First Tuesday Monthly Meeting

Second Tuesday Water Quality Testing

Fourth Tuesday 12-2pm Suntree Public Library Community Education Series SOIRL Pond Watch Pilot for HOA

Stormwater Management in the Landscape

July 1, 2025 4pm

Planning for SOIRL Project discussion continues

Design Tools

Decision Making

Updates on the front entrance

June 24, 2025 Library Education SOIRL

Planning for SOIRL continues

Discussed Other HOAs in and outside of Suntree adopting BMP

June 17, 2025 1000 am

FFL Discussion Members present: Meg M. , Pat S., Merrylee N., JoAnn M.

Agenda

Planning for SOIRL Project

Design Tools

Decision Making

Accessing Homeowner Reporting Forms

Front Entrance Installation Updates

Today we discussed re-setting and getting back to basics for planning FFL interventions on common areas to reduce our dependence on irrigation, reduce maintenance, and improve the landscape aesthetic over time. Discussions included determining a common area plant palette and design planning considerations.

1. Using muhly grass (and +/- coontie) to line the entrance and exit walls, with the addition of some understory plants which have different color leaves, flower colors, and plant structure at the front. JoAnn and Merrylee plan to remeasure the front "runway"along the sides. Salvia(red, pink, white) , false indigo &/or blue porter Purple and blue), blanket flower (orange and yellow), swamp lily (white) were discussed (Pat was looking for pricing , Meg is providing a list of reputable nurseries)

2. SOIRL 200 foot shoreline restoration project, where ground cover would be installed the 3-5 foot "no" maintenance buffer next to the shoreline (railroad vine, sunshine mimosa, frogfruit, or other mixed mowable ground covers) then above that using a sod cutter to remove the grass in the 10-15 foot "low" maintenance buffer where we would install a simple palette including the existing palms, maybe adding pines +/or pond cypress (deep rooted, no knees help stabilize the bank) with some muhly or other native grasses and possibly 1-3 other low maintenance specimens TBD based on selected palette. (Discussion will continue next meeting 6/24/25)

2025 Building a Plant Palette for Our HOA Common Area Projects

Local Nurseries

Wild Wet and Wacky Merritt Island (for flowers)

Sunscape East (for Trees and Shrubs) in Malabar

Sebastian River Tree Farm

Urban Forestry for plugs

Aquatic Plants of Florida for low cost bare root plants shipped $1.00

Native Butterfly Flowers Melbourne

0830 Water Quality Testing with SOIRL / Brevard County Natural Resource Management

FFL Discussion

Front of Neighborhood Plan (Ongoing)

SOIRL Project Planning discussion (Ongoing)

Plan to meet weekly at 3pm every Tuesday in the community room for the summer in order to ensure all topics get thorough discussion

June 3, 2025

FFL Discussion

Front of Neighborhood Plan (Ongoing)

SOIRL Project Planning discussion (Ongoing)

Follow-up tech discussion - How to access and follow up on online reporting forms for members of the board

May 20, 2025

FFL Discussion

Front of Neighborhood Plan (Ongoing)

SOIRL Project Planning discussion (Ongoing)

Follow-up tech discussion TBD

June 3 FFL

Discussed palm tree sign up form

Mulch Sign up form

Bids for Shoreline restoration & SOIRL Grant

June 10

SOIRL grant & Shoreline restoration bid review

Palm Tree Sign Up

Mulch Forms

May 6 FFL at 5pm

1. SOIRL Project Discussion

2. FFL Initiatives

- **a. Tree Planting, Aquatic Plantings, Low Maintenance Landscape Plantings,**
- **b. Mulch**

3. Tech Discussion on Accessing Landscape and Irrigation Reporting forms https://www.cwhoafl.com/forms

Upcoming May:

May 6 FFL 5pm 1st Tuesday - DIscussion of SOIRL planning options & getting bids

May 13 Re/schedule Vendor Weeding of pond (TBD), water feature maintenance check (TBD)

Targeted spraying of the spatterdock

May 13 Water Quality Testing 0800 2nd Tuesday

May Pond Site Assessment Follow up(TBD)

May 27 4th Tuesday FFL/SOIRL Library Education Presentation by Brevard County Mosquito Control

April:

April 1 Country walk HOA /SOIRL pond workshop at CW community room 6pm - 730

April 2 Reschedule Vendor Weeding of pond (TBD)

April 7 Water Quality Testing 0800

April 15 - Water Feature Instal from Flip My Florida Yard

April 17- Pond Site Assessment for Pond Watch Project 2-4

Supporting Documents

1. Stormwater Pond Inspection Checklist IFAS reporting tool
https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6fMm42JuW6vz6pn

2. Littoral Zone Scorecard retrieved from
https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/Littoral-Zone-Scorecard.pdf

3. Buffer Zone Scorecard Retrieved from
https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/Buffer-Zone-Scorecard.pdf

April 22 - FFL & Stormwater BMP Suntree Library 12-2 Planning Pond Watch Stormwater Project

March 11, 2025 0800 Second Tuesday Water Quality Testing (postponed until March 12 Wednesday)

March 6 Flip My Florida Yard, community workday & BBQ

March 4, 2025 4 pm First Tuesday Monthly Meeting

Proposed Agenda

Flip My Florida Yard Prep -

1. Landscape Modification Form -
2. Set up - 7am set up 0800 start time
3. Clean up- 5pm
4. Discussed expanding mulch beds around new trees and planting gumbo limbo in CWS at previously agreed locations -Completed / In Progress
5. Need a palm tree count specifically for individual lots and Queen Palms - In progress

February 25, 2025 SOIRL Education at Suntree Library 12-2

Proposed Agenda: Melanie Howater & Cole Stubbe Brevard County Natural Resources Pond Watch Pilot Program

1. PowerPoint Presentation Save Our Indian River Lagoon
    a. Pond watch Pilot Program
2. PowerPoint Presentation
    a. Learning Lake Proposal
    b. How to demonstrate the Pond Watch Pilot Education for Suntree HOA

February 11, 2025 Water Quality Testing

1. **Completed**

February 3, 2025 Agenda

1. Review the 2023, 2024 Landscape and Irrigation Reporting forms (tabled)

2. Discuss educational partnership with SOIRL (in process)
    a. 1st session February or March
        i. Fourth Tuesday of the month from 12-2
        ii. Suntree Public Library Community Room
3. Flip My Florida Yard Show update still pending - March 6 (pending design approval)
4. Pond plan for 2025, will we pay the vendor for manual removal, targeted spraying or both this year
    a. This discussion took place, we will discuss the 2025 plan with the vendor - in process.

