

COMMUNICATION PACKAGE

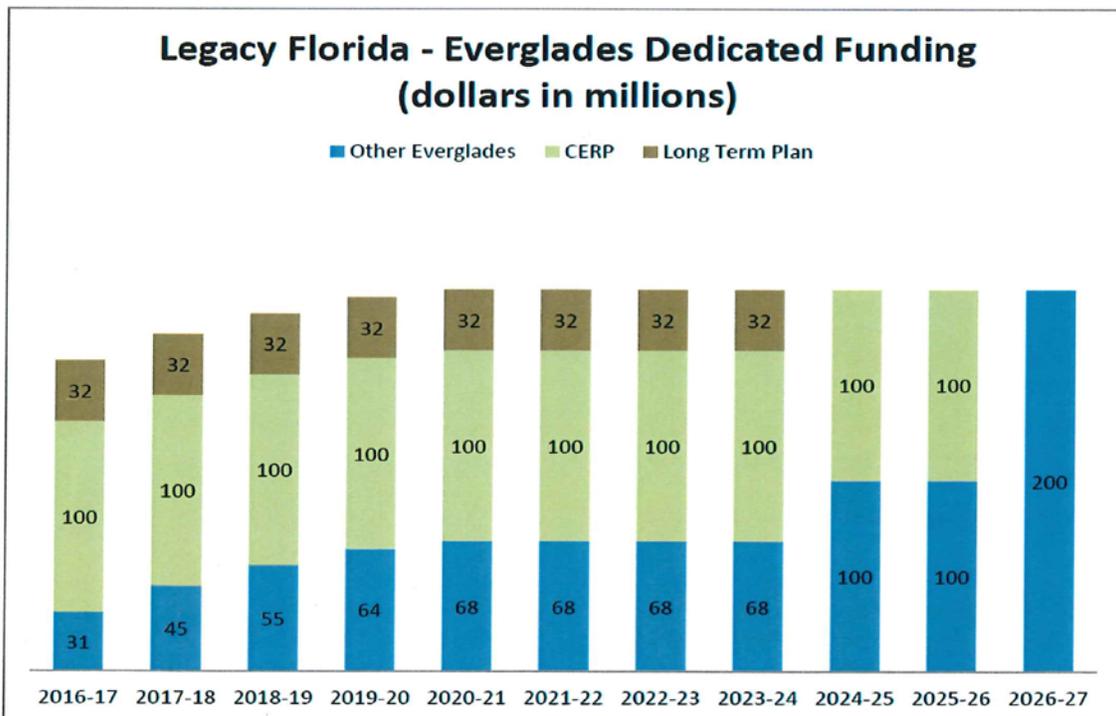
December 2016

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"Legacy Florida" HB989 by Rep. Gayle Harrell

The following is the summary of the legislation:

- From funds distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (L ATF) pursuant to s. 201.15, F.S., (Amendment 1 Funds), after paying required debt service, a minimum of the lesser of 25 percent or \$200 million must be appropriated annually for Everglades projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth in s.373.470, the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(21, F.S., adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection in December 2014, and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program as set forth in s. 373.4595, F.S.
- From these dedicated Everglades funds, \$32 million must be distributed each fiscal year through the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the South Florida Water Management District for the Long-Term Plan as defined in s. 373.4592(2), F.S.
- From the dedicated Everglades funds remaining after deducting the \$32 million, a minimum of the lesser of 76.5 percent or \$100 million must be appropriated for 10 years (through 2025-26) for the planning, design, engineering and construction of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as set forth ins.373.470, F.S.
- The legislation requires the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management district to give preference to those Everglades restoration projects that reduce discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries in a timely manner.



MARCO RUBIO
FLORIDA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

October 11, 2016

RECEIVED
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TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Michael J. Busha
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 Southwest Camden Avenue
Stuart, FL 34994-2903

Dear Mr. Busha,

Thank you for taking the time to express your thoughts regarding the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 (S. 2848). Understanding your views helps me better represent Florida in the United States Senate, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

WRDA authorizes critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects related to flood control, navigation, and environmental protection. These water projects not only affect our agriculture and tourism industries, they also advance the important goal of preserving one of our most important national treasures, the Everglades.

Many of the projects authorized by WRDA are important investments in our home state of Florida. I worked with Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works' Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) to successfully include the authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) in WRDA. Once completed, CEPP will lessen the discharges from Lake Okeechobee by sending more water south through the Everglades and into the Florida Bay. This vital Everglades restoration project will help mitigate the environmental and economic disaster affecting South Florida's waterways while sending freshwater to areas that need it.

WRDA passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 28, 2016. I was proud to vote for it when it passed the Senate on September 15, 2016, because, in addition to CEPP, the bill authorized several other projects important to Florida. One provision I authored, called the Assessing Coastal Areas to Assist States Act, directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform an assessment of coastlines within in the South Atlantic Division. This important study, when completed, will provide information that will help us identify the mitigation measures necessary to protect our families, homes, businesses, and economy from storms and changes in sea level.

