

IMAGINE!



IMAGINE! The Indian River Lagoon so clear that you can wade into it and see your toes wiggling in the sand. It's possible *if we continue to make progress.*

Marine Resources Council (MRC) recently traveled the entire Indian River Lagoon region and asked more than 100 community leaders, MRC members and other people: *What's possible? What's next?*

With their input, MRC developed a community vision, shared in the pages to follow. We shared that vision at the first MRC Low Impact Development (LID) Conference in October 2021, at the Center for Collaboration, Rockledge. The conference brought together 180 elected and professional leaders from 25 municipalities and counties, from Volusia to Orange to Martin Counties and everywhere in between. LID is an important step in our journey toward a community vision of returning the region to balance. *First, as we traveled, we were told, that **without more needed change**, the Indian River Lagoon region remains on a cataclysmic trajectory that will collapse our regional economy.*

But we also heard *how much is already being done.*

And...we were told to *collaborate with the community* to communicate clearly, concisely and consistently *all that is being done already; what more needs to happen and what each person may do to help.* **Powerful community collaboration**, we were told, is *what is needed to alter our current trajectory, balance our natural and built environments and create a more resilient ecology and economy.* **IMAGINE!**

With continuing and growing support from the community, we hope to achieve all that we have set out to accomplish and that **one day soon** people will be able to **see their toes wiggling in the Indian River Lagoon.** Thank you.



Sincerely,

Leesa Souto, Ph.D.
Executive Director

*This message made possible
in collaboration with:*



IMAGINE

It's time for a SEA Change: Science + Education + Action



Ais Lookout Point Park

MRC headquarters campus, located along the lagoon in Palm Bay, demonstrates an exemplary restored living shoreline and provides a wonderful place to learn. Arrange a tour.



Lagoon House

Ted Moorhead Lagoon House environmental learning center anchors MRC's headquarters campus and provides a beacon for lagoon community collaboration. Arrange a tour.



Preserve Nursery

Our licensed mangrove nursery and conservation campus at Walking Tree Preserve near Sebastian will become even more amazing with your support. Arrange a tour.

From our communications with the community, we heard from **POWERFUL PEOPLE** about **POWERFUL SCIENCE**, and the value of a **POWERFUL VISION** and **POWERFUL COMMUNICATION**, including recognizing the **POWER** of our **KIDS** and special **PLACES**.



POWERFUL PEOPLE:

Paul Kroegel of Sebastian stirred the collaboration that led to the creation of our first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island, which is in

the Indian River Lagoon. MRC leaders drew inspiration in collaborating with many people to form the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program and the resulting Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which now guides the region.

POWERFUL VISION:

Brevard County Commissioner Curt Smith, vice-chair, Indian River Lagoon Council, signs a new community

collaborative vision, which was drafted with input from 100 community members from across the entire region.



POWERFUL SCIENCE:

Tracy Siani of Jupiter Island has been an **MRC LagoonWatch citizen scientist** for nearly 30 years. Anyone can become a citizen scientist, including students. MRC provides training and plans to mobilize many more citizen scientists in the years to come, while broadening testing.



POWERFUL KIDS:

Children love to explore the lagoon. They want to be a part of the solution. MRC offers **Castaway Summer Camp** and will be expanding camp

offerings in 2022. MRC will continue reaching out to school districts to develop STREAM: Science, Tech, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math curriculums while making lagoon learning fun.

IMAGINE what we can accomplish together.
SaveTheIRL.org



POWERFUL PLACE:

Ted Moorhead recently visited **Ted Moorhead Lagoon House**, the MRC headquarters in Palm Bay at Ais Lookout Point Park overlooking the Indian River Lagoon. Ted told the story of how 20 years ago he organized the collaborative initiative that made our headquarters possible.



MRC is a member supported, non profit charitable organization.

When you donate to MRC, you are adding your voice to the chorus of community members who truly care about the future of our Indian River Lagoon region.

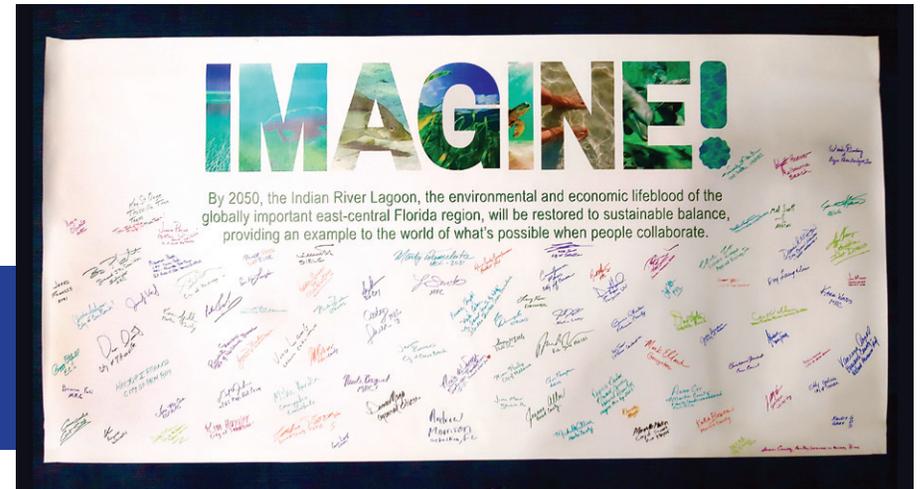
Help Create a SEA Change: Science + Education + Action

Please, **if you are able, provide an annual donation now** and help make possible the SEA change that is necessary to restore the Indian River Lagoon's natural and built environments to sustainable balance.

Thanks to member and community support here is what is coming in 2022:

- **The next Indian River Lagoon Report Card;** *we're crunching the data now!*
- **Sat., Feb. 12 "Love Our Lagoon";** *Celebration and Conservation Awards.*
- **Summer Low Impact Development Conference;** *how to implement LID.*
- **1,000 Points of Life;** *expanding regional citizen science collaboratively.*
- **Sat., Sept. 17 International Coastal Cleanup Day;** *on the causeways.*
- **New plans for our MRC Palm Bay campus;** *help us as we envision the future.*
- **New plans for Walking Tree Preserve;** *10-acre MRC campus near Sebastian.*
- **Monthly Lunch and Learns;** *as well as many regional outreach events.*
- **And learn about Lagooniverse;** *a fun new way to explore our lagoon.*

IMAGINE how much more
we can accomplish together.



POWERFUL VISION: Community leaders attending the MRC Low Impact Development Conference were the first to sign the Indian River Lagoon region community vision. Anyone is welcome to sign. To arrange a signing, please reach out to us, as we will be traveling the region to share our vision.

**Please Donate *and* Become
a Member Now!**

Online at SaveTheIRL.org

By mail to: MRC, 3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Or call us: 321.725.7775; *we would love to speak with you.*

MRC Federal Tax ID#: 59-3030066

*(If you wish to remain anonymous, please note that when you donate)
(Always feel free to request receipts or summaries regarding your annual donations)*

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