

January 9, 2014

**HOWELL CREEK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting – 2014

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions & Scope of Services
- Community-Based Activities & Events
- Current Fiscal Year: Planned Treatments, Funding & Recommendations
- Next Fiscal Year: Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits – Notes, Budget & Financial Summary, Historic Reports/Data

HOWELL CREEK ANNUAL MEETING

Date, Time & Location	:	January 09, 2014, 1:00 p.m., 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office
Formal Liaisons	:	Jeannie Schiff; Mary Munster
Informal Liaisons	:	Rory Trumbore
Liaisons Present	:	Jeannie Schiff; Mary Munster and Rory Trumbore
Seminole County	:	Thomas Calhoun, Gloria Eby, Kathy Moore and Carol Watral
City of Casselberry	:	Kelly Brock – City of Casselberry

Topics carried forward from prior fiscal year activity

- Aquatic plant control treatments are scheduled monthly or as authorized by County staff.
- Vegetation (such as lily pads and pennywort) impeding access from Howell Creek to Lake Waumpi are not within the MSBU boundary area and, therefore, not eligible for treatment via MSBU funding.
- Due to erosion noted during inspections, Lake Management Program recommends the community consider installation of native plants along the shoreline.
- Rapid response to hydrilla observations.

General Topics & Updates

- Maintaining current access open
- Potential planting events
- New pricing available via state contract established with herbicide service provider
- Plans for current fiscal year
- Projections for next fiscal year
- General recommendations for community consideration

Meeting Notes:

- City of Casselberry said their Code Enforcement has become involved in the Ultra Vista HOA parcel that cleared vegetation within the conservation easement; violation has been filed.
- Congestion caused by vegetation at the mouth of Lake Waumpi was questioned; this is not funded by MSBU per outside of the MSBU boundary; observations/complaints should be forwarded to the City of Maitland (407-539-6203).
- Rory Trumbore said the dam is being undercut; community advised to log a work order with Seminole County whenever a soil/earth disturbance is evident (407-665-ROADS).
- Types of desirable vegetation to plant along the shoreline were discussed; i.e., blue flag iris. Possibility of planting test plots within gabions will be explored by County's LMP.
- Jeannie Schiff reported fewer sightings of unauthorized persons accessing the creek this year.
- Liaisons report continued difficulty engaging other creekfront properties in Howell Creek MSBU activities.

HOWELL CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Scope of Public Aquatic Weed/Plant Control [AWC] Services

The scope of public aquatic weed control [AWC] services funded by non-ad-valorem assessment includes those services associated with managing aquatic plant communities as deemed beneficial and/or critical to restoring, developing and/or maintaining conditions that enhance the water quality and over-all health of the waterbody; with emphasis on providing public services for public purposes which by definition of public are limited to the waterbody and respective shoreline when/where noxious and/or invasive exotic vegetation could/would threaten or impede the waterbody.

Governing documents:

- Seminole County Ordinance 92-18
- Casselberry Interlocal Agreement (February 2013)

Methods for Aquatic Weed Control as authorized via County Ordinance

- Chemical (herbicides)

Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation

- Hydrilla, torpedo grass, water hyacinth, alligator weed, wild taro, lily pads, salvinia, and duckweed

Frequency of AWC Treatment

AWC services are performed at the direction of the Seminole County LMP as per the Howell Creek Management Plan reviewed at the annual planning session with the expectation that the Seminole County LMP may alter anticipated treatments on an as merited basis per changing/evolving conditions noted during site inspections.

Herbicide Treatments - Service Provider

- As determined by Seminole County

Funding

Assessment rate may vary annually based on financial demands of changing conditions, such as cost of herbicide treatments, frequency of treatments, and other factors impacting assessment calculations. The governing ordinance does not include assessment restrictions specific to annual adjustment amounts and/or assessment cap.

Lake Liaisons

Designated property owners (or their designated representatives) provide community representation at annual planning sessions with the County and serve voluntarily as the key point of contact for community inquiries and concerns. The liaisons for Howell Creek are: Mary Munster (mmunster@cfl.rr.com) and Jeannie Schiff (jschiff@cfl.rr.com).

HOWELL CREEK

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

LMP recommends/encourages homeowners to coordinate a resident-based volunteer event involving native plantings along the shoreline of Howell Creek. The intention of such an event is to plant beneficial native aquatic plants to key areas in need along the bank. Residents should organize planting days creating a beneficial shoreline. It is especially important that as the aquatic invasive plants (such as torpedo grass) are being treated, native aquatic plants should be established within these areas.

The presence of the recommended native plant species along the shoreline provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps impede invasive exotics from re-establishing and reduces erosion of the shoreline. All of these best management practices are essential to providing the conditions that promote an environmentally stable habitat to be enjoyed by generations to come. The key to success is dependent on strong participation of the Howell Creek community.

Continued recommendations for community initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Increase shoreline re-vegetation with beneficial native aquatic plants such as duck potato and pickerelweed where invasive plants have been treated,
- 2) Continue to work together with other waterfront homeowners. Have *at least* one annual waterfront association meeting. Invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss creek specific issues, especially these management recommendations. LMP professional staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys, and
- 3) Implement educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) presentations, Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of residential pollution by using low fertilizer use; phosphorous free fertilizers; keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants; keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains leading to the lake. All these activities aid in protecting your creek! Contact Gloria Eby (407) 665-2439 or Marie Lackey (407) 665-2424 for more information and assistance.

