

Grand Haven Firewise

2022 Firewise Options

Grand Haven Tour

- After our meeting and property tour with Florida Forestry we were informed that we would not be receiving any additional grants for mowing Grand Haven. The reason for this was because we have already received two mowings within the Grant Program.
- Florida Forestry toured all of Grand Haven with us, when we were finished they denied any additional mowing grants, but several options were presented to us to replace the mow grants.
- Florida Forestry did say our program for mowing was very good and that our fire brake along Waterside Parkways was a good way to keep the road open in case of a forest fire for a safe evacuation from Grand Haven

Firewise

- Florida Forestry offered options to us after the tour.
- One option for the Crossings was the use of a disk harrow that would be driven all along the rear of the homes where mowing was done the last two times. This harrow disk turns over the soil as it goes. This is done most times to make a fire brake with no vegetation to burn. This would open the area and remove the growth but it would leave bare ground and deep ruts in place. Two issues with this type removal or work is it leaves open ground and large ruts lookin unfinished. The other issue is the next mowing that would be done would have deep ruts and that would make driving the machinery a problem for the mower to move along this area. This would increase mowing time in that it would be a slow process moving along behind the homes .

- The harrow mowing is affordable and we would be able to get all of the Crossings finished this year, but I do believe the results would be unsightly and cause future issues when we need to go in and mow again the next time.
- I think we should move forward with our plan to mow sections in Grand Haven each year and rotate every few years to keep all the areas up to date and under control. This would require a commitment from the board to reserve funds every year to do sections of Grand Haven as a continued program.

- Florida Forestry offered another option in the Crossings in the wet areas that could not be mowed due to marsh and water always present in the areas. These areas back up to homes in several areas but cannot be mowed due to the wet nature of the property. The option they offer in these areas was to do a Controlled Burn.
- Control Burns are safe and a very inexpensive way to remove growth that are considered wildfire prone. The areas we reviewed are fire prone but not able to be mowed, so the control burn is a great option and very safe. They are scheduled and done on days that are perfect for burns. The weather is researched for perfect conditions for the burn. Humidity, heat index, winds and time of year are all researched to pick the perfect day to burn. Some smoke will be present but it is minimal because they pick the perfect day to avoid smoke problems.
- These burns are done by Forestry , they apply for the permits , they have a crew of men on site to control the burn for safety. They are a very safe and a perfect way to remove overgrowth for the least amount of money. The Crossings had two areas they recommended burning.

- Option Two was along Jasmine Drive to remove the dangerous growth in the wetlands along the Esplanade and Jasmine Drive. This area have been a problem for some time. Water is always present there even after severe drought. For over ten years we have not been able to mow or access the area. It is very overgrown and should be burned.
- Forestry may be able to do the burns at no cost to us as it is a new method of control and there are grants for the burns and we have never received these grants before.
- This area will never be accessed by machinery due to the wetlands.
- The other plus to this type of removal would allow Forestry gets the permitting for the work.



**PRESCRIBED FIRES
KEEP OUR FORESTS
HEALTHY & RESILIENT**

Prescribed Burns

Keeping wildfire threat under control



- So now we must decide how we want to move forward. I am in favor of doing control burns in the wet areas to remove the overgrowth. I am also in favor of doing private mowing as we did last year in areas that need mowing.
- In order to move forward mowing permits need to be gotten, which we are already in the process of doing.
- Like everything else Covid has slowed everything to a crawl.
- As soon as permits are gotten we will start mowing areas in Area 5 the Crossings and Area 1. Area 1 is the South Gate Area up to Egret, right to the South Gate. I believe permitting for the Crossings will be hard to get and we should apply for the permits for the Crossings and Area 1 and do what ever comes first.

Grand Haven Firewise Map

Area 1 Egret south to the South Gate

Area 5 The Crossings

