



The Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee – Mission & Organization

By the Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee

12.9.19

Our 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 as well as making recommendations for managing our ponds and preserves as practical and aesthetic assets of the community.



Our Vision

The vision of the Committee is to implement a stepwise, multi-year program to change our pond management procedures to a more sustainable and fiscally-responsible approach by implementing “natural shorelines.” This will include low-maintenance grass zones (LMZs) on the banks and shoreline plantings in the ponds, coupled with control of algae using low-toxicity approaches. The primary focus will be on erosion control, 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. Additionally, the Committee will oversee the contracted management of our preserves.

Operating Philosophy

Rivendell residents are encouraged to participate with P&P at whatever level fits their interests and schedule. Some folks are much more active than others, but together, we are all making a difference. There are numerous opportunities within P&P to exercise a variety of interests and skills to contribute to beneficial changes at Rivendell. We actively try to continuously improve what we are doing.

Our Organization

The Committee is organized into several Teams and groups that perform separate functions. The whole Committee meets four times per year; the Teams and groups meet as needed. Communication is primarily by email.

- **The Planning Team** - This Team considers alternatives and decides on future actions to be taken. The Team writes proposed motions for consideration by the Board of Directors. These proposed motions and resulting policy changes will be the primary output of the Committee.

This Team also watches over the work of our contractors who provide management services for our ponds and preserves. This oversight is to assure that our system of ponds and preserves, termed our Surface Water Management System, is being operated in conformance with our permit conditions with Sarasota County and SWFWMD. Any proposed changes to the scopes of work of our contractors will be done only with the consent of our Board Liaison.

- **The Outreach Team** - This Team participates in a carefully-planned, vigorous community outreach effort to ensure that all community members are aware of committee operations. They educate the community on the challenges facing Rivendell for mitigation, solicit community support and listen to constructive ideas and concerns. *Refer to the Rivendell Community Outreach Plan.*
- **Pond Stewards** - This is a group of Committee members who repeatedly communicate with their neighbors and advocate for beneficial changes. The primary focus is for managing Low Maintenance Zones (LMZs) on the shorelines at homes adjacent to ponds, and also to advocate for responsible use of fertilizer and irrigation. *Refer to “How Can I Help?”*
- **Water Samplers** - This is a group of Committee members who conduct water sampling operations according to the Lakewatch protocol. The data arising from these samples, provided by UF, will be used to understand long-term trends of water quality.
- **Birder Watchers** - This is a group of Committee members and other interested participants who observe and survey the bird population within Rivendell. The results of these surveys are published in the Woodlands Word and on our Website.



If you're interesting in helping to support the mission and vision of the Ponds and Preserves Committee, in any capacity, please contact Frank Freestone: paddlemania@verizon.net.