

Poinciana
Community Development District

Workshop Meeting Agenda

Monday
April 29, 2024
3:00 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87047742122>

Dial In Number: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 870 4774 2122

1. Roll Call
2. Presentation by Solivita Conservation and Wildlife Committee on Feral Hogs
3. Adjournment



*Conservation & Wildlife
Committee*

FERAL HOGS PROJECT 2024



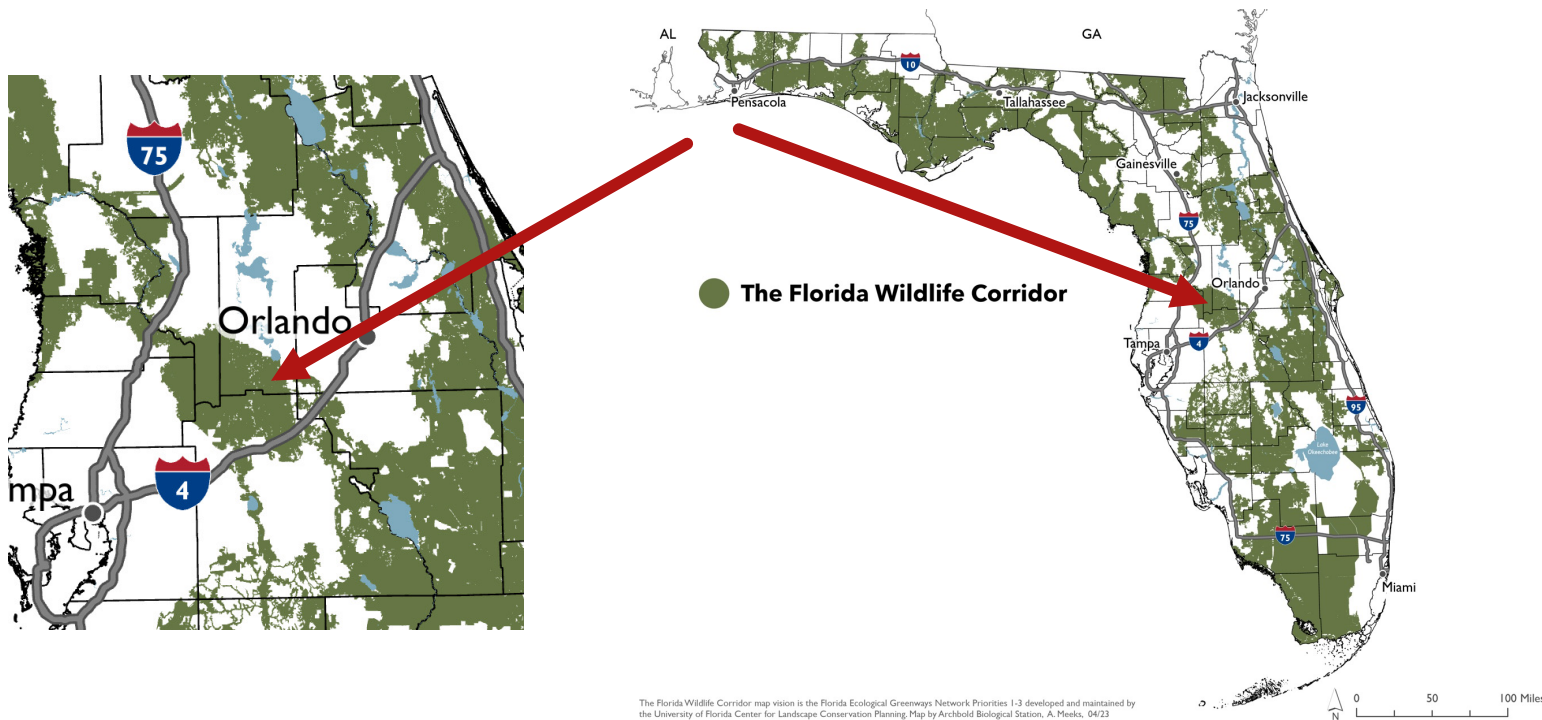
Conservation & Wildlife Committee

OBJECTIVE

- 1. To place a science-based solution before the Solivita community.*
- 2. Inform the community at large for improved understanding of the nature of the problem and ramifications of a potential solution.*



*Solivita is located in the middle of the **Florida Wildlife Corridor** - a statewide network of nearly **18 million acres** of connected ecosystems protect and promote wildlife migration and control unlimited development.*



FERAL HOGS

- **The wild hog (*Sus scrofa*)**, also called feral hog, feral swine, feral pig, wild boar, wild pig or piney woods rooter.
- **Invasive species** - likely introduced by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto as early as 1539.

