

2023

**HOWELL CREEK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions & Scope of Services
- Community-Based Activities & Events
 - Recommendations
- Current Fiscal Year
 - Planned Treatments & Funding
- Next Fiscal Year
 - Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits
 - Agenda & Notes Prior Year
 - Financial Summary
 - Historic Reports/Data
 - Roles & Responsibilities

HOWELL CREEK ANNUAL MEETING

Date /Time/ Location	: Monday, January 30, 2023 /10:15 am – 11:00 am/ ZOOM Virtual
Formal Liaisons	: Jeannie Schiff, Rory Trumbore
Liaisons Present	: Rory Trumbore
Seminole County	: Thomas Calhoun, Tony Cintron, Daniel Barber, Chad Day, Michael Eason, Tameka Morton, Michelle Rosa-Munger, Shannon Wetzel
City of Casselberry	:

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

- Welcome
- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
 - County Shoreline Ordinance adopted April 2021
 - Lake Waumpi has own ordinance with Orange County and City of Maitland, upstream is protected
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Monitor Hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
 - Upcoming Hydrilla treatment – when flow reduces
 - Hydrilla was tested to be genetically tolerant to certain herbicides (resistant strands)
 - Recent surveys have spotted some Hydrilla in patches and large amounts in Howell Creek past Lake Waumpi
 - City of Winter Park efforts in treatment of resistance Hydrilla/notification system sign up:
 - [City of Winter Park Lakes Division \(list-manage.com\)](http://list-manage.com)
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Collect email addresses from new residents
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners – **Rory to receive packets**
- 2023 Shoreline Planting Event- dates tentative
 - Plants to be funded by MSBU
 - To be coordinated via Tony Cintron
- Other
 - Tree blocking access to be removed by LMP
 - **Work order put in for erosion around weir**

MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]

HOWELL CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Scope of Public Lake Management Services

The scope of public lake management 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)
- Mechanical (harvesting, cutting, etc.)
- Physical (hand removal)

Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation

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

Frequency of Aquatic Vegetation Management Treatment (herbicides)

Treatment 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

Financial management of the MSBU fund is provided by the Seminole County MSBU Program. Financial plans developed by the MSBU Program include eligible expense funding requests submitted by the Lake Management Program and other cost and revenue components typical to MSBU funds. Financial information inclusive of prior year actual outcome, current year working budget and next year budget proposal data is reported annually. Assessment levy is subject to Board approval and the standard procedures associated with non-ad valorem assessment. The financial plans may be adjusted by the County as merited per changing/evolving essential services as directed by the County and per financial planning considerations. The governing ordinance does not include assessment restrictions specific to annual adjustment amounts and/or assessment cap.

Seminole County Employees

Information for contacting the employees of Lake Management and the MSBU program:

Lake Management – Thomas Calhoun (tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov), Tony Cintron (acintron@seminolecountyfl.gov), Daniel Barber (dbarber02@seminolecountyfl.gov), Chad Day (cday02@seminolecountyfl.gov)

MSBU – Michael Eason (meason@seminolecountyfl.gov), Tameka Morton (tmorton@seminolecountyfl.gov), Michelle Rosa-Munger (mrosamunger@seminolecountyfl.gov)

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 (jrschiff92@gmail.com), and Rory Trumble (otterplaymore@cfl.rr.com).

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. 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 to prevent shoreline erosion.
- 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.
- 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 and slow-release nitrogen based 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 407-665-5542 for more information and assistance.
- 4) Establish a berm and swale system where applicable.
- 5) Fertilize wisely by using phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen based fertilizers only. Visit www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer for more information.
- 6) Provide content for the Seminole County Water Atlas Lake Management Webpage for your lake (such as newsletters and photos).

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 along the shoreline is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be reduced, 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. The presence of submerged aquatic vegetation ("SAV" such as hydrilla) should be communicated to your lake liaison for their reporting to the County so appropriate treatment of SAV can be provided.

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 treatments and waterbody bioassessment.

Current Fiscal Year – Planned Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Monthly aquatic maintenance treatments continue to yield an improved 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 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 hydrilla
- 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 data provided in Exhibit B.

Exhibits

A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

B - Financial Summary

C - Historic Reports/Data

D – Roles & Responsibilities

Exhibit A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Meeting

Date /Time/ Location	: Monday, March 7, 2022 /10:15am – 11:00am/ ZOOM Virtual
Formal Liaisons	: Mary Munster; Jeannie Schiff
Liaisons Present	:
Seminole County	: Daniel Barber, Tony Cintron, Michael Eason, Tameka Morton, & Lynda Reaves
City of Casselberry	:

