

HOWELL CREEK BIOASSESSMENTS

AUGUST 2014

Greetings Howell Creek Residents!

Please find the latest bioassessment report for your creek below. Our next inspection date will be October 20th; weather permitting. Some of the key highlights from this report will include:

- Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) update
- Emergent vegetation presence
- Erosion issues and recommendations
- Lake Waumpi vegetation status/update

On **August 20th, 2014**, Thomas Calhoun (Seminole County Lake Management Program) and Joey Cordell (Seminole County Watershed Management Intern) surveyed the aquatic plants in **Howell Creek and Lake Waumpi**.

Six species of submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) were found during the inspection; five natives and 1 exotic. These SAV species included road grass, bladderwort, eelgrass, coontail, southern naiad, and hydrilla (exotic). All of the SAV species are expanding, except for hydrilla; only one sprig of hydrilla was observed. We will continue to monitor the creek for hydrilla. Eelgrass (a beneficial native) was topping out and causing a blockage near the west end of the creek.

Photo: Native eelgrass topping out.



Invasive emergent vegetation observed during the inspection included: alligatorweed, wild taro, salvinia, and water hyacinth. The water hyacinth and salvinia were abundant, but showed signs of recent treatment by the MSBU funded herbicide contractor. The alligatorweed had also been treated. Torpedo grass was not present in the creek at time of inspection.

Photo: Treated water hyacinth and salvinia.



Native vegetation found during the inspection included yellow cow lily and duckweed. Some shorelines along the north bank of the creek had visible erosion issues. It is recommended that native shoreline vegetation be planted to help reduce erosion and stabilize this shoreline. Recommended native species include, but are not limited to: pickerelweed (scientific name: *Pontederia cordata*), duck potato (*Sagittaria lancifolia*), golden canna (*Canna flacida*), fire flag (*Thalia geniculata*), and cord grass (*Spartina bakeri*).

Lake Waumpi was also surveyed during this inspection. The lake was recently treated by the City of Winter Park. The treatment resulted in a reduction of yellow cow lily, water hyacinth, alligatorweed, torpedo grass, salvinia, cattails, primrose willow, and burhead sedge. SAV species found in the lake included native coontail, southern naiad, and bladderwort. In areas on the west side of the lake, both southern naiad and coontail are topping out and hindering navigation.

Photo: Treated lilies and water hyacinth.



The secchi reading (water clarity) in Lake Waumpi was visible on bottom in a depth of 4 feet. One triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed. LakeWatch water quality data for Lake Waumpi can be found on the Seminole County Watershed Atlas at: <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/default.asp?wbodyid=151861&wbodyatlas=lake>.

Recommendations:

- 1 Work together with other lakefront owners. Have *at least* one annual waterbody association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss lake specific issues, especially nutrients/lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management Program staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. Continue to increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
- 2 Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community to reduce personal pollution by: decreasing overall fertilizer usage, using only phosphorous free

and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your lake and the storm drains that lead to the lakes. All of these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for more information regarding the free educational programs available.

3 Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list in order to share this information with others. Valuable information is contained within these reports.

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