The House of Representatives passed its version of WRDA on September 28, 2016, bringing us one step closer to enacting this bill into law. As the House and Senate

move forward on resolving differences in the two bills, I urged committee leaders of both parties to retain all important Florida projects in the final version of WRDA. In addition to the authorization of CEPP and the Assessing Coastal Areas to Assist States Act, these Florida provisions include Port Everglades navigation authorization, the Picayune Strand project modification, the Daytona Beach flood damage reduction project, and the Flagler County hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project. I look forward to the differences in the two bills being reconciled in conference, and the final version being sent to the President for his signature very soon.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as your United States Senator. I will keep your thoughts in mind as I consider these issues and continue working to ensure America remains a safe and prosperous nation.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
United States Senator

MR/ev1

Wide sidewalks, narrow road could be in store for U.S. 1 in North Palm

LOCAL

By Sarah Peters - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer



1

Updated: 2:23 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016 | Posted: 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016

Highlights

Bike lanes, wider sidewalks and on-street parking are among the possibilities.

NORTH PALM BEACH — Protected bike lanes, wider sidewalks and pretty landscaping could transform U.S. 1 in North Palm Beach if officials choose to **narrow** the road, a planner told officials.

West Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Palm Beach County officials were enthusiastic about the **tentative proposal to narrow the road from six lanes to four** and expressed an eagerness to make similar changes in their cities after Dana Little, urban design director for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, presented them with some options North Palm Beach is considering.

Facebook users, follow @PostonGardens for the latest news and updates from North Palm Beach and Palm Beach Gardens.

Options for a narrower U.S. 1 include some on-street parking with dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks, no on-street parking but a separated bicycle track and simply widening the sidewalks to allow people to simultaneously use them for different purposes, Little said.

The drawings drew rave reviews from Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay and Lake Worth Mayor Pam Triolo at a recent Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting.



North Palm Beach should apply to FDOT to reduce U.S. 1 south of the Parker Bridge from six lanes to four, ... [Read More](#)

"I salivate looking at all those complete streets," thinking of Lake Worth's Dixie Highway corridor, Triolo said. Although usage projections show the road has extra capacity, she asked about the slowdowns that occur during peak hours.

Little acknowledged residents who live north of the Parker Bridge, particularly in Old Port Cove, weren't keen on the plan when he presented options to the planning organization.

But, he also said, the congestion they experience isn't caused by the number of lanes — it's because of the opening and closing of the bridge.

The road is more than wide enough to accommodate the traffic that's projected through 2040 and will be even with four lanes, Little said.

Village officials are determining the vision for the village's future, especially how best to redevelop vacant space on U.S. 1 and Northlake Boulevard, as they review a new master plan prepared after a weeklong charrette in January. No one from the village is on the planning organization's governing board.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

U.S. Army Corps continues restoration efforts

Jason Kirk 11:06 a.m. EDT November 1, 2016



(Photo: Special to The News-Press)

The fiscal year for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District ended on Sept. 30 and it was a year in which our Team of Professionals, alongside our partners, achieved on-the-ground benefits to restore America's Everglades.

The \$127 million federal investment in fiscal year 2016 towards Everglades restoration provided essential funding to award critical construction contracts and to design and plan for future increments of restoration. For construction efforts alone, we invested \$96.5 million in our Everglades projects.

The entire Everglades ecosystem operates as a whole; progress made in each respective areas builds off each other to deliver essential benefits to America's Everglades. This connectivity starts north of Lake Okeechobee, the liquid heart of the Everglades, and moves all the way south to Florida Bay.

North of Lake Okeechobee, ongoing efforts will improve conditions north of—and within—the lake. We awarded one of three remaining construction contracts for Kissimmee River Restoration this past year. This project will restore approximately 44 miles of the historic Kissimmee River, restore more than 40 square miles of floodplain, and slow the flow of water into Lake Okeechobee. We also initiated the Lake Okeechobee Watershed project, which will further improve conditions north of the lake and enhance system-wide operational flexibility.

East and west of Lake Okeechobee, ongoing efforts will improve conditions in coastal estuaries and tributaries. Construction of much-needed storage is underway at the Indian River Lagoon-South C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area project on the east coast and the C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir project on the west coast. This past year, we broke ground on the largest component of the C-44 project, the 3,400-acre reservoir. As a result of our essential partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), all the C-44 project components are currently under construction or complete. This partnership also enabled the SFWMD to initiate the first phase of construction on the C-43 Reservoir project. Together, these projects will provide over 220,000 acre-feet of water storage.

Progress continues on developing the final report for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration project, which will improve conditions in the Loxahatchee River's northwest fork. We also initiated the Western Everglades Restoration Project, which aims to restore the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water within the western Everglades.

