

Land Management Report for Preserves  
Prepared for the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee  
April 11, 2016

### 1. Cocohatchee Creek -AS

**Management Status:** The preserve is in steady state regarding exotic plant species. Spot herbicide treatments are being done as needed focusing on poison ivy adjacent to the trail, Rosary pea, which has poisonous seeds, and Cogon grass. The creek was treated last summer for *Salvinia molesta* and was successful. Periodic treatment of the creek will likely be ongoing, as there is no way to avoid having exotic plants flow in.

**Visitation:** Substantial, based on garbage observed in cans and use of brochures.

**Management Plan:** The next 5 year update to the plan is due in 2019.

**Projects:** None at present.

**Major Issues:** No major issues.

### 2. Logan Woods -AS

**Management Status:** Hand pulling and spot herbicide treatments for exotic plants are ongoing. A volunteer has been helping in hand pulling portion of this effort.

**Visitation:** During winter months, visitation is moderate. Neighbors appear to utilize the preserve on a regular basis.

**Management Plan:** The next update for the management plan is due in 2019.

**Projects:** Re-mulching the trail. Staff works with the Collier County Sheriff's Weekend workers Program for this. A workday is being scheduled for May 2016.

**Major Issues:** Very wet trail conditions starting in summer and lasting through the winter. Neighboring properties have significant exotic seed source, and there is no legal means of forcing removals.

### 3. Otter Mound -AS

**Management Status:** The preserve is in a relatively steady state regarding exotics, with coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) being the ongoing concern. Spot herbicide treatments are done as needed by staff and the property was last swept for exotics in December 2015.

**Visitation:** Approx. 30 visitors per week, based on brochure use.

**Management Plan:** The next Land management Update is due in 2019.

**Projects:**

- Radio-carbon date shells from Otter's wall
- Replacement of Interpretive signage

**Major Issues:** Recently, a neighbor to the preserve complained to staff and Marco Island Police about afterhour use of the preserve and concerns of drug use there. After discussing with Marco Island Police, they installed 2 cameras at the preserve for 2 weeks. They did identify a group of local youth that they are investigating for drug use. The kids found the camera and have not been back since. A camera will be installed by staff as a deterrent.

#### 4. Alligator Flag -CS

**Management Status:** In maintenance state. There is one maintenance exotics treatment event done per year as well as monthly mowing and landscaping along bike trail.

**Visitation:** Good amount of trail use over winter.

**Management Plan:** Next management plan update due in 2020.

**Projects:**

- Install brochure holder and place new brochures onsite – completed
- Install people counter – in progress

**Major Issues:** A few signs have been damaged and the bench was pulled out due to vandalism.

#### 5. Nancy Payton -CS

**Management Status:** Continuing to treat nuisance exotic grasses.

**Visitation:** Open to the public May 22, 2015, limited so far

**Management Plan:** Next management plan update due in 2019.

**Projects:**

- Planning for a prescribed burn – when weather right and agencies can help.
- Repair woodpecker sign damage from tornado – completed.
- Install plant identification signs (29) – completed.
- Fence installation – starting with survey which is in progress.
- Gopher tortoise habitat improvement – grant funded activities have been scheduled.

**Major Issues:**

- Blue Sage Drive road condition
- ATV Trespass – working with CCSO and have installed cameras and posts to block entrance.

#### 6. Panther Walk -CS

**Management Status:** In maintenance state - one contracted treatment a year.

**Visitation:** None observed. Preserve has been flooded for most of the winter.

**Management Plan:** Five-year update on your agenda.

**Projects:**

- Maintain trail – when site dries – it has been too wet.
- Hike with Elementary school children – pending

**Major Issues:** none

#### 7. Pepper Ranch -CS

**Management Status:** The entire ranch has been treated for exotics at this point. Annual re-treatment for selected portions will be scheduled just before rainy season. Significant rainfall this winter left trails flooded though February and some portions are still wet. A storm in January left several hazard trees in campground areas, which have been removed.

**Visitation:** The preserve re-opened October 5th for the Sunflower Festival- an estimated 400 people attended. Visitation between October 2015 and March 2016 was 651 persons, including the guided hikes.

For the same period in 2015, there were 475 visitors, which was an increase of 176 visitors for the same months during last year. This is almost a 40% increase in visitation! There has been one function and a meeting at the ranch so far this year.

**Management Plan:** Five-year update due in 2017.

**Projects:**

- Group campsite: Completed. For groups up to 50 people. Non-profit rate is \$50 per night, regular rate is \$100 per night (\$2 per person). Parks to get all campground revenue and will maintain (mow) the site and provide Port-a-potty.
- Free Master Naturalist guided hikes on selected Fridays and Saturdays. Two hikes have taken place – Feb 13 and March 18 – with 35 people attending.
- Earth Day Festival- Scheduled for April 16. Collaboration with Immokalee 1 By1 Leadership Foundation. Flyer shown in presentation.
- An Eagle Scout is planning a natural play area at the Visitor Center.

