

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	\$0 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	\$0 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$0 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is Item Included in Current Budget?			Yes _____	No <u>X</u>	
Does this item include the use of federal funds?			Yes _____	No <u>X</u>	
Does this item include the use of state funds?			Yes _____	No <u>X</u>	
Budget Account No.:					
Fund _____	Department _____	Unit _____	Object _____	Program _____	

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:
The Agreement will not have a fiscal impact.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

_____ *[Signature]*

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

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

<p><i>[Signature]</i> OFMB <i>[Signature]</i> 2/11/26 2/11/26</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i> 2/11/26 Contract Development and Control 2/11/26</p>
---	--

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 2/24/26

Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PROGRAM**

**DESIGNATION AGREEMENT
Frenchman's Forest Natural Area**

This Designation Agreement, entered into by and between the STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS, OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS (hereinafter referred to as "Department") and PALM BEACH COUNTY (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Landowner" or "Manager"), by and through the undersigned, formally designates the lands depicted in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (hereinafter referred to as "designated lands") as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System, as defined in Section 260.014, Florida Statutes.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Department is given authority in Section 260.016, Florida Statutes, to develop and implement a voluntary process for designation of lands or waterways as a part of the statewide system of greenways and trails.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits to be derived herefrom, the parties do hereby agree to the following:

1. The Manager:

- a. Shall be responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the designated lands, in accordance with Exhibit B attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.
- b. Shall be responsible for notifying the Department of any change in the following: property ownership or management; the condition or extent of natural, recreational, cultural or historic resources described in the designation application or its attachments; or the expansion or improvement of the project or its amenities and facilities.

- c. Shall erect a permanent sign(s), when available, on public lands depicted in Exhibit A reflecting designation into the Florida Greenways and Trails System in accordance with guidelines provided by the Department.

2. The Department:

- a. Shall provide signs, when available, indicating the property is designated as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
- b. Agrees that this Designation Agreement shall have no effect upon the disposition of improvements made to the public lands by the Landowner, the Department, or others, whether existing at the time of designation or to be constructed or erected later, unless otherwise agreed herein.

3. The Landowner and Department:

- a. Agree that sufficient information exists and/or field verification has occurred to assure that the characteristics of the public lands meet the criteria contained in Rule 62S-1.400, Florida Administrative Code.
- b. Agree that this Designation Agreement will be subordinate to the interests stated in any existing leases, subleases, management plans, licenses, easements or other agreements or encumbrances previously executed and currently in effect for any portion of the designated lands.

4. Term, Modification and Termination of this Designation Agreement:

- a. This designation shall remain in effect unless the designated lands are removed from the Florida Greenways and Trails System in accordance with this Designation Agreement.
- b. This Designation Agreement may be modified to encompass additional adjacent public lands owned by the Landowner. Any such modification to this Designation Agreement shall not be valid unless it complies with the requirements set forth in paragraph 5. below.
- c. The Department may withdraw from this Designation Agreement at any time or remove the said designated lands from the Florida Greenways and Trails System by action of the Secretary of the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection if:

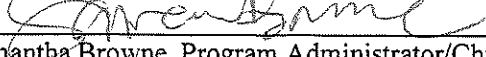
- (1) the component fails to accomplish or becomes unsuitable for the purposes for which it was designated; or
 - (2) there is no longer an ability to manage the designated lands as intended in this Designation Agreement and no replacement manager can be identified.
- d. In the event that the ownership of the designated lands changes, this Designation Agreement will be null and void.
 - e. The Landowner has the statutory right to remove the public lands from designation at any time by providing the Department with a written request that references this Designation Agreement.

5. This Designation Agreement represents the entire agreement of the parties. Any alterations, variations, changes, or modifications of this Designation Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing, duly signed by each party hereto and attached to this Designation Agreement.

6. This Designation Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute the same instrument. Electronic signatures may be used and shall have the same force and effect as a written signature.

7. This Designation Agreement is executed by a duly authorized representative of each party and is effective on the date last signed below.