Currently pending congressional authorization, the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) will construct conveyance features needed to send additional water south from Lake Okeechobee. It will also deliver more than 200,000 acre-feet of water south from the lake into Everglades National Park. Congressional authorization will make CEPP eligible for congressional appropriations.

South of Lake Okeechobee, ongoing efforts will send additional water south to Everglades National Park, Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay. This past year we awarded two of three remaining construction contracts for the C-111 South Dade project. We're also finishing construction on the Modified Water Deliveries project. Combined, these projects put the necessary infrastructure in place to send larger quantities of water south on a long-term basis. We awarded one of three remaining contracts for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project, which will deliver much-needed freshwater to Biscayne Bay. Additionally, the emergency deviation implemented this past year helped to alleviate high water levels within the system and deliver additional water to the Park.

We will keep momentum going in fiscal year 2017. We started this year with a visit from our Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite who appreciates the important collaborative work we're doing to restore this complex ecosystem and recognizes our strong federal-state partnership is critical to maintaining momentum. We applaud our partners' efforts, including the Department of the Interior breaking ground on additional Tamiami Trail bridging and SFWMD's continued progress on Restoration Strategies. Alongside our partners, with valuable input from multiple stakeholders, we developed the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). It's our Everglades restoration roadmap—a living document with flexibility to adjust as conditions change.

We are encouraged by the progress made to date and our Corps team is absolutely committed to maintaining momentum on our important work to restore and preserve America's Everglades for future generations.

Col. Jason Kirk is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Commander.

Read or Share this story: <http://newspr.es/2f9yPk3>

Planners want to create traffic options, not remove them | Opinion

Eric Dumbaugh, Louis Merlin, John Renne

South Florida planners don't want commuters to suffer

November 1, 2016

plan for traffic: 'We're going to make them suffer'" with great interest. One reading this article is left with the impression that those tasked with the oversight of our region's transportation system are colluding with developers to force people out of their cars and into high rises.

Our universities are specifically implicated in this, with the article quoting a consultant, who states that: "I don't know what they're teaching in the planning schools ... it's a little bit hard to comprehend."

As professors in South Florida's only accredited urban planning program, we would like to use this as an opportunity to help the public understand the forces shaping transportation planning in South Florida.

First, and most importantly: the goal of planning is in every case to give people more options, not to take them away. The authors of the article seem to have selected a few quotes to make local planning appear as an anti-car endeavor.

To the contrary, good planning is about giving residents a range of options as to where they live and how they get around, including the option of traveling by private automobile, but also including alternatives such as walking, biking, transit and ridesharing. Logically, these choices are not antagonistic to each other, because the more people walk, bike, take transit, and share rides the fewer cars there are congesting the roads.

The shift toward walkable, multimodal communities is presented as an agenda that planners are imposing on the public against its will. This is entirely incorrect.

In 2014, we conducted the South Florida Regional Survey, a scientifically-selected sample of 1000 South Florida residents to understand their development and transportation preferences. Fully half of South Florida residents reported they preferred to live in an urban neighborhood to a suburban one. To address the region's congestion problems, residents were further asked to choose between 'expanding existing highways' and 'improving public transportation, such as rail and buses.' South Floridians preferred improving public transportation over roadway expansion by a 2-to-1 margin (64.4 percent to 30.8 percent).

Next, the article reports that 36 percent of Broward's arterial roads will be "failing" by 2040, but fails to provide the reader with any meaningful insight into what this actually means. A "failing" road, according to the level-of-service standards cited in the article, simply means demand exceeds supply for at least 15 minutes during the day. In practice, most of our roads are only congested for no more than an hour or two a day, usually during the morning and afternoon as people commute to and from work. For most of the day, there is capacity greatly in excess of what is needed.

And in places like [Broward County](#), which is almost entirely built out, where would the right-of-way for these additional roads and lanes come from? Should we use public funds and eminent domain to take properties from landowners in order to increase our roadway capacity? According to the [Broward County](#) Metropolitan Planning Organization, adding one lane in each direction to a major thoroughfare costs \$130 million per mile — the bulk of the cost is due to land acquisition.

If we were to ignore public preferences and fiscal constraints and attempted to build our way out of congestion, what would we get in return? The answer is not much. Increasing highway capacity, such as is being advocated here, doesn't relieve traffic problems. In case after case, the net result of new capacity additions is not the elimination of traffic congestion, but simply more lanes of congestion as people adjust their behavior in response to the new capacity. We have a name for this phenomenon, if the authors are curious: it's called induced demand. The more roads we build, the more people drive and the worse congestion gets over time.

The reality, largely ignored in this article, is South Florida is urbanizing. Barring future development expansion into the Everglades, we're going to have to learn how to use our surface transportation systems more efficiently. That means moving more people in the space we currently have. Transit is a critical and missing component of that system.

