

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



ROADS-STORMWATER DIVISION

Good Afternoon Myrtle Lake Resident,

Within this letter you will find information on the Myrtle Lake planting event scheduled for Saturday, May 10th at 9am and information about your aquatic plants. It is important to know that as Myrtle Lake stabilizes over the next year, expansion of the native plants will play a critical role in the reduction of nuisance aquatic vegetation from re-establishing as the dominant plant and as the lake level fluctuates.

As we near the rainy season, there exists the potential to relocate some of the newly planted material accordingly. In addition, as the lake stabilizes, nuisance vegetation may attempt to establish in which hand removal may be necessary to ensure expansion of the newly planted material. With the proper management plan that includes using chemical herbicides and mechanical removal (via hand tools) to reduce unwanted growth, this will promote a native plant community for years to come.

As previously mentioned, Myrtle Lake will experience changes over the next year as the lake stabilizes from the current excavation phase. Exponential growth of vegetation is to be expected and at times the current herbicide treatment regimen may need additional assistance from the residents in which a work party will be encouraged to physically reduce the vegetation growth (via mowing, weed eating). Although Seminole County Lake Management Program (LMP) will provide herbicide treatments for the next 11 months to reduce vegetation re-growth, there remains a considerable amount of work that the residents can take part in as the lake stabilizes. Be sure to participate at future Friends of Myrtle Lake, Inc. events since the technical recommendations will be stemming from LMP.

After the LMP herbicide contract expires, as stipulated within the MSBU ordinance, it will be the responsibility of the community and Friends of Myrtle Lake, Inc. to support the maintenance needs of Myrtle Lake with technical recommendations provided by LMP.

With the planting event on Saturday, May 10th, enclosed is a planting diagram illustrating each aquatic planting plot. There are essentially 4 zones within each homeowner parcel. Zone #1 would consist of the more "drought tolerant" aquatic plants, zone #2 and zone #3 would progress to the more "sensitive to drought" plants, and typically a fourth zone would be encouraged to promote habitat for fisheries consisting of lilies/maidencane grass. However, since there is natural recruitment of spatterdock lilies existing with the

south portion of Myrtle Lake, it is best not to add lilies at this time since this plant can rapidly grow in shallow systems.

Each resident will receive a combination of the plant species listed in each respective zone with an approximate total of 40 plants for zone#1, 30 plants for zone #2 and 30 plants for zone #3 totaling 100 plants. Larger parcels will have plant material available respective to linear footage.

Biologists will be staged around the lake assisting the residents in replanting their shoreline with the group migrating from parcel to parcel. Community outreach volunteers, such as WAV, will be on hand to assist County biologists and residents with plant installation. Please plan to arrive at your station by 9am to receive your plants (pre-portioned by species and zone). Delegation of stations (where to go) will be announced at the May 10th meeting.

The work of the community is just getting underway; we look forward to the May 10th planting event and look forward to future work party events with the Friends of Myrtle Lake, Inc. ensuring to protect your great natural resource. Again, if you have any questions please contact LMP at 407-665-5710 or e-mail me at geby@seminolecountyfl.gov.

Thank You!

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