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

- Welcome
- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
 - County Shoreline Ordinance adopted April 2021
 - Lake Waumpi has own ordinance with Orange County and City of Maitland, upstream is protected
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Monitor Hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
 - Upcoming hydrilla treatment
 - Hydrilla was tested to be genetically tolerant to certain herbicides (resistant strands)
 - Recent surveys have spotted some Hydrilla in patches and large amounts in Howell Creek past Lake Waumpi
 - City of Winter Park efforts in treatment of resistance Hydrilla/notification system
 - Winter Park treatment on hold until flow reduces
 - Winter Park rotating product to help combat resistance in Hydrilla
 - Tony to forward email notifications received from Winter Park to liaisons
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
- 2022 Shoreline Planting Event- dates available
 - Plants to be funded by MSBU
 - To be coordinated via Tony Cintron
- Other
 - Email Address for routine communications and important announcements
 - Nutrient removal project update

MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]

Exhibit B - Financial Summary

MSBU FUND: HOWELL (CREEK)

Tax Year	2021	2022	2023
Assessment Per Benefit Unit	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75
Fiscal Year	FY21-22	FY22-23	FY23-24

Revenue	Actual	Working	Proposed
Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 11,220	\$ 10,822	\$ 11,372
Assessment Revenue	\$ 1,297	\$ 1,295	\$ 1,295
Other (Interest)	\$ 75	\$ 50	\$ 50
Other - Per Ordinance Cost Share	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other - Per Interlocal Agreement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL Revenue	\$ 12,592	\$ 12,167	\$ 12,717

Expenditure & Reserves	Actual	Working	Proposed
Application Fee Recoupment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MSBU Program Administrative Fee [7% Rev FY21-22]	\$ 91	\$ 90	\$ 90
Other County Services (Service Entity)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Advance Repayment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services	\$ 1,679	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
<i>AWC Services (via AAM)</i>	\$ 1,679	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
<i>Chemicals (Non-AAM)</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>FAS/GEN Testing</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Shipping (Test Samples)</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>TGC Fish</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fish Barrier Inspection/Minor Repair</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fish Barrier Replace/Major Repair</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Nutrient Abatement (Product) - pending BCC approval</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Nutrient Abatement (Prof. Services) - pending BCC approval</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Harvesting (and/or Cattails/Eelgrass)</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenditure & Reserves	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,590	\$ 1,590
Reserve/Contingency¹	\$ 10,822	\$ 10,577	\$ 11,127

1 Note: These funds are secured (1) for maintaining rate stability as annual cost are known to fluctuate, (2) in preparation of planned or anticipated future expenses, (3) to provide response to emergency and/or urgent needs for which planning was not feasible. These funds are not intended for expenditures that could be planned and included in annual budget planning processes.

LM Program Enhanced Services Cost	<i>Pending development & confirmation</i>
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Reserve/Contingency Funds

The primary purpose for establishing contingency/reserve funding is twofold – (1) To have funding on hand to accommodate unexpected essential aquatic weed control emergencies that cannot be reasonably foreseen, planned or identified in routine budget planning & forecasting and (2) To provide rate stability as costs for ongoing services often vary from year to year. By establishing contingency and reserve funds, such funding may be allocated temporarily from these funds to operating expenditures to avoid periodic spikes in assessment.

Contingency funds are developed by financial management planning decisions and by default when actual expenditures are less than budgeted expenses. Although reserve/contingency funds are not expected to be expended in any given year, these values are included under expenditures because they are “on hold” for future needs and are classified by accounting practices as expenditures.

In the financial summary (Exhibit B) the total dollars in reserve/contingency are identified in the expenditure section on a single line (darker shading). The total dollars in contingency are calculated by subtracting the other expenditures (typically “contracted services” and “administrative fee”) from the total revenue. Contingency funds may be used as deemed essential to meeting emergency needs of the waterbody.

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>

Exhibit D

Roles & Responsibilities

General Outline

COUNTY

Seminole County will

- ✓ Govern the MSBU
- ✓ Provide financial management of MSBU fund and assessment levy
- ✓ Ensure activities conducted with assessment funding align with the scope of services documented in the governing ordinance
- ✓ Ensure the lake is monitored and services are appropriately rendered
- ✓ Maintain decision-making authority relative to public services and will defer to best lake management practices when making such decisions
- ✓ Provide an ongoing lake management plan based on the defined service scope, permitting, conditions at the lake, funding parameters, and best lake management practices. The Lake Management Plan will be developed and maintained by the Lake Management Program with liaison participation.
- ✓ Initiate and manage service contracts, monitor results, and communicate updates on a routine basis
- ✓ Conduct annual meetings that offer opportunity for liaison discussion as to prior, current, and future action plans
- ✓ Encourage liaisons and assist with educational outreach efforts to protect the health and water quality of the waterbody

LIAISONS

Liaisons will

- ✓ Encourage communitywide awareness and participation relative to environmental stewardship recommendations and opportunities
- ✓ Provide communitywide communication and assist the County in the distribution of relevant lake information
- ✓ Attend annual lake management and budget planning sessions conducted by the County
- ✓ Serve as representatives of the community on lake issues; representing the respective lake community as a whole
- ✓ Monitor lake conditions and provide feedback to the County as to observations