



Magnolia Heights Neighborhood Association
General Meeting – AGENDA – Tuesday, September 15th, 2026
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Person at Golden Isles Brewery

- 1) Welcome & Call To Order
- 2) Attendance: 20 people
- 3) Police Report from our community Officer: Nicholas Panella (not present)
 - a) Two car burglaries to unlocked vehicles at 10 am
 - b) Remember to always lock your cars and don't leave items visible
- 4) President's Report
 - a) Special Guest: Elizabeth Bonert, Creative and Outreach Director for Friends of Boyd Hill
 - i) Harvest Festival coming up!
 - ii) Boyd Hill history
 - iii) Currently around 400 acres with 6 miles of trail
 - iv) Environmental education center - summer camps, hiking, cycling, campsites
 - v) Boyd Hill provides an escape from urban life without leaving the city
 - vi) Go to their facebook and instagram to participate in citizen science to help track gopher tortoises
 - (1) Have to become a city volunteer, just do a background check
 - vii) The library has birding kits with binoculars, guidebooks
 - viii) Natural History Speaker Series: free events with great speakers
 - ix) Raptor Run: Run a 5k in Boyd Hill
 - x) Raptor Fest! Brings in around 5000 visitors and benefits the birds of prey program
 - xi) Astronomy Night this fall/winter
 - xii) Beech Kombucha September 30th, you can meet a gopher tortoise and ask questions to a gopher tortoise researcher
 - xiii) If you become a member you get all sorts of benefits: discounts on trail passes, access to members-only events, etc
 - xiv) Sometimes you can buy native plants from Boyd Hill, Wise Hands is a good company that helps design and plant native plants
 - xv) City offers free mulch!
 - xvi) Use SeeClickFix to report water waste
 - xvii) Questions:
 - (1) Pioneer Settlement is run by the city. Harvest Festival has music, food, crafts, vendors, activities. 10-3 October 10th
 - (2) Raptor Run also has walking/hiking options: on December 12th
 - (3) Raptor Fest is first weekend of February

- (4) Library card is free! Go to the library to get a pass to go to Boyd Hill
 - (5) Wilcox is a good resource for Native Plants
 - (6) There aren't safe ways to ride a bike to the park, but you can ride within the park
 - (7) The pioneer settlement isn't really open outside of events for now, Friends of Boyd Hill is still trying to expand access
- b) Linsey Grove - running for City Council District 6
 - i) Platform: affordability from lots of different angles, safe streets, updating infrastructure for resilience, invest in neighborhood associations
 - ii) Background: doctorate in public health, lives in Roser Park
- c) Voting for neighborhood association board
 - i) Will be taking place during November meeting
- d) Voting in upcoming elections
 - i) The general election will take place November 3rd.
 - ii) Please renew your request for mail-in ballots here if you wish to vote by mail: <https://www.votepinellas.gov/> You can also check if you are already registered if you are not sure.
- e) Future Guests
 - i) Richie Floyd, District 8 City Councilor will be with us in October
 - ii) A full list of speakers through 2026 can be found on our website here: <https://magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/events/>
- f) Halloween in the neighborhood
 - i) Sign up on the website to get your house on the map
- 5) Secretary Report: Madison Rice
 - a) Minutes will be posted on the website here: <https://magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/documents/>
- 6) Adjournment: **Next meeting will be held IN PERSON at Golden Isles October 15th**
magnoliaheightsneighborhood.com/membership

FRIENDS OF
BOYD HILL
NATURE PRESERVE



Keeping St. Pete Wild

BOYD HILL *Nature* Preserve



LAKE MAGGIORE



NATURE
TRAIL

A BRIEF HISTORY

1940

Lake Maggiore changes from saltwater to a brackish freshwater lake

1943

City of St. Petersburg purchases Nature Parkland & Lake Maggiore

1947

Construction begins on the Nature Trail

1958

Originally known as Lake Maggiore Park, the Preserve was renamed Boyd Hill Nature Trail. This honored the park superintendent whose dream was an urban community living together with “**nature-in-the-raw**” without disturbing the balance of either.