**Major Issues:** None.

**Minor Issues:**

- Due to Clerk/Finance nonpayment issues, staff lost the builder hired to replace the cottage flooring so the CCSO tenant has not been able to move in. This issue was resolved in March and a new contractor is working on the floor now. Hopefully the CCSO tenant will be able to move in soon.

## 8. Redroot- CS

**Management Status:** In maintenance state- treating exotics annually. Treated in February 2016.

**Visitation:** low

**Management Plan:** Next management plan update due in 2020.

**Projects:** none.

**Major Issues:** none

## 9. Rivers Road -CS

**Management Status:** Initial Exotics Treatment done plus 2 re-treatments

**Visitation:** This preserve was scheduled to be opened in early 2016, but this was delayed due to high water in the preserve. Trails need to be mowed again before opening.

**Management Plan:** Next management plan update due in 2019.

**Projects:**

- Install field fence after survey – completed.
- Air potato beetle release in 2014 (*Lilliocheris cheni*) - *completed* and has been moderately successful.
- Install plant identification signs (50) - completed.

**Major Issues:** None.

## 10. Winchester Head -CS

**Management Status:** Treating previously donated parcels only and addressing problem areas that are noted.

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

**Management Plan:** Next Interim Management Plan due in 2017.

**Projects:**

- Acceptance of PNC 1.14-acre parcel scheduled for BCC 4/26/16.

**Major Issues:** none.**11. Camp Keais Strand Properties****Management Status:** N/A**Visitation:** N/A**Management Plan:** Next 2-year Interim Management Plan Extension due in 2017.**Projects:** N/A**Major Issues:** N/A**12. Red Maple Swamp -MH****Management Status:** Treating 50 acres once per year.**Visitation:** not open but accessible.**Management Plan:** Next IMP extension due in 2017.**Projects:** None**Major Issues:** None**13. Caracara Prairie -MH****Management Status:** 2 volunteers working 2 days a week – keeping exotics maintained and weedwacking/spraying dogfennel in areas that can't be mowed. Exotic contractor is sweeping entire property 1 time a year. Focus is on Wright's nutrush.**Visitation:** Not high in summer – ditch connecting to CREW trail is very full.**Management Plan:** Next land management plan update due in 2019.**Projects:** Looking to burn SW corner and SE corner this winter with CREW SFWMD assistance.**Major Issues:** None**14. Freedom Park -MH****Management Status:** High water delayed exotic treatment this year, but it was done in January. Will treat 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. A People Counter is being installed.**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:** None at this time**Major Issues:** No major issues.**15. Gordon River Greenway Park -MH****Management Status:** Currently seeking grant funds for exotic removal in 2016 for Conservation Collier portions of the Greenway, including the recently added 7.51-acre CDC parcel.**Visitation:** No hard numbers, but the Park has significant visitation. A people counter is being installed.**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:**

- A grant for defensive landscaping from Florida Native Plant Society has been submitted. Staff will know by June.
- Brochure – working with FGCU class
- Educational Signage – in progress – working with FGCU
- Eagle Scout Candidate sign project – plant identification signs
- Transect Monitoring for permit – completed.
- Camera surveillance.

**Major Issues:**

- Bridge jumpers remains an issue.

## **16. McIlvane Marsh -MH**

**Management Status:** N/A

**Visitation:** N/A

**Management Plan:** Next IMP extension due 2017.

**Projects:** N/A

**Major Issues:** No major issues

## **17. Railhead Scrub -MH**

**Management Status:** Very wet. Firebreaks are getting full of dogfennel, ceasarsweed, natalgrass, guineagrass. Getting quarterly treatments of firebreaks and FPL easement, but cannot be treated until water recedes. Everything else is annual.

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

**Management Plan:** Final Management Plan 5-year update is on agenda.

**Projects:**

- Community Service Workers – pull natal grass and pick up garbage.
- Two Master Naturalist classes provided onsite.
- Repair vandalized fencing – completed.
- Work with CCSO to address trespass – in progress.
- Camera surveillance – in progress.
- Work with Road and Bridge to place large boulders to stop trespass – in progress.

**Major Issues:** Ongoing trespass, but still coordinating with Sheriff's Office.

## **18. Shell Island -MH**

**Management Status:** In good condition. Staff is treating occasional re-growth. Will contract out this year and look for FWC funding next year.

**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**

**Management Status:** Exotic plant contractor completed a sweep of the property in January 2016. Property treated annually.

**Visitation:** N/A

**Management Plan:** Next management plan 5-year update due in 2020.

**Projects:** None

**Major Issues:** None

Note:

- Neighbors report seeing an eaglet in the nest.
- A trail was supposed to be developed this year but access issues would prevent it from being used. CCLAAC thoughts on postponing this?