1/23/25 Katie from Flip My Florida Yard called

1. Can we film an ARC Review Meeting
2. Can we remove some plants at the front
3. We will block off guest parking for the staging area
4. We will allow access to the gate house for charging batteries and downloading footage.
5. Skip is revising the design and they will get it to us as soon as possible for our review
6. There will be some required modifications to the irrigation at the front, outside the wall

1/14/25 Tuesday Water Quality testing 0800

Members present: Pat S., Meg M., Charlie K. Water met with Melanie H. and Cole S. from BCNRM/SOIRL Pilot project. Water quality testing completed and bottles for March Collection received.

1/14/25 Tuesday Meeting with a Commercial IFAS agent Bonnie W.

Members present: Pat S. , Meg M.

Review and submit application for FFL Program Commercial Landscape Certification in anticipation of Flip My Florida Yard Episode Filming in March, The flip will potentially qualify the entry

Gold level certification tiered goals for the interior of the community:

1. 15 species of plant on the common areas
2. Plant trees on the South, West, & East Side of the Common Area building to reduce sun impact and AC requirements.
3. Ensure proper mulching throughout the community, not too close to trees and plant bases

4. We need an updated soil test
5. We may need a new water test of irrigation water
6. Can we install a soil probe during the flip?

1/10/25 BCNRM dropped off water quality testing kit for 1/14/25 test date

1/7/25 Tuesday Next scheduled meeting 4 pm in the meeting room:

Members Present: Pat S, Meg M, CathyS., Liz R. JoAnn M.

Butterfly / Rain Garden- trim back seed heads on native goldenrod, add dirt in areas where natives didn't take hold and install more native ground cover to protect from erosion, seed starting of native pollinator plants

Berm- Look forward to solarizing the weeds along the bank and installing native ground cover along the berm

Tree Updates- January 14 install / January is Florida Arbor Day !

Project Updates- Water quality testing 2nd Tuesday monthly. Stormwater education programming to begin in February. News 13 came out to see the pond.

1/2/25 Tuesday

Meg met with Jodi from Aquatic Rain and discussed the criteria for Gold level recognition for Florida Friendly Landscape Recognition of commercial and common areas of existing HOAs**.**

If an irrigation system is present:

1. Irrigation system is calibrated to apply 1/2" to 3/4" of water per application. (p. 23)

2. A functioning automatic rainfall shutoff device is maintained on an operational in-ground irrigation system. (p. 23)

3.Irrigation system is free from leaks and broken emitters.

4. Irrigation emitters apply water in correct spray patterns, minimizing overspray on impervious surfaces.

5.The irrigation controller is set in compliance with water management district restrictions**.**

Number of Required Principals for Certification of Irrigation:

5 for Silver, 7 for Gold level

1.Not more than 50 percent of the irrigation system (by area) is high-volume.

2.Turfgrass and landscape plants are irrigated only as needed according to UF/IFAS recommendations and in compliance with any existing watering restrictions.

3.A smart controller (evapotranspiration, soil moisture sensor, or similar) is installed and operational. (p.25)

4.Separate irrigation zones for turf and landscape plants are installed and maintained.

5.Spray and rotor heads are not mixed on the same irrigation zone.

6.Low-flow irrigation is installed and maintained in plant and flower beds. (p. 24)

7.The irrigation system is maintained seasonally to adjust spray patterns and repair clogs and leaks.

8.Irrigation emitters rise above turfgrass height.

9.Sprinklers and emitters shall be located at least two feet from any structure

10.Sprinklers in low-lying areas have check valves.

12/10/24

Tuesday

Members Present: Cathie A., Pat S., Liz R., Meg M.

Discussed 2025 Community Engagement & FFL Goals

12/9/24

Monday

Melanie Howater and Cole from Brevard County Natural Resources water quality testing training 0830.

Members present: Norm and JoAnn Meaker, Dennis Devaney, Meg Murphy. Procedures for stormwater testing reviewed. Ongoing testing will take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month weather permitting. We will begin the HOA stormwater education series beginning in February dates TBD.

CW water quality documentation for 2024 prior to baseline measures by County

Pond Water Testing 2024 (Responses)

12/3/24

Tuesday

Lagoon Loyal, Beemats, and Eric Smith from Ferguson installed the floating pond garden and information station to highlight the benefits of aquatic plantings in improving stormwater quality.

Monday 11/4/24

Met with Skip Healy of Change of Greenery and Andrea Thill of CW. We discussed the criteria for Commercial recognition of Florida Friendly Landscapes, the proposed area for the project at the front of the neighborhood and the goals to meet the objectives for improving the aesthetic of the community, communication our commitment to best management practices in the landscape through the design and to create a palette that could easily be reproduced throughout the community in order to reduce maintenance costs, by decreasing our dependence on irrigation and chemical inputs on the common areas over time.

Wednesday 10/30/24

Meg M. Met with Melanie H from Brevard County Natural Resources in CW to review our resources & research to date.

We discussed the modified timeline for stormwater quality testing & training of homeowner stakeholders. I gave her the notebook started (by Meg M.) around November 2021 when we began researching a pond beautification initiative. New resource has been developed for FF Healthy Pond for HOA Healthy Pond HOA Tool Kit

Wednesday October 23, 2024

Meg M. Met with Eric from Go Native Landscape (vendor for Lagoon Loyal Neighborhood competition who sponsored buffer or butterfly garden prize).