None of this precludes the use of a personal automobile. Instead, it entails providing people with choices and options. Our planners and public officials are doing precisely what they should be doing: giving serious thought to the needs and challenges of the region and developing multi-modal solutions that prepare South Florida for success in the 21st century.

Eric Dumbaugh, Ph.D., AICP; Louis Merlin, Ph.D., AICP; John Renne, Ph.D., AICP; School of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida Atlantic University

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Audubon FLORIDA

November 14, 2016

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To The Editor:

Tyler Treadway's article, "Water Farms have Backers and Critics" contained quotes from two environmental leaders that criticized "Water Farm" projects recently approved by the St. Johns River Water Management District involving Fellsmere Joint Venture and Graves Brothers Co. The criticisms complained that the projects were only temporary, and that payments to these companies constitute a subsidy to agricultural interests that might decide later to develop the lands for residential or commercial purposes once the leases to the water management district have expired.

We at Audubon Florida believe that a variety of approaches to intercepting, storing, and cleaning polluted water upstream of the Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee are appropriate, and urgently needed, including "Water Farming".

It is important to cooperate with landowners and help them become part of the solution to water quality problems. It is also of utmost importance to get projects started quickly, and to minimize initial land and construction costs if stressed resources such as the Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River estuaries are to be saved from further disaster.

We view "Water Farming" as one tool in the toolbox which should be used in conjunction with conservation easement acquisition, government constructed public works projects, and outright land purchases.

"Water Farming" projects need not terminate at the end of an initial lease. They can open the door to negotiations for more permanent projects and solutions. Landowners often do not trust government agencies and often want to protect their future options until they become convinced that a permanent decision is right for them. From the perspective of agencies and taxpayers, time is often needed to judge project performance before making irrevocable high dollar commitments to big purchases. "Water Farming" can help bridge these gaps and bring government and landowners together to achieve important public goals.

Audubon Florida wants to see maximum cooperation between all interest groups to address the monumental water quality and water management problems facing our state's waters.

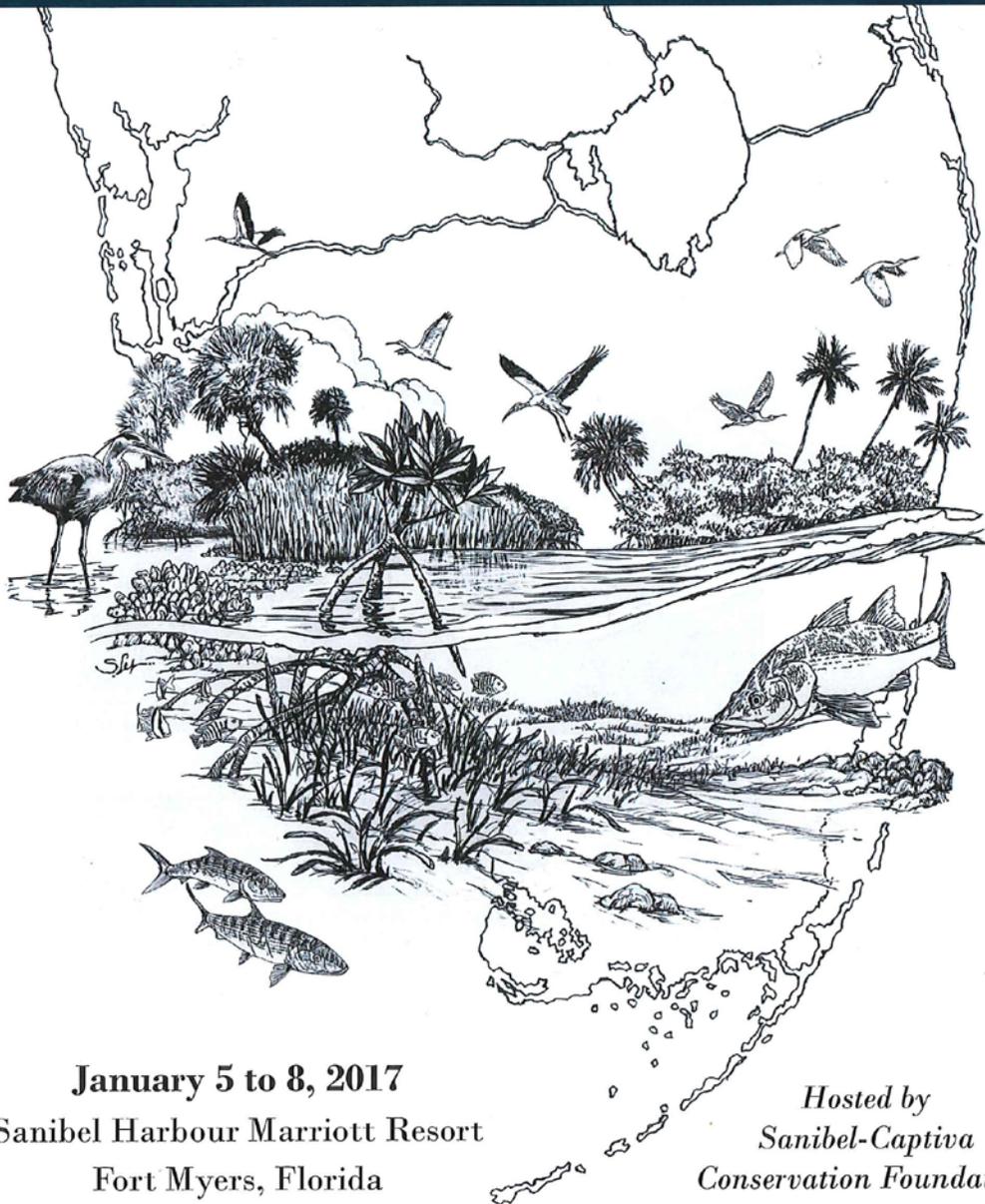
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Lee', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles Lee
Director of Advocacy

