

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
REAC Field Trip – May 9, 2009
King’s Park, Merritt Island

9:00am – 12:00pm

Attendees:

Jim Derocher, REAC
Mark Nathan, REAC
Murray Hann, REAC
Barbara Meyer, Brevard TPO
Paul Schmalzer, EEL SMC
Doug Sphar, REAC
Brad Manley, EEL Program

The group met at King’s Park in Titusville at 9:00 a.m. on May 9, 2009. Barbara Meyer of Brevard TPO, and Brad Manley, EEL Program staff, provided an overview of the North Merritt Island Pioneer Trail planned for the County property between Chase Hammock Road and Hall Road.

Barbara Meyer explained that there will be two trailheads, one at King’s Park, and one near Hall Road. Both will include parking areas, simple composting-type toilets and small covered pavilions. A culvert will be installed at Hall Road to facilitate a driveway leading to parking.

The asphalt multiuse trail will connect King’s Park to Hall Road. The trail will be placed within the existing footprint of an unimproved trail south of the lake at King’s Park, and an existing service road. Swales alongside the trail will reduce runoff into neighboring waterways. Sections of boardwalk will be constructed over seasonally wet areas near the lake. Gates and/or removable bollards will be used to secure the site after hours, and prevent unauthorized vehicles from accessing the trail.

The group hiked the full length of the trail and explored adjacent natural areas. Currently, the property is County-owned and in the future, EEL will likely take on the responsibility of managing the natural areas of the site. Brad Manley discussed how, if the property comes under EEL Program management, several unimproved spur trails would be developed, and that the site has potential for a number of Scout volunteer projects. The group walked around an area that was used as a Scout camp in the past. Brad explained that the possibility of reopening the site for that purpose is being explored by EEL staff.

Once at the southern end of the trail, the group saw the location of the planned parking, possible canoe/kayak launch sites, and the recently-cleared dike could serve as an additional hiking loop.

By the time the group hiked back to the parking area, it was feeling like summer, and everyone seemed happy to have a cool drink and get into their air-conditioned cars. The visit ended at noon.