

Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative
P.O.B 787
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The P.E.O. International organized in 1864 in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, by seven young women on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan University, is a non-profit organization. P.E.O. has helped more than 125,000* women pursue educational goals by providing more than \$435 million* in educational assistance, making a difference in women's lives through six philanthropies and a foundation.* as of June 2024.

The Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative was brought to our attention by Greg Braun who spoke to our P.E.O. group. Our members agreed by motion to be in favor of the Loxa-Lucie Initiative. The Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative envisions a protected ecological corridor that will connect the sources of the Loxahatchee River and St. Lucie River and form a preserve for plant and wildlife, connecting a land mass of nearly 70,000 acres. In order to permanently restore historical waterflows and protect existing natural lands in an ecological corridor for native endangered plants and wildlife between two state parks.

These are the headwaters of both the Loxahatchee River, and the South Fork of the St Lucie River. Thanks to a visionary group of conservationists in Hobe Sound-Jupiter Island Garden Club members, a critical parcel of 138 acres was saved from rampant development. The property which fronts Bridge Road for two miles, sits between the Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park to the North, and Jonathan Dickinson State Park to the South.

The acquisition of the 138 acres is Phase 1 of a multi-phase, long range plan to create the Green Corridor, which would run south all the way to the Everglades and north of Lake Okeechobee. Our understanding is that the goal of Phase 1 is to permanently restore historical water flows, and protect natural lands in this ecological corridor for native plants and wildlife. Development of home sites would interrupt surface and subsurface hydrologic flow and animal movement between the state parks. Additionally, water flow would be impeded to the already endangered Indian River Lagoon system, known to be most biologically diverse estuary in the country.

We wish to express our endorsement of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative and our appreciation for their efforts to protect these unique lands that we are blessed to have in Martin County.

Jean Anne Morrow
President of P.E.O. Chapter P
Stuart, Florida
February, 2025