BOYD HILL *Today*



400 Acres. 6 Miles of Trails. Diverse Wildlife.

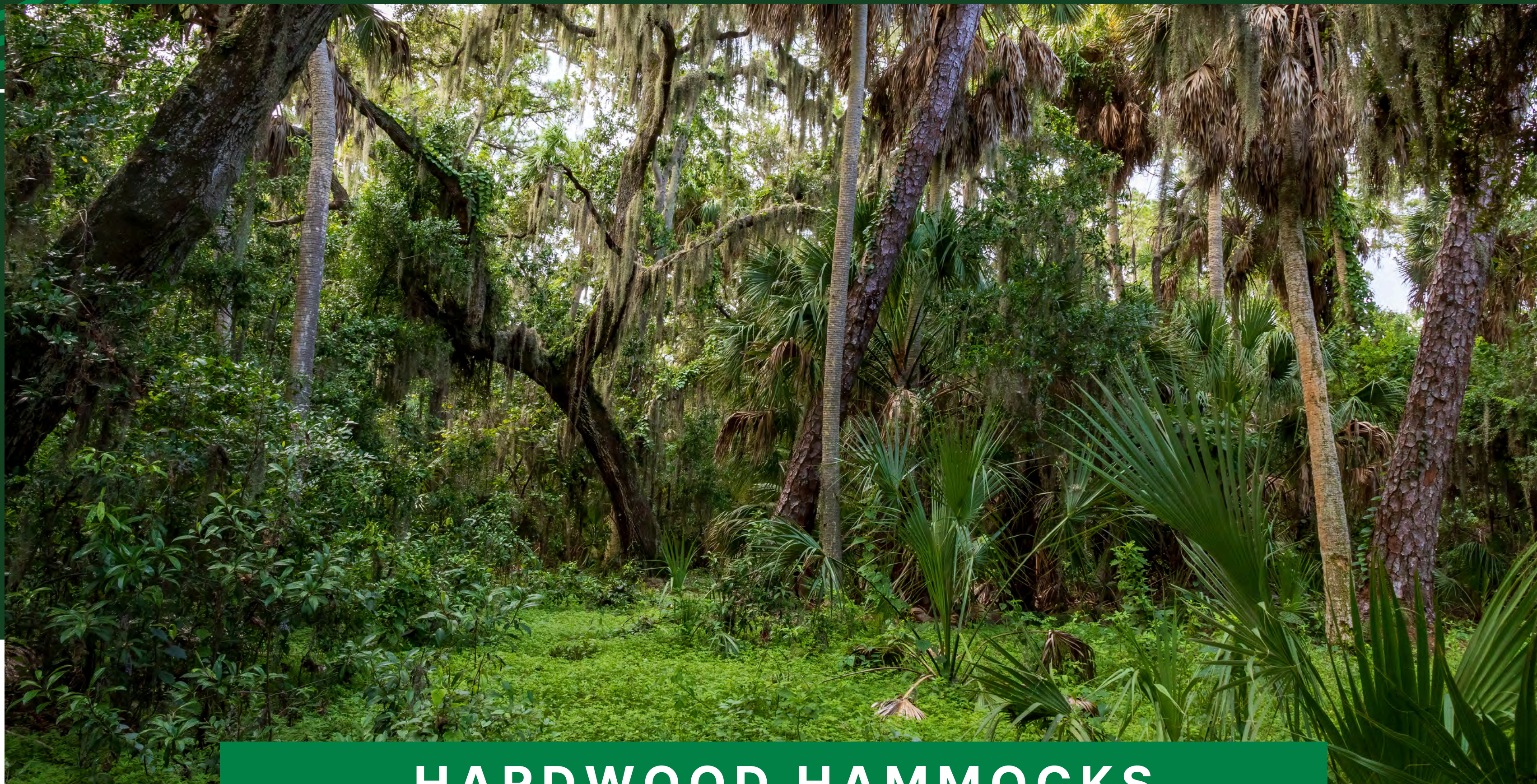
Owned and operated by the City of St. Petersburg, the award-winning property features 6 miles of trails and boardwalks through a variety of habitats. Preserving the diversity of Florida's wildlife - all within urban St. Petersburg.

Explore. Learn. Protect.