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS,
OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

By: 
Samantha Browne, Program Administrator/Chief

Date: 12-11-25

"DEPARTMENT"

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By: Rachel Earlywine Digitally signed by Rachel Earlywine
Date: 2025.12.10 10:08:17 -05'00'
Department Attorney

Date: _____

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, a political subdivision of
the State of Florida, by and through its Board of
County Commissioners**

By: **Deborah Drum**
Deborah Drum, Department Director
Environmental Resources Management

Digitally signed by Deborah Drum
DN: cn=Deborah Drum, o=Palm Beach County, ou=Environmental Resources Management, email=Deborah.Drum@palmbeach.fl.gov, c=US
Date: 2025.12.31 08:03:00 -0500
Form PDF Editor Version 12.1.0

Date: 12-31-2025

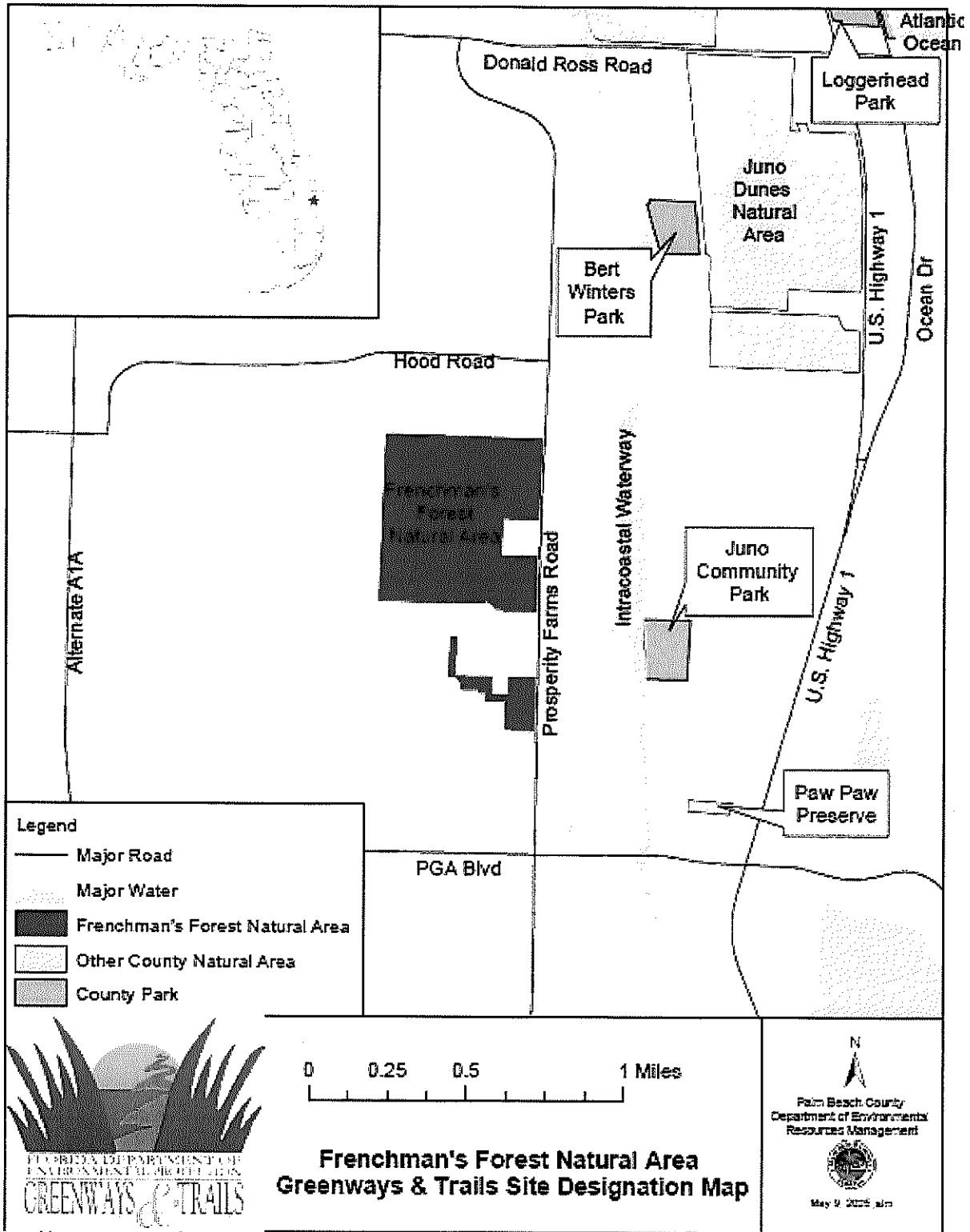
“LANDOWNER/MANAGER”

**APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

By: /s/ Scott A. Stone
Assistant County Attorney

Date: 12/30/25

EXHIBIT A DESIGNATION AREA MAP



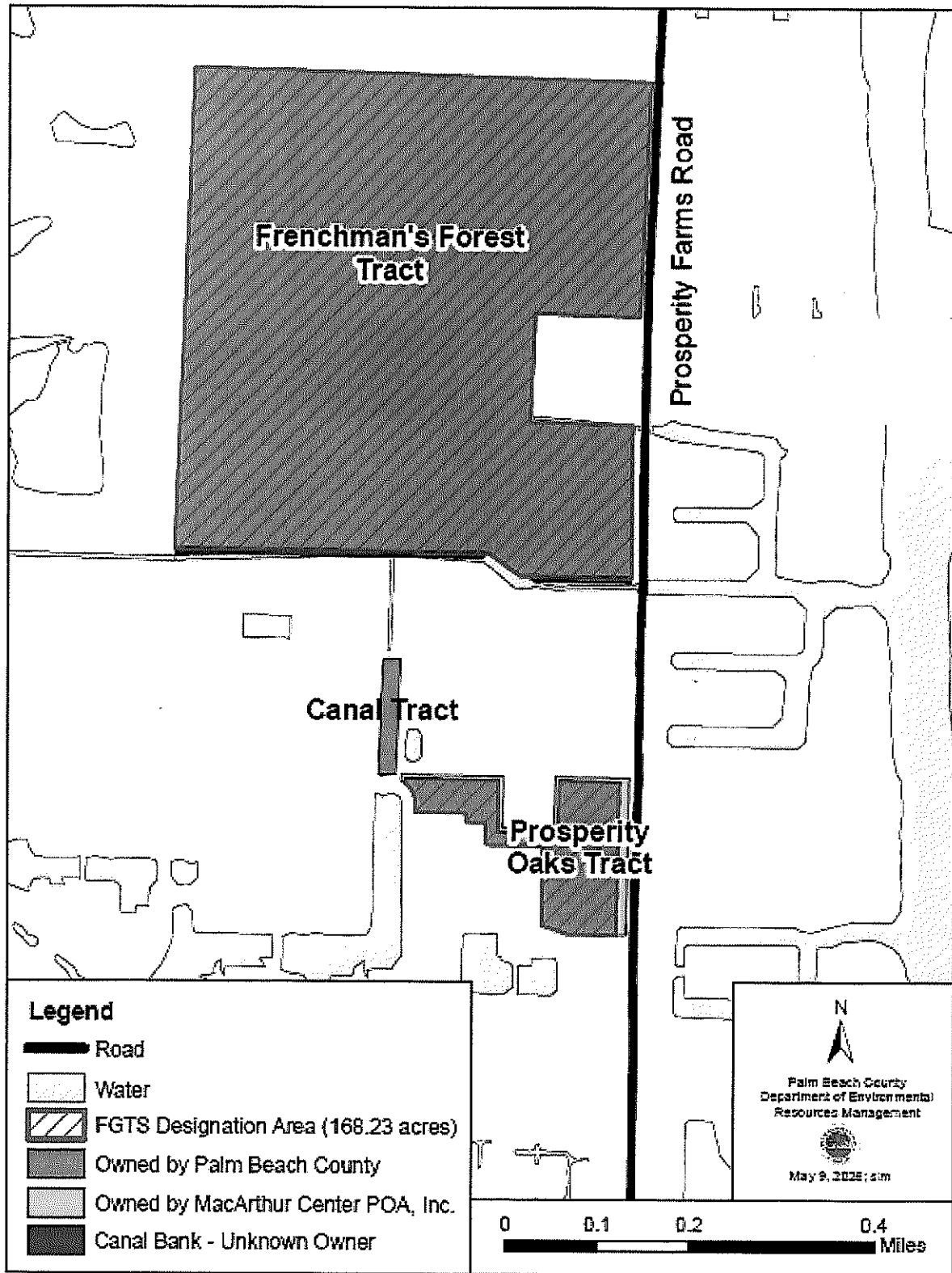
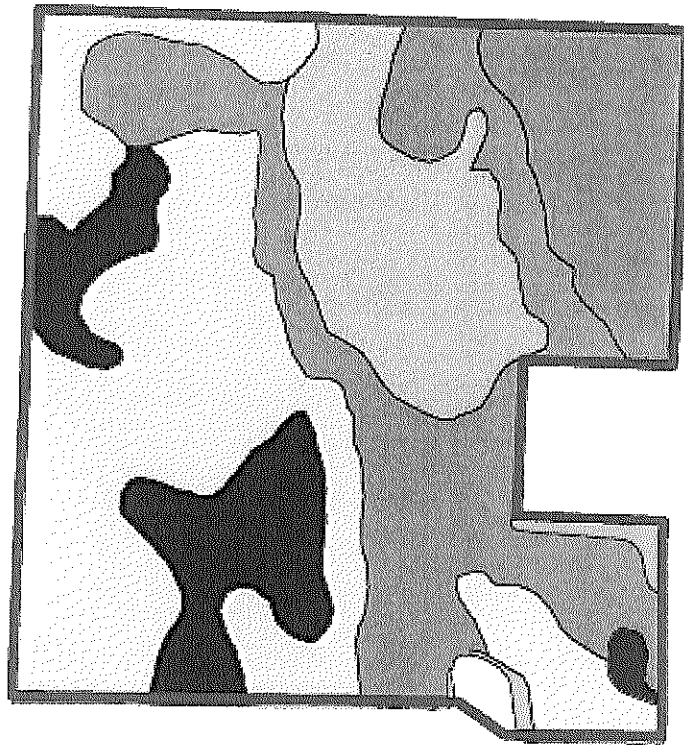











