

Land Management Report for Preserves
Prepared for the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
October 10, 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. FWC has assisted with a creek treatment this summer for returning *Salvia molesta*. A Sheriff's weekend worker event is scheduled in early December to get the trail into optimal condition for the season.

Visitation: Mostly local neighbors and office buildings nearby.

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

Projects: Routine maintenance

Major Issues: No major issues.

2. Logan Woods -AS

Management Status: The preserve had a thorough sweep for exotics in September and vines were removed from the fence in preparation for painting it.

Visitation: During summer months, visitation is light; however neighbors appear to utilize the preserve on a regular basis. From about August on the trail was flooded and remains wet.

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

Projects:

- A trail remulching workday is scheduled for Saturday, October 15.
- The fence along the northern boundary needs to be painted.

Major Issues: Very wet trail conditions.

3. Otter Mound -AS

Management Status: The preserve had a thorough exotics sweep done in September.

Visitation: Lower use during summer months, but still going through about 30 brochures a month.

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

Projects:

- Front wall cleaned in August.
- Replacement of Interpretive signage – project in process but going slowly as original sign copy cannot be found and we have to recreate the interpretive sign copy manually.

Major Issues:

- Police Narcotics Investigation - ?

4. Alligator Flag -CS

Management Status: In maintenance state. There is one maintenance exotics treatment

event done per year as well as monthly mowing along the pathway that fronts the preserve. Big Cypress fox squirrels are routinely seen, and bears come through occasionally.

Visitation: Reduced visitation during summer months as trails are flooded.

Management Plan: Next management plan update due in 2020.

Projects:

- Install people counter – in progress
- Work with Code Enforcement on water management issue that has impacted the preserve - ongoing
- Replace entry sign - completed

Major Issues: Graffiti found on signs. Scrubbed once and then found again. Police were notified. A wildlife camera has been installed.

5. Nancy Payton -CS

Management Status: Continuing to treat nuisance exotic grasses and mow firebreaks and trails.

Visitation: Limited visitation noted over the summer.

Management Plan: Next management plan update due in 2019.

Projects:

- Planning for a prescribed burn – when weather right and agencies can help.
- Fence installation – will be done with 2017 budget.
- Hand pulled and bagged natal grass to prevent reseeding.
- Boundary lines adjusted to match survey
- A gopher tortoise inspection in center firebreak area done in Sept.
- Brochure drafted – on this agenda.

Major Issues:

- Blue Sage Drive road condition – Residents seeking meeting with County to discuss.
- ATV Trespass – working with CCSO and have installed cameras and posts to block entrance. This appears to be working for the time being.

6. Panther Walk -CS

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

Visitation: None observed. Trails are flooded. Our volunteer is helping staff weedcut and removes trash at the preserve, in addition to checking on the preserve more frequently than staff is able to.

Management Plan: Five-year update approved by BCC 5/24/16.

Projects:

- Maintain trail – will be done when water recedes.

Major Issues: none

7. Pepper Ranch -CS

Management Status: All parts of the preserve have been treated for exotics at this point and retreatment is ongoing.

Visitation: The preserve opened on Saturday, October 1, for the Sunflower Festival. It was successful despite having no sunflowers! We believe the wet summer caused a delay in blooming. The plants are there but have not bloomed yet. Approximately 350 people attended and things went well despite the absence of the star attraction. We

gave 88 people van tours, approximately 125 people took hayrides, 25 people took guided walks/hikes, and 16 organizations attend and presented educational information.

Management Plan: Five-year update due in 2017.

Projects:

- Working to enable an archery program administered by Parks and Recreation.
- Civil Citation group cleaned trash along Pepper Road.
- New Ranger for season – person has been hired, starting late October.
- Tour for Carlyle residents Oct 7th
- First hunt of the season taking place on weekend of October 15-16.
- Guided hikes scheduled for Jan 28, Feb 18, Mar 18th & April 22

Major Issues:

- Electric gates have been problematic. Key pads had to be replaced recently and there are ongoing and frequent gate malfunctions.
- Caretaker law enforcement tenant has given notice and is leaving by November 1. Staff is working to find another tenant. Ongoing problems with the residence's structural integrity are partly the issue.
- The ranch road is in poor condition.

