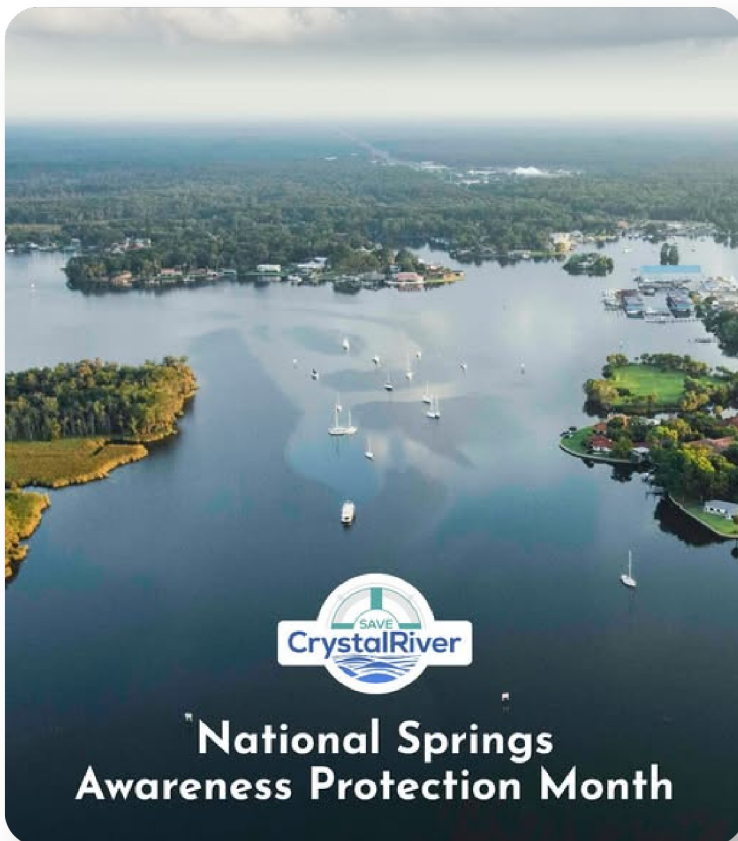




# Grass Roots Newsletter

## April is Springs Protection Awareness Month



April is Springs Protection Awareness Month. Restoring and protecting the beauty and health of Crystal River's waterways takes science, innovation, and a community committed to long-term impact. Your support helps restore seagrass, improve water quality, and protect the springs that sustain Crystal River's wildlife and way of life. Be part of restoring and protecting Crystal River.

Give today.

<https://www.savecrystalriver.com/donate>

**Success is  
Crystal Clear!**

How Can You Play an  
Important Part?

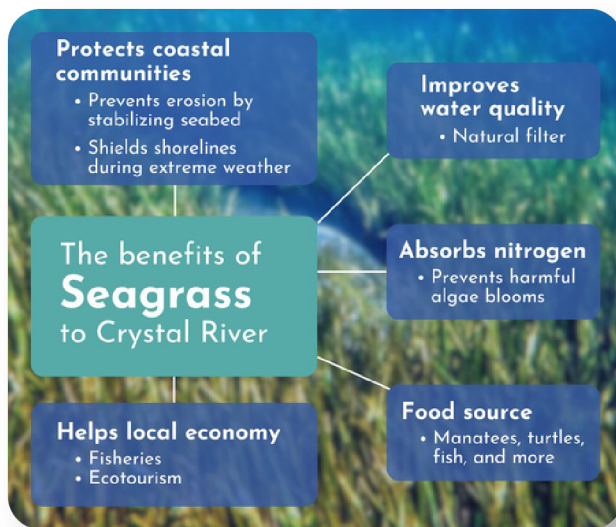
**Donate Today!**

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

**Through Specialized Filtration**



## Grass Roots Newsletter



### Benefits of Seagrass

Seagrass is more than just manatee food, it's the heart of an entire ecosystem. March was seagrass awareness month, but we continue to learn more about how this vegetation can help our waters, our economy, our coastal communities and more.

