



2021 Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Management Program

[Woodlands Word - January 2021]

RIVENDELL PONDS PLAN

Includes: 24 Named Ponds with 65 acres of Open Water.

- Erosion is visible on most Rivendell pond shorelines leading to common-ground property loss. Our HOA is responsible for maintaining the Stormwater System, pond shorelines, and all community common-ground.
- Manage erosion damage with “**Rivendell Natural Shorelines**” around all ponds. Continue to develop 3-foot LMZs (no-mow zones) and install aquatic plants over the next few years.
- Appearance matters – the HOA contractor will continue to trim all LMZs at a height of 8-12 inches for a neat and uniform look.
- Reduce use of toxic herbicides that encourage algae growth.
- Benefits: Avoid costly engineered remediation. Stabilize shoreline banks. Filter excess nutrient runoff. Improve water quality. Support wildlife habitats. Keep property values strong.



(Photo by P. Remy)

RIVENDELL PRESERVES PLAN

Includes: 14 Wetlands & Upland Preserves covering 115 acres.



- Preserves and buffer areas must be left alone – any activity beyond homeowners' property lines is an incursion. Do not plant, build, cut or remove any vegetation, or deposit yard waste in protected areas. Incursions are enforced.
- In accordance with an agreement with Sarasota County, the HOA is responsible for managing the upland buffer surrounding each preserve and the “conserved buffer” bordering Oscar Scherer State Park (OSSP).
- Ongoing management actions include: removing invasive plants, inspection & correction of incursions in preserve and buffer areas, and install signs to mark preserves boundaries.
- 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (with FL Forest Service). Mowed fire breaks to be installed in OSSP buffer to reduce accumulated vegetation in conserved uplands, improve access & reduce fire danger threat.
- Ongoing Mowing Plan for HOA: Use mechanical equipment to reduce vegetation and wildfire risk to meet County-specified requirements for upland management.



(Photo by Sheila Pies)

HOMEOWNERS & RESIDENTS SUPPORTING ROLE



(Photo by Bob Frank)

- Follow Sarasota County guidelines for responsible fertilizing and irrigation. Respect the fertilizer ban between 6/1 – 9/30. Plus, no fertilizer ever within 10 feet of preserve, pond or any hardscape surfaces.
- Reduce water usage where possible. Irrigate (if needed) on your assigned day (Tuesday for even house numbers, Thursday for odd - before 10am or after 4pm). Maintain good working sprinklers & rain sensors.
- **Take pride in Rivendell.** Enjoy the abundance of wildlife and experience harmony with nature while strolling around our community. **If you can, get involved!** Lend your talents - volunteer on a committee that interests you. Meet neighbors. Keep Rivendell a special community for all.