IRNA

Indian River Neighborhood Association

News Magazine Issue 16

Spring 2025

Controlling Nitrogen into the IRL
By Dr. John Trefry

Buffered Shorelines
By Missy Weiss, ORCA

Babcock Ranch
By Luz Castillo

...and more

IRNA
INDIAN RIVER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Quality Growth and Environmental Protection in Indian River County

I hope you've been keeping up with environmental developments in Indian River County this Spring. Our weekly newsletter provides both a comprehensive overview and the ability to explore specific topics that interest you. To receive these updates directly in your inbox, simply visit the bottom of any page on IndianRiverNA.com and subscribe.

The Florida Right to Clean Water initiative has returned with renewed determination to secure a place on the ballot. As political leadership changes at both state and national levels, we cannot afford to lose momentum on environmental initiatives that are truly game-changers for Florida. This particular initiative stands out as our most powerful tool to combat industrial pollution, urban sprawl, and inappropriate development. I urge everyone reading this to educate themselves and sign the petition at FloridaRightToCleanWater.org. This five-minute investment of your time today could yield tremendous benefits for our community's future. Please note, if you signed a petition prior to 2024, you will need to do so again.

As some of you may know, our Executive Director Dan Lamson is relocating to the Carolinas. Rest assured, he will continue serving as Executive Director remotely until we identify and develop a suitable local replacement. If you know an exceptional environmental advocate with strong organizational skills seeking part-time work, please reach out to me directly at mjohannsen2@gmail.com.

Our first luncheon this year was remarkably successful, featuring both Eve Samples (Executive Director of Friends of the Everglades) and Gil Smart (Executive Director of Vote Water) as speakers. Our speaker series continues to attract distinguished leaders who share our commitment to educating county residents on critical issues where collective action makes a meaningful difference. We also extend our gratitude to our other exceptional speakers this season: Susan Adams, Noah Powers, and Dr. John Trefry.

Enclosed, you'll find a donation envelope for your consideration. As a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, we rely entirely on your generous contributions to fuel our vital environmental work in Indian River County. Every dollar you donate directly funds our advocacy efforts, educational programs, and community initiatives that protect our local waterways and natural spaces. While many worthy causes seek your support, your investment in our local environment creates tangible impacts we all experience daily. If you cannot volunteer your time, your financial contribution becomes your voice in preserving what makes our county special. Please consider making a donation today—together, we can ensure Indian River County remains the paradise we love for generations to come.

Your donation to the Indian River Neighborhood Association goes beyond supporting our magazine — it helps protect and preserve our community. By contributing, you enable us to advocate for environmental stewardship, responsible development, and the health of our waterways. Use the postage-paid envelope included or visit IndianRiverNA.com/Join to donate online. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for Indian River County. Thank you for standing with us!

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Cover photo is a shot of the lagoon in Vero Beach by Matt Fulcher.

IRNA News Magazine
PO Box 643868
Vero Beach, FL 32964

PRESERVING THE JUNGLE TRAIL: PROTECTING HISTORY, NATURE, AND PUBLIC ACCESS

By Sharon Coldren

Did you know that a Jungle Trail Management Plan was created back in the 1980s?

It was a planning process that involved all the landowners along and adjacent to this right-of-way, which is a county-maintained public unpaved road on the island fringing the Indian River Lagoon. The road dates from the agricultural origins of modern use of Orchid Island — serving as a road from the northern part of the island to bring harvested oranges and other crops to the Jones Ferry dock, where they were ferried across to the mainland to connect with the railroad for shipping.

By the 1980s, that use had stopped, bridges had been built, and residential development was starting in earnest on the barrier island.

To preserve elements of history, the lushness of the surrounding foliage and mangroves, and protect the public's use of this road, the Management Plan was developed with public input in the late 1980s. It is still the controlling plan today at the county level, though it is sometimes forgotten when landscaping is done and development plans are being permitted. It turns out some people inside the government and outside the government are not aware of the plan and its rules! It is worth reading. *(Scan the QR code below.)*

Recent permit applications and some misuse of the trail for large construction trucks have brought new public discussion with county commissioners and residents in 2025. It's time for everyone to learn more about this asset that maintains a walking and biking trail and "slow drive — 15 mph" car route along the Indian River, stretching from the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge down across Route 510 to Captain Forester's Nature Preserve, which has parking, and south to the Jones Ferry area, where it connects with Old Winter Beach Road.

Let's preserve accessible nature and history!

