



**AGENDA REPORT
January 23, 2018**

SUBJECT:

Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary-Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program Land Transfer to EEL Nature Sanctuary Network - District 2

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal Impact: FY 17/18- Fiscal impact to EEL Program, funds for initial signage, trail markers for hiking and paddling are approximately \$1000. There are no fiscal impacts to the General Fund.

FY 18/19- Fiscal impact to EEL Program funds for annual management costs are approximately \$2,500. There are no fiscal impacts to the General Fund.

DEPT/OFFICE:

Parks and Recreation

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is requested the Board of County Commissioners designate the Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary and other identified parcels within the impoundment as part of the EEL Nature Sanctuary Network, and authorize staff to initiate procedures for asset transfer of land to EEL Program.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this request is to designate the identified parcels as part of the EEL Nature Sanctuary Network to include the Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary and other County-owned parcels within the Ulumay impoundment extending from SR528 south to Sykes Creek Parkway and including the impounded peninsula on the south side of Sykes Creek Parkway.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently manages over half of the impoundment with the remaining parcels under the custodianship of the Natural Resources Management Office and Mosquito Control.

Approving this action will allow the expenditure of EEL referendum resources to manage the ecological health of the impoundment and oversee the public use trails on the site. More active ecological management of the impoundment will help to improve the filtering capacity which will contribute to improving water quality in the lagoon. The transfer of the lands under a single county department will also provide visitors and other public inquiries with a single point of contact.

Brevard County Mosquito Control will continue to manage the impoundment under a Rotational Impoundment Management (RIM) program and Parks and Recreation will continue to manage the Audubon Road access/entrance, fishing pier and the Kiwanis Island and spoil island portions of Parcel #2418617.

The EEL Program will focus primarily on the control of exotic species, native habitat management and restoration and public use of the hiking, mountain biking and paddling trails. The EEL Program will also assist in coordinating mitigation projects within the impoundment that may be able to benefit County construction projects.

The EEL Program's Land Acquisition Manual (LAM) requires the EEL Selection and Management Committee (SMC) to pass a 1st and 2nd majority vote and present their recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration of the transfer. All lands transferred into EEL management become formally designated as part of the EEL Sanctuary Network. The SMC reviewed the conservation value and habitat conditions of the property and determined that the transfer would further the goals and mission of the EEL Program. On May 4, 2017 the SMC passed a 1st majority vote, followed by a 2nd majority vote on June 23, 2017.

The EEL Program currently has a Friends Group Agreement with the Friends of Ulumay to provide volunteer support and fundraising for site management projects. Several needed public use improvement projects such as the kayak launch ramp, paddling trail markers and observation platform repairs can be funded by the Friends Group, and can also be completed by Eagle Scout projects. Additionally, a grant was recently received to refurbish the existing observation

platform and construct two additional platforms to improve birdwatching opportunities within the impoundment.

CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- **Ulumay Management Transfer Proposal & Maps**

REVIEWERS:

Department	Reviewer
Parks and Recreation	Knight, Mike

BY: *[Signature]* APPROVED
DATE: 1/11/18



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January 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Ellen Donner, Parks and Recreation Director Attn: Mike Knight

RE: Item II.B.3., Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL)
Program Land Transfer to EEL Nature Sanctuary Network

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on January 23, 2018, approved designating the Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary and other identified parcels within the impoundment, as part of the EEL Nature Sanctuary Network; and authorized staff to initiate procedures for asset transfer of land to EEL Program.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Asset Management

ULUMAY LAND TRANSFER

Conceptual Land Transfer for 1st Majority Vote

ULUMAY MANAGEMENT TRANSFER

*(As approved by the EEL Selection and Management Committee on 5/4/17 and
June 23, 2017)*

