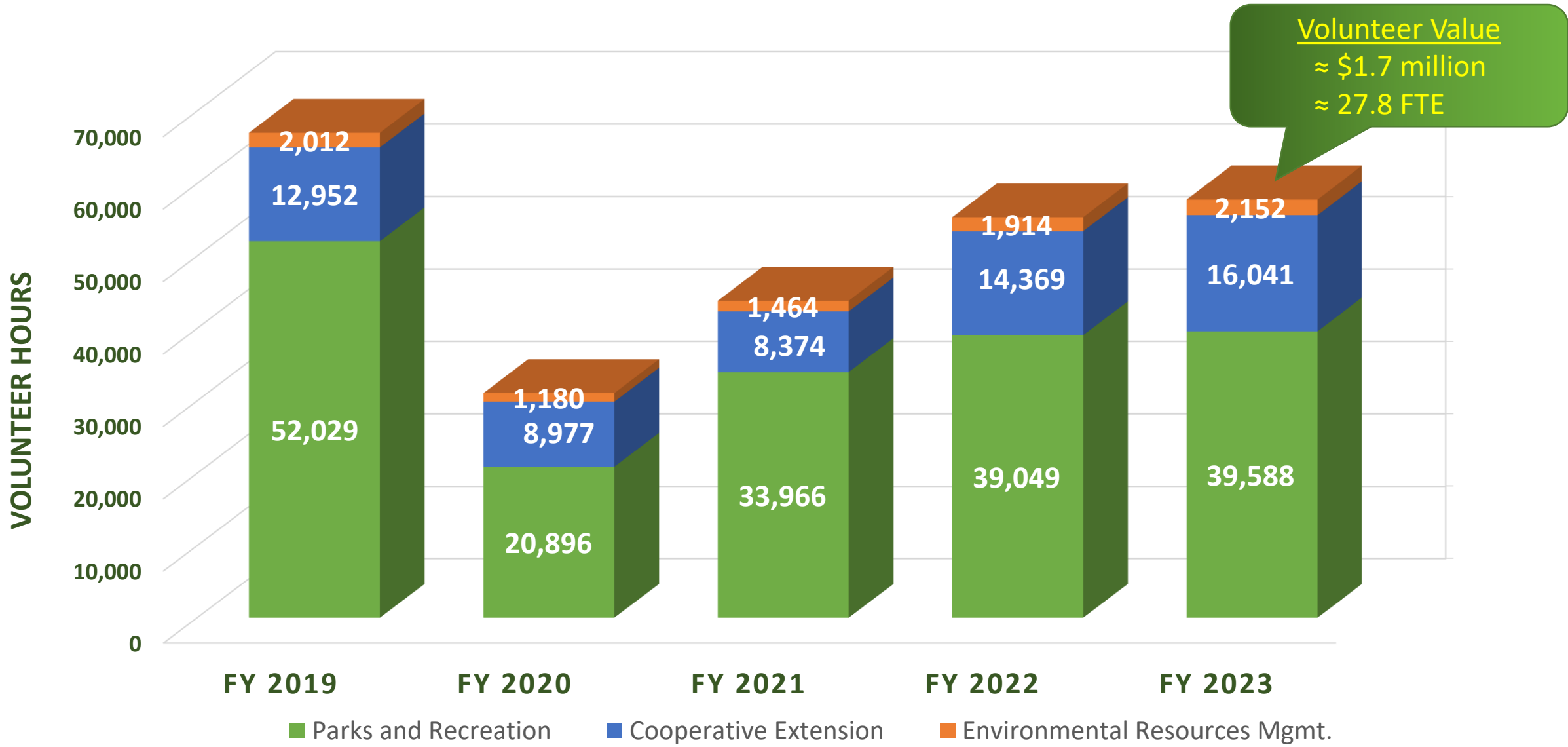
Parks Cleanup Volunteers



ERM Cleanup Volunteers



# Volunteer Hours On Environmental Lands







# GOAL 3

PROTECT AND  
SUPPORT  
HUMAN  
HEALTH,  
SAFETY, WATER  
QUALITY AND  
QUALITY OF  
LIFE





# Projects



CCRT Traffic Calming Device



Petroleum Storage Tank



WUD Water Quality Testing

## SAFETY

Completed **3 community improvement projects** (speed hump installation) within 3 Countywide Community Revitalization Team areas

## COMPLIANCE

Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Program completed **100% on time**

On target for completing 100% for this fiscal year on all permitted wellfield facilities inspections