Cyclists journey down the Jungle Trail's shaded pathway, where ancient trees form a natural canopy overhead. Dappled sunlight breaks through the tree cover, creating a tranquil scene perfect for outdoor enthusiasts seeking both exercise and communion with nature.

Do you want to read the Master Plan from 1989? Scan this QR code to be taken to the PDF.

Can We Control Nitrogen Inputs and Algal Blooms in the IRL?

Dr. John H. Trefry, Professor Emeritus, Florida Institute of Technology

Excessive inputs of nitrogen (N) have degraded the health of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) by promoting algal blooms, fishkills and loss of seagrass. Well-known sources of N to the IRL include fertilizer, soil erosion, grass clippings, faulty septic systems, sewage overflow, reclaimed water, biosolids and more. Excess N can be transported to the lagoon with stormwater runoff, baseflow (groundwater), rain, releases from muck and from point sources (Fig. 1). Controlling N inputs is challenging, especially during high runoff. Furthermore, sources and transport for N vary regionally and may require different control strategies (Fig. 1). Let's look at inputs and controls in more detail.

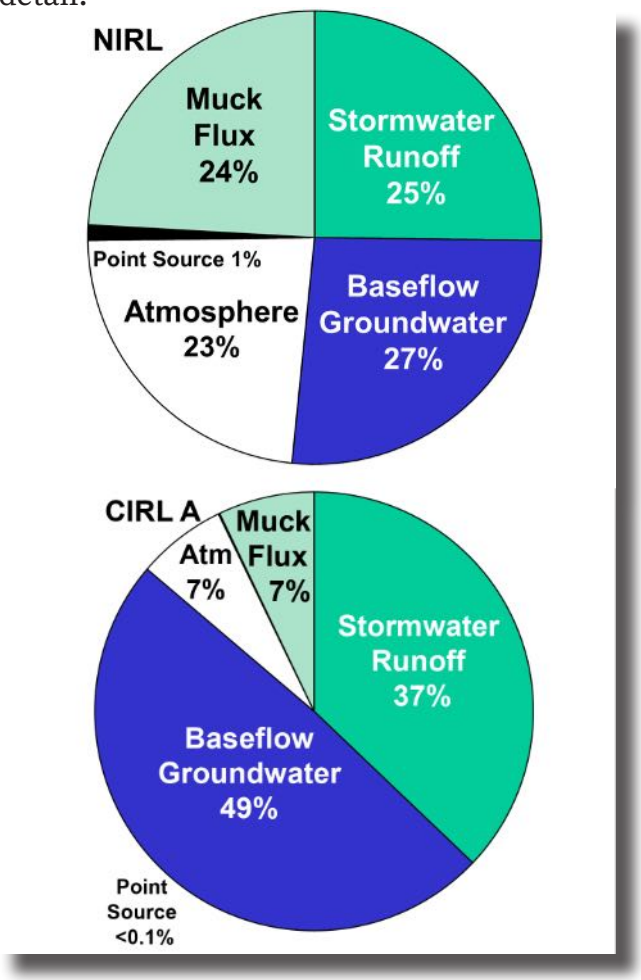

Fig. 1. Transport pathways for N in North IRL (North of Melbourne) and Central IRL, Zone A (Melbourne to Grant-Valkaria). (Data from SOIRL, 2024).

Fortunately, point sources such as wastewater treatment facilities account for <1% of total N input to the lagoon because the 1990 IRL Act restricted such discharges. Sewage overflows and leakage still occur and need to be resolved. We should value and learn from past actions that have helped the IRL.

Rainfall adds 7-25% of the N to the lagoon from fertilizer dust, lightning and combustion of fossil fuels. Stormwater runoff typically carries 25-40% of total N inputs from many sources to the IRL. Baseflow is groundwater that migrates and becomes streamflow, thereby transporting 25-50% of total N to the IRL.

Inputs of dissolved N from decomposing organic matter in muck sediments typically contribute 10-30% of total N. Testing shows that muck contains 75-90% soil and 10-25% organic matter, but less than 10% sewage. Releases of N from muck occur 365 days per year with 3-10 times more N discharged at warmer temperatures when bacterial activity increases.

The first large bloom of the brown tide algae *Aureoumbra lagunensis* in the IRL lasted 6 months during 2012. This was a huge wakeup call for control of N in the lagoon (Fig. 2). More events followed in subsequent years. In September-October 2017, after 7 months of drought, a severe bloom of *Aureoumbra* appeared in the North IRL when excess rain and flooding accompanied Hurricane Irma.

