Resilient Ribault

ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER® | **LISC JACKSONVILLE**

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

- Partnered with Ribault High School on a **yearlong water quality Backpack Program** and provided **summer camp programming** at Ribault Middle School.

- Hosted a **community service day at Sallye B. Mathis Elementary** to beautify the grounds at the school.

- Continued our **Junior Riverkeeper afterschool program** at Sallye B. Mathis Elementary.

- Organized an art contest at Sallye B. Mathis Elementary in support of the City of Jacksonville's anti-litter campaign.

- Partnered with **Eartha's Farm & Market** to deliver the **River and Roots** education program to educate middle and high school students about sustainable agriculture and the adjacent Moncrief Creek.
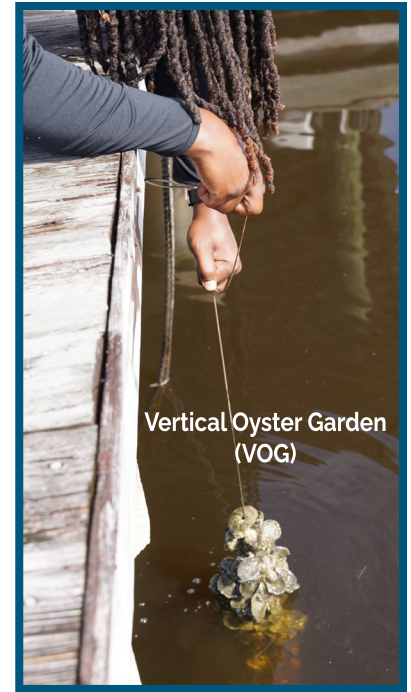
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Led **13 guided Ribault River boat trips** for **236 residents and community leaders**.

- Coordinated **21 park and neighborhood cleanups** with partners and community members.

- Sponsored the first annual **Oyster Fest** organized by our community partners at Riverview Collective Community Organization (RCCO).

- **Organized Historic African American Cemetery Tours** with Ennis Davis from The Jaxson to inform residents and participants and celebrate the rich history of the area.

- LISC secured a grant for Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation CDC for **oral history interviews with residents** and funding for a small grants program that will build upon the capacity-building workshop series.

- Provided a series of educational capacity-building workshops focused on governance, fundraising, and communications to **empower and strengthen community organizations in the project area**.

- LISC and Metropolitan AME Church co-sponsored a site visit New Orleans for residents to **learn from other successful initiatives**.

Nature-Based Solutions

- **Installed an oyster reef** with community partners at Riverview Park to filter and improve water quality and provide habitat for oysters and other aquatic organisms.

- Deployed **200+ Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGs)** across **25 residential and public dock sites** to provide additional habitat for oysters and demonstrate the benefits of nature-based solutions.

- Partnered with faculty and students at **Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute** to monitor and assess VOGs for oyster recruitment and to collect water quality data.

- Helped initiate planning by Jacksonville Parks and the Resiliency Office for a **living shoreline restoration and rain garden project** at Riverview Park.

- Continued to organize service projects at Riverview Park and the Ribault River Preserve as part of the City's Adopt-A-Park program. This included the installation of a **native plant garden** with community partners at Riverview Community Center and plans for a walking trail at the Preserve.

- Partnered with JaxParks and residents to plant **184 trees at 10 parks** in the project area.

Vertical Oyster Garden (VOG)

Environmental Quality Assessment

- Continued to monitor incinerator ash remediation and septic tank phase-out projects to ensure they are fully funded and on schedule for completion.

- Received a grant from the Environmental Protection Board to expand our Environmental Quality Assessment Program to to **collect data, evaluate environmental and water quality problems, and identify pollution sources and potential solutions** in the Ribault River and Moncrief Creek.

- Our scientific research team conducted **23 field visits**, collecting **276 water samples to test for nutrients, bacteria, and other contaminants.**

  - 225 samples were tested for fecal bacteria (E. coli and Enterococci) and 51 were tested for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus).

  - 130 bacteria samples and 8 nutrient samples exceeded water quality standards for healthy waterways.

  - Due to the presence of incinerator ash sites along the Ribault River and Moncrief Creek, samples are being analyzed for heavy metals and other toxic substances associated with the ash. Fish tissue and sediment samples will also be tested for these contaminants.

Moncrief Creek