8. Redroot- CS

Management Status: In maintenance state- treating exotics annually. Exotics last treated in June 2016.

Visitation: low

Management Plan: Next management plan update due in 2020.

Projects:

- Mow trails. The preserve trails have been flooded. Once they dry out they will be mowed.

Major Issues: none

9. Rivers Road -CS

Management Status: In June a contractor began treating regrowth of exotics using grant funding in June. Due to rains, this work was not completed until August. The preserve is very wet.

Visitation: This preserve was opened to the public on May 25th, with staff, Bill Poteet and neighbors attending. Actual visitation is unknown.

Management Plan: Next management plan update due in 2019.

Projects:

- Air potato beetle activity is ongoing and moderately successful.

Major Issues: None.

10. Winchester Head -CS

Management Status: Treating previously donated parcels only and addressing problem areas that are noted. Water level has been high in WH this season hampering removal and inspection efforts.

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. Closed June 24, 2016. Some exotic work has been done, will mow and keep the lot neat.
- Exotic treatment was done by a contractor on an area of heavy Lygodium infestation, and the 4 donation parcels were re-treated in early summer.

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, and 3 donation parcels that have already been treated – completed in June.

Visitation: not open but accessible – very wet.

Management Plan: Next IMP extension due in 2017.

Projects:

- A land donation is currently being processed for 2.73 acres.

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. Last treatment done in July

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

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

Projects:

- Apiary set up and operational.
- 100 Cordgrass planted in northwestern marsh in late June.
- Guided hike set up for Friday May 5th.
- Camera wildlife surveys done over the summer.

Major Issues: None

14. Freedom Park -MH

Management Status: Exotics removal being done annually, with spot treatments being done by staff as needed. Significant climbing fern regrowth is problematic.

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 has been acquired and programmed and will be installed as soon as time permits.

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.

Projects:

- Two Grace Place School tours done over the summer.
- November 17th – Water Quality event being put on by the County Stormwater Division to showcase the Park and celebrate a 2 year contract with FGCU to study and monitor the water quality in partnership with the County.

Major Issues: No major issues.

15. Gordon River Greenway Park -MH

Management Status: Exotics removal being done annually, with spot treatments being done by staff as needed. Exotic work is grant funded this year.

Visitation: No hard numbers, but the Park has significant visitation. A people counter has been acquired, programmed and will be installed shortly.

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:

- Brochure – working with FGCU class
- Educational Signage – in progress – working with FGCU
- New numbers put on light posts – old ones were faded
- Camera surveillance ongoing.
- Staff gauges installed in two wetland areas per SFWMD request
- Wetland transects monitored, with 2 moved to better locations within the CE.
- Routine trail edge maintenance done by staff and volunteer Paul Benzing.

Major Issues:

- No major issues.

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: Getting quarterly treatments of firebreaks and FPL easement. Everything else is annual. Staff is treating interim regrowth of exotics with herbicide, as needed.

Visitation: Preserve open for groups with advance planning depending on staff availability. There will be a Master Naturalist class field trip in July.

Management Plan: Final Management Plan 5-year update approved by BCC 12/8/15. Next one due in 2020.

Projects:

- Pull natal grass and pick up garbage.
- Master Naturalist class July 15, and again on April 2017.
- Work with CCSO to address trespass – in progress.
- Camera surveillance – in progress.
- Work with Road and Bridge to place additional large boulders to stop trespass

- Work with Division of Forestry's Urban Mitigation Team to do prescribed burn.

Major Issues: None at this time. Still monitoring for trespass and fence breeches.

18.Shell Island -MH

Management Status: In fair condition as far as exotic growth, with some Melaleuca regrowth observed. There were very wet conditions this year. FWC funding for exotic treatment awarded and a general exotic sweep will be scheduled when conditions allow.

Visitation: N/A

Management Plan: Final Management Plan 5 year review is coming up and staff met with Rookery Bay Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator to determine how best to update the plan, as the plan is an addendum to the Rookery Bay Management Plan.

Projects: None

Major Issues: None

19.Wet Woods -MH

Management Status: Property treated annually for exotic plants and staff performs spot treatments as needed.

Visitation: N/A

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

Projects: None

Major Issues: Access

Note:

- Neighbors report an eaglet fledged from a nest on the preserve in late June.