Fig. 2. Brown tide blankets North Indian River Lagoon during 2012. (Credit: SJRWMD)

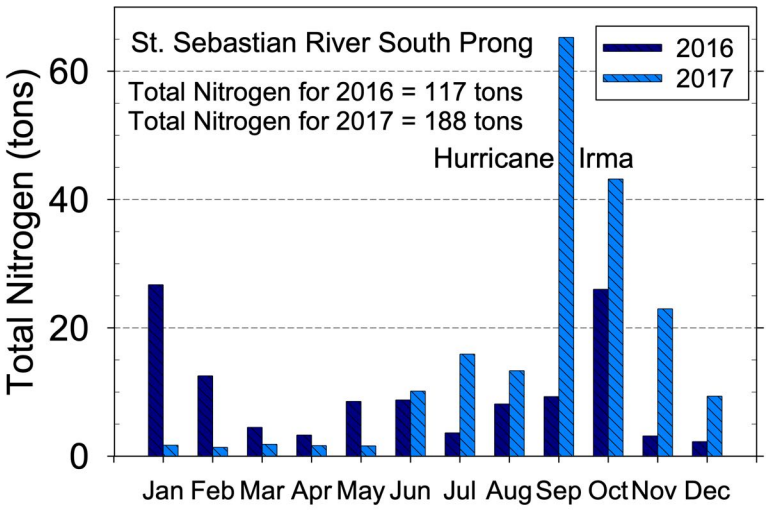

Fig. 3. Monthly runoff of total nitrogen from St. Sebastian River South Prong for 2016 and 2017. (For more details, use scan code below for N inputs to IRL.)

During this time, about 60% of the annual release of N to North IRL occurred in less than 2 months (Fig. 3). Like most algae, *Aureoumbra lagunensis* grows best with ammonium as a source of N. Essentially all N released from muck is in the form of ammonium.

Algae are plants that make their own food via photosynthesis using sunlight, water, carbon dioxide and nutrients. Excess N can lead to blooms with one million cells of *Aureoumbra lagunensis* in 1 milliliter of lagoon water. At present, there is no effective way to stop brown tide because it survives well at low light and low concentrations of nutrients and is not readily consumed by zooplankton (tiny animals). Simply put, the best way to control algae is to stop them from blooming by controlling inputs of N and other nutrients.

Many citizens have worked hard using tested approaches to help minimize N inputs to the IRL (Fig. 4). However, keeping up with the onslaught of N to the lagoon is difficult. Needed enforcement of regulations is costly and requires community-wide support. A comprehensive approach involves construction of upstream stormwater storage areas that can facilitate slow releases of treated water to the lagoon or to the west. These are multi-million dollar projects. Our goal is to control storm-related inputs of turbid water with high concentrations of N from running off to the lagoon such that algal blooms become uncontrollable. We should follow the best science and engineering in these efforts. Control of N inputs and algal blooms in the IRL requires well-funded, determined efforts and staunch support from Florida legislators and residents. How do you answer the question now: Can We Control Nitrogen Inputs and Algal Blooms in the IRL? My answer, "I think we can."

Fig. 4. Looking for nitrogen in the Eau Gallie River.

Scan this code for details about Nitrogen inputs to the IRL

Scan this code for details about algae in the IRL

Did you know?

The three most abundant elements in the atmosphere are Nitrogen (78%), Oxygen (21%) and Argon (0.93%). Argon? How can that be so?

ORCA's Land to Sea Citizen Science Project: Protecting the Indian River Lagoon Through Buffered Shorelines

By Missy Weiss, Director of Citizen Science & Education

The Land to Sea Citizen Science Monitoring Project of the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at reducing pollution entering the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) through science-driven shoreline restoration. Launched in 2018, the project engages community volunteers to install and monitor buffered shorelines—a land-based restoration technique that replaces turf grass with native vegetation to filter pollutants before they reach the lagoon.

Why Do Buffered Shorelines Matter?

The IRL is experiencing significant environmental stress due to harmful algae blooms, seagrass loss, and excess nutrients from stormwater runoff. Traditional turf grass, common along waterfront properties, does little to prevent pollution from fertilizers, pesticides, and pet waste from washing into the waterways. Buffered shorelines, however, create a natural chemical and physical barrier that absorbs excess nutrients, reduces erosion, and improves habitat for wildlife.

