

WELCOME *Home*



Now that you call Brevard home, you are part of a community that treasures a unique and valuable natural resource – **the Indian River Lagoon.**

You have likely experienced the serenity of the Lagoon, spotting dolphins playing in boat wakes, tracking sailboats during a light wind, or rising early to see a quiet sunrise.

LOVE IT *Like a Local*

*Photo by M. Woodard, courtesy of IRLNEP*



*Photo by K. Gast, courtesy of IRLNEP*

**One of the most diverse estuaries in the nation,** the Indian River Lagoon features an extraordinary mix of wildlife and native plants, fishing and boating opportunities, and beautiful residential shorelines.

*It's a unique natural asset worth preserving.*



**ONE LAGOON**

ONE COMMUNITY - ONE VOICE  
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON  
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Project funding by the IRLNEP Small Grants program

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BREVARD: VOLUNTEER



*Photo by A. Birch, courtesy of IRLNEP*

**WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?**

At [HelpTheLagoon.org/volunteer](http://HelpTheLagoon.org/volunteer), learn about your great options. Meet neighbors and make friends through hands-on actions like oyster gardening, planting living shorelines, or beach clean-ups!

- Support nonprofits helping the Lagoon
- Pick up trash with **Keep Brevard Beautiful**
- Help plant living shorelines, oyster reefs, and mangroves
- [RestoreOurShores.org/volunteer](http://RestoreOurShores.org/volunteer)
- [SaveTheLagoon.org/volunteer](http://SaveTheLagoon.org/volunteer)

**LAGOON-FRIENDLY EVENTS**



**YOU'RE INVITED:** The Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition hosts **LAGOON & LAGERS** events at local breweries and **Lagoon Straight Talk** forums, and supports many community festivals.

Visit [HelpTheLagoon.org](http://HelpTheLagoon.org) for upcoming events and sign up for news and event announcements.



**BREVARD  
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON  
COALITION**

[HelpTheLagoon.org](http://HelpTheLagoon.org) | [Facebook.com/BIRLC](https://www.facebook.com/BIRLC)

Support provided by Space Coast Association of Realtors

*On the Cover: Image by V. Lamb; inset image by J. Whiticar/IRLNEP*



LOVE IT *Like a Local*  
BE LAGOON-FRIENDLY



**OUR VISION:**

The Brevard Indian River Lagoon, with clear waters, alive with lush sea grass beds, thriving fish, birds, manatees and dolphins— a healthy place where our families can play



Photo by J. Whicar, courtesy of IRLNEP

## As a local with a love for the Lagoon, you can take these Lagoon-friendly actions to preserve it.

Yes, you love the Indian River Lagoon like a local and want to do everything in your power to preserve clear waters, alive with lush sea grass beds and thriving fish, birds, manatees, and dolphins. Embracing how to **“love it like a local,”** you will ensure your lifestyle continues to enhance the vibrancy, aesthetic appeal, and economic value of the Lagoon.



Photo by P. Holm, courtesy of IRLNEP

Photo by R. Spratt, courtesy of IRLNEP



### YOUR YARD

- **Plant a Lagoon-friendly lawn with native plants** that don't need additional watering or require fertilizer
- When mowing, blow grass clippings back on lawn
- **Obey the summer fertilizer ban June 1 – Sept. 30**
- Minimize lawn watering
- Direct downspouts onto lawns, away from paved areas
- Repair and use timed-sprinklers
- Remember reclaimed water *doesn't need fertilizer*



Photo by L. Savary, courtesy of IRLNEP

### FOR EVERYONE

#### Recycle and keep the Lagoon free of trash

- Use reusable or paper bags at the grocery
- Use as little plastic as possible
- **Minimize pesticide use and dispose of toxic chemicals correctly**
- Stop septic leaks, inspect your drain field as well as your septic tank
- Wash your car at a carwash – keep soap and chemicals out of the Lagoon
- **Put only clean water down street sewers or drains – no trash, no grass, no oil or soap**

### DOG OWNERS

**Scoop the poop!** Dog waste has a lot of bacteria. **Pick it up, put it in the trash.**

### BOATERS

#### Practice proper boat-fueling techniques

- Use marine pump-out facilities
- Don't empty your tank into canals or the Lagoon
- Use marine approved cleaning products



Photo by F. Stewart, courtesy of IRLNEP

### IF YOU LIVE DIRECTLY ON THE LAGOON

- **Plant a living shoreline**
- Keep yard waste and fertilizer OUT of the Lagoon
- **Grow oysters on your dock**
- **Remember: Obey the law. Don't cut mangroves without a permit.**



Brevard Zoo Oyster bedding

### ASK YOUR REALTOR

### NEW HOME OWNERS

- Check plumbing systems for durability
- Inspect septic systems thoroughly, upgrading to an advanced system if possible
- Install Water Sense high efficiency toilets and other plumbing fixtures
- Obtain a lateral line inspection from your curb to your home
- Ask about the option to go solar



Photo by V. Lamb

### OUR COMMUNITY VALUES OUR LAGOON

In 2016, a referendum to fund Indian River Lagoon improvements was passed by Brevard voters. The 10-year **Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan** outlines and funds local projects designed to meet water quality targets and improve the health of the Lagoon. It includes fertilizer education, muck removal, reclaimed water use, restoration of mangroves, oyster reefs and wetlands, septic system upgrades, and stormwater and wastewater facility improvements. Measures underway are already having a positive impact on the Lagoon.



Photo by T. Ebaugh, courtesy of IRLNEP

### SMOKERS

- **Just say ZERO cigarette butts on the beach and trails**

*Let's ensure small children and pets and wildlife don't have toxins from filters in their way to play.*

### DINERS—START A TREND

- Bring your own receptacles for leftovers
- Just say: “No Straw, please.”

*Help your favorite places to dine understand there's a local desire for them to provide better alternatives.*

### RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES

Please use alternatives to Styrofoam and plastic

- If you're a restaurant, join Litter Quitter:

[KeepBrevardBeautiful.org/our-programs/litter-quitler](http://KeepBrevardBeautiful.org/our-programs/litter-quitler)



Photo by V. Lamb