32nd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference

Three Estuaries, One Solution



January 5 to 8, 2017
Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort
Fort Myers, Florida

Hosted by
Sanibel-Captiva
Conservation Foundation

Schedule & Registration

Thursday, January 5th

- 1:00-6:00pm On-site Registration at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort in Fort Myers, Florida
Hospitality Suite • Hosted by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
- 6:30pm Welcome Reception • *Hosted by Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort*

Friday, January 6th

- 8:00am Breakfast & Guest Speaker • *Hosted by Sierra Club*
- 9:00am Plenary I • *The Big Flush: Algae Outbreaks in Lake Okeechobee and the Estuaries*
Moderator: Maggy Hurchalla
- 10:30am Plenary II • *The Estuary Solution: Send Clean Water South*
Moderator: Cara Capp, National Parks Conservation Association
- 12:00pm Lunch & Keynote Remarks • *Hosted by National Parks Conservation Association*
- 1:30pm Breakout I
- *Beyond Catching: Restoring & Conserving Florida's Fisheries* • Dr. Ed Tamson, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
 - *Estuary Health and Human Health: Not Separate Issues Anymore* • Deborah Drum, Martin County Board of Commissioners
 - *Plant Biodiversity: Including a Critical Element of Everglades Restoration* • George Gann, Institute for Regional Conservation
 - *Priorities for America's Everglades in the 115th Congress* • Sarah Gaines Barmeyer, National Parks Conservation Association
- 3:00pm Plenary III • *Everglades Restoration: Save the Species and Save the System*
Moderator: Jason Totoiu, Everglades Law Center
- 5:30pm Reception • *Hosted by the Everglades Trust*
- 7:00pm Dinner & Keynote Remarks • *Hosted by the Everglades Foundation*

Saturday, January 7th

- 8:00am Breakfast & Guest Speaker • *Hosted by Conservancy of Southwest Florida*
- 9:00am Plenary IV • *Energy Impacts on Everglades Restoration*
Moderator: Susan Glickman, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- 10:30am Breakout II
- *Growing Green: Restoration in a Developing Landscape* • Lisa Interlandi, Everglades Law Center & Sustainable Palm Beach
 - *Protecting Marine Resources of the Southern Everglades* • Caroline McLaughlin, National Parks Conservation Association
 - *Three Estuaries: Proving Ground for Everglades Restoration* • Rae Ann Wessel, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
 - *Western Everglades Restoration* • Brad Cornell, Audubon of the Western Everglades
- 12:00pm Lunch & Keynote Remarks • *Hosted by "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society*
- 1:30pm Breakout III
- *Diversity of Interests: Reasons to Restore America's Everglades* • Jacqueline Crucet, National Parks Conservation Association
 - *Politics vs. Invasive Plants: Can Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Survive?* • Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation
 - *River Restoration: Lessons from the Kissimmee and Ocklawaha* • Nathaniel Reed, Everglades Foundation
- 3:00pm Plenary V • *Combatting Climate Change with Everglades Restoration*
Moderator: Celeste De Palma, Audubon Florida
- 4:30pm Special Session • *Restoration Red Herrings: Here to Distract You*
Cris Costello, Sierra Club
- 6:30pm Dinner & Annual Awards Ceremony • *Hosted by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation*

Registration

Register online today at www.evergladescoalition.org/conference to take advantage of special early registration rates! If you would like a registration form mailed to you or need additional assistance, contact info@evergladescoalition.org.

- Early registration by December 10th: \$150 full conference, \$100 single day
- General registration after December 10th: \$190 full conference, \$120 single day

Registration includes all conference materials, access to plenary and breakout sessions, and admittance to all receptions. Meal tickets must be purchased separately; purchasing meals ahead of time is strongly encouraged. Rates are as follows: Breakfast — \$20, Lunch — \$28, Dinner — \$55. Please note dietary restrictions at the time of registration.

