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## Grass Roots Newsletter



Save Crystal River is installing low profile resilience structures in Kings Bay to protect marsh habitat, improve water quality, and restore the natural health of one of Florida's most extraordinary spring systems, while strengthening shoreline resilience for generations to come.

These structures absorb and dissipate wave energy - reducing erosion, trapping sediment, and creating planting zones for marsh vegetation.

Learn more: <https://www.savecrystalriver.com/kingsbayrestorationproject>

**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



## Why It Matters: Habitat Decline



Healthy shorelines are critical to protecting connected springs and save habitats. Erosion driven by wave action, boat wakes and increasingly intense storm systems continues to accelerate, threatening shoreline ecosystems throughout Crystal River.

Shoreline retreat is visible where marsh roots are exposed. As vegetation disappears, the shoreline erodes faster and more organic material moves toward nearby spring vents.



Over the past 80 years, marsh coverage in Kings Bay has declined by more than 60%.

Ongoing erosion contributes to sediment loading, marsh loss and habitat degradation.

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## Hybrid Reef - Hope For Our Habitat



### Tampa Bay Resiliency Summit

County Administrator Steve Howard spoke at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Resiliency Summit earlier this month. Save Crystal River was present to discuss springs restoration, seagrass protection and island resiliency initiatives.

"I applaud the work of organizations like Save Crystal River, who are dedicated to saving our waters," said Steve. Thank you for your continued support, Steve!



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### New Law Enabling Municipalities to Enact Ordinances to Control Derelict Vessels and Anchoring

THE BILL ALLOWS COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO AUTHORIZE, BY ORDINANCE, CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ADMINISTER LAWS RELATING TO VESSELS AT RISK OF BECOMING DERELICT, VESSELS DESIGNATED AS PUBLIC NUISANCES, AND VESSELS WITH LONG-TERM ANCHORING PERMITS. SUCH ORDINANCES MAY TAKE EFFECT ONLY AFTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAY ISSUE NONCRIMINAL INFRACTIONS PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM BOATING CITATION SYSTEM FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS RELATING TO LONG-TERM ANCHORING AND AT RISK AND PUBLIC NUISANCE VESSELS.

THE BILL REVISES AN EXEMPTION FOR VESSELS THAT ARE ESTABLISHED AS A DOMICILE FROM MONROE COUNTY'S ANCHORING LIMITATION AREA VESSEL RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS UNTIL AT LEAST 60, RATHER THAN 100, NEW MOORINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE KEY WEST BIGHT CITY DOCK.

THE BILL AUTHORIZES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT ORDINANCES REGULATING VESSEL SPEED AND OPERATION WITHIN 300 FEET OF A CONFLUENCE OF WATER BODIES PRESENTING A BLIND CORNER, UP TO A DISTANCE OF 1,000 FEET IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE SAFE NAVIGATION AND VISIBILITY FOR APPROACHING VESSELS. THE BOUNDARY OF SUCH BOATING-RESTRICTED AREAS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED.

IF APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR, OR ALLOWED TO BECOME LAW WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE, THESE PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2026.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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