

## Environmental Education and Sustainability

### ISSUE

A vibrant community is alive, engaged, connected and resilient. It is an inspiring place, filled with natural beauty, where people thrive and want to live for generations. The health of our vibrant community is contingent on promoting a healthy and more resilient environment.

Broward is nestled between two of the most wondrous and fragile ecosystems, the Everglades and the Atlantic Ocean. We are also fortunate to have miles of beautiful beaches as well as thousands of acres of parks and preserved lands spread among our fast-growing neighborhoods. All of these natural areas are economic engines that drive our tourism economy, make our community a beautiful place to live and are vital to the economic and environmental health of our region. We must protect these important natural resources today and for future generations.

**Ongoing damage to our environment could be devastating to our way of life if we don't do more to curb pollution, protect natural areas and make our community more resilient to climate change.**

Pollution and encroaching development endanger wetlands, damage mangroves and wipe out beach dunes, which hurts dwindling wildlife habitat and weakens our natural buffers to hurricane floodwaters and rising seas. Pollution-fueled climate change is projected to raise our sea level 10 to 17 inches by 2040, which threatens to increase flooding threats for homes and businesses – along the coast and inland – while also imperiling Broward's drinking water supplies. And rising temperatures expected from manmade climate change mean more heatwaves, stronger hurricanes and more heat-related illnesses.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

Prioritize the simple, local actions we can take to protect our natural areas and make our community more resilient to the local effects of climate change.

A few examples of hyperlocal ideas that would help Broward now include: clean up litter polluting beaches and wetlands, reduce/recycle single-use plastics to avoid more litter/pollution, plant mangroves along the coasts and trees throughout Broward, restore beach dunes that provide sea turtle habitat and guard against erosion, create more artificial reefs to expand marine habitat, and support educational outreach that champions energy efficiency, raises awareness about climate change and encourages environmental conservation.

### WHY IT MATTERS










If we don't take immediate action to protect our natural areas and prioritize resilience to climate change, our homes, our jobs, our vibrant community and even our lives are at risk.

### OUR GOAL

To make Broward a more livable, resilient and sustainable place to call home by taking local actions to protect our natural areas and make our community more resilient to climate change.

### WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

We seek proposals for innovative actions with measurable outcomes to positively impact our environment. We are looking for opportunities to support habitat protection, coastal resilience, water quality, energy efficiency, environmental outreach and more. For example, proposals can:

-  **Clean up our waterways and shorelines**, which provide critical marine habitat that supports our fisheries.
-  **Plant mangroves and other coastal vegetation** to improve marine habitat, reduce beach erosion and also help protect communities from flooding.
-  **Plant inland trees and increase greenery in cities** to counteract rising temperatures and clean our air.
-  **Protect and preserve marine habitat**, which supports sea turtles and our local fisheries.
-  **Protect coral reefs and create more artificial reefs** to expand marine habitat.
-  **Reduce/recycle single-use plastics**, which often end up polluting local waterways.
-  **Increase solar panel usage** to create more energy-efficient homes and businesses.
-  **Encourage water conservation strategies** to help reduce saltwater intrusion from sea-level rise and ensure we have fresh, quality drinking water.
-  **Engage and educate** residents about any of the above issues and beyond that can protect our natural areas, make our community more resilient to climate change and inspire more local eco-stewards.

*(Outlined above are outcomes that align with the Broward County Climate Action Plan. Visit their website for more information and possible ideas that you can implement.)*

## HOW TO APPLY:

**Application Start:** Now open

**Application Deadline:** January 28, 2022 at 11:59pm

**Q&A Session:** January 4, 2022 at 9am via Zoom. Please click [here](#) to register.

**Panel Interviews with Finalists:** Week of February 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Grants Awarded:** April 2022 (the earliest a project can begin is May 1, 2022).

**Grant Range:** Up to \$50,000

Official applications are accepted only through PhilNet. Click [here](#) to apply now.

## ELIGIBILITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

- Nonprofits with 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status to provide services to Broward County.
- City or county agencies with projects that demonstrate charitable intent in Broward County.
- Individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Previous or current grantee organizations must be in good standing with the Foundation.

The Foundation will not provide support to organizations which, in their constitution or practice, discriminate against a person or group on the basis of:

Age	Sexual Orientation	Ethnicity	Gender
Political Affiliation	Gender Identity	National Origin	Religious Belief
Race	Disability		

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**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
OF BROWARD**

479 Charitable Funds • \$209.4 Million in Assets • 36 Years of Bold Community Impact • \$131 Million in Community Grants • Rated in the Top 100 Community Foundations

## Our Impact:

The Foundation's support of environmental projects plays a critical role in ensuring the health of our ecosystem. Our impact includes:

- ✦ Supported the *Business Case for Resiliency* study to learn what the economic analysis of risk, ROI, and opportunity would be to prepare for resiliency and climate change.
- ✦ According to CNN, a study by the U.S. Forest Service indicates that we are losing 36 million trees in American cities each year. Our grants have created 55,000+ new tree plantings in Broward through the *National Wildlife Federation*.
- ✦ Restored 400,000 sq. ft. of dunes to protect the coastline and planted 6,000 mangroves and 8,000 sea oats through the work of *Hands on Broward and Youth Environmental Alliance*.
- ✦ Researchers at *Nova Southeastern University* helped sea turtles survive by studying nesting patterns and changes to the environment.
- ✦ *Everglades Foundation* trained 58 teachers on the Everglades Literacy Curriculum who then taught 1,500 students to become Everglades literate and stewards for the environment.
- ✦ 693 homeowners and businesses have created wildlife-friendly landscapes on their properties, including food, water, tree cover and places for animals to raise their young, and are now national Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitats.
- ✦ Improved a habitat along the coastal dune lake system in *Birch State Park* for more than 200 species of fish, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates through the work of 100 community volunteers that removed debris and invasive plant species
- ✦ *Dream in Green* supplied energy/water conservation toolkit and education to 150 residents that deepened their understanding of the energy/water nexus, climate change and other environmental impacts and motivated energy and water saving behaviors that reduce a household's carbon footprint.
- ✦ Turned 30 students from *Dillard High School* into "climate sustainability stewards" to advocate on behalf of their neighborhoods' environmental issues through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education.