Student scholarships are available! Students 18+ from an accredited college or high school can apply for a sponsorship to cover full registration and all meals at the conference. Scholarship recipients are responsible for associated travel costs. To apply, send an essay outlining your interest in the Everglades (500-1000 words) and an academic reference to info@evergladescoalition.org by Dec. 5th.

Accommodations

EVCO is proud to host its 32nd annual conference at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort, 17260 Harbour Point Drive in Fort Myers. Special rate of \$199/night (plus tax) is available for limited rooms on a first-come first-serve basis, through December 10th. Please call (239) 466-4000 and reference the Everglades Coalition for discounted rate, or visit www.evergladescoalition.org/conference.

The Sanibel Harbour Marriott is a *Florida Green Lodging* hotel designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Sunday Field Trips

Guided Tram Tour of J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, 8:30am—10:00am • *Sponsored by Tarpon Bay Explorers*
Hop on the tram at the special tram parking area of the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge! The parking area is clearly marked and is located on the south side of Sanibel-Captiva Road about one mile west of Tarpon Bay Road. An experienced naturalist will help you search for roseate spoonbills, herons, egrets, ibis, alligators and much more while learning about the Refuge's ecology and history. Participants provide their own transportation to the Refuge. Early morning tram ride will provide optimum wildlife viewing!

Marine Life Cruise in the Caloosahatchee Estuary, 9:00am—11:00am • *Sponsored by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation*
Visit marine life in the estuary on this guided tour of SCCF's oyster reef restoration site, and learn about the importance of monitoring at a station that collects water quality data at seven locations. Cruise departs from the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort dock.

Caloosahatchee Oxbow & Riverlore Cruise, 10:00am—12:30pm • *Sponsored by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation*
Experience the historic Caloosahatchee! Learn about the river, its history, folklore, issues and solutions while exploring the meandering upper Caloosahatchee. Travel back to a time when a waterfall served as the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee and settlers braved the wild. Provide your own transportation to the boat launch in Olga, FL about 30 miles northwest of the conference venue toward I-75.

Pre-registration is required for field trips and space may be limited. Your nonrefundable \$10 donation to EVCO holds your spot.

Conference Sponsors

Host: Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Okeechobee: Everglades Foundation, Everglades Trust

Kissimmee Prairie: Conservancy of SW Florida, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club

Payhoyokee: Audubon Florida, Florida Oceanographic Society, Earthjustice, Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau, National Audubon Society, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Sawgrass Roots Exhibitors: Center for Biological Diversity, Everglades Law Center, Florida Native Plant Society, Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, League of Women Voters of Florida, Martin County Conservation Alliance, Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA), Reef Relief, Tarpon Bay Explorers, The National Wildlife Federation

Support the Everglades Coalition's restoration and conservation efforts while gaining exposure to 300+ conference participants and recognition throughout the conference. Contact info@evergladescoalition.org for more information on how you can help.

Acceptance of sponsorship donation has no bearing on conference program, content, or the views and position of EVCO, nor does it imply recommendation or endorsements by the Coalition or its members. The Everglades Coalition is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3); all contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information for Everglades Coalition, a Florida-based nonprofit corporation, may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352 toll free within the state or by visiting www.800helpfla.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Employment Summary - Treasure Coast Region November 18, 2016

Highlights

- **Unemployment in the region rose to 5.3 percent in October, up from 5.1 percent in October of the previous year.**
- **Gained 11,500 new non-agricultural jobs year over year from October 2015 to October 2016.**
- **Job gains were primarily in professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and government.**

- This employment summary is derived from: *Local Area Unemployment Statistics* prepared by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region* (Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie counties) and *Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region* (Palm Beach County) prepared by the two workforce development boards in the Treasure Coast Region. The CareerSource reports follow this regional summary.
- The unemployment rate for the Treasure Coast Region was 5.3 percent in October 2016, up 0.2 percentage points from the October 2015 rate of 5.1 percent. The Region's unemployment rate was 0.4 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 4.9 percent and 0.6 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. Out of a labor force of 971,833 there were 51,124 unemployed residents in the Treasure Coast Region.
- The Treasure Coast Region contains three metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs): the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties), the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County), and the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach MSA (Palm Beach County). In October 2016, non-agricultural employment in the combined metropolitan areas of the Region was 791,400, an increase of 11,500 jobs over the previous year.

Unemployment Rates*			
Geographic Area	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015
Indian River County	6.5	6.7	6.7
Martin County	5.0	5.0	5.0
Palm Beach County	5.1	5.2	4.9
St. Lucie County	5.8	6.0	5.8
Treasure Coast Region	5.3	5.4	5.1
Florida	4.9	5.0	5.1
United States	4.7	4.8	4.8

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
* Not seasonally adjusted.

