

Students in the Greenway

Media Release

Contact: Lynda Bell, Executive Director
Keep Nassau Beautiful
904-261-0165
knb@keepnassaubeautiful.org

Emma Love Hardee Elementary School Students Visit Ron Sapp Egans Creek Greenway with Keep Nassau Beautiful Volunteers

Fernandina Beach, Fla., March 15, 2024 – This month, 250 students of Emma Love Hardee Elementary School got a first-hand nature experience at the Ron Sapp Egans Creek Greenway on Amelia Island. The event was hosted by the City of Fernandina Beach in partnership with [Keep Nassau Beautiful](#) (KNB) as part of its mission to foster appreciation of, pride in, and responsibility for the natural beauty of Nassau County.

The Greenway, a complex, interconnected 300-acre ecosystem that's home to a diversity of wildlife, helps improve water quality, and protects Amelia Island during storm surges. The Greenway includes biking and hiking trails, viewing stations and educational signage.

Students rotated among four stations in the greenway: mammals and habitats, birds and adaptations, insects and art, and salt marsh/oysters and food webs. They learned about marsh grass, and tasted pickleweed, observed mammals and learned some cool facts about how to identify their tracks and scat (poop), and used binoculars to observe the birds in the Greenway and learned how their beaks have adapted based on the food they eat. During insects and art, students honed their skills in drawing and use of watercolors as they learned about the anatomy of the dragonfly.

More than 25 volunteers with expertise in these areas served as chaperones during the event, organized by Kathy Russell, Conservation and Environmental Manager at the City of Fernandina, Joyce Tuten, a Conserve Nassau Board Officer, and Natalie Meeuwssen, a retired teacher. The event, now in its third year, was launched by Wild Amelia, now a program of KNB. In November 2023, KNB partnered with Cary State Forest to pilot the program in a local forest with 5th-grade students at Bryceville Elementary. During that event, students learned about forest ecosystems and how they are interconnected with us, the importance of protecting wetlands and wildlife, and how important recycling and reducing waste is to the sustainability

of the forest ecosystem. For information on how you can get involved or bring a program to a local school, contact knb@keepnassaubautiful.org .

###

For over 30 years Keep Nassau Beautiful has been dedicated to conservation, sustainability and beautification efforts in Nassau County, Florida. Through its flagship programs--including Wild Amelia and Planting Nassau's Future--Keep Nassau Beautiful educates, engages and activates residents and visitors to protect the natural environment, reduce litter and waste and expand and preserve the local tree canopy. Recognized with numerous state and local awards, in 2023 the organization collected and properly disposed of over 75 tons of waste, planted over 1,000 trees and educated over 9,000 individuals.

To learn how to contribute to the work of Keep Nassau Beautiful visit www.keepnassaubautiful.org .



Nature on the Greenway, Emma Love Hardee 5th-Grade students, and Kathy Russell and David Neville Fernandina Beach Planning and Conservation Department.



Wild Amelia Nature on the Greenway, Emma Love Hardee Elementary School students identifying birds, with Joyce Tuten, Conserve Nassau Board Officer.