

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2006      (X ) Consent      ( ) Regular  
( ) Ordinance      ( ) Public Hearing

Department

**Submitted By:** Environmental Resources Management

Submitted For: Environmental Resources Management

## I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:**

**A) approve a Management Plan for the Limestone Creek Natural Area;**

**B) authorize** the Chairman to sign Deeds of Conservation Easement to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on behalf of the County, provided that the Deeds of Conservation Easement for Limestone Creek Natural Area do not substantially change the terms and conditions of the form Deed of Conservation Easement as previously approved by the Board on September 13, 2005 (R2005-1770).

**Summary:** The Limestone Creek Natural Area Management Plan (Plan) was developed by the Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The Plan provides guidelines for proposed land management activities on the Limestone Creek Natural Area. It was recommended for approval by the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) on June 16, 2006, after careful consideration of public comments received at a public hearing held on April 20, 2006. NAMAC also made a recommendation for further layers of protection for the land by the County offering Deeds of Conservation Easement to two (2) non-profit parties.

On September 13, 2005, the BCC expressed a desire to place conservation easements on County natural areas and approved a Resolution establishing standard form conservation easements (R2005-1770). The Deeds of Conservation Easement ~~authorized by this~~ agenda item are in the standard format that was approved by the BCC on September 13, 2005. Prior to the Chairman signing the Deeds of Conservation Easement for Limestone Creek, the site specific deeds will be reviewed and approved by SFWMD and TNC.

The Limestone Creek Natural Area is comprised of 53.4 acres, including 22.3 acres purchased by the County utilizing proceeds from the Land Acquisition for Conservation Purposes Bond Referendum of March 9, 1999 and 31.1 acres which are subject to a long-term linear park permit issued by the SFWMD. The County-owned 22.3 acres will be covered under the Deeds of Conservation Easement. This site will be managed by ERM as part of the County's Natural Areas System, which is currently comprised of 34 sites. District 1 (SF)

**(Continued on Page 3)**

**Attachments:**

1. Management Plan > 50 pages: Available for Review at County Administration

**Recommended by:**

Department Director

8/17/06  
Date

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by:**

**County Administrator**

9/5/08  
Date

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind (Jupiter)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Account No.: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_

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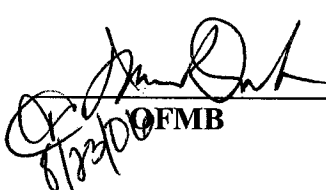

### B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact

No additional fiscal impact to the County. Management Plan required by the State for all lands acquired for conservation. Plan outlines specific maintenance activities to be accomplished within approved Operating budgets.

### C. Department Fiscal Review:

## III. REVIEW COMMENTS

### A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

 8-22-06  
OFMB  
 8-25-06  
Contract Development and Control

### B. Legal Sufficiency:

  
Assistant County Attorney

### C. Other Department Review:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

(Continued from page 1):

**Background and Justification:** In November 1994, the BCC created NAMAC to review staff-developed natural area management plans and to conduct public hearings on the plans prior to presentation to the BCC. The Limestone Creek Natural Area contains a total of 53.4 acres, 22.3 of which was purchased by the County, utilizing proceeds from the Land Acquisition for Conservation Purposes Bond Referendum of March 9, 1999.

This site will be managed by ERM as part of the County's Natural Areas System, which is currently comprised of 34 sites. With the approval of this management plan, 17 sites will have approved management plans. The primary objectives for the management of this site are to ensure the preservation of important remnants of mesic flatwoods, hydric hammock, scrubby flatwoods and tidal swamp vegetative communities and their associated wildlife populations, together with their component rare and/or endemic plant and animal species. A total of eight plant and eleven animal species recorded for Limestone Creek Natural Area have been listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern by at least one government agency or nonprofit environmental organization. Additional objectives are to provide for passive recreation, environmental education, and scientific research opportunities consistent with protecting the natural resources of the Limestone Creek Natural Area.

Protection from incompatible use is currently afforded to the Limestone Creek Natural Area through the Grant Award Agreement (R2003-1226) with Florida's Communities Trust (FCT), which prohibits uses contrary to the purposes of the State's Florida Forever Program, and by the Palm Beach County Conservation Lands Protection Ordinance No. 2003-052, which requires a super-majority vote by the BCC to conceptually approve conveying an interest in, or allowing uses on conservation lands that were not contemplated by the bond referenda approved in 1991 and 1999. The BCC expressed a desire to place conservation easements on County natural areas and approved a Resolution establishing standard form conservation easements (R2005-1770) on September 13, 2005. The proposed Deeds of Conservation Easement contained in this agenda item are in the standard format that was approved by the BCC on September 13, 2005. SFWMD and TNC are entities that may accept a conservation easement. Conveying easements over County natural areas will afford an additional level of protection that is not affected by retirement of County or State conservation bonds.