



Grass Roots Newsletter



Save Crystal River supports Citrus County's New Eco-Compliant Program



Every anchor choice matters in Kings Bay. A recent article in the [Citrus County Chronicle](#) spotlighted local initiatives aimed at enhancing eco-tourism standards and safeguarding manatees in Crystal River and Kings Bay. One notable recommendation is the use of power poles in place of traditional anchors.

Responsible anchoring is a straightforward method for boaters and tour operators to help protect restored seagrass beds, minimize habitat damage, and promote a healthier waterway for manatees and other wildlife.

Paul Cross, a board member of Save Crystal River, praised the initiative as a model of proactive leadership amidst growing concerns about overcrowding in Kings Bay.

Cross emphasized that **Discover Crystal River's Eco Compliant Program's** measures, such as promoting the use of power poles instead of anchors and mandating special-use permits, align with the long-standing environmental objectives supported by conservation advocates and federal wildlife officials.

[Read more about Save Crystal River's Responsible Anchoring Program](#)

[Read the full article in The Chronicle](#)

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- 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



SAVE CRYSTAL RIVER

A Culture of Restoration

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Crystal River is now part of “Road Trip Florida”

Crystal River is now part of “Road Trip Florida,” the Florida Department of Transportation’s celebration for America 250. FDOT placed a new historical marker in Crystal River, highlighting the warm springs that manatees call home every winter.

Lifelong residents of the Nature Coast feel Crystal River is a great place to celebrate America 250, especially for those who visit the historic downtown area.

Free guidebooks for Road Trip Florida are also available at state rest stops and welcome centers. Visit the “America 250 in Florida” website for more on Road Trip Florida.



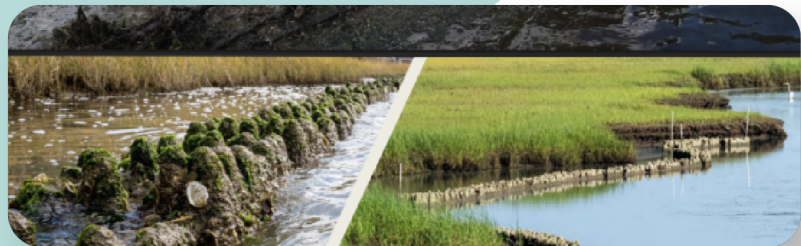
Hybrid Reefs - a Nature-Based Approach

Hybrid reefs are placed just offshore to help protect shorelines, improve water clarity, and create conditions for marine life to thrive.

Even the U.S. military is exploring similar systems to reduce wave energy, protect coastlines, and strengthen resilience against storms and erosion.

Now, Save Crystal River is bringing this nature-based approach to Kings Bay through the Parker Island restoration project, the first of its kind along the west coast of Florida.

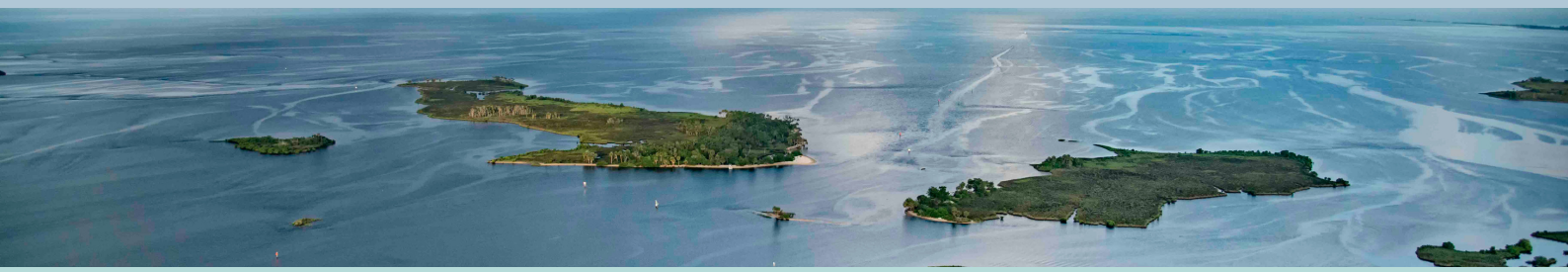
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Gulf Coast Heat Fastpitch Softball Team Volunteers for SCR-Sponsored Roadside Clean-up

Early in June, our super volunteer friends Gulf Coast Heat Fastpitch team were amazing in choosing their players' first week of summer break to step up to the plate for Save Crystal River's Roadside Clean-up Program.

"Although we were missing over half the gang due to summer camps and other things, the players who could make it worked as a team collecting litter while learning about the affects of plastics on our environment, how long plastics take to break down once they reach our waterways, and about efforts being made by programs like the Save Crystal River organization who have tackled the massive undertaking of cleaning and revitalizing our local springs and waterways," reports team coordinator Rachel Tapley.

"After we finished, our crew headed to Hunter Springs Park to relax and cool off a bit. The entire project was the perfect way to perform our team's final community service act of the Spring 2026 season! We are so proud that Gulf Coast Heat is about more than "just" softball. We're about teamwork and teaching our players to stay active - not just on the fields, but in their community as well. Thank you, Save Crystal River, for giving our players the oppprtunity to learn and grow with you!" she said.

A few of our favorite things we heard throughout the morning:

- "This is way more fun than I thought it was gonna be."
- "Why do people have to be so gross?"
- "People need to stop letting trash fly out of their trucks and boats, and stop throwing trash out their windows."
- "I wonder if smokers know it's people like us who come out here to pick up their cigarette butts?"
- "Ya know, it actually feels good being out here doing this. It's weird how picking up after total strangers is making ME feel good about MYSELF."

Huge shout out for the volunteers that day:

Kayla Jensen
Kiersten Jensen
Kenzie Jensen
Marlee Lavagnino
John Sanders
Zoey Sanders
Rachel Tapley
Toby Tapley



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