

Land Management Report for Preserves
Prepared for the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
October 13, 2014

1. Cocohatchee Creek -AS

Exotic Removal Status: The preserve is in a stable state regarding exotics. After October, staff will be doing spot exotic removal as needed. A plant survey was recently done. The Botanist recommended that the scrub area be burned to maintain the rare plants found there. The Urban Interface Strike Team leader for the Florida Forest Service visited and agreed that the area could be burned. This will require a public meeting and a revision to the Land Management Plan.

Visitation: Approximately a dozen visitors per day.

Management Plan: A 5-year update to the Land Management Plan was approved by in May 2014. Changes were not substantial.

Projects: A plant survey done in August 2104 found several rare plants, identified some exotic plants and made management recommendations.

Major Issues: No major issues.

2. Logan Woods -AS

Exotic Removal Status: The preserve is in steady state regarding exotics. A plant survey identified some additional plants to monitor and remove. Many have already been removed by hand pulling. In October, staff will start spot herbicide treatments as needed. The Botanist doing the plant survey recommended the use of prescribed fire to maintain the native habitat. A visit by the leader of the Urban Interface Strike Team of the Florida Forest Service confirmed that the property can be burned.

Visitation: Visitation during August and September has been infrequent as the trail has been under water.

Management Plan: A 5-year update to the Land Management Plan was approved in May 2014. Changes were not substantial. A neighborhood meeting and change to the Land Management Plan are needed to initiate prescribed fire.

Projects: No current projects

Major Issues: No major issues

3. Otter Mound -AS

Exotic Removal Status: The preserve is in a relatively steady state regarding exotics, with coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) being the ongoing concern. After October, staff will be doing spot exotic removal as needed.

Visitation: Approx. 25 visitors per weeks with more visitations occurring during the winter than summer.

Management Plan: A 5-year update to the Land Management Plan was approved in May 2014. The substantial change was the addition of a Tree Management Plan.

Projects:

- Remove debris piles and re-mulch trail – done Sept 2014.
- Tree Survey – Hoping for help from FGCU students.

Major Issues: None at present.

4. Alligator Flag -CS

Exotic Removal Status: In maintenance state. One maintenance event done a year as well as landscaping along bike trail

Visitation: Trails currently underwater

Management Plan: 5 year Update due this year

Projects: none

Major Issues: Trash (beer cans and bottles), bike rack stolen, bench vandalized

5. Nancy Payton -CS

Exotic Removal Status: treating constant re-emergence of natal grass - treating 3 times a year but seed source remains - neighboring properties not treating or managing as well as SFWMD canal edges

Visitation: none- not officially open to the public- neighbors walk firebreaks

Management Plan: 5 year update approved by BCC 9/23/14 16D3

Projects: Removing snags near firebreak edges and trails.

Major Issues:

- Building a parking area. After contracting for development of plans for a parking area with Grady Minor in 2012, staff met for a pre-application meeting with Growth Management and was advised that we would have to upgrade and maintain the access road in order to build a parking area. We do not have the funding for this, and it is further questionable whether we can fund building a road on property we do not own. Recently there was talk of developing a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) to put in and maintain a hard-top road over the SFWMD Easement. We could be asked to participate. No more information available at this time.
- Staff relocated an easement over the Hideout Golf Club's 2 acres from the south 30 feet to the north 30 feet. This easement allows us access from Blue Sage Drive across the Murphy property east into the preserve. In late Sept. we cleared a narrow trail over the easement to allow access from this southwest corner. Our plan is to mow the parking area and allow people to access the preserve as we continue to work on formal access issues.

6. Panther Walk -CS

Exotic Removal Status: In maintenance state - one contracted treatment a year.

Visitation: none at this time as the Trail is underwater.

Management Plan: Five-year update due in 2016.

Projects: none

Major Issues: This area is under review as part of the North Golden Gate Estates Watershed Improvement Plan.

7. Pepper Ranch -CS

Exotic Removal Status: Exotic Treatments are ongoing in 3 phases. Phase 1 was completed in 2012 over 722 acres and was retreated in 2014. Phase 2 was completed in 2013 over 500 acres. Phase 3 is underway now over approximately 500 acres.

Visitation: 2011/12 season: 141, 2012/13 season:204, 2013/14 season: 579 (this is not including youth or public hunts)

Management Plan: Five-year update due in 2017.

Projects:

- Boardwalk and overlook by Lake Trafford. Quotes have been received, working to determine entirety of funds needed including all permitting.
- Ground electrical system in Visitor Center and put in lightning protection. Lighting has struck the Visitor Center twice and damaged the camera system. This was not budgeted for, and we still do not have all the quotes in.
- Volunteer-led hike program. There are currently 3 volunteers interested. An October 11th Meeting is being held at Pepper Ranch to plan how to proceed. We may start by working with other organizations who set up hikes for members during the season.