Each vegetative buffer is scientifically monitored by ORCA with the help of trained citizen scientists both before and after installation, tracking pollution reduction and overall ecosystem benefits. Since 2019, ORCA has installed 12 buffered shorelines across the region, replacing 10,600 square feet of turf with over 5,500 native plants—each contributing to improved water quality. While buffer designs vary slightly, the environmental impact remains consistent: a substantial reduction in phosphate runoff was observed just one month after installation, with sustained improvements documented after one year.

Community Involvement and Policy Impact

A key aspect of the program is community engagement. Volunteers of all ages participate in planting vegetative buffers, collecting data, and educating others about the importance of shoreline restoration and protection. ORCA collaborates with local nurseries, landscape architects, and environmental experts to ensure the best plant selections for each site.

Most importantly, ORCA's scientific data has directly influenced local policy. In 2023, ORCA's research contributed to the City of Vero Beach's ordinance mandating a 10-foot vegetative buffer for new construction along the Indian River Lagoon. This decision was based on ORCA's before-and-after data, which demonstrated significant and sustained reductions in phosphate runoff following the installation of vegetative buffer zones.

Looking Ahead

The Land to Sea program aims to expand scientific understanding and community adoption of buffered shorelines. ORCA is committed to increasing awareness among landowners and policymakers, ensuring long-term benefits for the lagoon. Through continued research, restoration, and education, ORCA is leading efforts to protect and restore the Indian River Lagoon for generations to come.

ORCA
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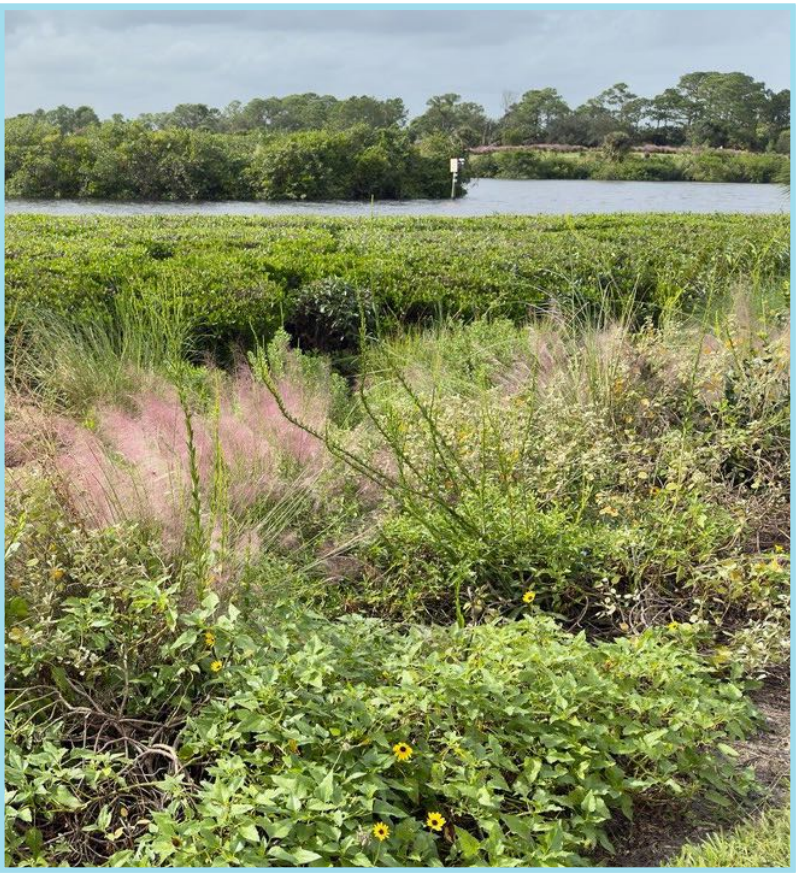


Photos by Darrell Brand of the Palm Cove Golf & Yacht Club. A resident and ORCA Citizen Scientist had this to say:

"The good news about our initial upland preserve project and ORCA's monitoring is that our HOA hired a new vendor to finish the remainder of our shoreline restoration. We developed a two-year plan to restore the upland buffer zone along Bessey Creek and the C23 Canal with Florida native plants. This past summer, we budgeted for and implemented 50% of the restoration, with the other 50% to be completed in 2025. There are no herbicides entering the water from our properties—only clean water."

To learn more and find out how to become a citizen scientist, please visit www.TeamORCA.org.

