# Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

# Sykes Creek Management Area Public Access Plan Meeting

**May 7, 2019**

## *Attendance*

* Jonny Baker
* Laura Clark
* David DeMeyer
* Mike Knight
* Paul Schmalzer

*Protecting and Preserving Biological Diversity*

*Through Responsible Stewardship of Brevard County’s Natural Resources*

## *Meeting Minutes*

### Welcome and Presentation

David DeMeyer, Central Region Land Management Superintendent, gave a presentation on the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program’s Central Region and on public access plans for the Sykes Creek Management Area. He explained that the Sykes Creek Management Area is comprised of three EEL Program locations: Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary, Kabboord Sanctuary, and the Johnson Property. The three areas are discussed separately in the management plan.

A copy of the presentation will be provided as a separate document on the EEL Program’s web site. The group discussed the proposed plan and the following was noted:

**Kabboord Sanctuary**

Category Site: Two

The 797-acre Kabboord Wildlife Sanctuary, includes the original footprint of the Kabboord Sanctuary, plus an area south of Kings Park which was transferred to the EEL Program from the Parks and Recreation Department. The sanctuary is bordered on the north by Hall Road and on the south by the Barge Canal. It was noted that some of the berms cross private property and are in private ownership. No hiking, biking, equestrian or kayak trails are currently planned on this site unless private sections come into public ownership. It was noted that this location is not far from Kings Park, which provides recreational opportunities.

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of a kayak launch at some point in the future.

Changes or additions to original plan:

1. A trail which was previously used by local residents only and which is no longer in use will be documented and listed as being removed.
2. A proposed, future kayak access point or launch off Hall Road may be considered at some point in the future. Information to be brought back through the management plan review process prior to final planning stage.
3. Change from Category 3 to Category 2 site.

**Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary**

Category Two Site.

The Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary, which is approximately 1,227 acres, is located south of State Road 528, north of the Sykes Creek Parkway, and east of Sykes Creek in central Merritt Island.

The sanctuary includes the Boyd and DiChristopher acquisitions, the footprint of the original Ulumay Sanctuary which was transferred to the EEL Program from the Parks and Recreation Department, and several additional parcels transferred to EEL from the Mosquito Control and Public Works Departments. There is one large outparcel within the sanctuary.

Opportunities for passive recreation at this location will include a hiking trail with four observation platforms (completed), and a 4.5 mile paddling trail. Primary hiking trail locations run between overlooks.

There was some discussion of including equestrian use at this location, but it was noted that the location does not have room for horse trailer parking and Sykes Creek Parkway is a very busy road.

Changes or additions to original plan:

1. Proposed upgrade to the kayak landing. Information to be brought back through the committee process prior to finalization of plans.

**Johnson Property within Kabboord Wildlife Sanctuary**

Category Two Site.

The 99-acre Johnson tract is located north of Hall Road, south of Chase Hammock Road, and east of Kings Park in central Merritt Island. Private property exists between Kings Park and the Johnson Property**.** No public access is planned at this time as the area is very wet, there are no available areas for parking, and because the nearby Kings Park has multiple opportunities for recreation. Installation of fire lines is pending for this location and primary focus here is control of exotics. Future public access will be re-evaluated if additional staffing and funding become available. It was noted that an uncapped well on this site contributes to the area’s wet condition which is not conducive to public access.

Changes or additions to original plan: None

### Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.