Walked the pond and discussed what are potential solutions for adhering to the 10 foot recommended buffer, the challenges of torpedo grass, increasing shade cover by adding more cabbage palms (10 feet apart in groves or

clusters) and interspersing as planned with hardwoods. Requested a design plan from GO NATIVE designer Nicole Perna. Common Area Design Plan 2024 Trees

August 8 2024 Florida Friendly Collaborative meeting Notes:

The Mod/Arc form will be developed, and it will be completed by the Florida Friendly Collaborative – for each common area.

CWHOA COMMON AREA PLANTING PROGRAM:

To ensure proper maintenance, any improvements to planting sites on common areas will be designated by approved mod arc process with guidance from IFAS extension agents, arborist(s), and the CWHOA:

Goals:

1. To enhance the beauty of our neighborhood.
2. Increase the overall tree canopy, replacing trees & plants that have been removed over time and installing trees & plants that will thrive in areas that turf and other plantings have struggled in over the years.
3. Utilize Florida Friendly Landscape principles to plant beautiful low maintenance gardens beds with the “right plant in the right place” reducing / eliminating the need for irrigation on the common areas.

This will provide documentation for plantings and the maintenance of those plantings.

This will prevent the spread of invasive plantings. Either the homeowner maintains it or the Association will do it.

8’ is the tallest

In the common areas:

The Bouganvillas need to go.

Trees to be planted…

Pat:

It is labor intensive to continue to weed –

Buffer Zone:

8’ wide and 10” tall

In Policies & Procedures:

We recommend using Florida Friendly practices in landscape design including eliminating the planting of invasive species. The association will not be maintaining invasive species.

F. Lawn furniture and recreational equipment are strictly forbidden***?

Florida Friendly Collaborative Meeting Notes:

August 3, 2024

10 triploid grass Carp have been added to the pond.

Blue dye has been added to the pond

Hoa has not invested money yet.

How do we guide the board in landscaping?

The money is not being spent

Possibly name the mod-arc differently to differentiate between landscaping and home changes.

Have a 3+ person committee for landscape MOD-ARC

Lemon Grass around the perimeter of the sports court – donations by Pat. Asked to be put on the agenda.

Lemon grass is mosquito repellant, shallow roots, nothing will grow under it – no weeding needed

Irrigation – where are all the heads on each person’s property? Can we have a day when the systems are turned on so folks can see where their heads are located?

Began work on RFP for Irrigation.

July 30, 2024

IFAS REPORT July 2024

July 2, 2024

Pat says: “I spent 3 hours cleaning/cutting bank overgrown grass on the bank and removed torpedo grass and some dollar weed from the water and up the bank. I also cut around the cannas from the sewer/pond outlet to the first drainpipe. More work to follow. I hope to plant frog fruit, dune sunflower, and maybe blanket flower or sunshine mimosa depending on availability in my garden.”

January 9, 2024

The storm drain behind Longstreet has been cleaned out by Florida Custom Aquatics ($500). They sprayed in the dirt to keep weeds down. We need to find something to grow there.

New trees

Boxes are gone

Electrical work for fountains are in progress

Pepper tree was removed at 402 MBC contracted through homeowner

What are invasive trees on property and how to take care of them

Shall we review RFP? Check Schurlnight’s contract

Use consistent definitions

Post to the website

June 22, 2024

JoAnn contacted Connie L. Becker (connie.l.becker@floridadep.gov) regarding the Nonpoint Source Management Program. 850-245-2945. She’s the environmental administrator / grant coordinator

December 2023

Judy likes the irrigation; Linda likes the sunshine; Lois went to FFL website to see about Hong Kong orchid

JoAnn likes green and lush turf; Liz likes the trees that were planted; Cathy likes fixing up the pond and the wildlife;

Goals for 2024 – Pond. Louis likes to know metrics for judging pond management.

Florida Friendly vs aesthetics neighbors want

September 5, 2023

Share access of landscape form with Meg

Use the form for complaints

Need a form for tracking volunteer hours

Donated tree program (Keep Brevard Beautiful recommendations)

Meet on Sept 15, 2023

Feb 6, 2024, Review of Country Walk Trees

Meg, JoAnn, and Dana Sussmann (Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service)

1. Focus on just the common areas for community funded tree planting. (In the corner field area of OHD near Wickham) – can be a rain garden, a veggie garden, add trees for shade and a seating area (like a pocket park). The viburnum bushes are old and can be removed so they don't waste resources trimming.

2. Replace old, tired bushes with trees.

3. In the corner common area west end (next to 410 OHD) – in order to protect the bases of palm trees remove 5' around each of them and add mulch. Do each individual one as a beginning. (The trees should eventually be in a mulched bed with understory plantings). This gets people used to the rings around the palms before adding other plantings. This can also be done in the other common areas.

4. If parking is added to any common area, use permeable mesh or block and let the grass grow through, and water percolate into the ground.

5. Palms are slow growing. These palms DO NOT need to be trimmed each year – saving money. It's fine to go 10 – 2 (recommended 9-3 o'clock) in trimming.

6. With tree islands there is a maintenance component – Ensure there is sufficient mulch to minimize manual weeding or spraying.

7. Tree islands can reduce the cost for mowing

8. A tree nursery may be a supply of young trees for our development.

9. Any newly planted tree needs maintenance, watering, and pruning when young to get the shape needed for good growth. Ideally tie in drip irrigation during establishment of young trees.

Pruning young trees: https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml

Pruning palms: https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/palms.pdf

Goals: Answers to questions by Dana are in italics

1. On our 25-acre community common areas, how many trees would you recommend?

This will depend on the size of the planting sites

Categories: small tree, medium tree, large tree, no tree, palms, shrubs

2. Which locations are the best?

Where trees can grow in their natural form

Where the residents want them

Where the existing plant material is in decline and should be replaced

3. What are the trees we should focus on in specific areas?

Native Trees for South Florida

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EH/EH15700.pdf

Alternatives to Invasive Plants

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP46700.pdf

Palms for North Florida

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP359/EP359-7104311.pdf

I don't recommend specific trees as it's more important to answer these questions to determine the best choice.