Much of this work could not be done without the help of citizen scientists, as seen below. Volunteers assist with the installation of native vegetation to help create buffered shorelines — a vital step in protecting the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

Scan the QR code to watch a short video about ORCA's Land to Sea Initiative

Vero Beach Regional Airport: A Gateway to the Treasure Coast

By J. Todd Scher, Airport Director

Since its inception in 1929, Vero Beach Regional Airport has been an important transportation hub serving the entire Treasure Coast region. Perhaps just as important, the airport contributes significantly to the local economy, with over 50 aeronautical and non-aeronautical businesses operating on airport property and providing associated employment opportunities. The airport is home to several aircraft support businesses, two large flight schools, a brewery, a distillery, a financial institution, a boat fabrication business, a gas station, several restaurants, and many other varied business entities.

Vero Beach Regional Airport has always taken pride in being an ideal base for general aviation. With three runways—the longest measuring over 7,000 feet—the airport has over 200 based aircraft and handles recreational aviation, flight school, charter, corporate jet, and military aviation operations. In 2024, the FAA tower recorded over 264,000 takeoffs and landings. The airport operates a 37-unit individual aircraft hangar complex. A dedicated staff of Airport Operations Specialists ensures the day-to-day operational safety and excellence of the airport's facilities and equipment.

In recent years, the airport has seen steady growth in facilities and flight operations. One highly visible element of growth has been the emergence of Vero Beach as one of the most popular stations in the Breeze Airways network. Since initiating scheduled airline service to Vero Beach in 2023, Breeze has increased both destinations and frequency significantly to meet the demands of the traveling public. In 2024, over 175,000 passengers flew on Breeze through our modest terminal facilities. Today, Breeze operates over 35 flights each week to eight different destinations from Vero Beach Regional Airport.

Vero Beach Regional Airport is proud to be an integral part of the community, contributing to local tourism, business, and economic development. As the area continues to grow, so does the airport's importance as a travel asset and an economic hub. Whether you're flying for recreational, business, or vacation purposes, Vero Beach Regional Airport offers a welcoming experience that highlights the appeal of the Treasure Coast.

Florida's Stormwater Discharge Requirements/Standards

By Tim Glover, President, Friends of St. Sebastian River

In 2024, Florida substantially improved the rules governing the discharge of stormwater to the surface waters of the state from development projects. The state has regulated these discharges by increasing water quality standards since 1978; the last change in these regulations was in 2013.

In 2022, Florida ranked first among states with the most total acres of lakes not meeting standards for swimming and aquatic life, although California ranked first for total miles of impaired rivers and streams, according to the Environmental Integrity Project, using EPA data.

With increasing development pressures, the state enacted these significant changes to stormwater discharge standards. The fact is, the status quo is not sustainable. Many efforts have been made to improve the habitat of the Indian River Lagoon, with Brevard County implementing significant projects funded by their voter-approved earmarked sales tax.

There are different standards for the discharge of stormwater depending on the classification of the water body to which it is discharged. Florida Administrative Code provides designations of "Aquatic Preserves" and "Outstanding Florida Waters." In Indian River County, the Indian River Lagoon is part of the "Malabar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve" and is designated an Outstanding Florida Water, thus requiring higher standards for stormwater discharge. The code, though, specifically excludes the St. Sebastian River.

The Friends of St. Sebastian River presented a request to this year's Indian River County Legislative Delegation, asking for the removal of this exclusion, and they will be following up with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

With the annexation of the Graves Brothers property by the City of Sebastian in 2023, the Friends of St. Sebastian River (FSSR) are greatly concerned about the impact of future development of this property, which allows for a mixed-use development of more than 10,000 residential units and commercial spaces, all within the watershed of the St. Sebastian River. All efforts should be made to protect the river with any of this future development rather than having to retrofit future remediation and restoration projects at a greatly increased expense to taxpayers.

Top Image: Graves Bros drainage by Jeff Howe
Bottom Image: Sebastian River Landings Red Barrow Slough by Jeff Howe

Babcock Ranch: The Blueprint for the Hometown of Tomorrow

Luz Castillo, Associate Vice President, Finn Partners

Babcock Ranch, America's first solar-powered town, was created by Syd Kitson and Kitson & Partners out of a true passion for the environment and an aspiration to create the most sustainable, innovative, and resilient community in Florida. When the 91,000-acre Babcock Ranch was purchased, 73,000 acres were sold back to the state to be permanently conserved in the largest land-preservation purchase in Florida's history. Development of the remaining 18,000 acres began through a thorough understanding of the land to locate development areas with minimal environmental impact. By looking at maps from the 1940s, natural flowways were studied to ensure Babcock Ranch worked with Mother Nature, not against her.