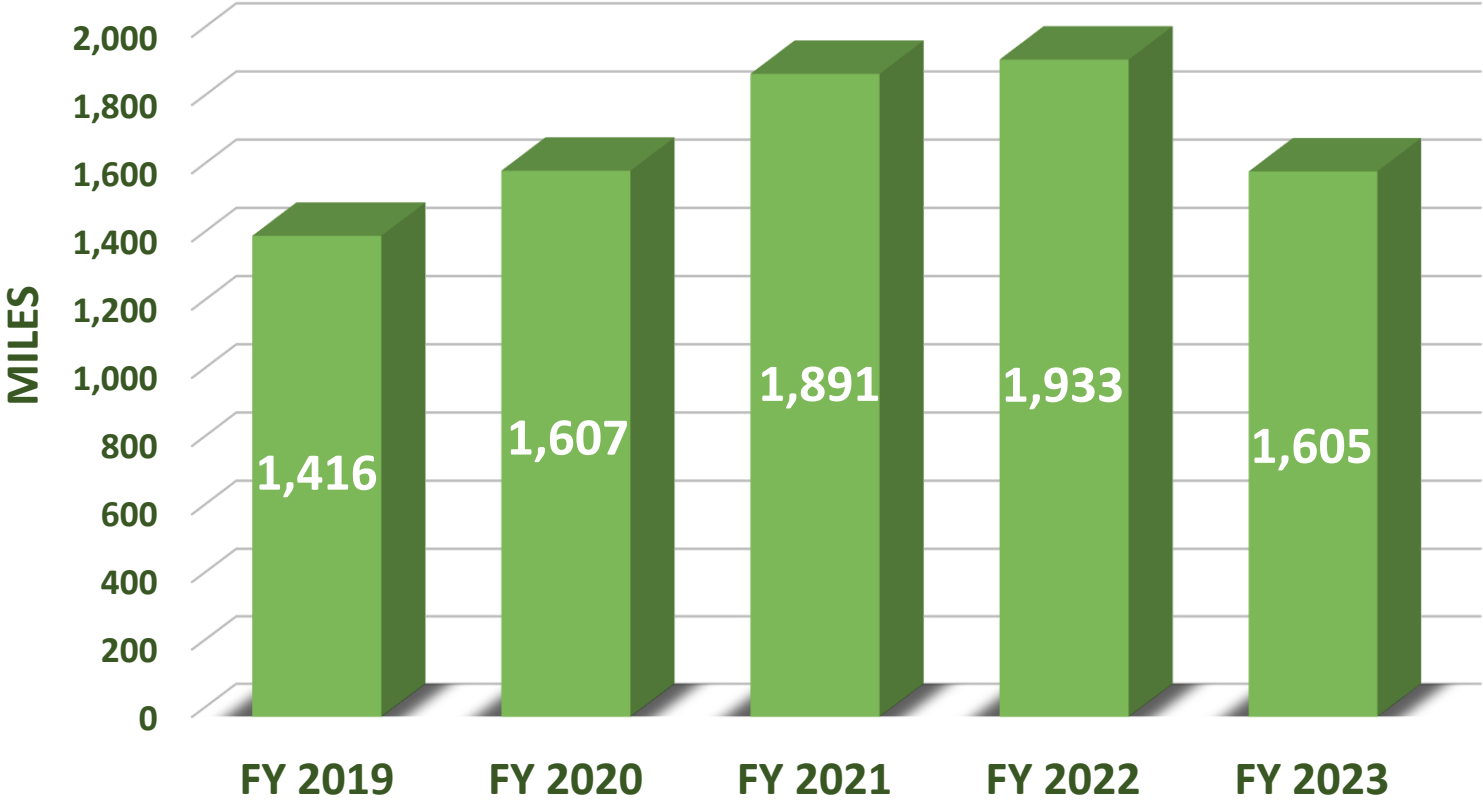
## WATER QUALITY

Over **85,300 tests** were performed last year by the Water Utility Department.

100% regulatory compliance.



