



Institute for  
Regional  
Conservation

## May 2017 Newsletter

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### IRC Awarded Four Grants

#### Jacksonville Zoo Conservation

**Grant:** IRC recently received a conservation grant from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. The grant will support IRC's efforts to restore nearly 18 acres of pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade County.



Miami Beach

**Impact 100 Runner Up:** IRC partnered with Community Greening to create a "Sustainable Tomorrow" program that aims to increase the native tree canopy in priority neighborhoods of Delray Beach. We came in second place for the Environment grant and received \$12,800 towards the project. We are looking forward to applying for the full \$100,000 grant again next year!

#### Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Kathy Craddock Burks

**Education Grant:** IRC recently received this grant to create and print brochures describing the identification, removal and disposal of FLEPPC Category I and Category II plants that are commonly found in the imperiled pine rockland habitat of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

**Environment and Sustainability Grant from the City of Miami Beach:** IRC was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the City of Miami Beach to promote environmental stewardship through a beach restoration program.

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### Recently Finished Projects

IRC's Invasive Plant Management Team completed a project within designated areas of the Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area (FKWEA). FKWEA contains

Sapodilla (*Manilkara zapota*) approximately 49% mangrove swamp (2558 acres), 23% coastal rock barren (1206 acres), and 20% rockland hammock (1205 acres) habitat. The crew targeted Australian-pine (*Casuarina* sp.), latherleaf (*Colubrina asiatica*), white leadtree (*Leucaena leucocephala*), sapodilla (*Manilkara zapota*), guineagrass (*Panicum maximum*), bowstring-hemp (*Sansevieria hyacinthoides*), beach naup (*Scaevola taccada*), Brazilian-pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), portia tree (*Thespesia populnea*), oysterplant (*Tradescantia spathacea*), coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*), and life plant (*Kalanchoe pinnata*).

The Invasive Plant Management Team also completed a small project at Deerfield Island Park in Broward County to help open up the tree canopy for the resident gopher tortoise population.

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## Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration Volunteer Day a Great Success

Thank you to the 20 volunteers who came out to Atlantic Dunes Park last month to participate in our restoration volunteer day! They helped remove invasive species including beach naupaka, Brazilian pepper and snake plant. The volunteers also planted a wide variety of native species (purchased from Robert Barron of Coastal Growers, Inc.) and picked up trash throughout the park.



George Gann, Tina Pugliese and Cara Abbott

The newly-added plants are doing great so far, despite the relatively dry weather, because of our wonderful volunteers who water them each week.

We would like to give a special thank you to Tina Pugliese of [Pugliese Public Relations](#) for sponsoring and helping out on the workday!

For additional pictures from the event, [click here](#).