Water conservation is woven into its green infrastructure, from landscaping with native, low-impact plants to the construction of a weir system to rehydrate surrounding wetlands. More than 90% of the town is built upon already impacted pasture, farmland, and rock-mined lands, and half of the footprint is dedicated to greenways, parks, and lakes. This includes **The PKWY**, a collection of six new public parks spanning 313 acres of lush preserve space, with a trail system that will expand to more than 100 miles through preserved ecosystems and beyond.

In partnership with Florida Power & Light, Babcock Ranch operates its 150-megawatt solar array, utilizing 687,000 panels spread over 870 acres of land, and generates more renewable energy than the town consumes. Producing energy at a utility scale empowers residents to minimize their environmental footprint at no additional cost. With a joint commitment to clean energy and environmental stewardship in Florida, Babcock Ranch is home to **The Solar Ranch - An FPL Eco-Discovery Center**, an experiential facility designed to educate visitors about solar energy and clean technologies.

With eight core initiatives at the heart of its development—environment, health, energy, education, technology, storm safety, transportation, and recreation—Babcock Ranch has partnered with nine national and regional builders to push the envelope on innovation for sustainable, modern design. Homes in the town are built to Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) requirements, ensuring that each home addresses energy efficiency, water efficiency, site protection, durability/disaster mitigation, and more. Babcock Ranch is also a certified Platinum "Florida Green" community by the FGBC, the highest achievable level. Built 30-plus feet above sea level, Babcock Ranch was designed to withstand Florida's climate with innovative storm resiliency features such as smart pond technology, hardened underground utilities, and native vegetation, enabling the town to emerge virtually unscathed from three significant storm events in recent years.

Babcock Ranch was intentionally designed to offer multiple town centers—**Founder's Square, Crescent B Commons, B Street** (coming soon), and **The Shoppes at Yellow Pine** (coming soon)—that allow residents to enjoy a walkable lifestyle. Planned for 19,500 residences, 50,000 people, and six million square feet of commercial space, the array of shopping, dining, entertainment, recreation, health care, and services will continue to grow with purposefully planned spaces to serve residents' daily needs.

To learn more about Babcock Ranch, visit: babcockranch.com.

Babcock Ranch is located in southwest Florida, spanning Charlotte and Lee counties—about a 30-minute drive from Fort Myers and roughly two hours south of Tampa.

The Sunshine State's Legislative Playbook: How Florida's Government Actually Works

For a state with as many people as Florida has, it's surprising how many residents aren't aware of how the legislature and state government function. With so many transplants calling Florida home, and every state having different governmental structures, understanding Florida's system can be challenging. This article will break down how things work in the Sunshine State.

Florida operates with a bicameral legislature–meaning it has both a House and a Senate (fun fact: Nebraska is the only state with a unicameral legislature). The Senate consists of 40 members serving four-year terms, while the House of Representatives has 120 members serving two-year terms. All legislators are subject to term limits of eight consecutive years in the same chamber.

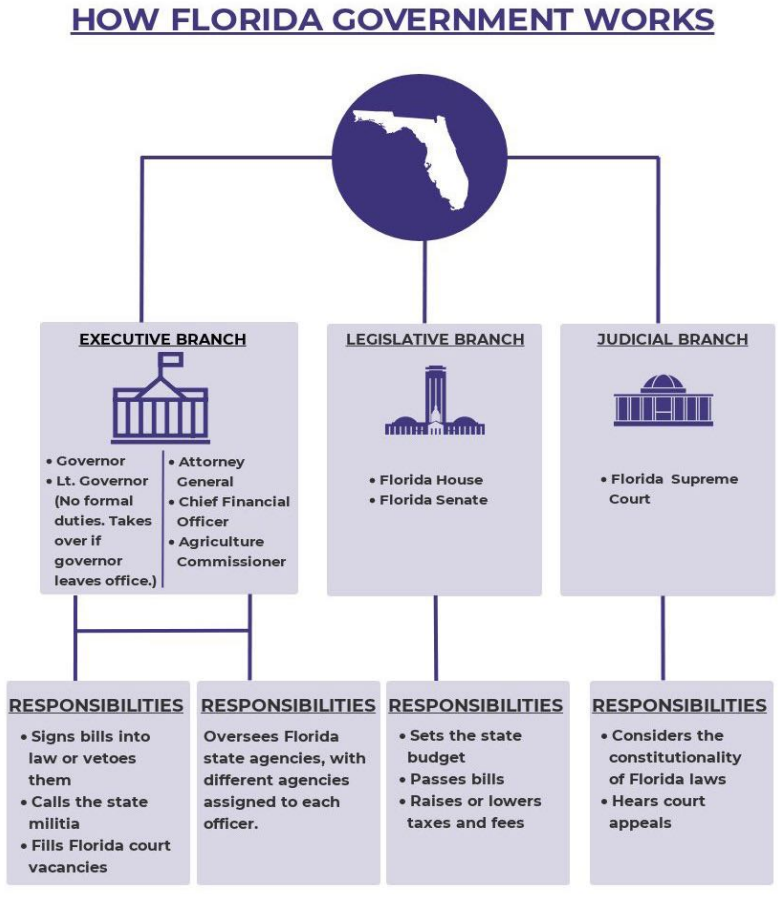
Leadership in each chamber holds significant power. The Senate is led by the Senate President, while the Speaker of the House manages the House of Representatives. These leadership positions are typically determined well in advance, and insiders often know who will be the next Speaker or President before the general public. These leaders wield considerable influence, appointing committee members, deciding which bills get heard in which committees, and ruling on procedural matters during sessions.