# Street Sweeping (miles) to Avoid Storm Water Blockages/Flooding





# GOAL 4

ENSURE  
POSITIVE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
EXPERIENCES  
FOR RESIDENTS  
AND  
VISITORS





# Community Engagement

## AMBASSADOR OF THE WETLANDS

Immersive student program to promote wetland stewardship/water conservation

## GREEN FUTURES INTERNSHIP

Disadvantaged youth with exposure to careers and connections with nature

## NATURE NINJA WARRIORS

Connecting underrepresented children to diverse parks and recreation experiences

## PROJECT "ACCESS"

Garden clean-up and environmental education

## TRAILBLAZERS

Connecting Youth Empowerment Centers to PBC Natural Areas

## AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL BIOBLITZ AWARD

4 Positive Experiences





# Outreach

**1,050 EVENTS & 37,000+  
PARTICIPANTS**

Park's nature centers, Riverbend & PBC  
natural areas

**78 PROGRAMS & 1,684  
PARTICIPANTS**

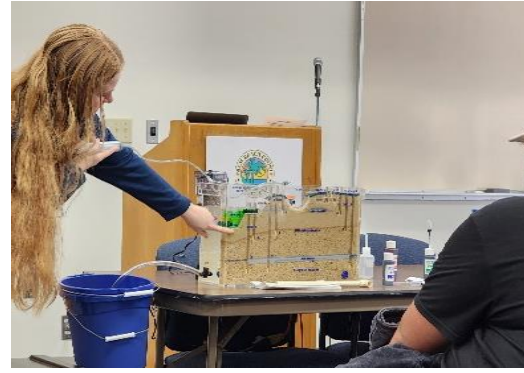
Library environmental programs

**10,292 YOUTH**

Mounts Botanical Garden programs

**7,500+ PARTICIPANTS**

ERM LagoonFest & Natural Areas Festival



**4 Positive Experiences**



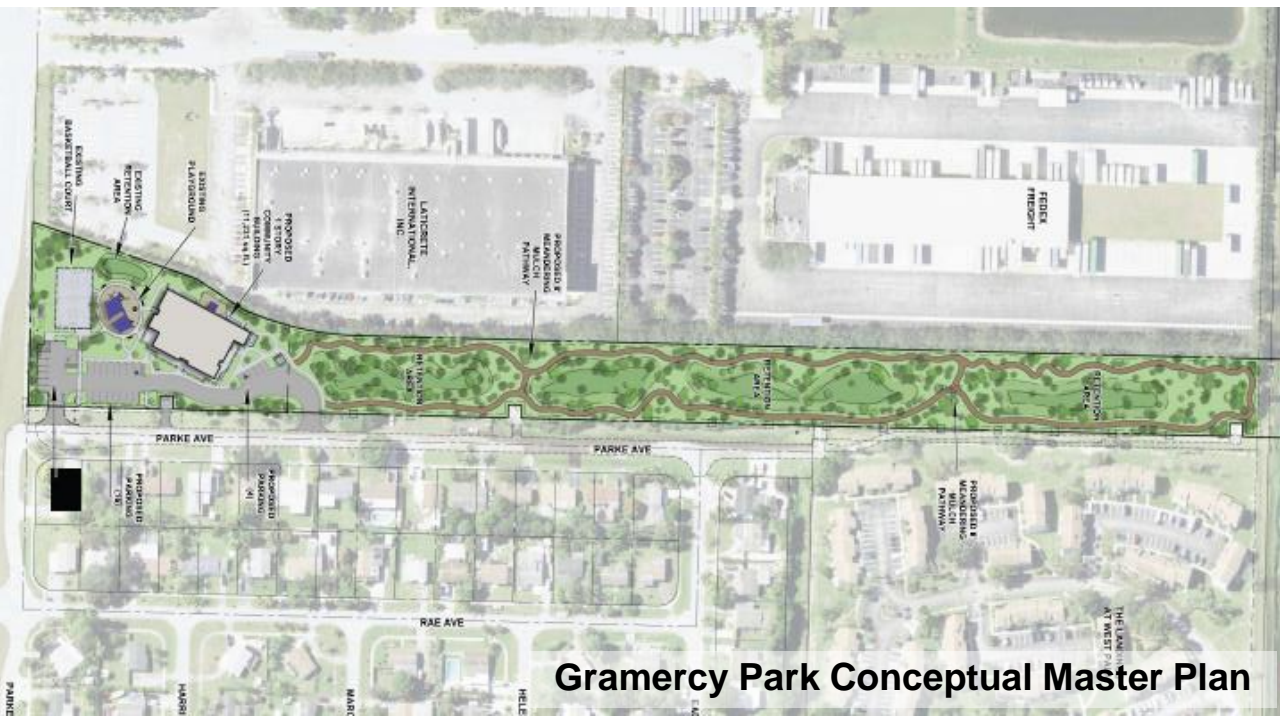




Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area



Green Cay Phase II - Ceremonial State Funding Check



Gramercy Park Conceptual Master Plan

# Placemaking

## 100% MAINTAINED

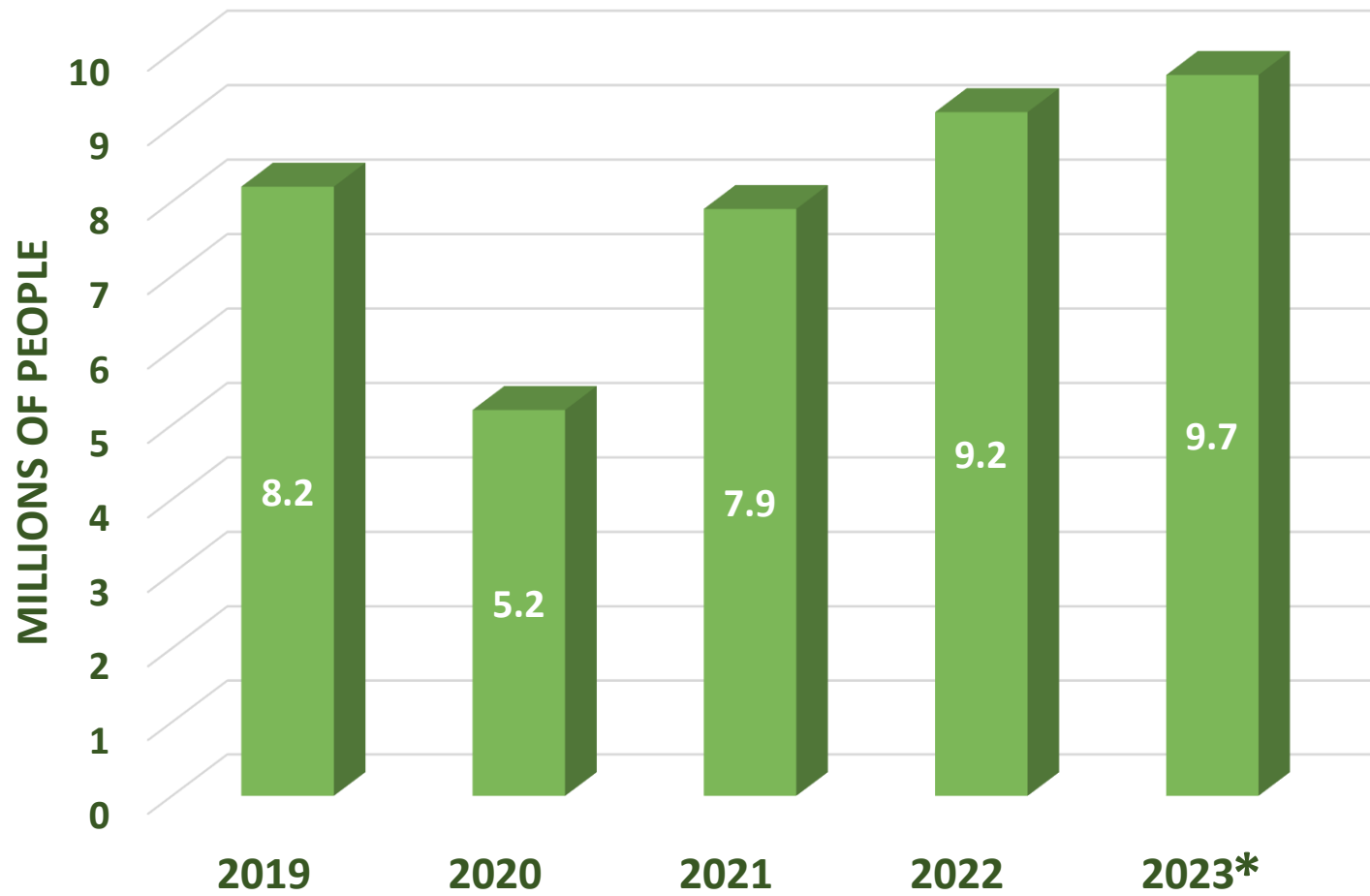
Palm Beach County natural areas public use facilities and miles of trails are maintained to County standards

