



July 17, 2023

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
10216 Lee Rd
Boynton Beach, FL
33473

Proposal for Installation of Pocket Refuges in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the City of Delray Beach

Pocket Refuges are areas in the urban landscape that serve as a refuge for native wildlife and an oasis for people to escape from the bustle of city life. They can serve as areas of solitude or of gathering, of meditation or of celebration, and as places to disconnect from the bustle of city life while reconnecting with our environment. For many urban residents, Pocket Refuges are a wonderful place to develop an appreciation and connection to nature. Pocket Refuges provide the necessary elements for the survival of a variety of native wildlife such as food, water, and shelter. As native habitat becomes increasingly scarce, it becomes more imperative to ensure that wildlife can find these necessities. Establishing pockets of native habitat within an increasingly urbanized landscape helps ease the pressure that many native species experience. In coordination with the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA), the City of Delray Beach Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Sustainability propose to implement Pocket Refuges sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the City's property at Delray Swim and Tennis Center (2350 Jaeger Dr, Delray Beach, FL 33444), Lakeview Park (1100 Lake Dr, Delray Beach, FL 33444), Old School Square (95 NE 1st Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444), Orchard View Park (4060 Old Germantown Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33445), Pine Grove Park (1041 SW 7th Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444), and the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum (170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33444). With implementation dates to be determined.

The Pocket Refuges will be funded by USFWS and NWRA with a total budget of \$5500. It will consist exclusively of native plants and trees, with some decorative features and signage designating the space as a native habitat and describing the importance of human connection to nature. NWRA and the City of Delray Beach will codesign the Pocket Refuge and coordinate with USFWS and local organizations to publicize the project and organize a public event for installation and planting. In addition to providing a public space for the enjoyment of nature and contributing to native habitat restoration,



the planting of the Pocket Refuge will be an excellent opportunity for community engagement and participation in civic life. The proposed implementation date will be determined pending approval from the city commission.

The desired outcome of this project is to increase access to outdoor space to the community, provided critical habitat for native species, increase awareness of the importance of native flora and fauna and engage the citizens of Delray in a project that will have lasting benefits to the community.

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