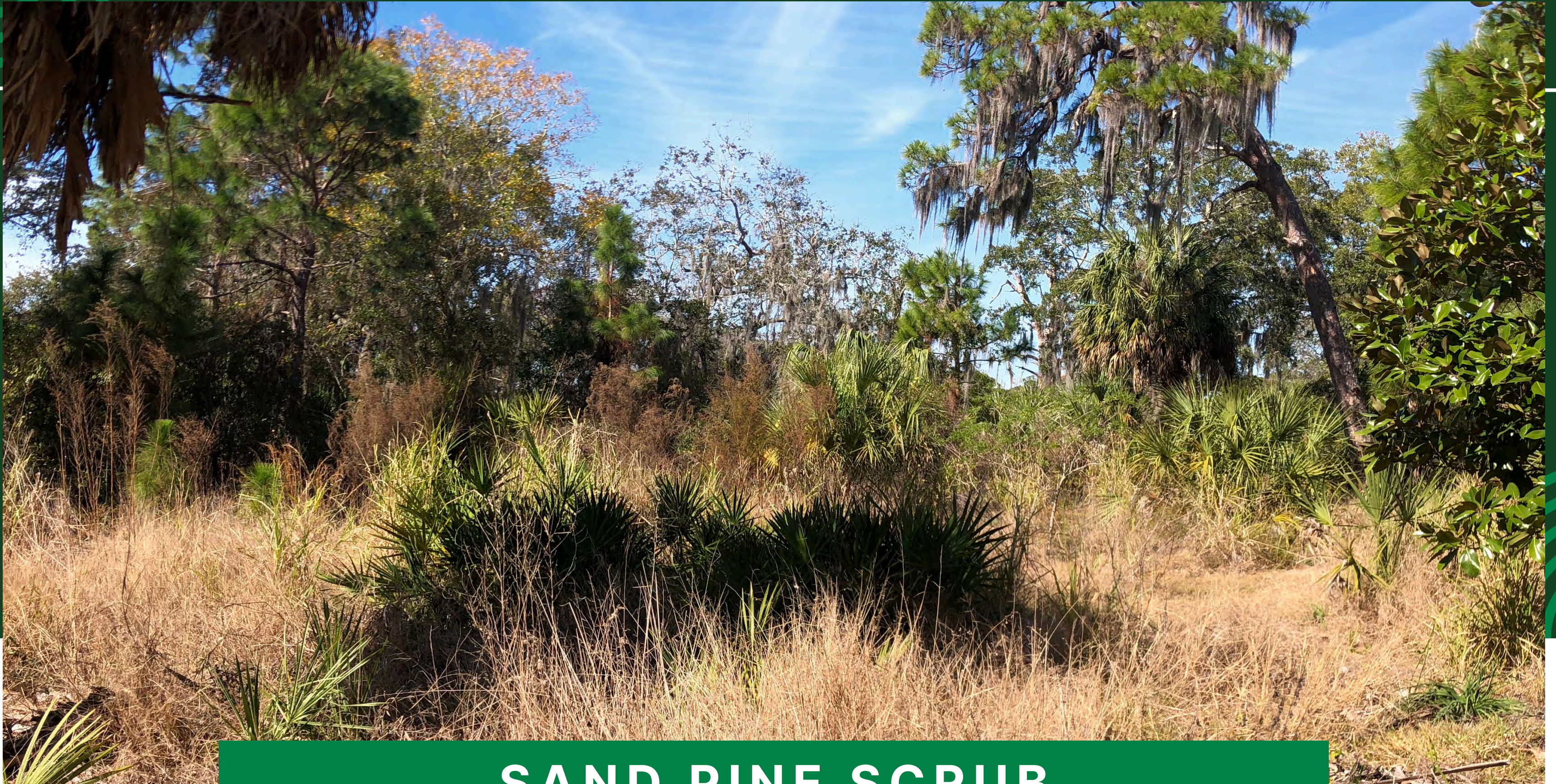
Through the Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center, Boyd Hill connects the community to nature through camps, hikes, bikes, and specialty programs.