Why are we planting the tree?

What are the characteristics of the planting site?

Canopy and root space

Sun/wind exposure

Soils (drainage, aeration, nutrient levels, pH etc)

Hardiness zone (minimum cold temperature)

What are the characteristics of the tree?

Size and shape

Evergreen or deciduous

Drought/salt/cold tolerance

Native/nonnative

a. Along pond side of the road, on CWS, silver buttonwood, bottle brush or other

recommended street trees.

b. 1 Live oak on the grassy triangle between the sidewalk.

Live oaks are a beautiful shade tree—need to ensure there is enough room

for this type of tree

There are varieties such as 'Catherdral' which grow more upright and do not

need as much room for their canopy

c. The traffic island at the back (OHD &OHD) can we add pines or other trees instead

of the old shrubs?

Pines can be a good addition to an urban landscape but do best when planted in

clusters with native ground cover and pine straw or pine bark mulch. They prefer

an acidic soil, no irrigation (they do need watering during the establishment

period), and will lose their lower branches as they mature

4. What trees would you plant in the back by Wickham Rd?

See answer to question 3

5. What are some low maintenance native / keystone species If we are planting a hedgerow

on the boundaries or for other common areas.

Answer: First ask—why planting, characteristics of planting site, characteristics of plant

Gardening with Perennials: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG035

Native plants for your area: https://www.fnps.org/plants

6. Any other recommendations for increasing the tree canopy, interrupting large swaths of water intensive turf, and decreasing our dependance on irrigation over time.

The Florida Native Plant Society has local Chapters, https://www.fnps.org/chapters/chapters which are great resources for information like this. Most meet monthly, have field trips, and host plants sales. Members often have successful experiences in meeting the goals listed here.

I think your Chapter is the Conradina:

Conradina

Phone: 321-724-1931

Email: cwinebarger@cfl.rr.com

Website: https://conradina.fnpschapters.org

Meeting Schedule: Second Monday of the month. All Chapter meetings are held from 6:00 - 8:00pm. No meetings are held in June, July, or August.

Meeting Place: Melbourne First Church of the Nazarene, 2745 S Babcock St, Melbourne, FL 32901

Melbourne First Church of the Nazarene is located on South Babcock St near Florida Tech

Additional resources:

Florida Friendly Landscaping Program

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/

Choosing Suitable Trees for Urban and Suburban Sites

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP310

Planting and Establishing Trees

https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/EP314.pdf

Selecting Quality Trees from the Nursery

https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/ch_10_mw04.pdf

11/21/23

Monthly Report for Florida Friendly Landscape Collaborative: A homeowner driven initiative to help the CWHOA make fact-based decisions related to the Country Walk Landscape, Irrigation, and Pond Maintenance Programs based on recommended practices by the State of Florida & UF / IFAS FFL Commercial Landscape Recognition Program. Monthly FFL Collaborative meetings continue, all are welcome (the next one is Tuesday December 12 at 3pm):

1. We are continuing to look for achievable areas to implement FFL Commercial & Common area Checklist criteria where possible to improve the quality and value of our green space: Mulch, invasive species, selection and pruning techniques for low maintenance plantings, stormwater pond management.

2. Celebrate successes – and lots of hard work by CWHOA volunteers!
    a. CW FFL Mod-Arc language
    b. FFL Landscape guidelines for homeowners
    c. Mulching with pine bark
    d. Removal of dead and diseased trees
    e. Tree replacement mapping
    f. Stormwater pond

3. Setting achievable goals: Landscape, irrigation, pond & trees goals
1-3-5-10 year planning:
    Reserve items
    Budget items
    Free FFL classes for homeowners
    We will be reviewing the UF model contracts and CW scope(s) of work in 2024

4. **On behalf of the FFL collaborative, we are formally recommending a change in pond vendor. See attached proposal.**

This is a comprehensive plan, which includes a maintenance program as one component. There is not a monthly service agreement required.

Landscaping:

What will Eric do based on his contract?

What does he do about the boundary line?

There needs to be documentation so that going forward we know what has happened.

The hedges were planted in 2014. The goal was that they would grow tall and that they would be kept trimmed.

Eric wants to trim those hedges to 6' so that they would be easier to maintain.

Custom Aquatic Pond Treatment company

Yes, they are more expensive BUT

Meg paid $250 for pond planting map

Meg will pay $500 for development of

Their monthly $275 / monthly which is significantly more than right now. But they are not requiring monthly.

Our current company says that algae control takes monthly care, and because Sorko is only doing bi-monthly, then algae will grow.

We have relied on homeowner volunteers for

We currently have 1200 annual / month contract

Pat, a homeowner, is willing to subsidize the difference between our current contract (Sorko) and a new one.

Plantings are key to getting aeration proper.

Can we add the expense to this year's budget?

Florida Friendly Collaborative: Meeting notes September 12, 2023, 3pm

Agenda – Planning for tree plantings Attending: Meg, JoAnn, Pat, Cathie and Charlie

Goal: Decide on a palette of trees for the community common areas. We need to develop a year, five-year and 10-year plan. This is so the plantings are not done all at once and so they will all mature and need replacing at one time. Also budgeting is a concern. There is money in the budget right now and depending on what we choose, we can move forward with several tree plantings before the end of the year. We should do an exhibit island so it is noticeable to the community…

Pat suggested: Choosing the same palette of trees and repeating it all over. No curbing in island, using mulch not rocks, not mounded. Favors trees but not dense bushes.

Meg suggested: Need tree islands in several places. All bougainvillea should be removed as they have thorns and are difficult to maintain and have them look good. Favors mulch, but no large area. Remove cement borders around islands. Need consistency of palette but not the same tree.

JoAnn suggested: Using the principle of the right plant in the right place, it is not recommended that we use the same thing repeated all over since the areas differ so much and the needs of one area is not the same as another.

