



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson County Provides Update on Merritt's Mill Pond

JACKSON COUNTY, FL - June 1, 2023 – The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to provide an update on its ongoing efforts to manage and mitigate the proliferation of grass in Merritt's Mill Pond, an initiative that has been in progress from the onset of the issue.

To this date, the County has taken many different approaches to manage the grass levels. County officials have been working diligently with State partners to help them find solutions to the issue. Unfortunately, relating to timelines, the County is at the mercy of State agencies, as Merritt's Mill Pond is a State owned and regulated waterway.

Last year, the Board of County Commissioners contracted with a mechanical harvesting company to remove hydrilla and other materials from the main channel of the Mill Pond. This was intended to ease boat traffic and open more areas for future herbicide treatments to have greater impact.

As part of that process, biologists from the University of Florida, along with FWC conducted a "dye trace study", which utilized a red dye to help determine the flow and the amount of herbicide needed in subsequent grass treatments to follow. The University of Florida conducted their Dye Study in March of this year. They took sample data to analyze and determine parameters of treatment.

Last month, the County received an email update on the process, in which it was conveyed that there was no hard date for treatment, but that they have issued a purchase order for the chemical needed. We are currently awaiting permits and a schedule for the application.

The grass mitigation efforts are not only preserving the aesthetic beauty of Merritt's Mill Pond but also contributing to a healthier ecosystem. The County's goal is to enhance the overall biodiversity in and around the pond, providing a better environment for native aquatic plants, wildlife, and residents alike.

As we continue to strive towards the full restoration of Merritt's Mill Pond, we assure the community of our dedication to maintaining the balance of the pond's ecosystem. We are being extremely diligent in our communication efforts with the State to make this issue a priority. The Board will provide updates as they become available.

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