

Status of accomplishments under the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants

1. The future land use and zoning designations of the project site shall be changed to conservation, outdoor recreation, open space or other similar category.

Completed.

2. At least four recreational facilities, such as a canoe/kayak launching platform, fishing pier, picnic pavilions and wildlife platforms shall be provided. The facilities shall be developed in a manner that allows the general public reasonable access for observation and appreciation of the natural resources on the project site without causing harm to those resources.

Partially complete. A boardwalk with 5 viewing platforms and a picnic pavilion have been constructed. The canoe/kayak launch has been removed from the plan due to lack of community support. Two manatee viewing platforms, an observation platform over the wetlands and a fishing pier are planned for the future.

3. The project shall provide access facilities to an existing open water shoreline, such as a canoe/kayak launching platform and fishing pier.

Initiated. The canoe/kayak launching platform has been removed from the plan. Design and location of the fishing pier was addressed in an Environmental Assessment and will be installed contingent upon agreement by the City and funding.

4. A permanent recognition sign, at a minimum size of 3' X 4', shall be maintained at the entrance area of the project site. The sign shall acknowledge the project site was purchased with funds from the Florida Communities Trust Program and the Recipient.

Complete.

5. Interpretive signs or kiosks shall be provided on the project site to educate visitors about the natural environment or history of the area.

Complete. However, additional interpretive signs are being developed.

6. At least 12 regularly scheduled educational classes or programs shall be provided at the project site per year. These programs shall promote the protection of environmental resources.

Complete. On-going. The refuge established several new guided tours/interpretive programs. Two of these tours were offered twice daily: "Beyond the Boardwalk" and "A Walk Through the Wetlands." Additionally, weekly Birdwatching Tours were offered, resulting in 30 programs per week.

7. The natural communities that occur on the site shall be preserved and appropriately managed to ensure the long-term viability of these communities.

Complete. On-going. The shoreline of the springs was restored using sandbags and boulders to prevent erosion and shoreline collapse. Native wetland vegetation was planted along the shoreline and vicinity of the boardwalk. Restoration is planned for the remaining areas, including a butterfly/pollinator garden contingent upon agreement from the City.

8. The project site shall be maintained in a manner that protects and enhances the listed and non-listed native wildlife species and their habitat. Periodic surveys shall be conducted of listed species using the project site.

Complete. On-going. Bird surveys are conducted regularly as well as a floristic inventory. Manatee use of the springs is monitored regularly and human access is restricted to protect manatees during cold weather events.

9. The location and design of any parking facility shall be designed to have minimal impacts on natural resources. The parking area shall incorporate pervious materials wherever feasible.

Complete, although needs improvements.

10. The quality of surface waters shall be improved by the installation of stormwater facilities on the project site that provide wildlife habitat and/or open space in a park like setting. The development of the stormwater facilities shall be coordinated with and constructed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Complete.

11. Any proposed stormwater facility for the project site shall be designed to provide recreation open space or wildlife habitat.

Complete. The stormwater treatment wetland was planted with native vegetation and attracts a variety of wildlife, particularly water birds. An observation platform will be constructed overlooking the wetland contingent upon agreement by the City .

12. A significant portion of the upland area on the project shall be planted with native vegetation.

Partially complete. On-going. A variety of native hardwoods were planted to help stabilize the bank around Three Sisters Springs, restore areas that had significant amounts of Brazilian Pepper removed during 2013, provide future shade along the boardwalk, and create a buffer between Three Sisters Springs and the neighboring properties. A total of 60 trees were planted, including the following species: eastern red cedar, bald cypress, water tupelo/black gum, sweetgum, red maple, sassafras, Walter's viburnum, and buttonbush. Restoration is planned for the remaining open areas, including a butterfly/pollinator garden contingent upon agreement from the City and funding.

13. A significant portion of the wetland area on the project shall be planted with native vegetation.

Complete.

14. Exotic vegetation shall be removed from the project site.

Complete. On-going. The exotic and invasive vegetation was removed from the entire property in 2013. Maintenance treatments are conducted annually.

15. An ongoing monitoring and control program for invasive vegetation including exotic (non-native) and nuisance native plant species shall be implemented at the project site. The objective of the control program shall be the elimination of invasive exotic plant species and the maintenance of a diverse association of native vegetation. The management plan shall reference the Exotic Pest Plant

Council's List of Florida's Most Invasive Species to assist in identifying invasive exotics on the project site.

Complete. On-going. The exotic and invasive vegetation was removed from the entire property in 2013. Maintenance treatments are conducted annually.

16. A feral animal removal program shall be developed and implemented for the project site.

Complete. On-going. Since 2010, only one feral animal has been documented and removed from the project site.

17. Prior to the commencement of any proposed development activities, measures will be taken to determine the presence of any archaeological sites. All planned activities involving known archaeological sites or potential site areas shall be closely coordinated with the Division of Historical Resources in order to prevent the disturbance of these sites. Information on significant historical and archaeological sites shall be provided to the Division of Historical Resources for the purpose of updating the Florida Master Site file.

Complete. On-going, as appropriate. No archaeological sites are known to exist on the property.

18. A safe pedestrian sidewalk connection shall be provided between the project site and the sidewalk network in the adjacent neighborhood.

Complete.

19. A nature trail of at least one quarter mile shall be provided on the project site.

Complete. Approximately 1.75 miles of trails currently exist on the site.

20. The development and management of the project site shall be coordinated with the agencies managing the Cross Town Trail, to ensure the project site is managed as part of a linked land-based trail system.

Complete.

21. Neither the Recipient nor any third party shall pump, withdraw, divert from or impound on the FCT project site ground or surface water for the purposes of commercial or industrial use.

Complete.