Figure 1
Frenchman's Forest Natural Area Tract and Ownership Map

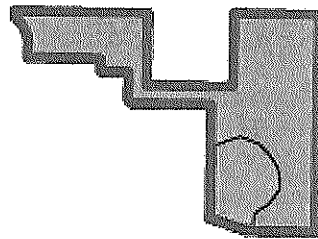




Figure 2
Frenchman's Forest Natural Area Public Facilities Map



Legend

-  Designation Area
-  Hydric Hammock (48.6 acres)
-  Mangrove Swamp (2.1 acres)
-  Mesic Flatwoods (51.0 acres)
-  Mesic Hammock (5.9 acres)
-  Scrubby Flatwoods (19.2 acres)
-  Strand Swamp (22.8 acres)
-  Trailhead/Parking Lot (0.9 acre)
-  Wet Flatwoods (17.7 acres)




 Palm Beach County
 Department of Environmental
 Resources Management

 May 5, 2025; cjm

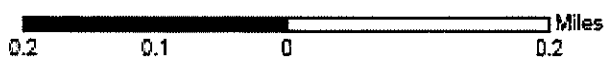


Figure 3. Frenchman's Forest Natural Area Vegetation Communities Map

EXHIBIT B

Use Plan

Use Plan

The northern portion of the 173.49-acre Frenchman's Forest Natural Area (natural area, Exhibit A) opened to the public in October 2001; the southern portion opened in November 2006. A 168.23-acre portion of the natural area ("FGTS Designation Area", Figure 1) is the subject of this Designation Agreement. A 1.51-acre strip of land known as the "Canal Tract," 2.19-acre strip of land that is owned by MacArthur Center POA, Inc. and 1.56-acre canal bank (see Figure 1) are not part of this Designation Agreement. Existing public use facilities within the Designation Area include a 10-car, 2-bus trailhead/parking lot; shade shelter/observation platform with benches; two informational kiosks (the southeastern kiosk is outside the Designation Area); 3.1-miles of natural-surfaced hiking trail; a 0.4-mile-long, 5-foot-wide concrete nature trail; and a 438-foot-long boardwalk hiking trail segment (Figure 2). Amenities that may be added to the Designation Area include wayfinding signage and one additional kiosk. The primary purpose of the Designation Area is to preserve important remnants of Florida's native vegetation communities (Figure 3), their associated plant and wildlife populations, and local groundwater resources. Its secondary purpose is to provide for passive, resource-based recreation, environmental education and scientific research. The Designation Area is open seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset.

Access/Directions: Public vehicular access to the northern portion of the Designation Area ("Frenchman's Forest Tract," Figure 1) is provided from Prosperity Farms Road via a paved access driveway (Figure 2). A bicycle rack is located at the parking lot to encourage the use of alternative transportation to the site.

The main access to the southern portion of the Designation Area is approximately 0.3 mile south of the parking lot (Figures 1 and 2). Visitors may access the southern portion of the Designation Area via a pedestrian gate and hiking trail within a designated ingress/egress easement area ("MacArthur Center POA, Inc.," Figure 1), just west of an existing sidewalk within the Prosperity Farms Road right of way (Figure 2). Members of the public also may enter the southern portion of the Designation Area via one of three "neighborhood" pedestrian gates. These gates are located adjacent to the Harbour Oaks development, and along Valencia Gardens Avenue and West Edgewater Drive.

Management: Palm Beach County (County) owns the 168.23-acre Designation Area. The County's Department of Environmental Resources Management is responsible for managing and maintaining the Designation Area, with assistance from County-hired invasive/nonnative vegetation removal contractors.

Signage with the natural area name, access hours and natural areas rules have been installed adjacent to the trailhead/parking lot and other public access points. A trail map and general information about the site are provided in the kiosks shown on Figure 2. Regulatory signs are located along the site's boundaries at intervals of no greater than 500 feet.

Security: The City of Palm Beach Gardens has the primary responsibility for public safety and law enforcement at the Designation Area. The County also has contracted with the County Sheriff's Office to have Wildlands Task Force deputies conduct extra patrols of the natural area when needed. The Wildlands Task Force is a specially-trained and specially-equipped unit that was formed to prevent illegal activities, such as dumping, on natural areas managed by the County and to enforce the provisions of the County's Natural Areas Ordinance.



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
Palm Beach County
Environmental Resources Management

RECEIVED JUL 24 2025

DATE: July 15, 2025

TO: Todd J. Bonlarron
Interim County Administrator

THROUGH: Patrick Rutter
Deputy County Administrator

FROM: Deborah Drum, Director *MS for*
Environmental Resources Management

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF APPROVAL AUTHORITY:
A Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Greenways and Trails Program Designation Agreement (Agreement) for the 168.23-acre County-owned portion (Designation Area) of Frenchman's Forest Natural Area, which shall remain in effect unless the Designation Area is removed from the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

On July 8, 2025, agenda item 3L-4 (R2025-0961), the Board of County Commissioners approved the County Administrator, or designee, to execute the Agreement.

This memorandum is my request for delegation of signatory authority for the Director or Deputy Director of Environmental Resources Management (ERM), to execute the Agreement. If you agree, please sign below and return this memorandum. I am available to answer any questions you may have concerning this request. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

APPROVED:  DATE: 8/8/25
 Todd J. Bonlarron, Interim County Administrator

DD:am
Attachment