Using recommendations by Bonnie Wells from the meeting on August 3, 2023. Every house should see three trees and the whole neighborhood should have 30% trees.

There are 12 Common Area zones:

#1 All common areas contiguous with front entrance

#2 End of Marshwood Ct (border to next door neighborhood)

#3 Shared area behind 357 County Walk Street and 440 Maple Bluff Court

#4 Shared area between 349 CWS and 402 CWS

#5 Shared area behind 309 CWS and 316 PRL

#6 Shared behind 301 PRL & 582 PFC

#7 Common area between 205 OHD and 273 OHD

#8 Empty lot 297 OHD

#9 Boulevard (island) in front of empty lot at 297 OHD

#10 Boulevard (island) in front of 330 OHD

#11 Common area between 370 & 410 OHD

#12 All common areas contiguous with the pond

A discussion of trees took place with the following criteria:

Proper tree for the area – ex. Around the pond no trees that drop leaves, or flowers that could get into the pond.

Shady area vs sunny area

Deciduous vs Evergreen

Size of the tree when fully grown – spacing

Care of placement so as to not disturb any curbing, sidewalk, and be aware of irrigation.

Need to call before digging

Maintenance and care needs of the tree

Florida Friendly Collaborative

July 3, 2023 at 3pm in the Community Room

Attending: Margo Perreault, Nancy, Liz Rebadow, Meg Murphy, JoAnn Meaker, Paul Ruggere and Dick Ellsworth.

Meg handed out the agenda for the meeting and followed it through step 7.

1. Review FFL community designation criteria handout and complete a 5-minute icebreaker

Name your favorite FFL principle (5 min)

2. What's been achieved so far – Celebrate a Florida Friendly Landscape Improvement (5 minutes)

3. Identifying achievable goals – SWOT landscape and pond (5 min)

Short term by end of the year

Medium term – 2024

Long term – 5-to-10-year planning

Liz would like to see bare spots treated in some way. The tennis court area has lots of bare spots. Area 12 can be done short term (Country Walk St island; Front wall area

Dick – reseeding and clean up the 6 holly tree scars (stumps areas); fix area #3; Redo the gravel / stone in area 2 (end of Marshwood Ct) in area dividing the community with the next one.

What should be planted in place of the holly trees that have been removed? We should ask the neighbors in the areas of concern; ask our landscaper Eric DeBusk and ask our tree contractor Chris Druse. Dick will ask them. Is a red maple a good tree? Crape myrtles are pretty, but they take more maintenance and proper care is debatable.

Trees, shrubs, plantings are in pooled reserves.

Goal is to use proper maintenance for the plants we have and the plants we choose to have

Avoid non-invasive plants in large areas

Use Mod/Arcs to create plans for large areas

What is better?

Better landscaping; Meg's front yard; Pond looks great; Islands of landscaping; Partnership between Landscaper and Ecor.

4. Pond vendor & volunteer corps doing weeding of aquatic weeds (5 minutes)

Observations so far:

JoAnn said the pond is looking pretty good right now. If we want to continue the no spray we need to have a dedicated committee of volunteers to regularly weed and remove algae and record the work done. We are responsible for the upkeep of the pond and need to be able to pass inspections.

Pat said - she and Jules & two neighbor boys (who were paid $15/hour) and worked for 2.5 hours who did most of the east end and some of the west end. Papyrus was removed. Pat will give a full report.

JoAnn and Meg did the bank along the west end twice. Removal of algae and some weeding took place.

Dick likes the plantings along the edges, but not in the pond itself.

5. Mosquito site assessment BCNRM mosquito control report (5 min).

Meg reported the observations made by the person who came to assess the mosquito population in the area. He said he didn't see any sign of mosquitoes.

6. Upcoming Quarterly Pond Assessment with Brevard County Natural Resource

Jennifer Thompson will return for another review. She has seen the changes since she's been here previously.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm with the following items to be discussed at the next meeting August 8

++++++

$1,500 - $2,500, depending on the type of rock, and plantings.

3. As for the front area, we discussed each of the four renderings that Jules proposed and reviewed each of the plants included in the drawings. No decision about specific plantings were made but we did agree that:

a. We should remove the plantings in front of the two signs

b. We should use some of the same types of plantings there as in the center island

c. We should be careful not to use plantings that are too large to avoid covering the sign over time.

d. We want this area to be free from the landscaping company.

4. Work at the front area should wait until the fall which may be a better time for planting.

5. In discussion of the center island areas. We talked about keeping the large oak tree and the Jatropha (red flowering bush) and the two smaller yellow flowering bushes in front of the Jatropha. We agree that we need to use less types of plants and more volume of them. The perimeter of this center island area would be edged in stone just within the curbing and the mulch removed. This may involve moving the irrigation heads. Soil can be added as needed to help the area.

6. We realize that not everyone will agree on the types of plants that should be used in each of the 12 common areas, but we should be sure that in each place the type of plant selected would be appropriate for that particular spot (full sun, part sun, full shade etc).

Pat will ask about needing a permit to do the bank work ourselves (per suggestion of Jennifer Thompson).

Follow up: Report by Pat

“As per your request, I called and spoke with Connie at Natural Resources who referred me to the road and bridge people at 321-2554310 who then referred me to Jane Hart in planning and permits. She is in zoning and explained to me as long as there was no structure such as a dock or a seawall there was no permit needed to shore up the edge of the pond with rocks and burlap and plants.

Her contact number is 321-633-2070.

I hope this is what you required.

Sadly, I will be unavailable to make this Thursday’s meeting. However, Jules and I will strive to gather plants next week. I have also reached out to the people who owned the pond at the library and asked if I could harvest some white lilies. I have yet to hear back from them.”

