



ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
Crane Creek Sanctuary
Public Access Plan Review Public Meeting
October 20, 2007
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chris O'Hara, Land Manager for the EEL Program's South Region welcomed the group at 6:35 PM and thanked everyone for their interest in the Crane Creek Sanctuary.

PRESENTATION:

Chris provided information regarding the Conceptual Public Access Plan. Highlights included:

- EEL Program Mission Statement
 - *Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County's Natural Resources.*
- EEL Program Vision Statement
 - *The EEL Program acquires, protects and maintains environmentally endangered lands, guided by scientific principles for conservation and the best available practices for resource stewardship and ecosystem management.*
 - *The EEL Program protects the rich biological diversity of Brevard County for future generations.*
 - *The EEL Program provides passive recreation and environmental education opportunities to Brevard's citizens and visitors without detracting from the primary conservation goals of the program*
 - *The EEL Program encourages active citizen participation and community involvement.*
- Brevard County is divided into 4 Regions for land management purposes
 - North Region – 1,279 acres
 - Central Region – 1,520 acres
 - South Beach Region – 328 acres
 - South Region - 6, 695 acres
 - Malabar Scrub Sanctuary – 570 acres
 - Micco Scrub Sanctuary – 1,725 acres
 - Jordan Scrub Sanctuary – 352 acres
 - Grant Flatwoods Sanctuary – 2,500 acres
 - Crane Creek Sanctuary – 22 acres
 - Grant-Valkaria Conservation Area
- Land Management Tools
 - Prescribed Fire
 - Exotic Control
 - Native Plantings
- Public Access
- Review of Management Plan Approval Process
- Information on Crane Creek Sanctuary

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- 22 acres
- Acquired by the EEL Program in 1999
- Borders Crane Creek in Melbourne
- Recreation Assessment
 - Stakeholders identified
 - Sanctuary neighbors
 - City of Melbourne
 - Hikers/birders/nature lovers
 - Canoe and kayakers
 - Tourists
- Resources Identified
 - Protected Species – Gopher tortoise
 - Ecosystems – Scrub, Pine Flatwoods, Hydric Hammock, Floodplain Swamp
 - No existing trails, canoe or kayak access opportunities
- Recreation Plan
 - Sanctuary is located within an urbanized area
 - No neighborhood parking at site. Parking available at River Park to the south
 - Non-motorized boat access only
 - Firelines will be identified as non-hiking area
 - Educational and interpretive signs along trails and at canoe landing
 - There are plans for a loop trail, which will begin and end at the canoe landing

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Residents expressed their understanding, and appreciation for the fact that the only approved access for this site will be via the water, as a ground site trail head location is not readily available for this site and there is no room for parking.
- A concern was received regarding the possibility of encountering alligators.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

The plan was well received by the citizens in attendance at the meeting.

Chris explained that if anyone would like additional information, they should contact him at the EEL Program's Office, and he distributed business cards to those citizens who requested them.

ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.