

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS (EEL) PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 20, 2010
REAC Committee Field Trip to Fox Lake Sanctuary
Attendance List**

RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert Champaigne
Jim Durocher
Mark Nathan
Doug Sphar

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Schmalzer, Selection and Management Committee
Kim Zarillo, Selection and Management Committee

EEL PROGRAM/BREVARD COUNTY STAFF

Mike Knight
Brad Manley
Xavier de Seguin des Hons

CITIZENS

Alex Chamberlain
Peggy Reichle

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ENDANGERED LANDS PROGRAM
RECREATION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November 20, 2010

**REAC Committee Field Trip to Fox Lake Sanctuary
Minutes**

The Recreation and Education Advisory Committee (REAC) met at Fox Lake Sanctuary in Titusville at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 20, 2010. This trip was scheduled so that Committee members could tour the site prior to considering the proposed public access plan at an upcoming REAC meeting.

The tour began at 9:15, the delay resulting from traffic associated with a craft fair being held at Fox Lake Park. The land manager, Xavier de Seguin des Hons, provided site maps and gave an overview of the property. The proposed trailhead was described. It would be located within Fox Lake Park in an open area along the fence on the southern boundary of the park. It would include a kiosk, a low fence to delineate parking for six to eight vehicles, and a walk-through gate. Parks and Recreation has been consulted and is supportive of the plan.

Access would be for hiking, bicycling and canoeing/kayaking. Horses would not be prohibited in the Sanctuary, but animals and horse trailers are not allowed in Fox Lake Park. A future equestrian access through Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) might be an option once access across a conservation easement is resolved. The plan also includes primitive camping for organized scouting groups at the old hunt camp.

The group got in two EEL vehicles and drove into the site on the Right of Way (ROW) that passes through private property. The group stopped at the point where the proposed trail leaves the ROW and enters the Sanctuary. It was discussed that there would be some kind of fencing along the ROW to delineate EEL property from private property and the owner's equipment and materials. Installation or relocation of one or more gates will be needed to provide pedestrian access, and allow access for appropriate vehicles.

The group got back in the vehicles and drove north on a newly installed fireline. The Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) installed several miles of fireline at no cost as part of a wildfire mitigation program.

At the next stop, the group hiked a survey trail to a point where there are views of a marsh and then back to the parked vehicles. Then the group hiked another section of the trail before returning to the vehicles. It was explained that the trail was placed to highlight scenic portions on the Sanctuary, and located in areas that will be least affected by restoration activities, primarily vegetation reduction.

The group drove to another point along the survey trail and hiked to a test-section of plankwalk. Staff had installed approximately 40 feet of elevated plankwalk to determine the viability of the design. It is approximately 30 inches wide and is constructed with relatively inexpensive materials and hand tools. The design proved to be sturdy and easy to construct. A

permit application is in process. From there, the group continued along the survey trail to a point with views of Fox Lake, and returned to the vehicles.

At this point, the intention was to visit the old hunt camp, but one of the vehicles broke down. It was decided to conclude the field trip at that point. Some of the group hiked out, and others were shuttled back in the remaining vehicle. The field trip was concluded at approximately 12:30 p.m..