Next meeting March 31, 2023

Florida Friendly Landscaping Committee

February 6, 2023

Dick E. (chair, Landscaping committee), Merrylee N., Beth A., Charlie K., Meg M., Colette A., Jules H. absent but with input; JoAnn M. (notetaker)

Dick wants the committee input to be able to move forward with landscaping improvements of common areas. There are twelve designated common areas that the HOA is responsible for. Any improvements will need to be within the budget. There was $2,100 not spent last year (mulching not done) and so the mulching that was recently done at the front entrance used that funding.

Jules H. has rendered a plan for the front entry and we need to take it into consideration in the planning.

Meg suggested that:

1. We need to select a palette of plants for the whole neighborhood, create a brochure or document that will be available to the residents and posted on the website.

Center Island Discussion:

Concerns:

1. The area has poor soil and has roots from the large trees, (one still there and one already taken down)
2. The area has underground electrical and irrigation systems that need to be carefully worked around.
3. If we do a raised bed all around, is that too costly? We would need to get bids to determine if that's the route we want to take.
4. Do we hire a company to do the work? Part of the work? Allow volunteers to work with them?
5. Maintenance of the area – with Florida Friendly principles, we should be choosing plantings that take minimum work, less irrigation etc.
6. Several years ago, Beth A. and others went to Rockledge Gardens, bought plantings, asked Mark to dig holes and bring mulch. They planted the purchased plants and then spread the mulch.
7. What can be done in the short term to make the area look better?
8. What can be done long term?

Ideas included:

1. New sod be placed along the curbing edge for a consistent look rather than the ragged grass we currently have in place.
2. Create a tiered raised bed area in the area. Can be made from landscaping stones.
3. Leave the flowering bush that is directly behind the large tree (from St. Andrews), trim as needed to keep it the same size as it is now.

4. Remove all the ornamental grasses.
5. Use the charts that Meg handed out to select five or so plantings that we would want to see around the whole neighborhood.
6. Be mindful of the rendering Jules has done.

Once the plan is finalized, it will go before the board, a Mod/Arc will be created, and then pricing will be sought.

Group will meet again next Tuesday, February 14 at the board room at 3pm to share choices of plantings.

Pond Beautification Discussion Meeting

Poolside 2nd and 4th Tuesday 530 - 630 PM

Pond Beautification Project Notes -09/13/22

Present: Linda, JoAnn, Meg, Pat

Meeting was very brief due to outdoor location and thunder and lightning

OLD TOPICS:

- Demo garden plantings phase 1 discussed- still on hold pending purchase of plants
    - Criteria for Homeowner purchases will determine selection
    - Discussed ground cover and tree selection further
        - Cypress,, muhly grass, sunshine mimosa,

- Staking completed - discussed the increased knowledge of undermining & erosion affecting the stability of the sidewalksLandscapers observed the buffer zone
- Spraying has been held for approximately 3 weeks, some plant growth is observed by pond edge
    - Last time a volunteer was weeding and removing plants from the pond, Judy called the Department of Agriculture to report the homeowner. The volunteers are unlikely to continue with manual removal of weeds under threats of retribution. - No solution identified at this time
    - Permit for aquatic plant management https://myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants/
- Still waiting for permission to meet with Landscape vendor and get pricing for plants and install
- Still waiting to send out plant registry for homeowners to purchase plants and supplies for the project
- Removal of old plant materials around the pool enclosure
- **Will BOD send a new survey**?
    - Are there any documented homeowners who are against the pond beautification project?
    a. No need - for a new petition?
    b. Quorum of homeowners support the project

c. Newsletter well received by community

NEW TOPICS:

- **Spraying of chemicals on 09/10/22**
  - What are the chemicals?
  - What is the impact? Pets, people, plants, pollinators
  - What was the budget ?
  - Notice to homeowners regarding the spraying of systemic herbicides and pesticides across the common areas and on private property?

Pond Beautification Discussion Meeting

Poolside 2nd and 4th Tuesday 530 - 630 PM

Pond Beautification Project Notes -08/23/22

Present: Linda, liz, Pat, Colette, meg

Old Topics:

- **Demo garden** -1st site will be where existing cypress trees are
- Staking off the buffer zone - Pat volunteered
- digging up and reusing some of the plants by the pool enclosure- clean up the border of enclosure next to sidewalks
- Community work day(s)

Cost to remove the rocks and put in pervious material such as pavers to improve aesthetic and safety of the sidewalks

-

- **Contact folks who offered to pay for trees and plants**

  Pat - 5 trees

  Rachel- Native plants for landscape bed $120?

  Meg and Cathie $200 for ground cover/ muhly grass/coontie

  Colette - Purchase of select plants

  Tom offered to chip in for the remediation of eroded areas by the pond benches

- **Motion passed** the BOD for pond beautification.

- **Will BOD send a new survey**?
  d. No need.
  e. Quorum of homeowners support the project
  f. Newsletter well received by community

- **Other fundraising ideas**- no money in reserve or budget for removing or replacing plantings
  a. silent auction

b. email request
c. ?

- **Price sheet for trees and plants**
  a. IFAS Discovery Garden
  b. Change of Greenery
  c. Creative landscape
  d. Aquatic Weed
  e. Judy?

- **Mod-arc submitted to SMHOA**
  On 8 /23/22

- **Informational presentation by IFAS or County Natural Resources**
  Not yet? People want to see the demonstration garden(s).

