Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Annual Report | **2022** 

A Charles and the second secon

Constant and the

# **OUR MISSION:**

To generate supplemental resources to preserve, restore, and interpret the natural and cultural assets of the Park for present and future generations.

Photo provided by VoLo Foundation



# **A Letter from Our Leaders**

a message from the President of the Board of Directors and Executive Director

#### Dear Patron.

What a year! We are honored to share with you the results of a highly successful year, one marked by thousands of students learning at the Park, community reunion, and organizational advancement. Everything we do at Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park is motivated by our mission to preserve the Park for present and future generations and over the past year, we have endeavored to make John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, the only State Park in Palm Beach County, the best it can be.

Our Board of Directors spent part of the year laying out a new strategic plan with an emphasis on visitor services, park infrastructure, and staffing to advance organizational goals. We are pleased to report we are well on our way in all three areas.

In 2022, some exciting changes and enhancements to the Park took place:

Our staff is better than ever! We welcomed a new Park Manager, Andy Flanner, who looks forward to more events and more offerings at MacBeach; a second full time animal care specialist, which means more care for our beloved animal ambassadors; and a full time Communications Director to ensure you know what is happening at the Park so you can take full advantage.

We enhanced our recreation offerings to include a new and larger kayak fleet, upgraded diver down flags, and additional paddleboard activities such as yoga and moonlight paddling.

Florida's east coast experienced a record-breaking year for Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback sea

turtle nests, and at MacBeach we continue to see the benefit of our conservation efforts in habitat protection and preservation. Thanks to your support of our Adopt-A-Nest program, our team of Rangers and volunteers documented over 3,000 nests on our 1.6 miles of beach.

None of this could have been accomplished without the generosity of our partners, donors, members, and volunteers who help make the programming and opportunities mentioned above possible. We are honored that you have chosen to join us as a partner, supporter and friend.

Keep reading to learn about the rest of our year's accomplishments. We know that the upcoming year is going to be the best yet. Thank you for doing your part to keep this Park the treasure that it is. We hope to see you soon at MacBeach.

Sincerely,

Latimer Farr Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Board of Directors President

Veronica Frehm Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park Executive Director

### 2022 Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park **Board of Directors**

#### Board of Directors Officers

Latimer Farr. President Jodi Butler, President Elect Julie Miles, Immediate Past President Dean Kaplan, Vice President Peter Jordan, Treasurer Teri Jabour, Secretary

#### **Board of Directors**

Shannon Armstrong Michael Brozost Fabiana DeRosiers, Ph.D. Van Hasley (Junior Friends Chair) Douglas Lawson Karen Marcus W Mason Jessica Miles. Ph.D. Patrick Murray Roger O'Brien Chelsea Reed **Becky Robinson** Susan Sachs Deborah Searcy, Ph.D. Donald Solodar

Advisory Council Directors Elizabeth Romfh

Emeritus Directors Marianne Gold Stephanie Pew Ted Thoburn

#### Honorary Council Directors

Leni Bane Susanne M. Fruehauf Janet Heaton Ellin Miller Susan Murray Hal Reed Patricia Welch



# 2022 **BY THE NUMBERS**

# 5,850

amount raised by Adopt A Nest fundraiser to help raise awareness and funds for the 3,000+ sea turtles that nest on our beach each year

loggerhead sea turtle ambassadors who were cared for and released

articles in press and media

3,204 members

**467** students transported to the park thanks to grant funding

full-time interns completed our internship program

Mason

educators reached during professional development workshops

volunteers recognized at district award ceremony

2,0

students attended field experiences at the Park 1,706

pounds of microplastics picked up by Citizen Science Marine Debris Program

full-time staff added including a new Park Manager, Animal Care Specialist and Communications Director



sea turtle nests excavated and data reported to FWC



junior friends meetings servicing 54 students -- completing community service projects for the Park including a beach clean-up, mangrove clean-up, and painting turtle stakes for turtle season



awards presented to Friends of MacArthur Beach for: Environmental Stewardship from the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce and The 2022 Florida Project Learning Tree Partner of The Year

