



Conserve Nassau is dedicated to economic, environmental, and social sustainability and resiliency in our diverse Nassau County. Our mission encompasses our wildlife, tree canopy, wetlands, beaches, dunes, water& air quality, economy, and social infrastructure.

At [Conserve Nassau](#) we work to educate and advocate for all of the above. Our goal is to be in the room where decisions are made and help where we can.



Sea Turtles and Birds:

What's light got to do with it?

May 1 was the official start of sea turtle nesting season.



Mama turtles need to find the perfect spot to lay their eggs and are very sensitive to human disturbance. They look for low human visitation, smooth beaches without holes or tire tracks, and sand that is just right! For both mamas and hatchlings, **turtle-friendly lights**

minimize disorientation so they can find their way back to the ocean! Lights should be low to the ground, low wattage, long wavelength, and shielded.

Migratory birds are passing over Nassau County in May and also have a wish list: trees and natural vegetation with abundant insects or seeds, quiet places to rest and eat, and **bird-friendly lighting**. **Close blinds, aim outdoor lights downwards, and turn off non-essential lights at night to minimize bird-window collisions.**

How Can You Help? Join our energetic volunteer group of scientists, business leaders, educators, writers, and conservation enthusiasts who work towards a better Nassau County. We aim to contribute to conservation and preservation efforts, revise comprehensive and land development codes, preserve habitat, and participate in successful resiliency projects throughout the county. Join us to....

- Volunteer at events and distribute information at booths
- Participate in hands-on projects
- Contribute to research including new and relevant environmental and historical preservation strategies; economics research and data; legal perspectives, laws and processes that make a difference.
- Write material and speak in public.
- Help us collaborate with other conservation groups.



[Conservenassau.org/volunteer](https://conservenassau.org/volunteer)

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Conserve Nassau is a 501(c)3 corporation licensed in the State of Florida

Catch Up With Your Community

- Amelia River Club, Tom Miller, and FPU are proposing a solar project on the wooded area between the airport runway and the river. It was discussed at the May 16 Fernandina Beach Commission meeting. Most commissioners appeared interested but residents were highly opposed to removing 36 acres of trees for the project. If approved, this will require lease renegotiation, FAA approval and environmental impact studies
- At the Fernandina Beach Commission meeting (May 16) commissioners approved the preliminary plat/replat for the “Third and Beech” (Tringali) subdivision rather than requiring the project be reviewed by the Board of Adjustment, as specified in LDC 1.03.05. Attorneys for interveners and citizens presented strong arguments against this outcome. The decision will probably be challenged in court.
- CARD-Amelia (Citizens Against Runaway Development; cardamelia.org) has been formed to challenge the Riverstone settlement.
- Citizens attending the FDEP Open House Nov. 30 about Rayonier wastewater disposal permit renewals recently received feedback. No further changes are anticipated related to river outfall. However, Rayonier needs a plan for closing its sludge management site in Yulee, which is approaching the end of its lifespan, and identify a new site.

Air and Water Quality

Our streams, rivers, springs, oceans, and underground aquifers provide the *drinking water, food sources, and habitat* to sustain future generations of humanity and wildlife. Protecting our source waters (drinking waters) from pollution allows fisheries, wildlife, and humanity to continue to flourish. We cannot see air pollution but it is *harmful to our health* and is estimated to be responsible for more than 100,000 premature deaths in the US each year. At Conserve Nassau we are working to monitor air quality.



Nassau County Bike and Walkways

Nassau County with its waterways, marshes, wooded areas, and coastal beauty is an ideal region for the development of bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Combine these environmental elements with its older historic neighborhoods and current rapid growth, the region is prime for designing infrastructure that promotes conservation practices, accesses transportation grants, and supports a non-motorized mobility system. This system, when recognizing our environmental challenges and incorporating environmental best practices, supports a healthy lifestyle and economy. The City of Fernandina Beach has formed a Citizens Advisory Task Force on Walking and Biking to gather citizen input about our non-motorized infrastructure that will make our community more accessible to services and goods. Walkability and bikeability are top priorities identified by residents and visitors and the Task Force will make recommendations to improve our trails, paths and lanes while promoting improved safety tactics. We encourage you to participate in this process and access additional research-based strategies and information when providing input. Do your due diligence: seek information, read, and participate. Check out the following links: <http://www.fbfl.us/1103/Citizens-Task-Force-for-Safe-Walking-Bik>
<https://www.nassaucountyfl.com/1271/Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Planning>

Native Garden Coming Soon to a Park Near You!

Conserve Nassau has received a grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation to plant a native garden at Egans Creek Park in Fernandina Beach. Plantings in two sections with signage will serve to educate about native pollinator plants and heritage plants.

Hurricane Season is Coming!

Many thanks to Emergency Management for informative handouts for our booth at Wild Amelia on May 20th. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.onenassau.com/>