Parcel History

Parcel 2411941- 10/1996 from Florida Conf. Assn. of Seventh Day Adventist---MCD

Parcel 2411943- 10/1996 from Florida Conf. Assn. of Seventh Day Adventist---MCD

Parcel 2411945- 10/1996 from Kabboord Prop---MCD

Parcel 2411939- 8/1984 Tax Deed—NRMO

Parcel 2411947- 1964 from IIF Board—Parks & Recreation

Parcel 2412098 - from Florida Conf. Assn. of Seventh Day Adventist—MCD

Parcel 2418537 - Ulumay Sanctuary - Parks & Recreation

Parcel 2418541 - Ulumay Sanctuary - Parks & Recreation

Parcel 2431742 - Ulumay Sanctuary - Parks & Recreation

Parcel 2431739 - MCD

Parcel 2437351 - MCD

Parcel 2437359 - Ulumay Sanctuary - Parks & Recreation

Parcel 2437352 - from Fortenberry Family - MCD

**Parcel 2418617 - Ulumay Sanctuary - Parks & Recreation (excluding Audubon Road,
Kiwanis Island & spoil island)**

No further details were available regarding the acquisition of these parcels.

Justification

The transfer of the proposed properties will allow EEL to consolidate management boundaries, better control exotic species and adds nearly 4 miles of managed living shoreline to the existing 34 miles of lagoon shoreline managed under the EEL Program. Currently there is no active management of the native or exotic species within the impoundment and no obligation to do so.

ULUMAY LAND TRANSFER

Active management of the impoundment interior through the control of exotic species and enhancement of the existing native species will contribute to the ongoing effort to improve water quality within the Indian River Lagoon.

Conservation Value/ Current Habitat Conditions

The habitat is currently impounded salt marsh that has a significant amount of east-west ditching completed many years ago for mosquito control. The site could benefit from fire and the control of exotic species growing along the ditch berms. There is also some potential for filling some ditches that are not currently needed for mosquito management. Some prescribed fire opportunities may exist that would benefit the salt marsh.

Proposal for Land Transfer for 2nd Majority Vote

ULUMAY MANAGEMENT TRANSFER

Current Use / Existing Management/Required Management Obligations

The only current uses of site other than walking include mountain biking, paddling and recreational fishing. Existing public use maintenance of the site is currently on the portion managed by the parks department which includes mowing, trash removal, maintenance of fishing pier, overlook platform and dirt road.

The entrance road (Audubon Road), fishing pier and trash removal would continue to be managed and maintained by the Parks Department but the transferred parcels would become responsibility of EEL to manage exotic plant species, maintain the overlook platform, kiosk signage and maintenance of walking and paddling trails.

ULUMAY LAND TRANSFER

The management of the impoundments ecological resources will also help improve the area as a birdwatching destination. The overgrowing exotic species are contributing to the lack of bird viewing areas along the berm trail.

The Brevard County Mosquito Control District (MCD) will continue to manage the impoundment for the control of mosquitos. EEL will work closely with Mosquito Control to ensure ecological management actions do not conflict with ongoing mosquito management efforts. MCD will continue the berm maintenance mowing as needed for MCD management. EEL will carry out additional mowing of the berm as needed to better facilitate public access.

Management Needs/Est. Costs and Potential Partnership Opportunities

Some additional management of exotic species along the trail is needed and maintenance mowing of the trail is required. It is very likely that most exotic control funding can be supported directly by the State IPM (Invasive Plant Management Program). Limited funding support is also available from the Friends of Ulumay.

Public Access/Educational Opportunities

Public access on the portion that would be managed under the EEL Program is limited to the walking / mt. biking trail and the kayak trail. The kayak launch site would need to be improved with a ramp, and could likely be accomplished through an Eagle Scout project. Improvements to the passive recreational uses of the site will help to promote the area as an ecotourism destination.

Potential exists for an expanded educational kiosk and educational signs along the trail. A grant was recently received for the refurbishment of the existing observation platform and the construction of two new observation decks in an effort to increase birdwatching opportunities within the impoundment.

ULUMAY LAND TRANSFER

Figure 2.