- In the combined metropolitan areas, job gains were primarily in professional and business services (+5,500), education and health services (+2,700), leisure and hospitality (+2,700), and government (+1,000).
- Job losses were felt in financial activities (-1,200), manufacturing (-200), and information (-200).

Port St. Lucie Metro Area:

The Port St. Lucie MSA had the third fastest annual job growth rate among all MSAs in Florida in the area of government. In addition, the education and health services and government industries grew faster in this MSA than statewide over the year.

Sebastian-Vero Beach Metro Area:

The Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA had the second fastest annual job growth rate for the other services category compared to all other MSAs in the state and this category grew faster in the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA than statewide over the year.

West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division:

In this MSA, annual job growth in the other services category was tied for second highest among all MSAs in Florida. In addition, the professional and business services industry grew faster than statewide over the year.

**Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
November 18, 2016**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Research Coast region (Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie counties) was 5.8 percent in October 2016. This rate was equal to the region's year ago rate of 5.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 265,778 there were 15,358 unemployed residents in the region.
- Martin County had the lowest unemployment rate (5.0 percent) in the CareerSource Research Coast region followed by St. Lucie County (5.8 percent), and Indian River County (6.5 percent).
- The CareerSource Research Coast region contains two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs): the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties) and the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County). In October 2016, nonagricultural employment in the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas was 190,200, an increase of 2,600 jobs (+1.4 percent) over the previous year.
- In the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas, the major industries that gained jobs over the year were: education and health services (+1,500 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+800 jobs); government (+500 jobs); professional and business services (+400 jobs); other services (+200 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+100 jobs). The manufacturing (-500 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-300 jobs); and financial activities (-100 jobs) industries lost jobs over the year. The information industry was unchanged over the year.

Port St. Lucie metro areas

- The majority of the nonagricultural employment in the CareerSource Research Coast region was in the Port St. Lucie metro area. This metro area accounted for 140,800 jobs in October 2016, an increase of 1,800 jobs from October 2015 (+1.3 percent).
- The Port St. Lucie MSA had the third fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in government (+2.0 percent) in October 2016.
- The education and health services (+4.8 percent) and government (+2.0 percent) industries grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

- The industries gaining in jobs over the year were: education and health services (+1,200 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+700 jobs); government (+400 jobs); professional and business services (+300 jobs); and other services (+100 jobs). The manufacturing (-400 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-400 jobs); and financial activities (-100 jobs) industries lost jobs over the year. The mining, logging, and construction and information industries were unchanged over the year.

Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area

- In October 2016 nonagricultural employment in the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA was 49,400, an increase of 800 jobs (+1.6 percent) over the year.
- The Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA had the second fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in other services (+3.7 percent) in October 2016.
- The other services (+3.7 percent) industry grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.
- The industries gaining in jobs over the year were: education and health services (+300 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+100 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+100 jobs); professional and business services (+100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+100 jobs); other services (+100 jobs); and government (+100 jobs).
- The manufacturing (-100 jobs) industry lost jobs over the year.
- The information and financial activities industries were unchanged over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Unemployment Rates			
(not seasonally adjusted)	Oct-16	Sep-16	Oct-15
CareerSource Research Coast	5.8%	5.9%	5.8%
Indian River County	6.5%	6.7%	6.7%
Martin County	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
St. Lucie County	5.8%	6.0%	5.8%
Florida	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%
United States	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	Port St. Lucie Metropolitan Statistical Area				Sebastian-Vero Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area			
	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change
Total Employment	140,800	139,000	1,800	1.3	49,400	48,600	800	1.6
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,800	8,800	0	0.0	3,600	3,500	100	2.9
Manufacturing	5,800	6,200	-400	-6.5	1,800	1,900	-100	-5.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29,600	30,000	-400	-1.3	10,200	10,100	100	1.0
Wholesale Trade	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0	800	800	0	0.0
Retail Trade	20,600	20,700	-100	-0.5	8,600	8,600	0	0.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4,100	4,300	-200	-4.7	800	700	100	14.3
Information	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	600	600	0	0.0
Financial Activities	5,200	5,300	-100	-1.9	2,700	2,700	0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	17,300	17,000	300	1.8	5,100	5,000	100	2.0
Education and Health Services	26,300	25,100	1,200	4.8	10,000	9,700	300	3.1
Leisure and Hospitality	18,300	17,600	700	4.0	7,300	7,200	100	1.4
Other Services	8,100	8,000	100	1.3	2,800	2,700	100	3.7
Government	20,200	19,800	400	2.0	5,300	5,200	100	1.9

