

# Moat Clean-out a Success at Birch State Park

## Friends Group Raises Funds to Restore Moat at Birch State Park

The Friends of Birch State Park recently completed the clean-out of the park's 800-foot long moat; it had previously been clogged with debris and muck and is now once again open for recreational use with canoes, kayaks and paddle boards. The clean-out took place over a three-month period and involved removing large plant debris followed by a de-mucking process that resulted in harvested organic material that can be used as fill material elsewhere in the park. Numerous volunteer groups assisted in this effort, including those representing Bank of America, Citrix and Progressive Insurance.

The clean-out was made possible in large part by a \$37,000 ECO Broward grant provided by the following funds at the Community Foundation of Broward: The Wil and Susan Groaton Fund, Rick and Rita Case Fund and Community Impact Fund. A grant from Bank of America also assisted in this effort, as did dollars raised by the Friends of Birch State Park through fundraising events.

"Being able to paddle through the moat adds a sense of excitement and discovery," says Friends of Birch State Park

board chair, Jim Ellis. "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." Park manager Jennifer Roberts agrees. "We are grateful to the Friends of Birch State Park for their advocacy and fundraising because it helps make environmental restoration projects like this possible," says Roberts.

For more information, visit [birchstatepark.org](http://birchstatepark.org) or call Friends of Birch State Park Executive Director Gale Butler at 954-566-0660. ■



Friends executive director Gale Butler with CFB 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 chair Steve Hudson