



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Salt River Bay National
Historical Park and
Ecological Preserve
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Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve News Release

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Native Plant Community Restoration at Salt River Bay May 21, 2019

SALT RIVER BAY – Beginning on May 21, National Park Service (NPS) contractors will continue park project to restore native plant communities on the east side of Salt River Bay NHP & EP (SARI). The project work area is on NPS's 72-acre parcel adjacent to Estate Judith's Fancy where invasive non-native plant species' populations cover over 75-80% of the area. Discarded landscape plants and cuttings from surrounding area have invaded the area over the last 50+ years. In 2012, NPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team, and NPS Youth Conservation Corps high school students initiated exotic plant control in the park and began native plant restoration. With contractor support NPS will continue to control targeted invasive non-native plants that displace native plant species and alter plant community diversity. These species alter nutrient and fire patterns, modify geomorphology, hydrology, and biogeochemistry and, reduce the site's recreational uses.



To date NPS has planted over 1200 native plants grown locally into the parklands on the east side of the bay. The plant survivorship is between 40-60% and many of the trees have grown to over 20 feet tall! However, these trees continue to be crowded out by non-native invasive African guinea grass. Over the next few weeks, an NPS contractor will target non-native plants such as guinea grass, tantan, and rubber vine or purple allamanda, throughout the previously disturbed landscape. More native trees and shrubs will be planted to improve erosion control and plant diversity in the coastal area.

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NPS is committed to maintaining and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of Salt River Bay. We are continuing our invasive non-native plant maintenance program to ensure these nuisance species do not re-establish, and native species are protected and habitat improved for plants, fruits, wildlife, and recreational uses of the landscape.

The immediate goals of control / management of invasive non-native plants are:

- Manage and reduce the populations of invasive non-native plants found on NPS lands within SARI.
- Improve conditions for native flora and fauna, improve recreational uses, and reduce fire threat in tall non-native grasses.
- Increase the public and territorial conservation agencies' awareness of environmentally sound management practices and the potential threats from invasive non-native plant species.
- Work with our park neighbors to control continued introduction of invasive non-native plants to the park.

Details of plant control targets and target plant out species are in the project's Environmental Impact Statement:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=374&projectID=10033&documentID=35937>
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/REDS/factsheets/0178fact.pdf>

Additional information regarding herbicide use can be found at the following links:

The EPA has completed their review of the comments on the re-registration of glyphosate. They have re-affirmed the agency stance and put forth an interim decision for public comment. It looks like they will be updating the label with regards to ecological impacts. You can find the press release here:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-next-step-review-process-herbicide-glyphosate-reaffirms-no-risk-public-health>

Canada Health provides FAQs about use of glyphosate:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/request-special-review-glyphosate-herbicides-containing-polyethoxylated-tallowamine/frequently-asked-questions.html>

For further information please contact Clayton Pollock, Biologist, 340/773-1460 x 238, Zandy Hillis-Starr, Chief Resource Management, 340/773-1460 x 235 or Brian Lockwood, Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team Liaison at 786-249-0073.

The National Park Service thanks all of our community members and friends for 27 years of support for Salt River Bay National Historical Park & Ecological Preserve

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 National Parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

www.nps.gov/sari

