



Our “Rivendell Natural Shorelines” Are Coming Along. The Year In Review. Your Actions Make a Difference!

By the Ponds and Preserves Committee
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Another unusual year – we hope you and your family are staying safe and well. Reflecting on our ponds and preserves, great strides have continued. We thank all of our residents for your commitment and support to keep our community’s natural assets healthy and property values strong. We hope you keep updated on our activities with P&P messages in the *Woodlands Word*, our website, and on Nextdoor.



PONDS – Progress Installing “Rivendell Natural Shorelines” to Control Erosion



Looking back on this past year, significant progress has been made on our ponds to help control erosion. LMZs are now on all ponds while plants continue to be installed and flourish on shorelines. LMZs and aquatic plants work together to create our “**Rivendell Natural Shorelines**.” Three Florida native emergent species are being planted on ponds shorelines. Plantings will continue over the next few years until all ponds are planted and density is effective. These aquatic plants have deep roots that stabilize the banks, keep soil in place, reduce wind-driven wave damage, and adapt to changing water levels. LMZs and plantings also soak up excess nutrients to reduce algae growth, improve water quality, and provide habitat cover and food sources for our wildlife friends.

Rivendell also earned several important Grants from the county and local organizations to help with funding for pond shoreline aquatic plantings. Controlling erosion and nutrient flow help not only improve the water quality in our ponds, but ultimately our Bays. As part of the grant program, we created “**Rivendell Wildlife Week**” – a semi-annual event asking residents to observe and track wildlife in Rivendell. In addition, we hosted another Audubon-guided Bird Walk for bird watchers to document their sightings. We want to attract more wildlife friends and healthy ponds will encourage their presence.

PRESERVES – Leave Them Alone

For our Preserves, several key actions have helped keep our preserves healthy and vibrant. To reduce wildfire risk, the Florida Fire Service mowed initial firebreaks that the HOA will continue to maintain. Ongoing maintenance actions are also important, including: removing invasive plants, keeping perimeter pathways clear, keeping grates and weirs clear of debris, and ecological mowing, plus inspection and remediation of incursions. Leave our preserves alone and let our wildlife friends thrive in their habitats.



Behind the scenes, several projects are in the works. We developed and have posted on the P&P website, the **P&P Operations Handbook**, designed to serve as a tool for current and future Board and P&P members to better understand the many ongoing maintenance activities required to keep our ponds and preserves healthy and attractive. Plus, from county referrals, we continue to host tours for several nearby communities who struggle with pond erosion and are eager to learn more about our actions. Neighbors helping neighbors benefits us all.

Your actions do make a difference! When you drive or walk around the community, we hope you take as much pride in our ponds and preserves as we do. Enjoy our ponds. Leave preserve and buffer areas alone. By keeping them healthy and vibrant, we enjoy our wildlife friends, improve our water quality and keep property values strong. Here’s to another great year for residents and wildlife to thrive in Rivendell.

(Photos: N. Dobias (top) PS Remy (plant) & B. Frank (wildlife).