Friends of Boyd Hill

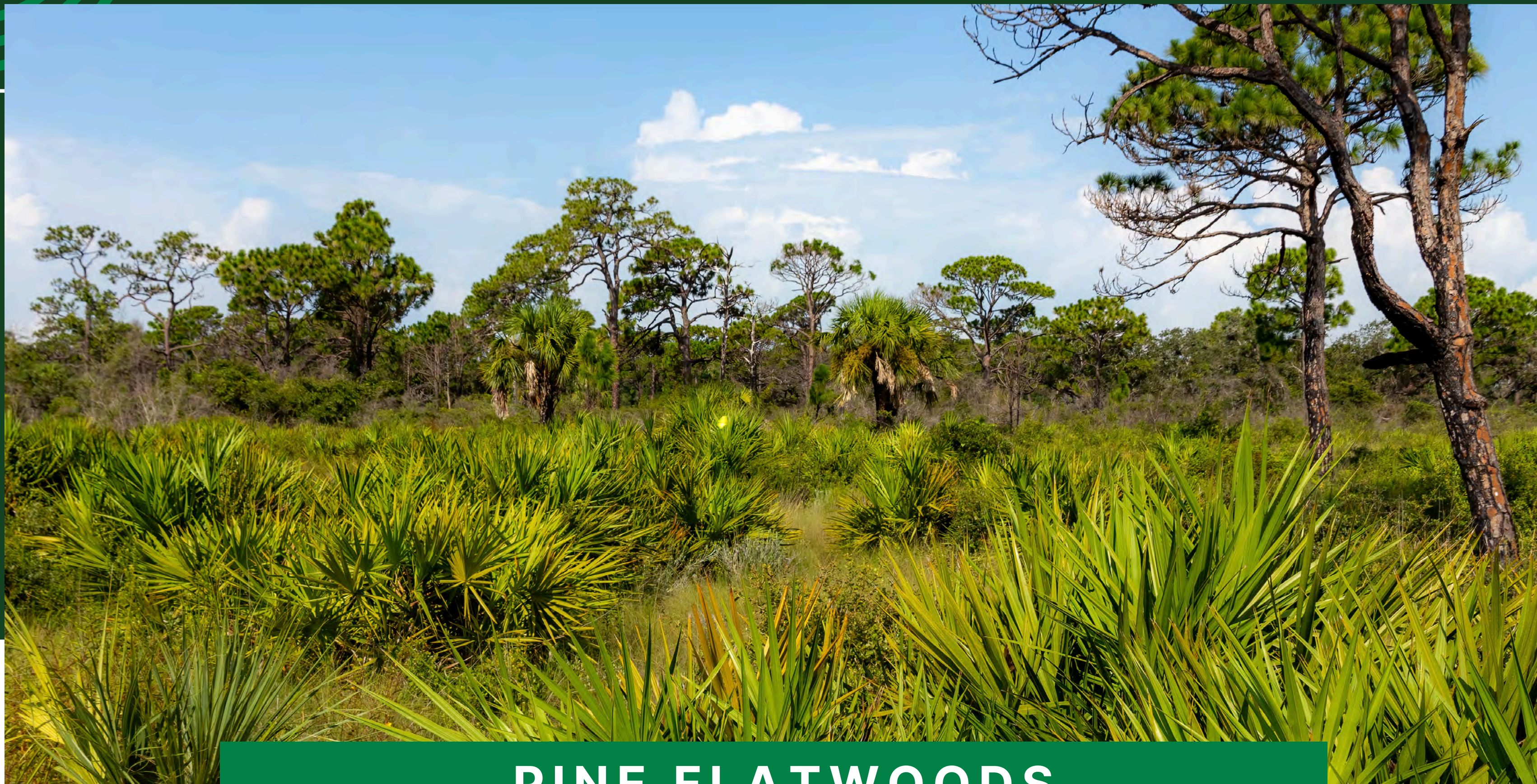
Is the nonprofit partner supporting Boyd Hill through volunteer