



# ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM

## Fox Lake Sanctuary

### Public Access Plan Review Public Meeting

#### September 21, 2010

#### Minutes

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Xavier de Seguin des Hons, Land Manager for the EEL Program's North Region welcomed the group at 5:06 PM and thanked everyone for their interest in the Fox Lake Sanctuary.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

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

- EEL Program Mission Statement: *To protect and Preserve Biodiversity Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County's Natural Resources.*
- EEL Program Vision Statement
  - *To acquire, protect, and maintain endangered lands*
  - *To protect Brevard County's biodiversity*
  - *To provide passive recreation and education opportunities*
  - *To support active volunteers and community involvement*
- Management Regions
  - North Region
  - Central Region
  - South Region
  - South Beach Region
- North Region Sanctuaries
  - Enchanted Forest (462 acres) \*\*
  - Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary (44 acres) \*\*
  - South Lake Conservation Area (155 acres) \*\*
  - Indian Mount Station Sanctuary (85 acres)
  - North Buck Lake Scrub Sanctuary (165 acres)'''
  - Fox Lake Sanctuary (2,568 acres)
  - Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary (1,521 acres) \*\*
  - Indian River Sanctuary (43 acres) \*\*
  - (\*\*Sanctuaries currently open to the public in the North Region)
- Land Management Tools
  - Prescribed Fire
  - Invasive, Exotic Plant and Animal Control
  - Native Plantings
  - Public Access
- Management Plan Approval Process
  1. Interim Management Plan drafted within 3 months of acquisition
    - a. Approved by Selection and Management Committee (SMC)
  2. Public Access Site Assessment completed by EEL Program Staff

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3. Conceptual Public Access Plan
    - a. Drafted by EEL Program Staff
    - b. Reviewed at public Meeting (September 2010)
    - c. Review by Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC)
  4. Draft of complete Management Plan will be reviewed by:
    - a. EEL Program staff
    - b. 30 day public review
    - c. SMC
    - d. BOCC
- Recreation Assessment
    - Resources identified
      - Protected Species
        - Gopher Tortoise
        - Bald eagle
        - Florida Scrub-Jays
        - Likely indigo snakes, celestial lily, and Wood Stork
      - Nine different ecosystems
      - Existing trails
    - Passive Recreation Activities Identified
      - Hiking
      - Birding/Wildlife observation
      - Horseback riding (future plan)
      - Boy Scouts/Organized youth camping
      - Canoeing/Kayaking
      - Mountain biking (non-motorized)
  - Recreation Plan
    - Parking area, Kiosk and walkthrough gate located at Fox Lake Park
    - 7 mile hiking and mountain biking trail
    - 4 mile equestrian trail (future)
    - 3 mile canoe/kayak trail
    - Educational and interpretive signs along the trails

**Public Comment and Additional Discussion**

- Charles Moehle mentioned that he was the owner of an easement over approximately 200 acres in the north east corner of the Sanctuary and that he has offered to sell his interest in the easement to the EEL Program.
- Mike Knight, EEL Program Manager, confirmed Mr. Moehle's statement and he suggested that the footprint of the Moehle/Modern Inc. easement should be represented in the Fox Lake Sanctuary map.
- Mr. Moehle stated that they did not object to the fire lines as represented on the map being shown, and he emphasized his request that the fire lines not be disked.
- Mike confirmed there were no plans to disk the fire lines within the privately owned easement area.
- The main access point for the Sanctuary will be through Parks & Recreation's Fox Lake Park.

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- Mr. Moehle explained he also owned property to the south of the main access point which extends from the Fox Lake Park to the interior of the Fox Lake Sanctuary.
- The EEL Program will be using an access easement over Mr. Moehle's property as the entrance into the Fox Lake Sanctuary.
- EEL Program staff will take care to lay out the entrance area in a way that will guide visitors into the Sanctuary in a manner that should prevent folks from wandering into Mr. Moehle's property.
- Equestrian use may be possible at some time in the future, but there is no room for trailer parking within the Sanctuary and animals are currently not allowed within Fox Lake Park.
- EEL Program staff will ensure that Charles and Mike Moehle are notified when the Fox Lake Sanctuary is released for the 30 day public review period.

Xavier 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 6:15 PM.