

PHOTO ID:

IRC Staff at recent groundbreaking event

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CONTACT: Tina L. Pugliese, APR
(561) 889-3575; Tina@PugliesePR.com

Institute for Regional Conservation collaborates with Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach on Coastal Restoration Programming at Phipps Ocean Park

DELRAY BEACH, Florida— The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is thrilled to unveil an exciting new collaboration with the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach (PFPB) aimed at advancing coastal restoration efforts based at Phipps Ocean Park. This collaboration will focus on developing a programming element at the new Coastal Restoration Center within the park, representing a significant step forward for ecological preservation and restoration in South Florida.

Under the leadership of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, Phipps Ocean Park will undergo a \$30 million redevelopment effort over the next two years. Through its capital campaign, the advocacy and education organization has provided vital funding for both the park's restoration and the programming initiatives at the Coastal Restoration Center. This support underscores the Foundation's unwavering commitment to preserving the natural heritage of South Florida and signifies the first permanent source of funding for IRC's Restoring the Gold Coast program.

The Coastal Restoration Center, a propagation and nursery facility for native plants, will serve as the headquarters for IRC's Restoring the Gold Coast program, where educational, restoration, and protection initiatives will be spearheaded. This collaborative effort brings together professionals dedicated to ecological restoration, with the shared goal of ensuring the longevity and vitality of our coastal ecosystems. Restoring the Gold Coast will be one of the featured programs that the Preservation Foundation is rolling out at the cutting-edge center to further community engagement and educational opportunities for children and adults.

“By restoring native habitats and ecosystems, we not only enhance the natural beauty of Phipps Ocean Park but also strengthen its ability to withstand the impacts of severe storms and climate change. This collaboration with the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach exemplifies our shared commitment to preserving and restoring the ecological integrity of our coastal landscapes for the benefit of both present and future generations.” said George Gann, Chief Conservation Strategist at IRC.

“The IRC is a leader in ecological restoration and our goal in collaborating with them is to amplify the success of their Restoring the Gold Coast program through the Coastal Restoration Center at Phipps Ocean Park,” said Amanda Skier, President and CEO of the Preservation Foundation. “Our partnership we will ensure that Palm Beach benefits from the best practices developed by this groundbreaking program and achieves a more resilient coastline as a result.”

For more information on the collaboration between IRC and the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, please contact Liz Dutra at ldutra@regionalconservation.org.

About The Institute for Regional Conservation

A private non-profit organization, The Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and long-term management of biodiversity on a regional basis, and to the prevention of local extinctions of rare plants, animals, and ecosystems. Based in Florida, USA, IRC works on conservation research and action throughout South Florida, the Caribbean and beyond. Their work is premised on an innovative idea of conservation that seeks to protect and restore viable populations of all plant and animal species within a region, rather than focusing on

charismatic animals or plants with narrow global ranges. For more information visit www.regionalconservation.org.

ABOUT THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH: The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and celebrating the architectural, botanical, and cultural heritage of the Town of Palm Beach. Through advocacy initiatives, educational programs, architectural resources, and town-serving projects, the Foundation's goal is to encourage the community to learn about and preserve the historic character that makes Palm Beach special. For more information, visit www.palmbeachpreservation.org.