Major Issues: Gates breaking down constantly. **Minor Issues:** Requests for uses not provided for in the Preserve Use Ordinance, i.e. Youth Hunt parking and camping in places other than the campground and parking lot, and a request to use the preserve for EMS rescue training exercise using dogs.

8. Red Maple Swamp -CS

Exotic Removal Status: Treating 50 acres once per year.

Visitation: not open

Management Plan: Interim Management Plan in place, Extended until May 2015

Projects: Ongoing exotic removal in western 50 acre portion.

Major Issues: none

9. Redroot- CS

Exotic Removal Status: In maintenance state- treat one time per year

Visitation: little to none

Management Plan: Due for 5 year update in 2016

Projects: prepared to do a prescribed burn but were unable to do it due to weather concerns, Eagle Scout to build benches

Major Issues:

- dumping on Limpkin Road-Code Enforcement involved
- Neighbors not maintaining exotics.
- Bench stolen

10.Rivers Road -CS

Exotic Removal Status: Initial Exotics Treatment done

Visitation: not open yet

Management Plan: approved by BCC 5/27/14 16D2

Projects: Eagle Scout to build benches, firebreaks are complete, 200 Air Potato Beetles have been released on neighboring properties

Major Issues: minor trespassing issues- neighbor addresses and looks over preserve on our behalf.

11.Winchester Head -CS

Exotic Removal Status: Treated a 5-acre parcel with significant Lygodium and Brazilian pepper infestation on 37th avenue. No other treatments started at this point.

Visitation: Unknown. The area is accessible but very wet and not conducive to visitation.

Management Plan: currently under an Interim Management Plan extended to May 2015.

Projects: none

Major Issues: This area is under review as part of the North Golden Gate Estates Watershed Improvement Plan.

12.Camp Keais Strand Properties

Exotic Removal Status: N/A

Visitation: N/A

Management Plan: IMP approved by Board on 5/27/14

Projects: N/A

Major Issues: N/A

13.Caracara Prairie -MH

Exotic Removal Status: 2 volunteers working 2 days a week in gopher tortoise recipient site area and sweep of entire property 1 time a year.

Visitation: Not high in summer – ditch connecting to CREW trail is very full.

Management Plan: Approved by the Board on Sept. 9, 2014.

Projects: Exotic plant sweep completed at end of September. Very wet, so mowing of firebreaks and trails will need to wait till Nov. or Dec.

Major Issues: No Major Issues

14.Freedom Park -MH

Exotic Removal Status: Too wet to treat in summer. Will treat in the next couple months when water dries up, then again right before rainy season.

Visitation: No hard numbers, but it's used a lot. Lots of visitors early in the morning and later in the evening.

Management Plan: Because of an FCT grant, Freedom Park, the Greenway Park, and the Greenway Preserve are all under the same FCT approved management plan. An amendment to the management plan was approved by the Board on 11/12/13.

Projects: No projects at this time

Major Issues: No major issues

15. Gordon River Greenway Park -MH

Exotic Removal Status: Initial treatment complete in entire park. Sub-contractor is starting last maintenance sweep soon. County contractor will pick up maintenance treatments 3 months later

Visitation: Grand opening November 6th!

Management Plan: Because of an FCT grant, Freedom Park, the Greenway Park, and the Greenway Preserve are all under the same FCT approved management plan. An amendment to the management plan was approved by the Board on 11/12/13.

Projects:

- Eagle Scout and FGCU class would like to do a planting next summer in our section of the Greenway adjacent to the airport. A lot of exotics were removed in this area.
- Security Fence at southern end of Preserve. Still in discussion stage.

Major Issues: No major issues

16. McIlvane Marsh -MH

Exotic Removal Status: N/A

Visitation: N/A

Management Plan: Board approved 2-year IMP extension on 9/24/13 16D9

Projects: N/A

Major Issues: No major issues

17. Railhead Scrub -MH

Exotic Removal Status: Looking good. Getting quarterly treatments on FPL easement. Everything else is annual.

Visitation: Preserve open for groups with advance planning depending on staff availability.

Management Plan: Final Management Plan is due for a 5 year review in June 2015.

Projects: No projects at this time.

Major Issues: Trespass, but still coordinating with Sheriff's Office.

18. Shell Island -MH

Exotic Removal Status: In very good condition. Staff is treating occasional re-growth.

Visitation: N/A

Management Plan: Final Management Plan is due for a 5 year review in June 2016.

Projects: None

Major Issues: None

19. Wet Woods -MH

Exotic Removal Status: Due for another exotics sweep this month

Visitation: N/A

Management Plan: Will have 5 year update for next CCLAAC meeting

Projects: None

Major Issues: N/A