## EXPANDED PARK FACILITIES

Paulette Burdick Park, Gramercy Park Neighborhood Center, Villages of Windsor Phase I, Green Cay Phase II

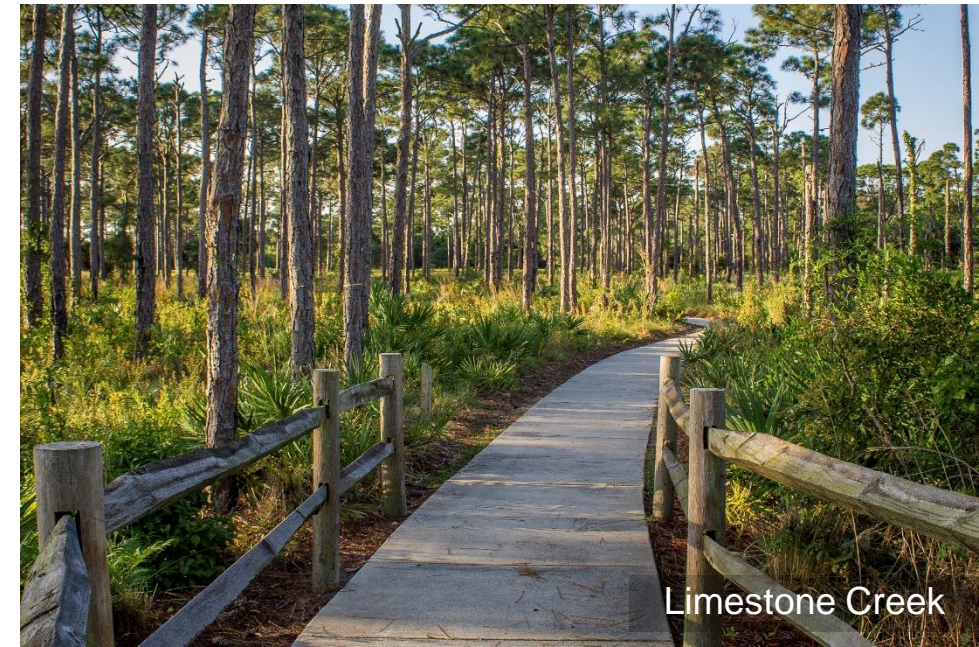


# County Tourism



Data Source: Discover the Palm Beaches

\* estimated





# GOAL 5

## PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES



Vista Center



Resilience Waste Station



Energy Efficiency Proclamation



Community Services



# Energy Efficiency



Burt Aaronson South County  
Baseball Complex

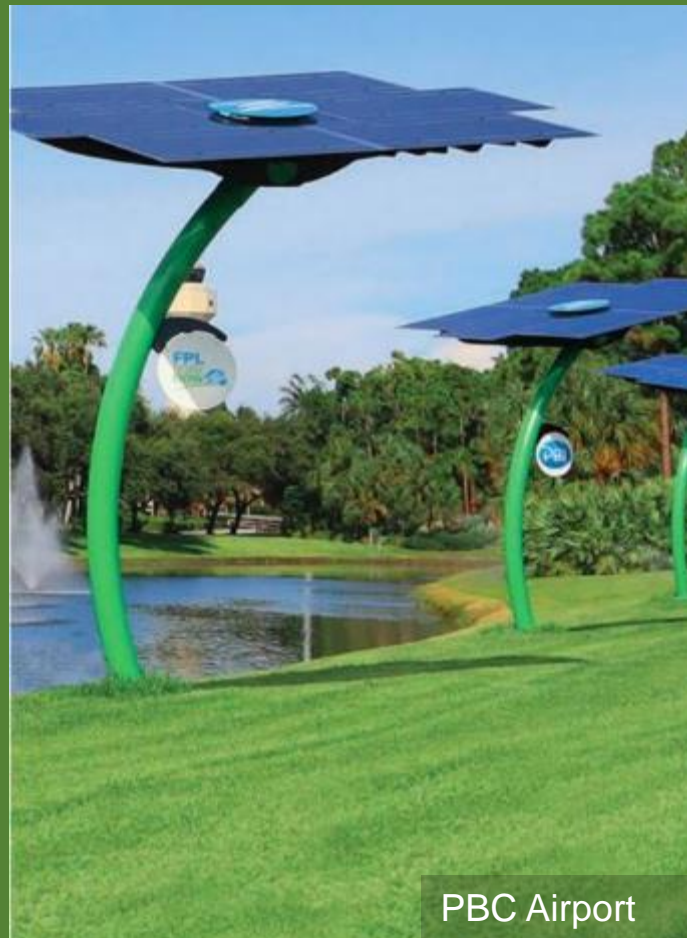


HVAC chiller at Vista Center

**2,201 PERMITS**  
Solar Installations

**2,363 STREETLIGHTS**  
Converted to LED

**288 LIGHT FIXTURES**  
**AT PARKS**  
Upgraded to LED



PBC Airport



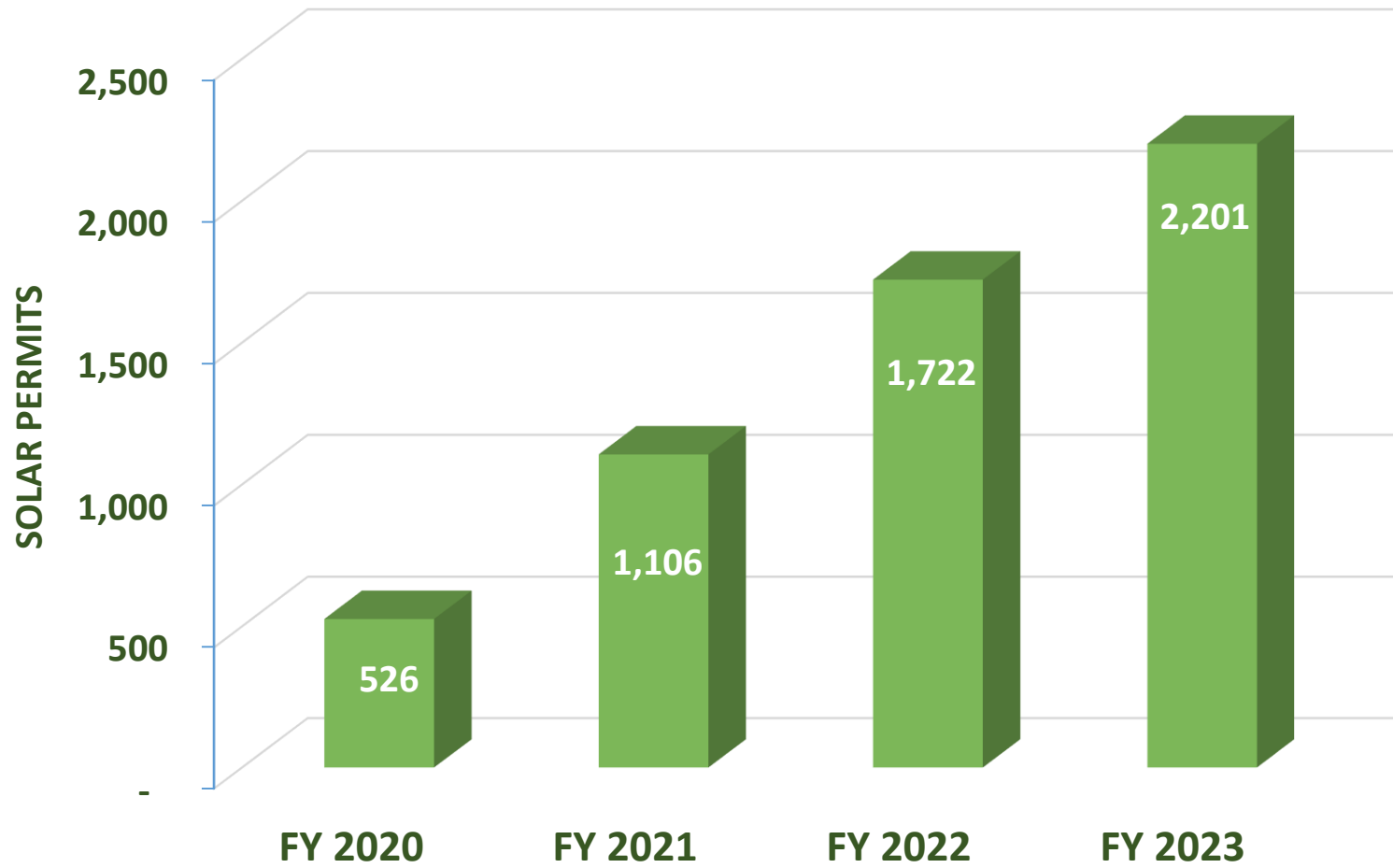
Criminal Justice Complex LED Lights



Redbank Road



# Solar Permits Issued





# Projects

## PLANNING & COMPLIANCE



Finalizing the Sustainability Management Plan document

## RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION



19 touchless water refill stations installed

## EMISSIONS REDUCTION



69 EV permits (unincorporated county)



# Outreach



## SEFL REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PBC adopted Regional Climate Action Plan 3.0

## CLIMATE RISK COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

7 community & stakeholder workshops

162 workshop attendees

652 survey respondents

## FAU CLIMATE READY AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

OOR staff served on Advisory Council

Ambassadors presented at OOR workshops

Libraries hosted student outreach

Welcome to RCAP 3.0



Regional Climate Action Plan

Climate Risk Workshop Pahokee



FAU Climate READY Ambassadors



**BUILDING A CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY**





# Outreach

## PBC FLOOD WORKSHOP

OOR partnered with the American Flood Coalition  
42 PBC municipal representatives attended  
Discussed Resilient FL program & collaboration

## RESILIENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKSHOP

OOR collaborated with SE FL Regional Climate Change Compact to organize and host (200 attendees)

## SOUTHEAST FL REGIONAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

OOR collaborated with Climate Compact partners to organize speakers and panels (700 attendees)

Palm Beach County will host the 2025 Summit !



PBC Flood Workshop at Mounts Botanical Gardens

### Sarasota County Case Study: Engaging Residents to Increase Single Family Home Resilience and Sustainability

Subsidized Housing

Resilient & Affordable Housing Workshop

Development Type

- ALL
- Assisted Housing
- Public Housing

Owner Type

Population Served

Funding Sources

Alia Garrett  
Sustainability and Outreach Coordinator, Sarasota County  
University of Florida/IFAS