Invasive indicates a new, aggressive species without natural predators, breeding quickly, taking over an area. Native wildlife will not have evolved defenses against the invader and will not be able to compete.



FERAL HOGS

- *Wild hogs occur in all **67 counties of Florida**. Florida's hog population ranks 5th in the USA (500,000). Natural habitats include oak-cabbage palm hammocks, **freshwater marshes**, pine flatwoods, and more open agricultural areas.*
- *Experts at the University of Florida report that they will **eat almost anything**, including dead animals but when natural foods are scarce or inaccessible, **hogs will forage** on almost any agricultural crop and livestock feed.*



90% plant matter (grubs, acorns),



FERAL HOGS

- *Wild hogs can be 4 to 6 feet long, weigh 100 to 200 pounds. Although they prefer to run and escape danger, they **can be aggressive** when they're injured or cornered. They can move with great speed and can cause serious injury with their tusks.*
- *Feral pigs are known to be **dangerous to people**, traveling in herds with their young. They have been known to be aggressive toward **dogs and other pets**.*

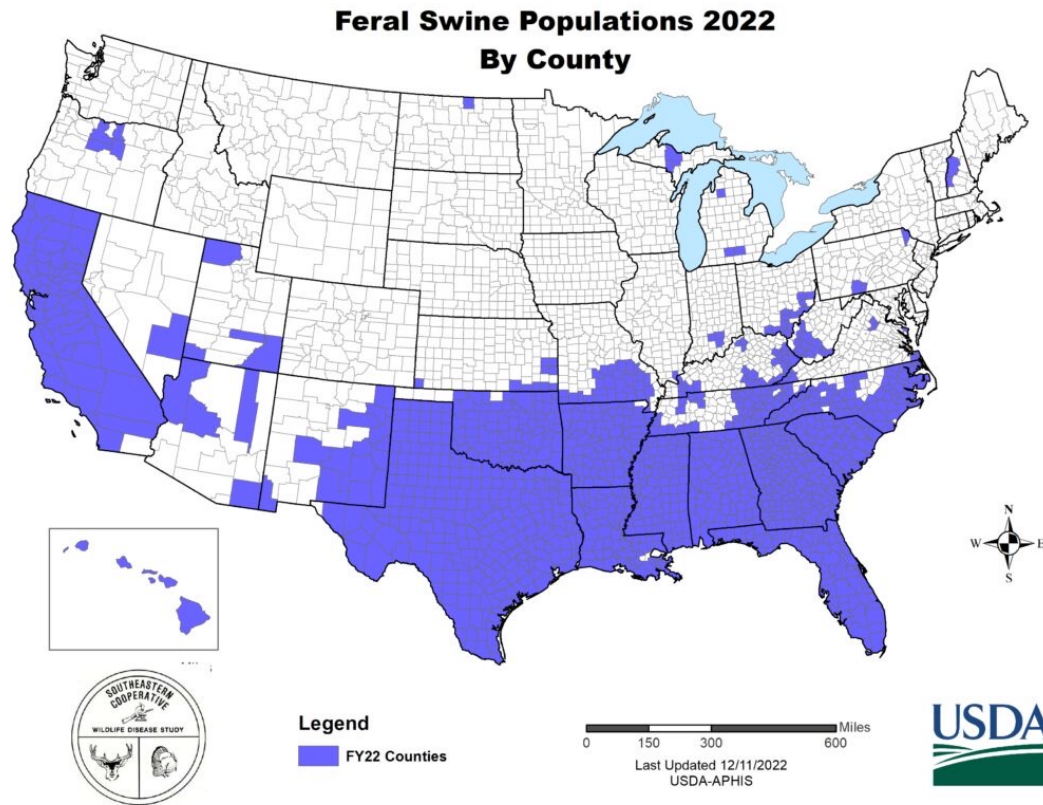


FERAL HOGS

- Female hogs become **fertile** at the age of **six (6) months**, producing litters of up to **twelve (12) piglets** every **six (6) months**.
- Hogs are **exceptionally intelligent** animals, able to recognize danger and avoid areas of danger. Studies have found they're smarter than dogs and even a 3-year-old child!
- The meat of a feral hog **may be eaten**, but you need to **harvest and process them safely**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites brucellosis as the main risk to humans.



