

Dear Supporters,

The SE Quad Parcel is Coming to Life—Thanks to You!

Thanks to your generosity and support, the Southeast Quad Parcel at the Celery Fields is transforming from a dream into a thriving wildlife habitat and a welcoming space for our community.

Phase One is fully funded and well underway: one third of the over 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and plants to be planted are already in the ground, creating pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks, and a pollinator meadow. The first tree—the Gumbo Limbo—is rooted and growing strong along with over 40 native plant species that provide food and shelter for hundreds of birds, butterflies, and insects.



In just a few months, shaded seating areas, a pond with an expansive littoral shelf, and a nature-viewing platform will complete the SE parcel’s exciting transformation. Site Manager Brian Aikins of Willis Smith Construction anticipates that the SW Quad will be completed by May 2026.

We invite you to join us next month to experience the Quads first-hand at the Sarasota Audubon’s ***Fly Wild! Festival*** on **Saturday, February 21, from 9 am – 2 pm**. Held at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center, this family-friendly event features guided walks, children’s scavenger hunt, interactive exhibits, and trolley rides to the Quads!

This extraordinary transformation is possible because of you. Your commitment protects the Celery Fields from development and helps create a beautiful, native, and lasting place for both wildlife and people. And the work isn’t finished. Your continued support will power the next phases—transforming the SW Quad into a welcoming passive park with restrooms, picnic areas, and a nature-based playground, and enhancing the NE Quad by improving water quality and habitat through new trees and native vegetation around the stormwater pond.

On behalf of Big Waters Land Trust, thank you for investing in this vision to improve nature and people’s enjoyment of nature—we can’t wait for you to see it in person!

With gratitude,
Shalla Ashworth
Director of Philanthropy

*photos provided by: Jeanne Dubi, Director of Special Projects, Sarasota Audubon Society

