



Grass Roots Newsletter



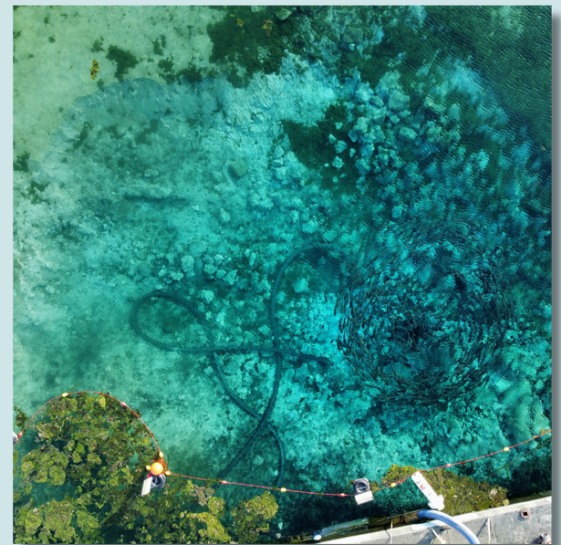
Sustainable Florida - Pumping out Hunter Springs Vent

While the material (sand washed in from City Beach, Lyngbya, detrital material) was not weighed, based on the number of truck loads transported, Our marine biologists estimated that approximately **1200 cubic yards of material was removed from the Hunter Springs spring vent basin** during the period that ran from April 14th to May 9th.

To convert Cubic Yards to Tons*: $\text{Cubic Yards} \times 1.4 = \text{Tons}$.

To convert Tons to Cubic Yards*: $\text{Tons} \div 1.4 = \text{Cubic Yards}$.

$1200 \text{ cy} \times 1.4 = 1,680 \text{ tons} = \text{OVER 1.5 TONS!}$



Success!

- 850+ Spring Vents Opened
- 112+ of 171 Permitted Acres Cleaned
- 650K+ Eelgrass Plants, Hand Planted
- 700M+ lbs Lyngbya & Detrital Material Removed
- 99% Phosphorous & 50% Nitrogen Removed Through Specialized Filtration

How Can You Play an Important Part?

Donate Today!



We're back with another edition of our newsletter, packed with the latest project updates, how you can get in on the action, and other cool stuff. Keep Reading!



SCR In The News

From the Citrus County Property Appraiser Newsletter (August Edition):



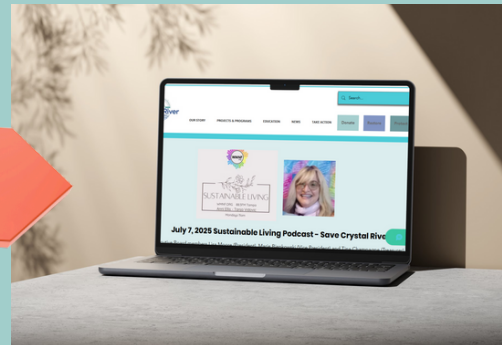
“We recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Tina Champagne from Save Crystal River on our podcast to hear all about the fin-tastic work their team has been doing to protect our beloved waters. From the impact recent hurricanes have had on the eelgrass, to the incredible partnership with Crystal River Elementary, where students grow eelgrass in the classroom and get their hands wet planting it in Hunter Springs, Tina covered it all. Talk about future seagrass scientists in the making! In the meantime, paddle on over to [SaveCrystalRiver.com](https://www.savecrystalriver.com) to explore their monthly newsletter and stay current on all the waves they’re making.

Be sure to tune into our upcoming podcast episode with Tina, where we dive deeper into the mission to keep our waters crystal clear, our manatees munching happily, and our community engaged in preserving the natural beauty of Citrus County.”

Thank you Cregg Dalton!

SCR Podcasts

Check out [additional podcasts](#) about the resiliency of Crystal River and the impact of our project on the environment and the community!



Crystal River Named Among 50 Most Charming Small Towns in America by HGTV

FOX News Reports: “In addition to manatees, Crystal River is known for its ability to cater to people who enjoy boating, diving, fishing and eco-tourism, according to HGTV. HGTV chose one town from each state for the list, highlighting Crystal River’s location on the Nature coast, which draws visitors who enjoy boating, diving, fishing and ecotourism, for the town making the list.

Here’s what they’re saying: “It’s also the only place in the United States where people are allowed to swim with manatees when accompanied by trained guides,” HGTV wrote online. “Visitors may also see these beloved ‘Sea Cows’ when they kayak or paddleboard or walk the Three Sisters Springs Boardwalk in Crystal River. Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park is a short drive away.”

HGTV wrote on its website, “There’s something special about small towns. Whether it’s the simplicity, the character or the people, they are a quintessential part of American life. Dig into the best-kept secrets of each state with this list of the most charming small towns across the US.”



Congratulations to Sea Daddy's on the grand opening of their new Aquarium Exhibit in Crystal River!

Exploring Florida's Native and Invasive Aquatic Species Visitors can embark on a self-guided journey through engaging exhibits that showcase both the native and invasive species residing in Florida. These exhibits provide a closer look at the state's diverse aquatic life, featuring local fish and turtles alongside invasive species such as exotic snakes.

Native & Invasive Species Exhibits The exhibits allow guests to discover the rich variety of aquatic life in Florida. Alongside native species, the displays highlight invasive animals, raising awareness about their presence and impact on local ecosystems.

Interactive and Educational Displays Interactive and educational displays are designed to teach visitors about conservation efforts, the complexities of aquatic ecosystems, and the significant effects of invasive species.

Themed Exhibit Areas The exhibit areas are organized by theme, allowing guests to experience a variety of environments, from freshwater springs to coastal waters. Each area provides unique insights into the habitats and wildlife found across Florida's waterways. Included are a Touch Tank, Native Species, Healthy Eco Systems, Manatee Education, Touch Zones, Sea Grass Lab, Invasive Species, Live Scallops, Responsible Anchoring, Recycling/Decomposition Game.

The Role of the Sea Grass Lab The Sea Grass Lab serves as an entry point for deepening understanding of the care and responsibility that residents, visitors, and the broader community have for aquatic environments. It emphasizes the importance of stewardship for the planet and highlights ways individuals can contribute to healthy waterways.

Thank you Sea Daddy's, and thank you Save Crystal River volunteers Rachel and Toby Tapley, Jill Beary, Janis Tripp, Marie Bienkowski, Larry Schenavar, and Tina Champagne, who supported the Aquarium Grand Opening!



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