



The Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee – Mission & Organization

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Mission

The mission of the Ponds and Preserves Committee is to make substantiated, evidence-based and financially-sound recommendations to the Board regarding the management of our ponds and preserves. This includes overseeing necessary steps to meet our regulatory requirements, in addition to making recommendations for managing our ponds and preserves as practical, aesthetic, and valuable assets of the community.



Vision

The vision of the Committee is to implement and manage programs to support the health and functionality of our natural assets – both our ponds and preserves.

PONDS – Oversee maintenance of our stormwater management systems (SWFWMD permit #4410445). Implement a stepwise, multi-year program to evolve our pond management procedures to a more sustainable and fiscally-responsible approach by installing “**Rivendell natural shorelines**.” This includes low-maintenance grass zones (LMZs) on the banks and shoreline aquatic plantings in the ponds, coupled with control of algae using low-toxicity approaches. The primary focus will be on controlling erosion and nutrient flow with a concurrent commitment to algae control and wildlife support. The appearance of the shorelines needs to satisfy the community desire for aesthetically-pleasing ponds.

PRESERVES - The Committee will also oversee the contracted management of our preserves and compliance with the Sarasota County approved Resource Management Plans for Rivendell Units 1-5 (dated January 1998 and April 2000). Management of preserves includes: firebreaks, invasive plant removal, ecological mowing, homeowner incursions, access path maintenance, etc.

Operating Philosophy and Organization

Rivendell residents are encouraged to participate with the P&P Committee at whatever level fits their interests and schedule. Residents can also support P&P efforts without becoming “committee members.” The P&P Committee is organized into several teams that perform separate functions.

- **The Planning Team** - This team considers all matters affecting or potentially affecting Rivendell ponds and preserve areas, weighs alternatives, and considers future actions. Recommended policies and actions are made to the Board of Directors via the committee’s board liaison. This team also oversees the work of contractors who provide management services for Rivendell ponds and preserves (in conjunction with Maintenance Committee). Oversight will assure that our management of ponds and preserves, also our Surface Water Management System, conforms to permit conditions as specified by Sarasota County and SWFWMD. Any proposed changes to the scopes of work of the contractors requires the approval of the Rivendell Board.
- **The Outreach Team** – Following a planned multi-media community outreach effort, (website, newsletters, posters/flyers, etc.) this team educates and informs community residents on issues and actions regarding pond and preserves management. This team also works to solicit community support and actively network with other communities and external resources to share experiences.
- **Rivendell Nature Watchers** – This team includes Committee members and other residents who help observe and survey wildlife populations within Rivendell. In addition, this team organizes community activities related to Rivendell wildlife, providing opportunities to emphasize the link between wildlife and healthy ponds and preserves.
- **P&P Inspections** – During regularly scheduled inspections, P&P or a designee will review condition of ponds and preserves, LMZs, plantings, incursions, etc. and alert the RCA to any issues and actions needed. Inspections by P&P are typically 1-2 times per year.