Florida legislators work part-time, with annual 60-day sessions beginning in March (odd years) or January (even years). While legislators maintain year-round responsibilities in their districts, their official session concludes with "sine die" adjournment—a tradition marked by the ceremonial dropping of white handkerchiefs by the Sergeants at Arms. Lawmakers earn a modest $29,697 salary (plus per diem)—significantly below the $37,000 national average for state legislators. This relatively low compensation helps explain why approximately half of Florida's lawmakers report net worths exceeding $1 million, as the position often attracts those who can afford to serve despite the limited salary.

The process of how a bill becomes law in Florida mirrors the congressional model, though with state-specific details. Bills must pass through both chambers in identical form after surviving committee reviews. Each bill undergoes three "readings" on three separate days before a final vote. Once both chambers pass the identical version, the bill goes to the Governor, who can sign it into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without signature.

A unique feature of Florida's system is that it's the only state where the constitution undergoes mandatory review every 20 years. This process allows for systematic updates to the state's governing document. Additionally, both citizens and the legislature can place potential constitutional amendments on the ballot, though they require 60% voter approval to pass.

While Florida's governmental structure isn't overly complicated, it oversees important work that affects every resident's daily life. Understanding how it functions is the first step toward engaging with the system and advocating for positive change in your community!



The Legislature's 2025 Attack on Home Rule

Home Rule is the principle that allows local governments (counties, cities, towns) to self-govern and make decisions that reflect their unique community needs, values, and priorities. Home Rule is essential because:

Home Rule empowers local communities to govern themselves based on their unique needs and characteristics. It recognizes that communities understand their specific requirements better than distant state legislators—what works for Pensacola may not work for Key West. This principle enables direct citizen participation in decision-making through accessible public meetings and engagement with local officials. Home Rule allows for customized approaches to zoning, development, environmental protection, and infrastructure that reflect each community's distinct character and geography. It promotes efficiency by allowing decisions to be made at the local level without requiring state approval for every matter. Perhaps most importantly, it enables local governments to implement specific protections for their unique natural resources, whether coral reefs in the Keys or springs in North Florida.

When the state legislature preempts Home Rule through bills like those currently proposed and listed below, they remove a community's right to determine its own future and replace local knowledge with one-size-fits-all mandates that often benefit special interests rather than residents.

Take a look at these bills which are before the legislature currently that will take power away from your local jurisdictions, whether you live in Vero, Sebastian, Indian River Shores, or the County. None are safe as state law overrides local law.

Land Use and Development Preemption:

- HB 1209/SB 1118 (Land Use and Development) - Allows agricultural enclaves to bypass local comprehensive plans and prohibits stricter local regulations
- SB 1730 (Affordable Housing) - Mandates approval of multifamily projects in flexible zones and prohibits additional local zoning restrictions
- HB 943 (Real Property and Land Use) - Forces approval of religious institution housing projects and eliminates local zoning authority over density/height

Development and Growth Management Preemption:

- SB 1128/HB1035 (Building Permits) - Forces local approval within two days with professional attestation, bypassing local oversight
- SB 482 (Local Government and Development Fees) - Restricts local authority to require public art funding and limits ability to increase impact fees
- SB 452 (Barrier Island Redevelopment) - Overrides local land use regulations for barrier island properties based on historical zoning