27



# GOAL 6

PRESERVE AND  
ENHANCE OUR  
THRIVING  
AGRICULTURE





# Outreach



Field Day – Pest traps



EAA – Romaine and other leaf crops



**SAVE THE DATE:  
April 28, 2024!**

Sweet Corn Fiesta



EAA rice harvest



Vegetable variety trial

## SWEET CORN FIESTA

**5,000** attendees  
**52,800** ears of sweet corn

## 48 WORKSHOPS

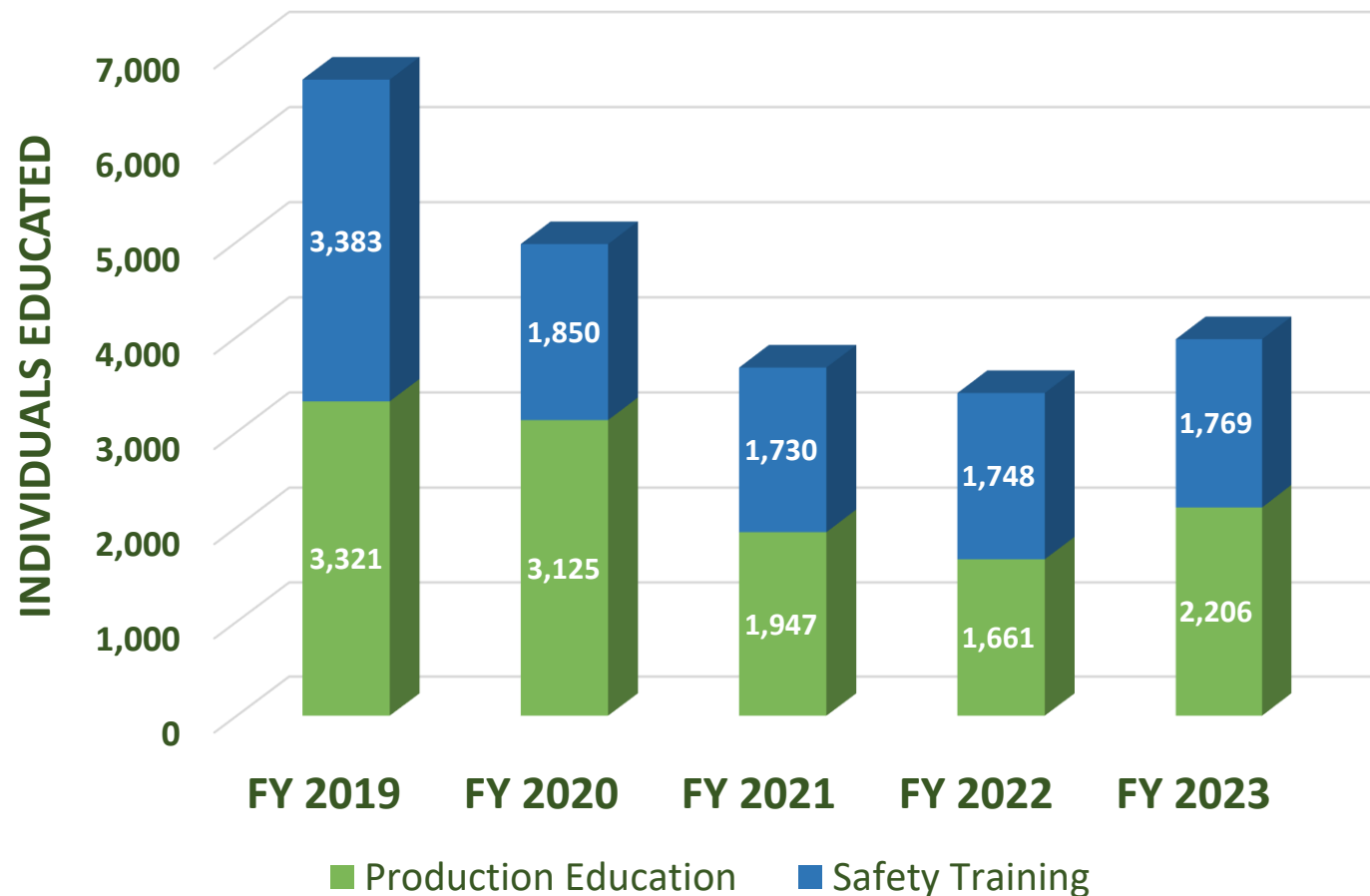
**2,206** clients reached

## 99 AG SAFETY TRAININGS

**1,769** clients reached  
**2,597** CEUs delivered



# Educational Opportunities



Empowering farm operations to self-train themselves  
(Train-The-Trainer events and using In-House Safety DVDs )





Urban horticulture outreach (FY23)

239 educational events

5,597 participants



Yard weed ID



Tree care

Urban horticulture topics

Home vegetable/herb gardening

Gardening for wildlife (birds, butterflies, pollinators)

Indoor gardening (bonsai, saikei, succulents, terrariums)

Florida-Friendly™ Landscaping principles

Orchid care & propagation

Shade-loving plants

Plant/flower dissection biology

Invasive plants (*and iguanas*)

Integrated Pest Management (good bug, bad bug)

Hydroponics

Beekeeping, aquatic plants, composting, seed libraries .....



Palm diseases





Herb class



Butterfly gardens



Vegetable gardening



Seed libraries



Pollinator plants





## Sustainable Gardening Group

Educator Elizabeth Sansom teaches you to become more sustainable by growing your own food. Bring your cuttings, seeds, plants and gardening books to share. (2 hr.)  
Call/visit to preregister.

**First Saturday of Every Month**  
**2:00 pm-4:00 pm**

Lantana Road Branch  
4020 Lantana Road  
Lake Worth 33462  
Phone: 561-304-4500



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor, Maria Sacha, Vice Mayor, Maria G. Marino, Michael A. Barnett, Marc Woodward, Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard

04/23

## Become a Citizen Scientist!

Fri, Apr 28 - Wed, May 01

Join the South Florida City Nature Challenge for Citizen Science Month! Show off South Florida's amazing biodiversity by photographing wildlife, plants, fungi and any other living organisms you can find!  
For more information on joining the Challenge, scan the QR code below or visit your local Library location.

### How to Participate in the South Florida City Nature Challenge

1. Download the free iNaturalist app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Under "Projects", search "City Nature Challenge 2023: South Florida (#CNC50FLO)" and join.
3. Find plants and wildlife anywhere in South Florida!
4. Take photos of plants and wildlife.
5. Share your observations in the "City Nature Challenge 2023: South Florida (#CNC50FLO)" project with #CNC50FLO between Apr 28-May 01.



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3. Find and take photos of plants and wildlife in South Florida!
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For more information on the South Florida City Nature Challenge, locations and programs where you can learn how to use the iNaturalist app, visit [www.pbcnature.com](http://www.pbcnature.com).

Activities promote environmental awareness, conservation, and recreation.



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Veronica C. Baker, County Administrator

In accordance with ADA provisions, this flyer may be requested in an alternate format. Please call 561-966-7000 for more information.

# Earth Day CELEBRATION

## OKEEHEELEE NATURE CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023  
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

- Free to the public
- Free presentations & programs
- Family-Friendly
- Guided nature walks & talks
- Food trucks
- Special guests
- Eco-friendly crafts & activities
- Environmental exhibitors & vendors
- Raffles

Activities will promote awareness of environmental protection and earth conservation.

Owned and operated by  
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Gregg K. Weiss, Mayor, Maria Sacha, Vice Mayor, Maria G. Marino, Michael A. Barnett, Marc Woodward, Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard  
Veronica C. Baker, County Administrator

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## Transform Your Landscape: Pollinators & Wildflowers

Wed, Apr 05, 2:00 pm

Learn how to create a vibrant and thriving landscape by transforming your sterile yard into a flourishing habitat. Presented by CJ McCartney from the Florida Wildflower Foundation. (60 min.)

Main Library  
3650 Summit Boulevard  
West Palm Beach 33445  
Phone: 561-233-2600



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04/23



## BUILDING A CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY

Meet your community's Climate READY Ambassadors! Join area high school students in FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center's Climate READY program to hear what they have learned about how our communities can be more resilient to local climate change impacts. They will also share their personal stories about why they are involved in learning and educating others about these critical issues. Find out what your community is already doing to be more Climate READY and how you can help! (60 min.)