TODAY'S FERAL HOG PROBLEM IS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM



SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

- Solivita has employed the same established hog trapper for **eight (8) years** (team 8/12 trappers)
- Single traps (23) have been set and trapped hogs are taken offsite to be destroyed.
- Trappers hunt/pursue the hogs using dogs.
- Current harvest approximately **500 pigs** per year.
- Periods of drought and **hunting season** increases numbers.



FLORIDA HUNTING SEASON

Solivita - Zone B

- Archery season: Oct 14 – Nov 12
- Crossbow season: Oct 14 – Nov 17
- Muzzleloading gun season: Nov 18 - Dec 1
- Youth deer hunt weekend: Nov 25 - 26
- General gun season: Dec 2 – Feb 18



SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

- *Hogs cause extensive damage rooting in landscaped areas for acorns and grubs. Last year Solivita over **80,000 sq ft** sod torn up **during acorn season**.*
- *Most sod is not replaced but raked over for regrowth.*
- *Solivita spends approximately **\$20,000++** per year repairing landscaping in common areas and residences. Solivita also spends **\$15,000** per year on trapper fees.*



SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

- *There have been many expressions of outrage by well intended residents. Some residents **feed the pigs** and/or **go into the woods at night** and **release hogs** from the traps.*





- *Solivita is surrounded on three sides by thousands of acres of open, state-owned undeveloped woodland. During hunting season, the pigs escape the danger of the hunters by navigating into Solivita.*



Conservation & Wildlife Committee

- In October 2023 the Solivita HOA Conservation & Wildlife Committee accepted the challenge of seeking a fact-based solution.*
- Research identified two of the most respected subject matter experts and invited them to a high-profile symposium in Solivita.*



Conservation & Wildlife Committee

- *Two subject matter experts:*

Parker Hall, *Wildlife Biologist, State Director of the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – Florida*

Samantha Wisely, *Ph.D. is a professor in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department at the University of Florida.*



The A symposium took place on October 17, 2023.

Attendees included:

Bob Monica, C&WC Chair

Larry Anson, HOA President

Marie Sepe, HOA Vice President

Rudy Bautista – LCAM, Community Manager

Anita Nelson – PCDD Supervisor

Hank Stuart – Landscape Committee Chair

Carl Warren - Maintenance Committee Chair

Brad Thompson – Floralawn Manager

Members of the C&WC Committee



What we learned

- *Feral Pigs are **very intelligent** and difficult to destroy*
- *Due to reproductive biology trapping **must focus on the females***
- *Trapped hogs must be **immediately destroyed** on site*
- *The use of single traps on this large a property will only **produce minimal results.***



What we learned

- *The use of chemical biopesticide **Sodium Nitrite** bait may be effective but also can have derogatory effect on other wildlife, people, pets.*
- *As of now there are no EPA approved toxicants for feral pigs - **poisoning is off the table.***



What we learned

- *The ideal approach is setting **large traps** that capture large groups of pigs (as many as 30).*
- *These traps are **monitored and controlled remotely** by the trapper on a cell phone*
- *Hogs are baited using sour corn*
- *Due to acreage surrounding Solivita **multiple traps** are required - **moved frequently**.*