service, education, advocacy, and financial support.



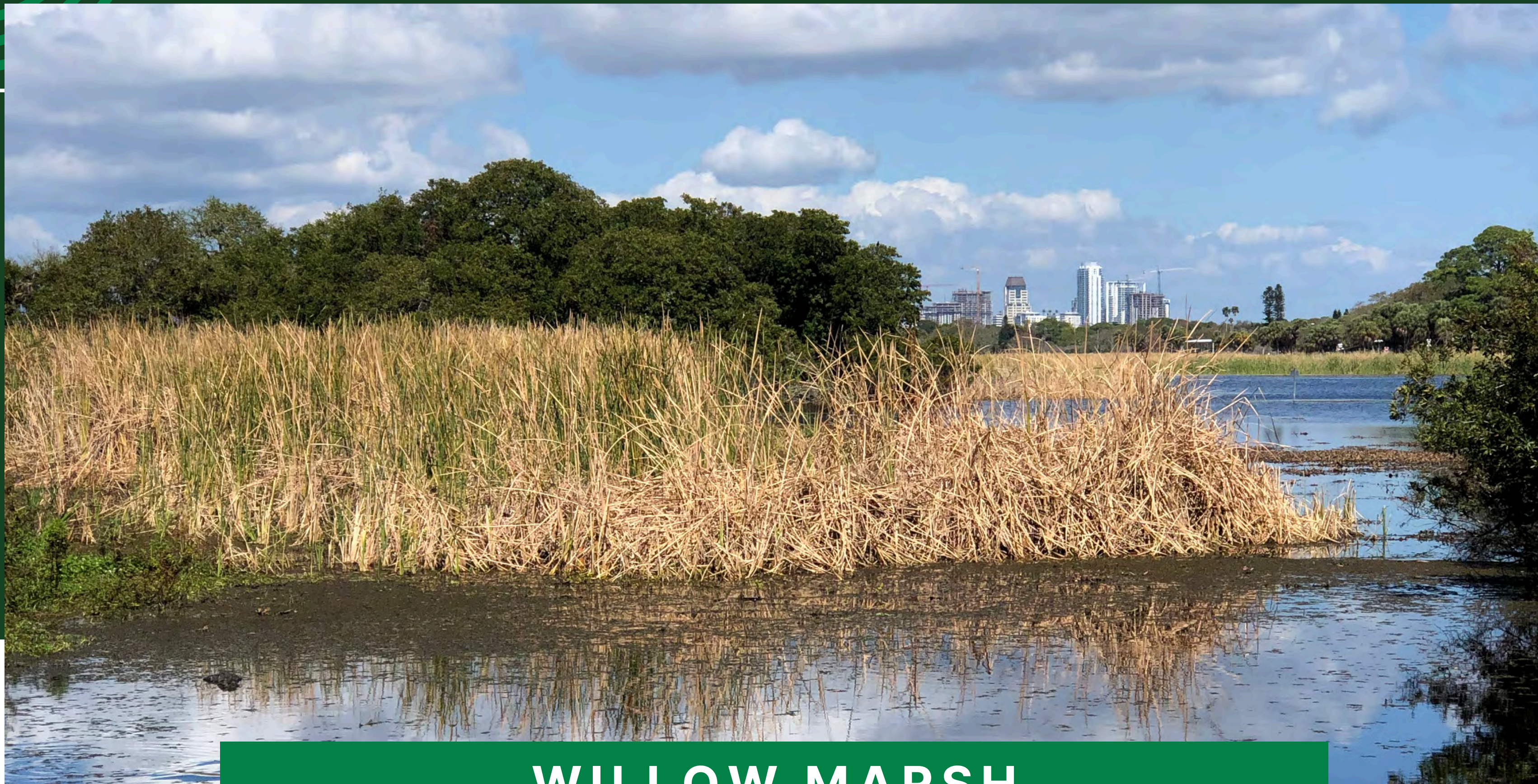
HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS



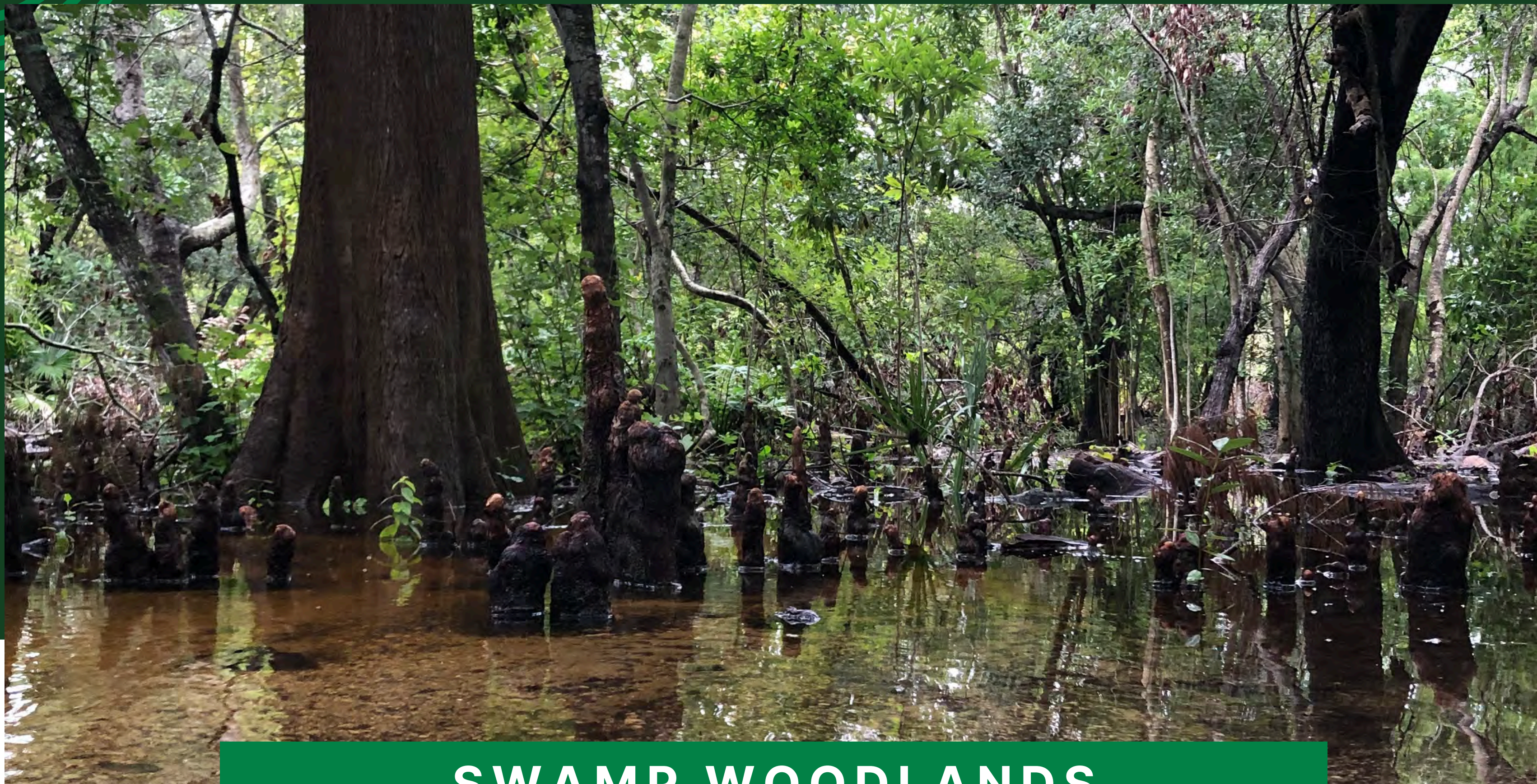
SAND PINE SCRUB



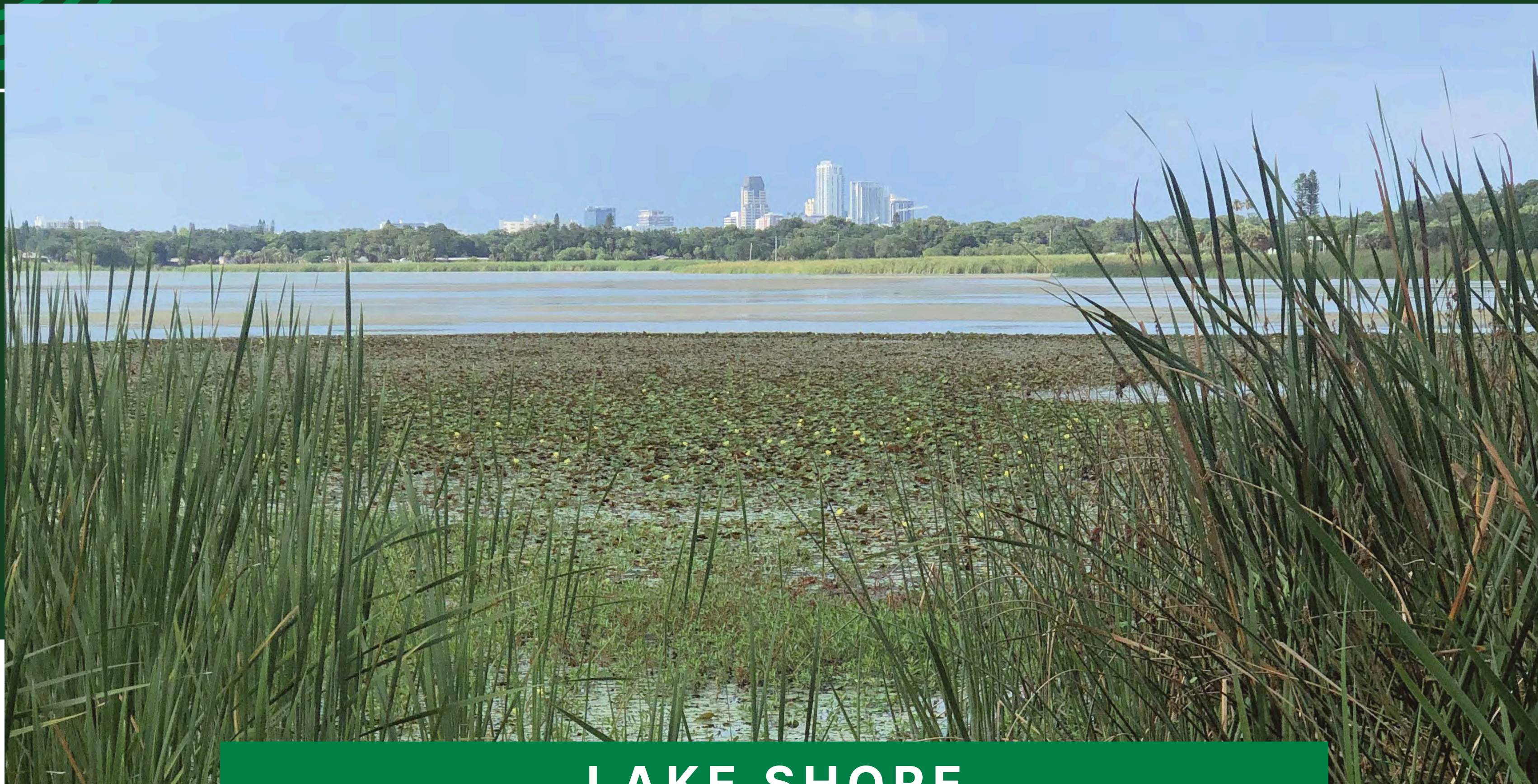
PINE FLATWOODS



WILLOW MARSH

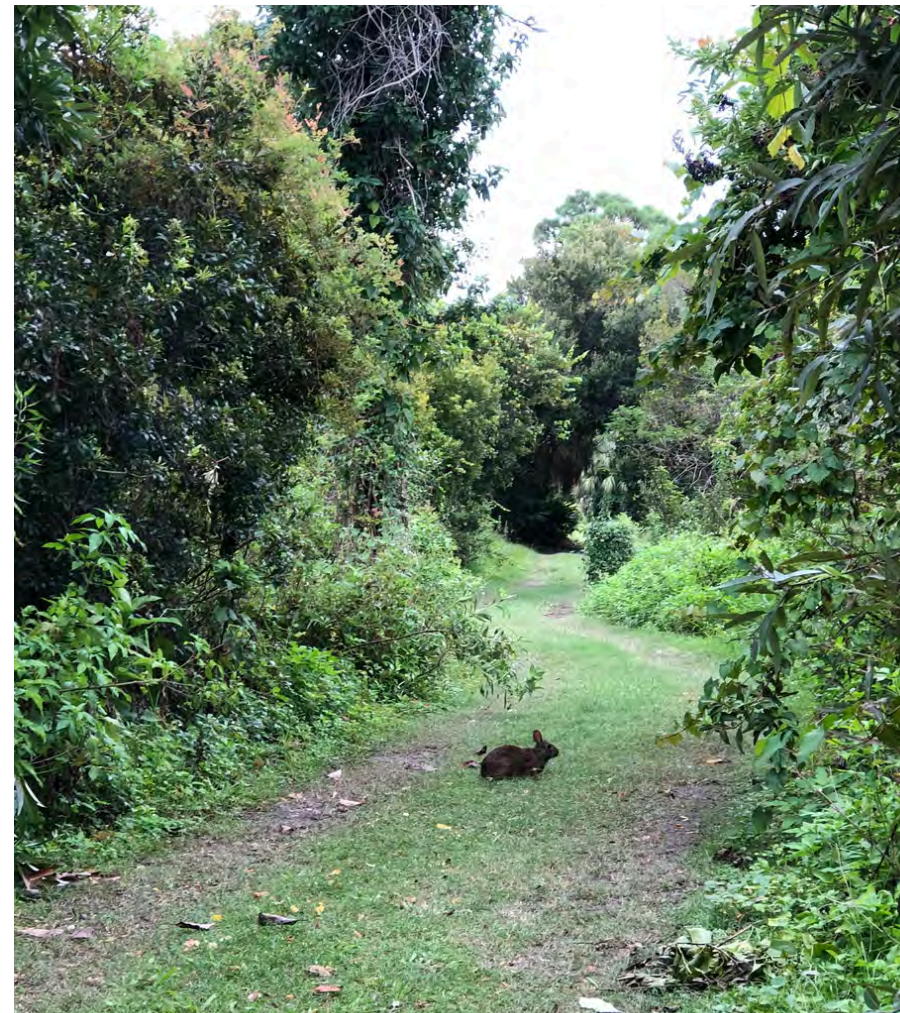


SWAMP WOODLANDS



LAKE SHORE

Sanctuary in the city



Provides Critical Habitat

Boyd Hill's diverse habitats provide food, shelter, and space for native plants and wildlife, including gopher tortoises, alligators, marsh rabbits, and countless other species.

A Piece of Wild Florida

Step onto the trails and into another side of St. Pete — one shaped by changing seasons, native wildlife, and the sights and sounds of nature.



History of the Friends

Neighbors Take Action

Gabe and Sandy Vargo, along with neighbors from Lakewood Estates and the surrounding community, came together to support the Preserve and ensure its future. From those early efforts, the Friends helped fund capital improvements, including the Aviary, and community events such as the Art Arbor Festival.

Our Mission Today

Protect, support, and promote Boyd Hill Nature Preserve and its programs through volunteer service, financial support, and environmental education/advocacy.

KEEPING ST. PETE WILD SINCE 1983



RESEARCH

SUPPORTING SCIENCE
AT BOYD HILL.