Environmental and Conservation Preemption:

- SB 374 (Farm Product Regulations) - Blocks local regulation of farm products on agricultural land, reserving authority for state/federal agencies
- HB 771 (Local Government Assessments) - Eliminates counties' ability to levy special assessments for municipal services
- SB 1822/HB 565 (Plastic Waste Preemption) - Prohibits local governments from enacting plastic bag and styrofoam container bans
- HB 585/SB 832 (Former Phosphate Mining Lands) - Shields mining companies from local lawsuits and liability for contamination

Zoning and Planning Preemption:

- SB 1080/HB 579 (Local Government Land Regulation) - Imposes strict permit processing deadlines and limits public hearing authority
- HB 1125/SB 1264 (Regional Planning Overhaul) - Dismantles regional planning councils that provide expertise to local governments
- HB 991/S1242 (Community Redevelopment Agencies) - Forces termination of existing CRAs and prevents creation of new ones

Ballot and Citizen Initiative Preemption:

- SPB 7016/HB 1205 (Ballot Initiative Restrictions) - Imposes excessive financial and procedural barriers to citizen-led ballot initiatives

These bills collectively shift control away from local governments to the state, reducing municipalities' ability to regulate land use, environmental protections, zoning, development fees, and citizen initiatives.

IRNA NEWS

In January, we hosted a successful luncheon at the Vero Beach Country Club featuring two distinguished speakers: Eve Samples, Executive Director of Friends of the Everglades, who discussed the challenges facing our water resources, and Gil Smart from VoteWater, who addressed the electoral aspects and strategies for countering special interests in Tallahassee. Many thanks to both speakers for their valuable insights—we all came away much more informed!

In February, our luncheon was hosted at the renowned Marsh Landing in Fellsmere. Acting City Manager Noah Powers provided an update on future plans for the county's geographically largest city. County Commissioner Susan Adams, who represents this district, also shared valuable insights. We appreciate both speakers for their informative presentations and thank everyone who attended to stay informed about local developments!

In late-February, we bid farewell to our long-term Executive Director as he relocated to North Carolina. Dan Lamson has been with us since 2013 and has helped transform the IRNA from a smaller political organization into a larger nonprofit focused on education and advocacy. We've made tremendous progress over the years with his guidance, and we're pleased he'll continue assisting during this transition period. Stay tuned for more information about IRNA's future plans—we have numerous exciting initiatives in store for the coming years!

Thank you for reading our news magazine!

We hope you found useful information to share within your community. For additional copies, please email us at info@indianriverna.com.

This magazine thrives without ads thanks to the generosity of people like you. Help sustain our mission by contributing to the Indian River Neighborhood Association. Your support covers design, printing, and delivery costs, keeping our neighborhood informed and connected. Thank you for making a difference!

Kidz Corner

1. Bogs are wetlands with:
   a) Grass b) Reeds and moss c) Moss d) Trees
2. Swamps are wetlands with:
   a) Trees b) Grass c) Moss d) Reeds and moss
3. Marshes are wetlands with:
   a) Reeds and moss b) Grass c) Trees d) Moss
4. Fens are wetlands with:
   a) Grass b) Reeds and moss c) Moss d) Trees
5. Wetlands are no good: a) False b) True
6. Wetlands are full of life: a) False b) True
7. Wetlands clean the water: a) False b) True

Issue Quiz

1. What type of organic matter releases nitrogen year-round into the IRL?
2. Who helps ORCA monitor the effectiveness of buffered shorelines?
3. In what year was Vero Beach Regional Airport established?
4. What percentage of the town's footprint is dedicated to greenways, parks, and lakes?
5. Which state had the most total acres of lakes not meeting water quality standards?
6. What principle allows local governments to self-govern?
7. What is the speed limit for cars on Jungle Trail?

Answer Keys:

Kids:1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-b, 5-a, 6-b, 7-b, 8-b

Adults: 1-Muck sediments, 2-citizen scientists, 3-1929, 4-50%, 5-Florida, 6-Home Rule, 7-15 mph

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We represent non-partisan volunteer residents in neighborhoods throughout Indian River County with a common vision of pro-business and managed growth to preserve Indian River County's quality of life. We have no self-interest, no land ownership or profit motives. Our solitary purpose is to protect our community for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

www.IndianRiverNA.com - info@IndianRiverNA.com - www.facebook.com/IndianRiverNA