



## Protection of Our Preserves is a Priority for Everyone.

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – November 2021]

9.26.21

The protection of native habitat areas and wildlife has long been a community priority for Sarasota County. Along with our ponds, Rivendell's preserves are an integral part of our stormwater management system and add significant aesthetic value to our community. With one-third of the homes in Rivendell bordering designated preserves, we share the County's commitment to protecting our preserve areas.

Sarasota County has adopted standards to protect specific types of native habitats – ensuring their value and functions are retained for future generations. To help residents better understand the importance of protecting our preserves, the County created a **Preservation Areas Facts Sheet**. [\[Click here to read\]](#)

**The most common habitat in Sarasota County is freshwater wetlands**, which typically have an upland buffer surrounding the wetland preserves. Important benefits of upland and wetland preserves include water quality, flood control, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, privacy-screening by native vegetation, and property value.

(Gary Mruz video image)



**Know Your Property Line?** Rivendell's Preservation Areas are separate tracts of land not owned by any one person, but owned by the Homeowners Association (RCA) which is the responsible entity. It's important to know your property line so it does not encroach on community-owned or preserve (buffer zone) land to minimize incursions. Consult the survey map of your property which you should have received when you purchased. Or, find the Plat for Rivendell and your lot on the County's website. [Search by "Rivendell" at <https://secure.sarasotaclerk.com/subplatssearch.aspx>.]



**Buffers generally do not need to be "cleaned" up.**

The buffer zone might look aesthetically unpleasant due to layers of fallen branches, palm fronds and vines.

Instead, leaving buffers in their nature state encourages the decomposition cycle - an important biological process that creates microhabitats, food sources, nesting areas, and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.

**No Incursions Allowed in Buffer or Preserves!**

The RCA is responsible for maintaining these preserve areas in accordance with requirements by SWFWMD and the County. Homeowners or renters are not allowed to plant, disturb, build, store, or remove anything from the preserve areas under strict guidelines.

Do not cut or remove dead vegetation, deposit yard waste, nor allow grass or invasive vegetation to encroach these areas. Violations are enforced and monitored regularly to ensure compliance with the community and County rules.

(Photos: PS Remy)



**Together, let's enjoy and protect the beauty of our wetland and upland preserves.** Preservation areas within our community, and the communities nearby, create corridors that wildlife utilize as their home range and habitat. Help us keep our community vibrant and healthy for all our wildlife and residents.