### Protecting What Protects Us

Crystal River's islands and marshes do critical work, shielding our coastline from storms and creating safe habitat for wildlife. A heartfelt thank you to **Salty Siren** for supporting Save Crystal River, and for continuing to lead by example by practicing and teaching responsible anchoring to help protect seagrass. Their commitment helps safeguard these natural defenses and keeps Crystal River's waters strong for generations to come.



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How Can You Play an Important Part?

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## SCR Welcomes Our Newest Board Member



Jill-Anne Beary, a Citrus County resident since May, 2020, is our newest Board Member. We asked her to introduce herself to you.

“I first learned about Save Crystal River through local conversations and community updates focused on protecting Kings Bay and our springs during my search for property. After attending events and following the organization’s work, it was clear to me that Save Crystal River had found the answers, the methods, and the people to accomplish what is needed.”

### Clean water was a great draw to the Crystal River area for Jill-Anne.

“I’ve lived within minutes of the water my whole life, and I grew knowing how to treat it as something we’re responsible for, not something we can take for granted. Over the years, I watched nutrient pollution, unaddressed impaired bodies of water and repeated beach closures change my little hometown, from a place of simple joy into a place of red tide warnings, bacteria alerts, extreme fish kills, as dolphins, whales and manatee bodies were being towed by local fishermen and boat captains to the designated area. Like many others, I got involved, showing up, asking questions, meeting with local leaders, and supporting science-based solutions, but I also realized that lasting clean water takes constant community commitment, and once the visual devastation was gone, so was that community commitment. Shortly after my husband and I drove up to visit friends and family. I looked over the waters of Kings Bay while we were waiting on lunch, took in a deep breath, smiled, nodded and walked over to where my husband was sitting and told him, “This is where I am going to live”. He looked at his friend and said, “well there you have it, looks like I’m moving.”

I feel strongly that everyone has at least one thing they are passionate about, and when you find a cause that protects the place where you live, it feels personal. Joining an eco-aware organization like Save Crystal River gives community members a way to turn that passion into real impact: you stay informed, meet neighbors who care, learn how local decisions affect the water quality and have a chance to volunteer, advocate, and support projects that protect Kings Bay for future generations.”

*At Save Crystal River, our all-volunteer Board of Directors believes that collaboration is key to achieving our goals. We are honored by the dedicated volunteers, donors, community members, and partners who have supported the successful restoration and protection of Crystal River.*

*We are proud to partner with a number of organizations that share our commitment to environmental conservation and sustainability. Together, we are working towards a brighter, more sustainable future for our planet. Contact us at (352) 257-6359 to learn about how you can serve our community by joining the Save Crystal River organization.*



**Jill-Anne is hopeful for the future of Crystal River,  
given the current efforts of Save Crystal River.**

“I’m hopeful about Crystal River’s future because the community has experienced the changes and benefits that SCR projects have achieved. There continues to be a growing awareness of the importance of these projects for the ecosystem as well as the economy, and Save Crystal River is helping turn that awareness into momentum.”



“With continued focus on reducing nutrient pollution, supporting responsible growth, and expanding community education and restoration efforts, I believe we can protect our springs and seagrass, improve water clarity, and keep Crystal River a place where wildlife and families thrive. Progress takes time, but consistent advocacy and measurable projects add up.

As a grant writer for Save Crystal River, I feel as though I have finally found my place. I get excited with every grant possibility. The hardest part about grant writing for Save Crystal River is limiting my word count. My focus is to help identify opportunities that align with our goals, strengthen proposals with the knowledge that we have solid project plans and measurable outcomes that build the kind of consistent funding that supports the restoration and long-term protection of the Outstanding Florida Waters Kings Bay and the Crystal River ecosystem. It gives me immense satisfaction when my words, combined with my passion, can help obtain those funds.

Being involved in such a significant project, seeing the progress firsthand, and understanding how the positive impact will reach far beyond our local community gives me a deep sense of purpose.”

*Save Crystal River is grateful for Jill-Anne’s dedication to our mission.  
Thank you Jill-Anne!*

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