- **AWC update**
  No spray for 3 months trial per Brevard County Recommendation
  Vendor not returning calls regarding donated and wholesale pricing of plants

- **Fountain & aeration devices**
  Needed for fish and other aquatic life for dissolved oxygen
- Drainage outflow monitored for any debris-Jules
- Monitor pond for invasive weeds to be removed-Jules

New Topics:

- **Language for communicating to landscape vendor regarding "3-foot buffer along pond edge"**
  - Colette will collaborate with Judy to meet brandon to discuss
    i. the buffer language
    ii. tree pricing
    iii. cost to install planting beds
  - Ask skip about prices for cypress trees and plantings
  - IFAS
- Do we want a **Mosquito assessment** by Brevard County Mosquito Control
- 1st line Creating shade and cover for fish will control mosquitoes and dragonflies (they eat pollinators)
- **Bid**(s) for digging planting beds
- understand the value of volunteer labor vs. $ for digging large holes and beds

- **Ground cover Mulch, plants, compost pricing-**
  a. **Native ground covers**- Linda Tubbs
    i. perennial peanut, sunshine mimosa, frog fruit
- Prepare the beds, solarise the soil to kill the grass prior to planting
- dig out the grass level around existing tree bases to help them recover from being stunted
- Watering to get established
  a. Hose by pond-Volunteers to water trees
  b. Possibility of drip irrigation-Talk to dick and jody
  c. HTG- garden supply free compost tea, mycos- beneficials to prepare soil

Present : Lee combs, Rachel, Linda, Jules, Pat, Liz Meg

OLD Topics:

1. What happened to the tank the motion to present the buffer zone?
    a. Buffer zone east of the bridge.
    b. Raise the decks
    c. 1-3 feet width

2. Perceived versus actual barriers.
    a. What ifs
    b. Interlachen ponds look bad- We don't want an ugly pond
3. Look at Duran Golf course and the zoo entrance
4. Spyglass & Murrell
5. Suseda Park

6. Erosion is a real loss of real property is should be everybody's concern
    a. All assessments have state clearly STOP SPRAYING THE BANK-allow our grass to develop deeper roots and stabilize the bank
    b. Maintain vendor relationship
        i. Trees at cost
        ii. Donated plants
        iii. Utilize selective spraying for invasive weeds if necessary
    c. There are geotextiles and other remediation techniques to stabilize the pond edge that are outside the scope of this discussion

7. Quorum of homeowners support pond beautification project

New Topics:

8. Present the proposal to move forward with planting islands based around cypress trees on east pond called phase 1 based on Sarasota Bay Estuary program rendering with color attachments of suitable plantshttps://sanibelcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Living-on-the-Waters-Edge-Freshwater.pdf\AWC- Site recommendations (Did they provide drawing or written outline?), Jules Artistic Rendering with legend

9. Liability concerns have been addressed:
    a. Lawyer Letter
    b. Not doing anything the Insurance company specified in their letter
    c. Liability Waivers for volunteer work in community

10. $0.00 Project Costs to the association
    a. Homeowner sponsorship of plantings because the CWHOA does not have any money in the reserve or in the operating budget for plantings in the common areas.

11. **Will the BOD send the pond survey to the whole community to document reports of homeowner concerns? We can only address REAL barriers if they are KNOWN (Currently 15/ 26 responses are interested in community work days) https://forms.gle/3qM2TvgZGQ8sEF6M**

12. Do we want to plan an informational presentation for homeowners and board members by Commercial Extension Agent Dr. Bonnie Wells or Sally Scalera? Or County NAtural Resources Agents who have done the site assessments?

07/26/22 Pond Beautification Notes (Meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays) 530-630pm Next meeting August 9

Present: Charlie, Rita, Merrylee, Pat, Meg Poolside Meeting

Old Business topics:

1. **Fountain**- AR/Jodi- Height is determined by the pump and filter cleaning. Increase to 7.5 HP pump when this pump fails to increase height. May need to change the cleaning to quarterly if there were build-ups in the filters.
2. **3 foot buffer zone**- No update on BOD status at this time Colette, Linda, Liz not present
3. **Aquatic Weed Control**- What can they do for us: Colette provided an email update AWC will donate 100 plants and sell CW cypress trees 10-15 g for $60. Aquatic weed Control is willing to oversee planting projects to ensure success!
4. **Pond Plant Companies:** AWC donations & other sources TBD
5. **Criteria for achievable goals:** https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/ffl-awards/Stormwater_ponds.pdf

New Business Topics:

1. **County Site Assessment(s)**
    a. June 28 Meeting to discuss community education presentations & resources
    b. July 21 Meeting to assess and report on water quality, condition of the bank, erosion, appearance
    c. July 26 Meeting to discuss recommendations for approach to planning, plantings, stop spraying bank to stop causing erosion, current condition of the pond, goals setting reading topographic maps of watershed, Wetland Volunteers
2. **Actual Barriers to success VS Perceived barriers to success discussed**
3. **Next steps:**
    a. Present a plan for proposed pilot project for mod arc review based on
        i. Sarasota Bay Estuary program rendering with color attachments of suitable plantshttps://sanibelcleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Living-on-the-Waters-Edge-Freshwater.pdf\AWC- Site recommendations (Did they provide drawing or written outline?), Jules Artistic Rendering with legend
4. Follow up with IFAS & County reps
5. Will the BOD send the pond survey to the community for documentation of any barriers or homeowner concerns? https://forms.gle/3qM2TvgZGQ8sEF6M
6. What does the board need from us in order to move forward?
    a. Quorum of homeowners
    b. Support of paid vendor-AWC
    c. County oversight
    d. Published SJWMD recommendations

Do we want to make these BYO/pot luck dinner meetings?

Additional notes from meeting with RB @ BC NR 07/26/22:

1. Work to identify a realistic budget for our pilot project
2. Submit mod -arc to put in pioneer planting beds around the proposed cypress planting(s).
3. Follow up on the feasibility of the geotextiles planting techniques (biobag?)
4. Investigate introducing & monitoring aeration to increase dissolved O2 in the water
5. Clear "shelf" around the base of the existing cypress roots to help them grow better and identify other plantings to model (maintenance free zone
6.

Date: 7-12-22 poolside

Initial Pond Beautification Meeting Notes

Present: Collette, Meg, Charlie, Rita, Pat, Jules, Rachel, Liz, Linda

Topics:

Florida Friendly StormWater Pond criteria principles and standards need to be adopted by the committee. 12 principles are attached to the minutes.