# 3,231

visitors paddled in paradise with High Point Paddle Adventures at MacBeach

20,763

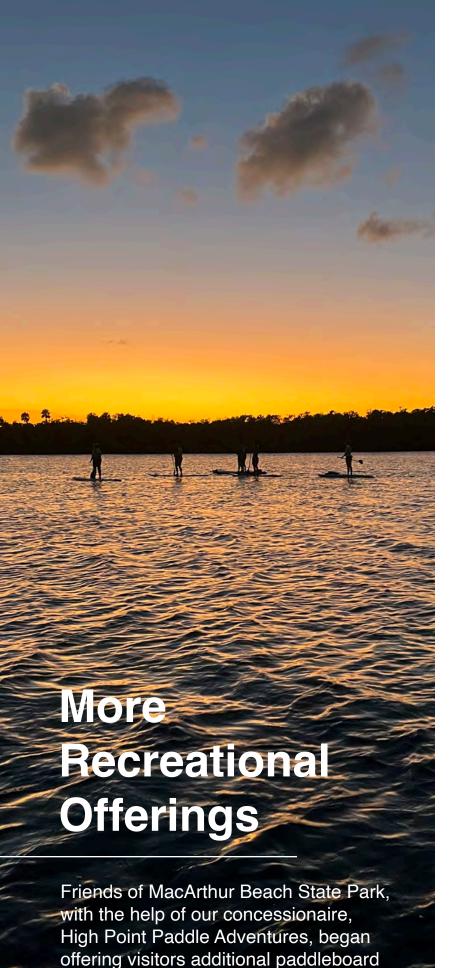
students reached in Virtual Field Trips

97 campers who spent the summer learning from our 17 counselors and staff

acres of exotic plants removed from the Park through the Robert J. Trulaske Jr. Family Foundation Grant

Because of you, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park has been back in action and better than ever in 2022.
Thanks to your support, we have been able to give you MORE of what you love at MacBeach.





activities such as yoga and moonlight

paddling.



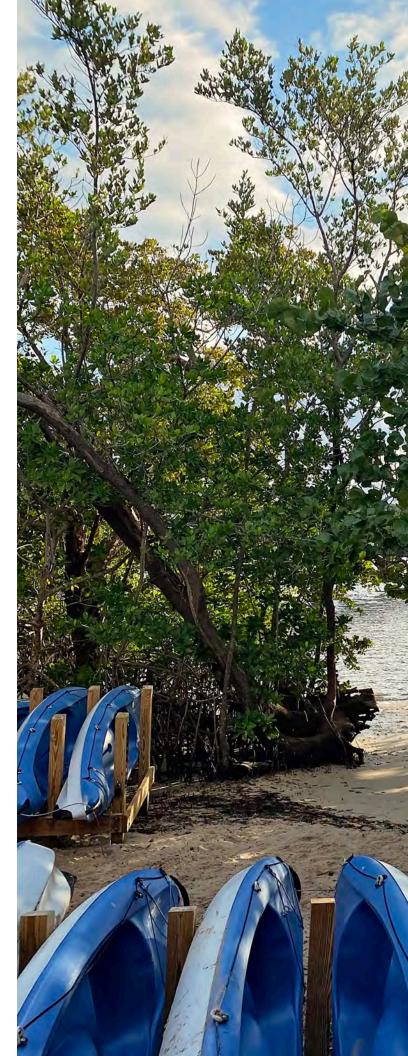
# PADDLE BOARD YOGA

A certified yoga instructor teaches beginning to intermediate paddling technique as well as a simple and approachable yoga postures on the paddle board.



# FULL MOON PADDLE

Visitors can now go out for a moonlight paddle around beautiful Lake Worth lagoon. Participants will paddle into the sunset and watch the moon rise from Munyon Island. Over 3,000 visitors paddled in paradise by day or by moonlight with High Point Paddle Adventures at MacBeach.



# NEW KAYAK FLEET

Additionally, a new and larger kayak fleet offered visitors an upgraded experience to our most popular park service.



# More Accessibility

The beach should be for everyone, and thanks to our three beach wheelchairs and ADA Tram all park guests can enjoy the sand and sea at our ADA-friendly beach.



## **ADA TRAM**

The park received an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible electric tram to transport guests to the beachaccessible wheelchairs at the park. The tram can fit up to six people in it and has a deck and ramp perfectly designed for a wheelchair to board. It was gifted to MacArthur through a grant from Florida Power & Light Co. and is built to travel the terrain of the trails and boardwalk that wind through MacArthur's mangrove estuary and beach.