GOPHER TORTOISE

Boyd Hill is home to the largest remaining population of gopher tortoises in southern Pinellas County. Local researchers are learning more about their social dynamics, population size, and overall health through burrow surveys and radio tracking.

NATIVE & ENDEMIC PLANTS

The native Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod is a rare, endangered plant species. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve has the only recorded population in the Florida peninsula. In collaboration with Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Conservation Program. City staff help conserve the population within the Preserve, as well as work with volunteers on invasive removal and native restoration.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey

Volunteer Opportunity

Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey

*Surveys run October
through November*

Weekend & Weekday Shifts





EDUCATION

Connecting St. Pete's community to the natural world.

The Friends provide camp scholarships for local students and support the Birds of Prey program, aviary care, and environmental education throughout the community.

Fall, Winter, Spring Summer Camps • Birds of Prey Education

2025 - 2026

62 Scholarships Approved
\$10,208 Awarded





COMMUNITY

HELPING PROTECT AND IMPROVE
BOYD HILL FOR EVERYONE.

Through grants, financial support, and restoration initiatives, the Friends help strengthen Boyd Hill's habitats and protect its biodiversity.

By partnering with local organizations and volunteers on cleanups and other community activities, the Friends help ensure the Preserve remains a thriving natural resource for everyone to enjoy.



RESTORING
ST. PETE
TOGETHER



OUR EVENTS



Natural History Speaker Series
OCTOBER 2026-APRIL 2027
2nd Thursday of the Month 7 PM
Hammock Hall



Raptor Run
DECEMBER 12, 2026 | 8 AM-11 AM
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve



Raptor Fest
FEBRUARY 6, 2027 | 10 AM-4 PM | FREE ADMISSION
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

Bringing in over 5,000 visitors together for an unforgettable day of raptors in free flight, live bird encounters, environmental exhibits, family activities, and more!

Raptor Fest directly supports the Birds of Prey program and raises more than \$20,000 each year.

Other events FOBH partners with include:

- Guided Nature Tram Tours
- Nature Discovery Walks
- PreK-College Field Trips
- St. Pete Audubon Bird Walk
- Astronomy Nights with the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club
- Healthy St Pete Trail Fun Run
- Wild Artisans (21+ and up)

SCAN FOR



ALL EVENTS




TORTOISE TALK
with Dr. Jeff Goessling

September 30th | 6 - 8pm

@ **Beech Kombucha**, 3100 Freemont Terrace S




THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 7 PM

**OUR
RESILIENT
FORESTS**

*by Dean Hay,
Professional Forester*



Hammock Hall at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
3010 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL
All ages welcome. Free admission.



20TH ANNUAL

**AUTUMN
HARVEST**
festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

10AM - 3PM / \$5 ENTRY

LIVE MUSIC / FOOD
HAYRIDE / VENDORS /
PUMPKIN PATCH / CRAFTS

PINELLAS PIONEER SETTLEMENT
3010 31ST S ST. PETE

727-893-7326 / BOYDHILLPRESERVE.COM






UPCOMING EVENTS



JOIN US!

By joining the Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve you allow us to expand our ability to protect and promote the unique ecosystems and species found within the park, continue to educate, and be a part of a community who wants to keep St. Pete wild.

Membership Benefits Include:

- 50% off City of St. Petersburg trail passes
- Access to members-only events
- Discounts at the gift shop during selected times
- Family members receive discounts on camps
- Supporting a special St. Pete place & more!





GET INVOLVED

Sponsor a Bird

Help provide year-round care for one of Boyd Hill's resident birds of prey.

Plant Native

Create a more wildlife-friendly, environmentally responsible yard by choosing native plants that support local species and conserve resources.

Resources: Boyd Hill • Wilcox Nurseries • Wise Hands • Native Plant Society

Volunteer

Become a City of St. Pete volunteer and help care for Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

**FOLLOW US &
Stay Connected**



@friendsofboydhill



@FriendsBoydHill

FRIENDSOFBOYDHILL.ORG

MORE WAYS TO BE A FRIEND OF BOYD HILL

CITY OF ST. PETE RESOURCES



City Water Conservation



Learn about City programs, rebates, water restrictions and guidelines, and workshops

St. Pete Urban Forestry



Trees and green space are essential to St. Pete's environment. Learn more.

St. Pete Mulch



Did you know you can order bulk mulch from the City of St. Petersburg?

SeeClixFix



Free tool that lets you report non-emergency neighborhood problems.



FRIENDS OF
BOYD HILL
NATURE PRESERVE



Thank You