



Community Association at Estero, Inc.

Ponds Update and Plan

Marsh Landing Owners and Residents,

Over two years ago the Board of Directors established as a priority, developing a "Master Plan" for improving and enhancing the retention ponds in the community.

With the cooperation of Aquatic Systems and Vertex Water Features, the Board set action items for a three to five years plan.

The first step was to remove the "Spike Rush" plants that had overtaken the ponds. Just over a year ago that removal was completed, and the ponds look remarkably better.

The second step which was developed at the same time, was to do a detailed evaluation of each pond and create a remediation plan specific to each pond to bring it back to health. A year ago, the Board received the evaluation of the ponds and discussed in "great detail" an action plan for installation of "aeration devices" to bring the oxygen levels to a point where aquatic life could be sustained and then flourish. As you remember some pond oxygen levels were so low and ammonia levels were so high that aquatic life was virtually non-existent. The report has been posted to the website for several months after it was approved.

The third step was to evaluate the success of the aeration devices a year later and if all was well, to move to the next step. The evaluation of the ponds has been started a little early in hopes of being able to move more quickly to complete the planned reclamation of the ponds. The Board at the October meeting approved the proposal for the evaluation and that will be done as soon as possible.

The final step was introduction of bio-microbes and fish to help eliminate the large amount of organic material that create the large silt levels in the ponds and create clearer, deeper water levels to sustain fish and other aquatic life.

The microbe injecting was approved at the October meeting as well and costs estimates for "Grass Carp" and "Sport Fish" have been requested. This step requires Florida Wildlife permitting and that process has been begun and screening for outfalls is required as part of the permit process and those measures have been done in preparation for permits. The request was for larger fish to limit predator species impact on smaller ones. The next step will be to add more aquatic plants to the ponds in strategic areas to enhance the water quality and the esthetic appearance of the ponds as well.

Once all these things have been completed the task will be to continue to evaluate, maintain and look for enhancement opportunities to make the ponds an asset and enhance values in the community.

The Board appreciates your patience and understanding as we move through this important project for the community.

All the best,

Marsh Landing Board of Directors