

Society | Broward County

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Clean up project makes paddling possible

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 Sun Sentinel Society Scene

Hugh Taylor Birch State Park visitors can once again canoe, kayak and paddleboard along the park's 800-foot moat after the completion of a three month-long cleanout effort that involved removing plant debris and muck that clogged the waterway.

Volunteer groups partnered with the Friends of Birch State Park to get the work done, and a \$37,000 ECO Broward grant from the Community Foundation of Broward helped to fund the effort.

"Being able to paddle through the moat adds a sense of excitement and discovery," Friends of Birch State Park board chairman Jim Ellis said in a statement. "What was once completely impassable due to years of debris now has several feet of water flowing through it again for the first time in many years."



DOWNTOWN PHOTO/COURTESY

Top left, the moat clean-out process yielded a wide variety of artifacts from years gone by. Top right, Friends Executive Director Gale Butler with Community Foundation of Broward Charitable Funds Manager Angelica Rosas, Park Manager Jennifer Roberts with Friends of Birch Board Chair Jim Ellis and CFB board member Paige Hyatt with CFB Board Chairman Steve Hudson. Above, CFB board member Bacardi Jackson and her children prepare to enter the newly cleaned-out moat at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.