Important to Note: When herbicides are applied along the shoreline to invasive plants (such as torpedo grass), overspray onto adjacent desirable vegetation may occur. In order to avoid damage to desired vegetation, manual (by hand) removal (by property owner) of the undesirable species from among the desirable species is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be eliminated, thereby offering greater protection to the desirable species. The physical removal of dead/decaying aquatic plant material will reduce the volume of decomposing vegetation on the lake bottom (muck layer) and will increase the success of the efforts to limit the re-growth of the invasive plants.

COUNTY SERVICES – Lake Management & Supplemental Programs

While the MSBU assessment includes a nominal charge for administering the MSBU, the amount charged does not cover all the expenses incurred by the County on behalf of the waterfront property owners. Howell Creek is monitored by LMP to assess the aquatic plant growth. LMP provides continued evaluation of the aquatic plant species, such as hydrilla, and provides community updates on the status of all treatments and waterbody assessments. In addition, LMP offers free aquatic plant material (as available) for sponsored restoration events and local community volunteers coordinated through the county's Seminole Education and Restoration Volunteer (SERV) Program. Many of the services provided by the LMP are made available to support community riparian stewardship without additional charges being assigned to the MSBU budget.

HOWELL CREEK

Current Fiscal Year – Planned Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Monthly aquatic maintenance treatments have yielded a better outcome for invasive plant management in Howell Creek. Species that continue to be targeted include wild taro, alligator weed, hydrilla, water hyacinth, road grass, and torpedo grass. While wild taro exists on several banks, these areas are left untreated as this is the sole vegetation that is retaining the shoreline/bank with the established root system. Removal of these plants will result in greater shoreline/bank erosion. Hydrilla has been observed on several occasions and through routing monitoring by the county LMP, rapid response treatment to newly establish hydrilla assists in minimizing the management cost of this highly invasive species. While extensive growth of hydrilla is possible at any point in time; it is anticipated that routine spot treatments of hydrilla with herbicides will be sufficient to manage hydrilla re-growth during the current fiscal year.

Funding Expectations

Refer to current fiscal year budget data provided in Exhibit B.

Next Fiscal Year – Projected Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

The projected treatment plans for the next fiscal year remain consistent with the plans and expectations noted for the current fiscal year. Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Continued monitoring of aquatic plant species, and
- 2) Continued maintenance treatment of emergent non-native vegetation (such as torpedo grass) and floating lilies that may impede access via herbicides.

Funding Expectations

Refer to next fiscal year budget data provided in Exhibit B.

Exhibits

A - Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

B - Budget/Financial Summaries

C - Historic Reports/Data

Exhibit A - Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

Summary from February 1, 2013 Annual Meeting

County Staff Present: Thomas Calhoun, Gloria Eby, Kathy Moore, and Carol Watral

Liaisons Present: Jeannie Schiff and Rory Trombore

Liaison Members: Jeannie Schiff, Mary Munster, and Rory Trombore

- Aquatic plant control treatments are scheduled monthly or as authorized by County staff per MSBU budget.
- Species targeted for treatment include: wild taro, alligator weed, hydrilla, water hyacinth, road grass, bladderwort, and torpedo grass.
- Vegetation (such as lily pads and pennywort) impeding access from Howell Creek to Lake Waumpi are not within the MSBU boundary area and, therefore, not eligible for treatment via MSBU funding.
- Due to erosion noted during inspections, Lake Management Program recommended the community consider installation of native plants along the shoreline.
- An Interlocal Agreement was established between Seminole County and the City of Casselberry for City contribution of fifty percent (50%) cost share funding of aquatic plant control expenditures for the Howell Creek MSBU.

Annual Assessment: \$0.75 per front foot of property (Tax Year 2013)

Exhibit B - Budget/Financial Overview

MSBU:

HOWELL CREEK (Aquatic Weed Control)

Date:

January 9, 2014

Tax Year	2012	2013	2014
Assessment	\$0.73	\$0.75	\$0.80
Fiscal Year	FY1213	FY1314	FY1415
REVENUE			
	Actual	Working Budget	Projected Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 7,909	\$ 7,536	\$ 6,926
Assessments	\$ 1,265	\$ 1,290	\$ 1,378
Other	\$ 27		\$ -
MSBU Program Fund Advance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 9,201	\$ 8,826	\$ 8,303
Cost Sharing	\$ 1,225	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
TOTAL	\$ 10,426	\$ 10,076	\$ 9,553
Lake Management Program			
TOTAL	\$ 10,426	\$ 10,076	\$ 9,553
EXPENDITURE			
	Actual	Working Budget	Projected Budget
County Administrative Fee	\$ 550	\$ 650	\$ 875
Fund Advance Repayment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services	\$ 2,340	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
<i>Routine Services</i>	\$ 2,340	\$ 2,390	\$ 2,390
<i>Hydrilla</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Labor</i>	\$ -	\$ 110	\$ 110
<i>Carp</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Reserve	\$ 7,536	\$ 6,926	\$ 6,178
TOTAL	\$ 10,426	\$ 10,076	\$ 9,553
Cost Sharing (amount included in Contracted Services noted above)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 10,426	\$ 10,076	\$ 9,553
Lake Management Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 10,426	\$ 10,076	\$ 9,553
Fund Advance BB Payment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Advance EB	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Exhibit C - Historic Reports/Data

Additional information for Howell Creek can be found on the Seminole County Water Atlas website at:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/river/?wbodyatlas=river&wbodyid=1009>

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/resourceprogram.aspx?aid=15&wbodyid=1009>