



NOVEMBER 2025 TEAM REPORT

Natural Resources

Submitted by Pattie Gertenbach

The Natural Resources team is keeping an eye on several important issues this coming year. At our December meeting, we provided an update on some rumbling about possibly developing part of the beloved Lyonia Preserve in Deltona. Fortunately, we have team members who are in touch with local officials and will keep us posted.

Another topic of concern is the County Council's postponement at the December 2, 2025 Council meeting for Authorization to explore issuing a bond for Volusia Forever Lands Acquisition. Although their vote was to look into a bond, not to actually issue such bond, a few Council members used the item to question aspects of the Volusia Forever program, such as: partnering with other agencies; altering the criteria; questioning "in perpetuity"; and questioning whether voters knew what they were voting for. Extending Volusia Forever was passed in 2020 with over 75% of voters approving extending the program for another 20 years. The Volusia Forever program will be on the County Council Agenda again early in 2026. Our team will be watching this closely and has asked the LWWVC Board to again support of this program, as they did in 2020.

The Natural Resources team has two important upcoming events:

- February 12, 2026: Field trip to Farmton.
- April 23, 2026: Hot Topic Panel Discussion: What is Home Rule and How Does It Affect You? 4 – 6 pm at the Anderson-Price Memorial Building in Ormond Beach. Optional dinner afterwards at the Gastropub Tiki Bar