# **BEACH WHEELCHAIRS**

The park's WaterWheels floating beach wheelchairs were donated by the State Parks Foundation and the Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation. Now, up to three wheelchair-using guests at a time can enjoy the park's popular beach, and even swim, with the addition of the new water-friendly wheelchairs.







Because of community partnerships we were able to serve **MORE** students and educators in 2022.

Arthur Beach S

MacAthur Beach at









Thanks to the Robert J. Trulaske Jr. Family Foundation Grant we removed over 18 acres of exotic plants from the Park and purchased materials needed to propagate native plants to replenish those areas.

**VoLo Foundation** helped support education and transportation costs for Palm Beach County students to come to the Park to experience our environmental education programs.

Thanks to **International Coastal Cleanup** the Park received support translating our Citizen Science Marine Debris Program into Spanish; including the CSDMP video, printed brochure materials and program materials, providing more access to those who want to participate in the program.

The Sharkey Family Foundation Donation supported education programming and the internship program, allowing college aged students to come from all over the country to participate in our internship program which provides students the unique opportunity to live onsite and gain hands-on experience in the areas of environmental education, park management, and learn what it means to work at and run a nonprofit.

In partnership with the Florida State Parks Foundation, the Fleming **Family Foundation** and **The Freed Foundation** provided the park funding to replace the needed aging hardware for our Nature Center Mangrove and Rock Reef tanks. This funding allowed a full re-design and install for the 600-gallon Reef Tank Marine Exhibit including all related filtration equipment, needed PVC parts, life support systems, acrylic polishing and Reef rebuild.

The Sea Turtle Grants Program, Batchelor Foundation, and the Florida State Parks Foundation provided tank renovations on the park's outdoor turtle tank.

A partnership with the **Palm Beach County School District**, the Robert and Mary Pew Public Education Fund and the Community Foundation provided teachers with summer time professional development workshops, extended field experiences to the park during the year for their class, and materials for their classrooms to connect the students to nature.

# Community Partnerships

In 2022, we forged new partnerships and built stronger collaborations from previous funders.

It has been wonderful to see you at the Park this year. We are thrilled to have reached so many visitors in 2022 and grateful to see all events and activities resuming after an unpredictable couple of years.





MacArthur Beach State Park hosted the Florida State Parks District 5 Volunteer Appreciation Day where two of the park's volunteers, Stephanie Grant and Alicia Bickel, were recognized for their achievements and dedication to MacBeach.













In April, supporters of MacArthur Beach State Park attended the park's annual fundraiser, MacBeach Moments, at the North Palm Country Club. Guests celebrated 30 years of memories at MacArthur Beach. The event was filled with cocktails, dinner, live music and a special presentation by Benji Studt - a scientist and conservation photographer.









"This facility exemplifies our continued commitment to partnership between the Village of North Palm Beach and the Park, the new housing will attract top tier students and provide incredible learning opportunities for interns to give back to our community."

> - Deborah Searcy, Mayor of North Palm Beach, Friends of MacArthur Beach Board Member









In December, we hosted our inaugural Santa at MacBeach event at the park. Families enjoyed pictures with Santa, holiday crafts, and a marionette show.





# Together, we can do so much more.

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on volunteers, donations, grants, and memberships to continue our important work. Your donation contribution goes directly to support programs and services that make our Park the best it can be. Thank you for being a member, for donating, and for loving our Park as much as we do! The Park continues to thrive and be a beloved destination, center for learning, and place of beauty, thanks to your generosity.

### VISIT

Stop by and spend some time kayaking, standup paddle boarding, relaxing on the beach, snorkeling the rock reef, or hiking one of our trails.

### VOLUNTEER

We're always looking for new volunteers! Meet new people, gain work experience, and use your talents to help preserve our natural resources.

### **SPONSOR**

Sponsor one of our special events like our outdoor festival or annual fundrasier.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Your annual Membership supports the programs and activities at the Park.

### **DONATE/PARTNER**

All funds raised go directly into helping programs and projects at the Park, like our Environmental Education Programs. Your contribution helps us continue our mission to preserve the Park for future generations.

### LIKE

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram @macarthurbeach to stay up to date with our latest news, photos, and events.

For more ways to get involved, email us at friends@macarthurbeach.org or call us at 561-776-7449



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park 10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive North Palm Beach, FL 33408 www.macarthurbeach.org