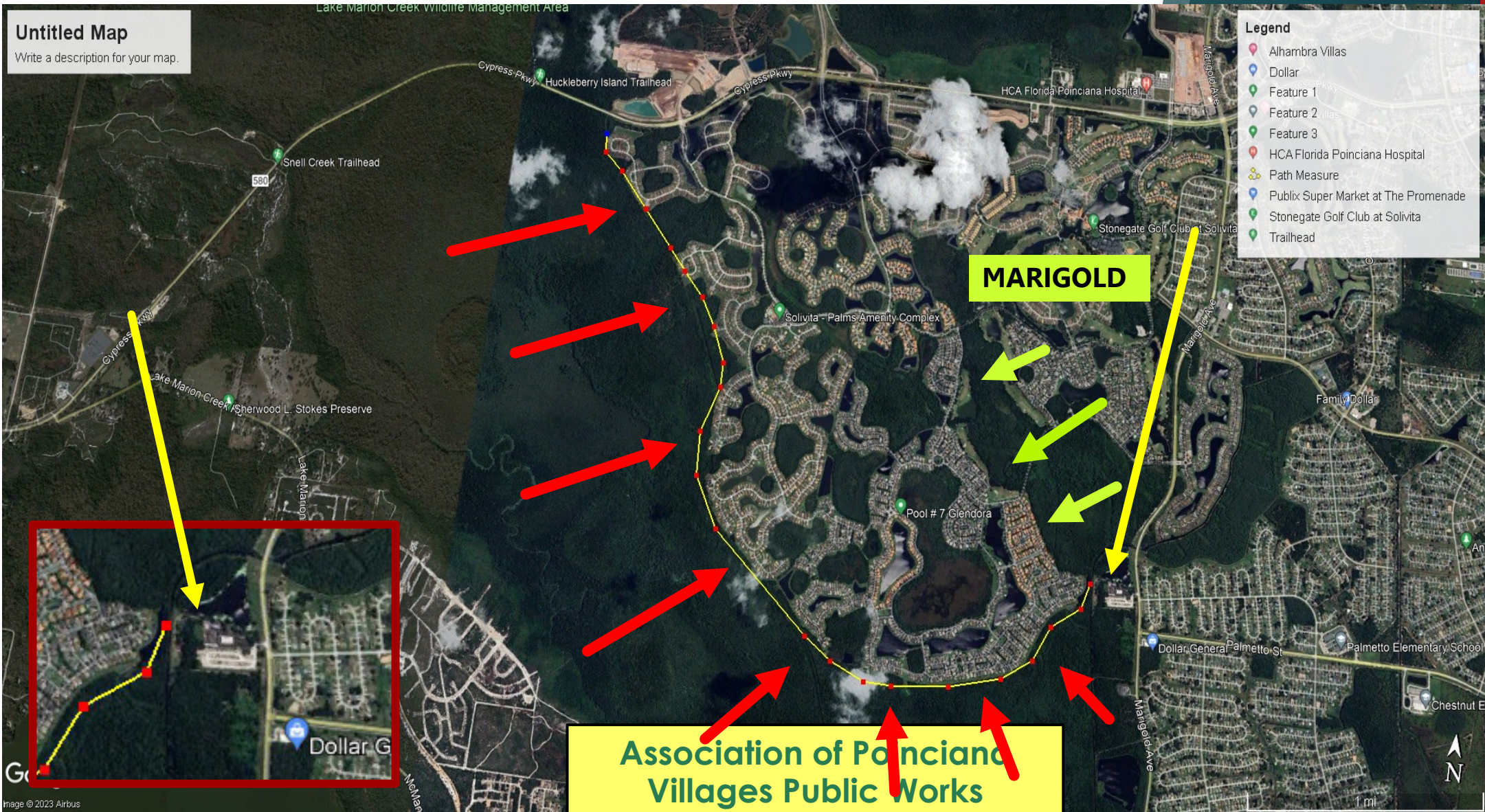
What we learned

- A key component is the installation of a ***fence*** between the community and the undeveloped areas that are not protected by a fence or street.
- Fencing must be solid but can be relatively inexpensive – ***High-tensile, woven-wire steel mesh with a “fixed knot” fencing 3 – 4 feet in height.***
- The Solivita area required to be fenced is approximately ***21,000 linear feet.***
- The fence may span property areas controlled by the ***HOA, PCDD, PWCDD, Developer and the state.***



Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.



Where we are now

- Parker Hall (at state's expense) worked with Rudy Bautista to reviewed and analyze the area, providing personnel and a remote-controlled trap.*
- A large trap was installed in the Davinci Pass area as a test. Results were inconclusive.*
- It is clear that an area as large as Solivita will require multiple traps (3/6 traps).*
- No comprehensive level of success can be achieved without the installation of the fence.*
- Parker Hall advises that with a firm commitment Solivita could rid itself completely of the pigs.*



Q & A