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	CareerSource Research Coast Combined Metropolitan Statistical Areas				Florida			
	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change
Total Employment	190,200	187,600	2,600	1.4	8,440,300	8,182,000	258,300	3.2
Mining, Logging, and Construction	12,400	12,300	100	0.8	472,700	444,900	27,800	6.2
Manufacturing	7,600	8,100	-500	-6.2	359,400	345,200	14,200	4.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	39,800	40,100	-300	-0.7	1,717,100	1,685,700	31,400	1.9
Wholesale Trade	5,700	5,800	-100	-1.7	341,100	335,500	5,600	1.7
Retail Trade	29,200	29,300	-100	-0.3	1,103,800	1,082,400	21,400	2.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0	272,200	267,800	4,400	1.6
Information	1,800	1,800	0	0.0	133,000	135,700	-2,700	-2.0
Financial Activities	7,900	8,000	-100	-1.3	557,500	539,600	17,900	3.3
Professional and Business Services	22,400	22,000	400	1.8	1,303,400	1,248,100	55,300	4.4
Education and Health Services	36,300	34,800	1,500	4.3	1,266,300	1,218,800	47,500	3.9
Leisure and Hospitality	25,600	24,800	800	3.2	1,173,400	1,126,400	47,000	4.2
Other Services	10,900	10,700	200	1.9	337,900	332,700	5,200	1.6
Government	25,500	25,000	500	2.0	1,119,600	1,104,900	14,700	1.3

Population	2015	2014	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	581,137	571,821	9,316	1.6
Indian River County	143,326	140,955	2,371	1.7
Martin County	150,062	148,585	1,477	1.0
St. Lucie County	287,749	282,281	5,468	1.9
Florida	19,815,183	19,507,369	307,814	1.6

Average Annual Wage	2015	2014	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	\$39,426	\$38,038	\$1,388	3.6
Indian River County	\$40,160	\$38,718	\$1,442	3.7
Martin County	\$40,438	\$39,009	\$1,429	3.7
St. Lucie County	\$38,024	\$36,728	\$1,296	3.5
Florida	\$46,236	\$44,810	\$1,426	3.2

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

**Overview of the CareerSource Palm Beach County Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
November 18, 2016**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Palm Beach County region (Palm Beach County) was 5.1 percent in October 2016. This rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than the region's year ago rate of 4.9 percent. Out of a labor force of 706,055 there were 35,766 unemployed residents in the region.
- In October 2016 nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Bch-Boca Raton-Delray Bch Metro Division was 601,200, an increase of 8,900 jobs (+1.5 percent) over the year.
- The West Palm Bch-Boca Raton-Delray Bch Metro Division was tied for the second highest annual job growth compared to all the metro areas in the state in other services (+300 jobs) in October 2016.
- The professional and business services (+4.8 percent) industry grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.
- The industries gaining in jobs over the year were: professional and business services (+5,100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+1,900 jobs); education and health services (+1,200 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,000 jobs); government (+500 jobs); manufacturing (+300 jobs); and other services (+300 jobs).
- The financial activities (-1,100 jobs); information (-200 jobs); and construction (-100 jobs) industries lost jobs over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Unemployment Rates			
(not seasonally adjusted)	Oct-16	Sep-16	Oct-15
CareerSource Palm Beach County	5.1%	5.2%	4.9%
Florida	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%
United States	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change	Oct-16	Oct-15	change	percent change
	Total Employment	601,200	592,300	8,900	1.5	8,440,300	8,182,000	258,300
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,900	5,800	100	1.7
Construction	32,400	32,500	-100	-0.3	466,800	439,100	27,700	6.3
Manufacturing	17,500	17,200	300	1.7	359,400	345,200	14,200	4.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	114,000	113,000	1,000	0.9	1,717,100	1,685,700	31,400	1.9
Wholesale Trade	24,300	23,700	600	2.5	341,100	335,500	5,600	1.7
Retail Trade	78,700	78,300	400	0.5	1,103,800	1,082,400	21,400	2.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilitie	11,000	11,000	0	0.0	272,200	267,800	4,400	1.6
Information	10,300	10,500	-200	-1.9	133,000	135,700	-2,700	-2.0
Financial Activities	39,700	40,800	-1,100	-2.7	557,500	539,600	17,900	3.3
Professional and Business Services	111,900	106,800	5,100	4.8	1,303,400	1,248,100	55,300	4.4
Education and Health Services	96,100	94,900	1,200	1.3	1,266,300	1,218,800	47,500	3.9
Leisure and Hospitality	82,900	81,000	1,900	2.3	1,173,400	1,126,400	47,000	4.2
Other Services	31,800	31,500	300	1.0	337,900	332,700	5,200	1.6
Government	64,500	64,000	500	0.8	1,119,600	1,104,900	14,700	1.3

Population	2015	2014	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	1,378,417	1,360,238	18,179	1.3
Florida	19,815,183	19,507,369	307,814	1.6

Average Annual Wage	2015	2014	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	\$51,373	\$49,860	\$1,513	3.0
Florida	\$46,236	\$44,810	\$1,426	3.2

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.