



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 14, 2023

Jackson County Board of County Commissioners Provides Update on Merritt's Mill Pond Grass Mitigation Project

JACKSON COUNTY, FL - June 1, 2023 - The Jackson County, FL Board of County Commissioners is pleased to announce a significant milestone in the Merritt's Mill Pond Grass Mitigation Project. After a long period of anticipation, we received the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permit yesterday, June 13, at 2:51 pm. This is a pivotal development that allows us to move forward with the grass treatment project.

Upon obtaining the permit, the County acted swiftly to coordinate with the regional Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologist and a research team from the University of Florida. The collaboration has facilitated the scheduling of an herbicide application to be conducted today and tomorrow. As a result, the **Blue Springs Recreational Area will be closed today, June 14, and tomorrow, June 15** to provide the teams with adequate space and parameters to apply the herbicide.

The treatment will consist of approximately 1,000 gallons of herbicide which will be meticulously applied from bank to bank in order to combat the overgrowth of aquatic vegetation in Merritt's Mill Pond, an invaluable ecosystem in our community. The herbicide used is not harmful to wildlife or humans.

In compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' permitting requirements, monthly site checks will be conducted to monitor the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment and assess the health of the pond's ecosystem. This essential step will ensure that we are making informed decisions as the project progresses.

We would like to highlight that this project represents a partnership and multi-year commitment between the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners, FWC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the University of Florida. It embodies our shared dedication to environmental stewardship and the sustainable management of our local natural resources.

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners would like to extend its gratitude to all the parties involved in this critical endeavor. We understand the importance of Merritt's Mill Pond to our community, and we are committed to protecting and enhancing its natural beauty for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

For more information regarding the Merritt's Mill Pond Grass Mitigation Project and a history of our process to this date, you can visit our website's "Public Notices" page to find past press releases about the issue. <https://jacksoncountyfl.gov/announcements/>

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About Jackson County, FL Board of County Commissioners:

The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of Jackson County, Florida consisting of 5 elected officials representing the County's 5 Districts. It is committed to serving the community through effective governance, economic development, public safety, and environmental sustainability.

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