1. How your pond impacts the neighborhood:
    a. Fishing
    b. Recreational activities
    c. It needs to be fixed,
    d. Natural habitat
    e. Flows into the IRL

Charlie—check in on the fountains and why are they not so big

Can we do a section of the pond

Create a test area for the pond plants

Aquatic Weed Control—what can he do

Jules will research pond plant companies

Next Steps:

1. Collette will present 3 foot buffer east of the bridge
2. Charlie will check with Jody on the fountains
3. Collette will meet with AWC

Meet Bi-Weekly Tuesdays in Board Room (2nd and 4th Tuesdays) Next meeting July 26th

Attached information

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Stormwater Ponds Improvement Criteria
https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/ffl-awards/Stormwater_ponds.pdf

July 7, 2021
Special Pond Meeting 3 minutes summary submitted by Meghan Murphy ; Pond Beautification Project July 7 2021 @ 7 PM

1. First, I'd like to thank you all for coming together as a community to discuss the possibility of making a change to the pond management practices in CW.

2. We may not always agree on how things should be done, but we can all agree that we want to live in a great place, protect and improve our properties and continue to be the best value in Suntree.

3. CW has a long history of volunteerism for keeping our neighborhood looking great and our dues low. We have many past and current neighbors to thank for that.

4. The 2020 community feedback survey showed that the landscape and irrigation programs are by far the most important line items for board members to focus on.

5. It also showed that we have a great number of folks willing to come out and work together on projects to benefit the entire community. This is a great example of that.

6. In October 2021 a letter to the HOA from a concerned neighbor was printed in the newsletter prompting other community members to volunteer to help beautify the pond.

7. Then, in November 2021 at the 1st FFL Education meeting with Dr Bonnie Wells, many attendees wanted to prioritize changing the appearance of the pond. "The pond is at the heart of our community, and it is a missed opportunity to increase the aesthetic value of our common areas.

8. On November 9th, 2021 another homeowner and I met with Mike from AWC who was helpful to us in understanding the current management program. We also learned from him that the company offers native planting services and fish stocking. I made repeated attempts while on the BOD to contact AWCs home office regarding these services and got no response.

9. There are currently 28 homeowners on the petition and even more residents of this community who want to see some evidence-based changes in the way our landscape, pond & tree management programs are handled.

10. I have personally spoken with numerous folks in county government, other HOA's, the Viera East CDD, UF/IFAS, Master gardeners and pond and landscape contractors. We have also requested bids from 3 additional contractors for pond maintenance.

11. Every one of them recommends some form of planting to stabilize the pond edge and remove harmful nutrient build up in the water.

12. It's true, there are permitting requirements related to the spraying of chemicals in the pond. But not for planting and harvesting of plant material to maintain the water quality and protect the banks of the pond from erosion.

13. In fact, for all new retention projects, it is required to have a minimum of 5% of the water body planted with aquatic plants.

14. As I understand it, the pond permit requires there to be a 10-foot buffer zone preventing fertilizer and lawn clippings from entering the pond. It is recommended to use deep rooted plants for this purpose. We don't currently have any of those.

15. Some serious considerations were raised at the prior board meeting when the petition was presented:

- 1st Sustainability of the project after current homeowners move on is a realistic concern: Our community should prioritize making informed decisions based on the best available evidence, so those who live here in the future know that it is possible to make changes for the benefit of the community based on current research in addition to homeowner preferences. Things will not remain unchanged forever.
- 2nd Overgrowth of vegetation may be a concern as well. To control vegetation, you must harvest or spray. It's a choice. However, spraying is not the currently recommended best practice. Plants will decrease and remove nutrient build up over time, but only if you harvest them, Look to Duran golf course for more exemplary pond management practices.
- 3rd What about the costs?
    - As with every other contract review in the past we will need to get estimates and weigh the value of the options on their merits.
    - First, let's identify the benefits to the community, and then we can develop an RFP for our pond management program if necessary.

Thank you for your valuable time. I have sources available for review and will be happy to share any information I have including my notes.

Resource List:
County government, other HOA's, Viera CDD, UF/IFAS, Master gardeners, pond and landscape contractors, SJRWMD publications

1. 07/01/2022 ECOR- Sam pond maintenance contractor for Viera East CDD partnering in pilot 2840 Electronics Dr, Melbourne, FL 32935 ecorpestcontrol.com
2. CC – Environmental management 06/28/2022
3. JT-Brevard County Compliance 07/07/2022
4. SB-Developing Floating aquatic plant systems for pond water remediation since 1979 06/07/2022
5. Pond Science: pondscience.net 06/30/22 and meeting 07/01/22
6. TM- Licensed CAM Viera CDD resident HOA Board/ Master Naturalist/Master Gardener working to prevent erosion and property loss in Viera 06/23/2022
7. Skip Healy- February 2022 Change of Greenery-Public Speaker / educator landscaping/native plants https://www.changeofgreenery.org/
8. Dane@brevardnatives.com
9. IFAS Agents-
i. Bonnie Wells Commercial Extension Agent October 2021
ii. Sally Sclera Urban Horticulturist April 2022
iii. Claire Lewis- FF Communities State coordinator February 2022
10. Aquatic Weed Control- Mike 11/9/2021
11. Amanda Newton EFSC Horticulture Professor 06/28/2022
12. Online and print publications: SJRWMD, FFW, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, IFAS
13. EKIndian River HOA – Landscape Committee making FFL changes and using landscape reserve to pay for updated plantings in common areas
14. LR: lisananr@yahoo.com - Lisa is FF certified, a member of the IRL Coalition (A Non-Government Organization), and she is helping out with the rain garden at the Rotary Park in Merritt Island
15. *Marine resource council- Katie*
16. CWHOA- tree plantings along pond edge- Grounds Professionals
17. Green Wing chemical free lawn service and pest control 4145 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 32953 321-449-8454
18. Marine Resources Council (MRC) – This is another NGO. Their website is www.mrcirl.org their phone number is They are putting together the LID conference in October among many other things like mangroves and rain barrels.
19. National Estuary Program (NEP) – This is a federal agency and they assist in Federal grant info and writing. https://onelagoon.org/

Italicized * still in process not italicized- meeting notes taken