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Agenda Item: <u>3L4</u>

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	August 20, 2019	(X) Consent () Workshop	()Regular ()Public Hearing

Department: Environmental Resources Management

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: an updated Management Plan (Plan) for Limestone Creek Natural Area.

Summary: The initial Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 12, 2006. The Plan identifies natural resources present on the natural area and provides for the preservation, restoration, management and passive recreational use of those resources. After review of the Plan by the Natural Areas Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC), they unanimously recommended the Plan for approval at its June 21, 2019 meeting. Initial invasive/nonnative vegetation removal, fence and regulatory sign installation, and public use facilities have been completed. Annual management and operating costs, including prescribed burns/mechanical vegetation reduction, ongoing invasive/nonnative animal and plant control, repair and replacement of facilities, and biological monitoring and reporting are estimated to be \$268,823. Funds for capital improvements, and annual management and operation of the site are expected to come from the Natural Areas Fund, Natural Areas Stewardship Endowment Fund, Pollution Recovery Trust Fund, Ag Reserve Land Management Fund, and/or ad valorem funding sources. The second update to the Plan will be due in 2029. <u>District 1 (SS)</u>

Background and Justification: The 53.7-acre Limestone Creek Natural Area is located in the northeastern portion of Palm Beach County (County) within the Town of Jupiter. This main portion of the site (22.4 acres) was acquired by the County in 2002. The natural area was expanded by the addition of 31.3 acres that are managed by the County as part of the natural area pursuant to a South Florida Water Management District Linear Park Permit. To date, 272 plant and 167 animal species have been recorded on site, including 11 plant and 19 animal species that have been designated as having some degree of endangerment by at least one governmental agency or have been ranked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. The primary purpose for the acquisition was to preserve, restore/enhance and manage the site's ecological resources, including the existing natural communities, their component plant and animal species, and local groundwater resources. Environmental Resources Management is dedicated to maximizing the beneficial effects of its land management activities, public use facilities and public outreach efforts, while improving efficiencies and reducing costs. Staff also continue to pursue any grants available to offset a portion of land management costs.

Attachment:

1. Limestone Creek Natural Area Management Plan

Recommended by:	Jehorh Aum	7-9-2019	
	Department Director	Date .	
Approved by:	Pal	8/2/19	
	Assistant County Administrator	Date	

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (Cou In-Kind Match (County NET FISCAL # ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulat	\$ <u>268,823</u>	<u>\$</u> \$276,887	\$ <u>285,194</u>	\$ <u>293,750</u>	<u>\$302,562</u>			
) <u>\$268,823</u>	<u>\$276,887</u>	<u>\$285,194</u>	<u>\$293,750</u>	<u>\$302,562</u>			
Is Item Included in Cur	/	Yes	sX	 No				
Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes No <u>X_</u>								
Budget Account No.:								
Fund <u>1226</u> Department <u>380</u> Unit <u>3162</u> Object <u>Various</u> Program								

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

Fiscal Year 2019 management and operating costs are estimated to be \$268,823. Over the past five years, annual management and operating costs for County owned/managed natural areas have increased an average of 3% per year. Annual management and operating costs for FY 2020 and beyond may be higher or lower than projected. Funds for management and operation of the natural area are expected to come from the Natural Areas Fund (1226), Natural Areas Stewardship Endowment Fund (1220), Pollution Recovery Trust Fund (1227), Ag Reserve Land Management Fund (1222) and/or ad valorem funding sources.

C. **Department Fiscal Review:**

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

ÓFMB. Contract Development & Control 7/24 Legal Sufficiency: Β.

8/./19 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director