

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommend approval of Pepper Ranch Preserve Trail names selected by volunteers and other user groups.

OBJECTIVE: Name Pepper Ranch Preserve trails.

CONSIDERATION: The Conservation Collier ordinance is silent as to the procedure for naming specific trails on preserves. County policy advises that County-owned facilities are to be named based on the function they perform or services they provide to the public and that the specific location, including adjacent right-of-way, body of water or any prominent landmark, can be included in the name. County policy for naming facilities after persons is different and very specific, requiring a significant, direct, local benefit and application supported by at least 1,000 Collier County residents.

A group of volunteers called the ‘Mudcutters’ have been building mountain bike and hiking trails for public use since 2012 at the Pepper Ranch Preserve. These trails were shown in the Final Management Plan conceptual map that was approved in 2011 by the Board (see attached map). The Mudcutters have put in over 300 hours of volunteer time and provided all materials for development of the trails. This group intends to continue to help maintain them in the future. They have suggested 4 specific names for the trails they have created.

- 1) Kite Flight Trail
- 2) Black Bear Berm
- 3) Panther Pass
- 4) Go 4 Tortoise Trail

Staff also requested public input to suggest names from other user groups such as hunters, horseback riders and weekend visitors over a 6 week time period. The trail naming was advertised on the Conservation Collier website, Facebook page, at the Pepper Ranch visitor center, and through emails to user groups.

The final suggested names for 3 other major trails that will serve horseback riders, hikers, and hunters are as follows.

Trail near Visitor center (Goal – to keep the history alive)

- Old Cabin Trail (The Pepper Family once used this trail to access their old cabin)
- Pepper Family Trail
- Gopher Ridge Trail
- Fish Camp Trail
- Old Pepper Cabin Trail

Horseback riding/ Hiking trail center of Preserve

- Flatwoods Trail
- Ribbon Snake Trail
- Tusawilla Trail (refers to a sandy soil type found in the area)
- Buttonbush Trail

- Winding Willow Trail
- Royal Fern Trail
- Alligator Run Trail
- Seminole Trace Trail
- Calusa Trace Trail

Horseback riding/ Hiking trail southwest area of the trail

- Big Hammock Trail
- Prairie Hammock Trail
- Lost Spur Trail
- Palomino Run Trail
- Sunflower Trace Trail
- Cracker Hammock Trail

RECOMMENDATION: That the CCLAAC recommend names for Conservation Collier Pepper Ranch Preserve trails from the above user-generated suggestions.

PREPARED BY: Christal Segura, Environmental Specialist, Conservation Collier Program