

**2026 Symposium Session
Description and Participants**

Time Frame	Session Title	Session Description	Session Participants	Location
Thursday, February 12, 2026 6 - 8 pm	Our Common Ground: Shaping Jacksonville's Environmental Story, Block by Block	<p>Ready to make a difference right in your own backyard?</p> <p>Join us for an evening dedicated to helping you understand, protect, and improve the environment you live in. You'll get to engage directly with city personnel, environmental experts, and community leaders who will show you how to use resources like the Resilient Jacksonville Plan to identify and fund projects in your own neighborhood.</p> <p>This is your chance to turn ideas into action and help shape the future of your community. Come learn how to protect the places you love and find the resources to make it happen."</p>	Latonia Batiste, Ivy Environmental; Tiffany Bess, Apple Rabbit Compost; Karen Blutcher, JEA; Monica Cichowlas, COJ; Trey Ford, St. Johns Riverkeeper; Amy Franqui, UF/IFAS Extension Duval County; Johtsna Harris, Change Narrative; Dr. Jenny Hinton, COJ; Stephanie Means, UF/IFAS Extension Duval County; Kristopher Smith, LISC	The Jessie
Friday Symposium Sessions - UNF University Center				
8:45 a - 10:15 a	State of the River and Morning Keynote	Morning welcomes, SORR Exec Summary and release of the Clean Air North Florida Climate Action Plan	Dr. Gerry Pinto - JU, Ashantae Green - COJ	Grand Ballroom
BREAK				

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10:30 a - 11:45 a	Research in Action: Insights from UNF IERE Consortium Members	Bio-Inspired Engineering for Energy Applications	Jennifer Wesely, Ph.D., Christopher Oshman, Ph.D.	1097
10:30 a - 11:45 a	Climate Action Plan & Resilience Plan Update	A look at the newly released Climate Action Plan for North Florida, along with updates for the Resilient Jacksonville Plan released in 2024.	Ann Coglianese, COJ CRO, Ashantae Green - COJ Sustainability, Carly Smith - COJ Sustainability, Amanda Polematidis - Hanson	1073
10:30 a - 11:45 a	Septic Tank Vulnerability Assessment	Sharing the results of the vulnerability assessment and how it can be utilized	Tricia Kyzar - UF Ctr for Coastal Solutions	1058-2
10:30 a - 11:45 a	State of the River Report - Deep Dive	Dr. Pinto and members of the SORR team will provide a more detailed look at the report and the information	Dr. Gerry Pinto - JU	1058-1
BREAK				
12:00 p - 1:15 p	Luncheon Keynote	Luncheon keynote and other announcements	Jothsna Harris	Grand Ballroom
BREAK				
1:30 p - 2:15 p	Innovating for Impact: Research Highlights from IERE Seed Grant Recipients	Monitoring Trace Metals in Northeast Florida Water Samples	Ryan Shamet, Ph.D., Willis Jones, Ph.D.	1097
1:30 p - 2:15 p	City to City: Sustainability and Resilience in Action	Join resilience and sustainability officers from cities across the State for a dynamic panel discussion on addressing urban challenges through collaboration, innovation, and community engagement. Explore strategies for improving infrastructure, building partnerships, advancing priorities that work in diverse city environments.	Ashantae Modorator, Potential Speakers from St. Pete, Winter Park, Miami, Orange County, Palm Beach	1073
1:30 p - 2:15 p	JEA Water Purification Plant	JEA's Ryan Popko and Black & Veatch's Jo Ann Jackson share how JEA is investing in a sustainable future by using advanced multi-barrier technology to purify the water our customers use before returning it to the aquifer.	Ryan Popko -JEA, Jo Ann Jackson - Black & Veatch	1058-1
1:30 p - 2:15 p	Downtown Development (Activating the Waterfront)	Taking a look at sustainable development around downtown projects and activating the riverfront and how public private partnerships are impacting these developments	Laura Phillips Edgecombe - DuPont Fund Dylan Ford - GWJAX	1058-2

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2:30 p - 3:15 p	Nature and Health Center Research Initiatives	Graduate students sharing information on four topics: "Nature's glow: The restorative quality of a brief indoor nature exposure", "I Think I Can So I Will: The Role of Perceived Behavioral Control in Predicting Intentions to Reduce Plastic Use", "Feeding intentions: gender moderates the effect of the theory of planned behavior on meat consumption intentions", "Warm glow after environmentally friendly and unfriendly behavior"	Sydney Barrett, M.S. (IERE Research Assoc.), Katie Wiliknson (Grad Student), Abbey Young (Grad Student), Alex Nakamura (Grad Student)	1097
2:30 p - 3:15 p	Securing Our Water Future	Join us for a panel discussion of north Florida utilities and regulators on the recent North Florida Water Supply Cooperative to identify how north Florida will meet water supply goals for the environment (MFLs) as well as potable water supplies. The cooperative was made up of 4 utilities (JEA, CCUA, SJCUD, and GRU) and 3 regulatory bodies (SRWMD, SJRWMD, and FDEP) to identify cooperative regional projects that would address north Florida's future water needs. We will discuss the collaboration process, how decisions were made to optimize benefits for competing interests, and some of the identified projects.	Shayne Wood (moderator) - CDM Smith Jeremy Johnston - CCUA Mike Devoroznak - JEA Keith Pari - SJRWMD	1058-2
2:30 p - 3:15 p	Compound Flood Model	Session will provide an in-depth look at the City's first ever probabilistic compound flood model. The model provides us with a comprehensive understanding of flooding in Jacksonville, which can be used to inform planning processes and reduce risks.	Anne Coglianese (COJ) and Guillermo Simon (Halff)	1058-1
2:30 p - 3:15 p	Creative Engagement: Public-Private Partnerships for Environmental Education and Action- Interactive	Explore how the Jacksonville Sustainability Office leverages public-private partnerships to engage the community through creative initiatives like Jacksonville Minecraft Build Challenge, Lights Out NEFL, and an Earth Inspired art gallery. A brief, interactive look at how play, advocacy art, and collaboration support sustainability education and action.	Ashantae Green, Elizabeth Fillippi, Erin Kendrick, Tiffany Bess	1073
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3:30 p - 4:30 p	Our Common Ground in Action: Community Driven Environmental Stewardship	Designed and facilitated to inspire reflection and storytelling among Symposium participants, inviting them to explore and articulate the personal “why” behind their commitment to environmental sustainability.	Jothsna Harris	Grand Ballroom

LEGEND

Research Track

Policy and Regulatory Track

Applied Science / Project Track

Community Stewardship Track