Wed, Apr 05, 6:30 pm

Main Library  
3650 Summit Boulevard  
West Palm Beach 33406  
Phone: 561-233-2600

Thu, Apr 06, 6:30 pm

Lantana Road Branch  
4020 Lantana Road  
Lake Worth 33462  
Phone: 561-304-4500



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04/23

## Gopher Tortoise Shell-a-bration Day



Saturday, April 8, 2023

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Okeehlee Nature Center

7715 Forest Hill Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33413



- FREE to participate (No reservation/registration required)
- Educational talks and tortoise habitat hikes to view active burrows
- Gopher Tortoise themed crafts, games and science activities
- Meet-and-greets with our ambassador Gopher Tortoise, "Sparky"
- Gopher Tortoise story time for the little ones

Activities will promote awareness of environmental protection and wildlife conservation.



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Veronica C. Baker, County Administrator

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Come celebrate the planet!

# Earth Day

at Daggerwing Nature Center

FREE!

Saturday, April 22, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park  
11435 Park Access Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33498

Ladybug Release • Park Cleanup • Plant Sale •  
Animal Shows • Crafts • Photo Opportunities with  
Oakly • Scavenger Hunt • and more!

Owned and operated by  
Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
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Veronica C. Baker, County Administrator

Activities will promote awareness of environmental protection and earth conservation.

Visit [www.pbcnature.com](http://www.pbcnature.com)

In accordance with the provisions of the ADA, this document may be requested in an alternate format. Please call (561) 629-8760.





Adventure Awaits Programs



**HAPPY**  
*Earth Day*  
April 22nd, 2023

*Celebrate Earth Day with Us!*

**Keep Palm County Clean and Green: Volunteer Trash Pick Up**  
Saturday, April 22  
8:00am-11:00am  
Hypoluxo Scrub Natural Area  
This volunteer project is designed for volunteers ages 16 and older. Volunteers 15 and under must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Volunteers can register by calling 561-255-2426 or emailing amathews@pbcgov.org.

**Birding w/o Binox**  
Saturday, April 22  
6:45am-8:30am  
Pondhawk Natural Area  
Enhance your skills by learning to identify birds and other wildlife without the use of binoculars. Immerse yourself in the wilderness at Pondhawk Natural Area as you learn to use all your senses to identify birds and other wildlife using calls, behavior and other clues. Please note: This naturalist-led hike starts at sunrise and will take place on both concrete and natural surface trails. The hike will start at Pondhawk Natural Area located at 1501 Spanish River Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL 33451 Meetup in the library parking lot. Register at [PBCERM.Eventbrite.com](https://www.pbc.gov/Eventbrite)

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Gregg K. White, Mayor, Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor  
Mark C. Martin, Michael A. Burnett, Henri Woodward,  
Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard  
County Administrator Verónica C. Baker

#pbcgov #earthday

**CITY NATURE CHALLENGE**

City Nature Challenge 2023: South Florida (#CNC5FLO) April 28-May 1, 2023

**Find** **Take a Picture** **Share** your observations through iNaturalist

**April 28th**  
9:00am-11:00am  
Frenchman's Forest Natural Area

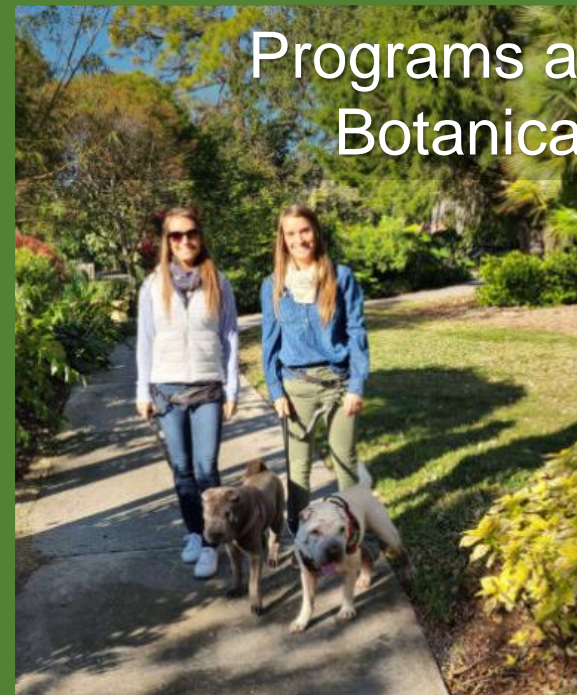
**April 29th**  
9:00am-10:30am  
Winding Waters Natural Area

Join us on a hike to document all things living! This is part of the City Nature Challenge - an annual four day global bioblitz! The data you collect will be shared on iNaturalist and will help us show off South Florida's amazing biodiversity! We will be photographing wildlife (including birds, insects, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and more), plants, fungi and any other living organisms we can find!

Register at [PBCERM.Eventbrite.com](https://www.pbc.gov/Eventbrite.com)

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
Gregg K. White, Mayor, Maria Sachs, Vice Mayor  
Mark C. Martin, Michael A. Burnett, Henri Woodward,  
Sara Baxter, Mack Bernard  
County Administrator Verónica C. Baker

#pbcgov #earthday



Programs at Mounts Botanical Gardens





# VOLUNTEER



ERM environmental restoration



Master Gardener Volunteer program



ERM environmental clean-up



Parks volunteers





# UPCOMING CROSS-DEPARTMENT COLLABORATIONS:

- **Implementing** EPA \$1M grant to expand tree canopy in the Glades
- **Creating** Resilience Hubs at the Libraries
- **Collaborating** on the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
- **Managing** natural spaces together





# QUESTIONS?