

Spring Lake - Aquatic Weed Control – MSBU
Expenditures and Lake Management Recommendations
March 12, 2008

The Municipal Service Benefit Unit [MSBU] Program provides property owners in unincorporated areas of Seminole County with an opportunity to acquire essential improvements or services for their community and is a special assessment district created to provide funding for such services or improvements that are authorized through the MSBU Program.

Several essential activities were identified at a meeting on October 18th, 2006, with the community liaison members representing Spring Lake and county staff from both Lake Management [LM] Program and MSBU Program. This meeting identified and prioritized several essential activities that were established in the MSBU Year 1 (FY0607: October 2006 through October 2007) assessment. These activities were:

- 1) Treatment plan for hydrilla
- 2) Stocking of grass carp
- 3) Selective aquatic vegetation maintenance for torpedo grass (as permitted by FDEP)- Herbicides
- 4) Establishing a Lake Association, electing a board of directors and having at least one annual meeting
- 5) Shoreline Restorations Workshops- Herbicides/Volunteers
- 6) Continued monitoring of aquatic plant changes

MSBU Year 2 (FY0708: October 2007 through October 2008) should consider the following LM Program recommendations:

- 1) Continued monitoring of hydrilla (re-growth from tuber production)
- 2) Spot treatments of hydrilla
- 3) Expanded treatment of torpedo grass- Herbicides
- 4) Selective control of cattails and water pennywort- Herbicides
- 5) Future grass carp stockings
- 6) Shoreline re-vegetation (lakefront community)
- 7) Establishing a lake association documented by the State and obtain a lake-wide DEP aquatic plant control permit
- 8) Increase educational outreach programs to include Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video, and reduction of pointless personal pollution

LM Program will closely monitor and gauge the re-growth of hydrilla. Spring Lake was heavily infested with hydrilla (80% coverage on September 27, 2006). Presently, there is 99% control of hydrilla in Spring Lake with native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) expanding. However, hydrilla will deposit bulb like seeds (tubers) into the sediment which can remain dormant for six years. Tubers are produced in a growing season and

used to perennialize the plant as a means of propagation (re-growth). Tubers will regenerate new shoots and currently, there is a viable seed bank of tubers in the sediments that will require constant monitoring. The recommendations for the subsequent months would maintain an integrated management approach; integrate with contact herbicides and follow up with grass carp fish as necessary.

LM Program continues to coordinate with several residents to target torpedo grass, cattail and various other species at six locations with the MSBU assessment. The objective of this coordinated effort is to continue to expand the locations and targeted plants and to transplant existing in-lake plants (pickerel weed, duck potato, bulrush) to areas in need along the shoreline. Residents should organize planting days to accomplish recommendations and contact LM Program to assist with outside volunteers aiding the residents in creating a beneficial shoreline for Spring Lake.

The key to success on lake management projects is dependent on strong participation of the Spring Lake community. The next resident/volunteer planting event will be on Saturday, **April 26th, 2008**, from 9 am to 2 pm.