CITY OF MOUNT DORA

Leisure Services
900 N. Donnelly St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757
352-735-7183
Fax: 352-735-3681
E-mail: parksandrec@cityofmountdora.com

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

City Hall Board Room, 510 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
July 18, 2022 at 5:30 PM

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

IV. Public Comment

V. Presentations

- A. Forest Preserve Update - Library Director Cathy Lunday

VI. Action Items

VII. Resolutions

VIII. Ordinances

IX. Discussion Items

X. City Staff

- A. Parks and Recreation Update
- B. Cultural and Special Events Update

XI. Communications and Reports

- A. Board Member Kate Barnard
- B. Board Member Derrick Campbell
- C. Board Member Rick Cooper

D. Board Member Suzanne Scheck

E. Board Member Alternate Marsha Blum

F. Vice-chair Amy Fortenberry

G. Chair Mark Woerner

XII. Future Meeting Dates

A. August 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

B. September 19, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

C. October 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

XIII. Adjournment

NOTICE: Please note that, for purposes of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, two or more members of the City Council may be present at this meeting, and this meeting may be considered a City Council meeting.

NOTICE: If any person decides to appeal any decisions at this meeting with respect to any matter considered, such person may need a record of these proceedings. For such purpose, a person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Jennifer Schwarz no later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings. (352) 735-7183 ext. 1605. for assistance. If hearing impaired, telephone the Florida Relay Service numbers (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (Voice) for assistance.

If you have any comments or question regarding the contents of this agenda packet, please call Jennifer Schwarz at (352) 735-7183 ext. 1605.

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DATE: **July 18, 2022**

TO: **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members**

FROM: **Amy Jewell, Leisure Services Director**

SUBJECT: May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Introduction:
This is a request for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to approve meeting minutes.

Discussion:
Administrative staff prepare minutes and present them to the Advisory Board as an opportunity to make suggestions or corrections prior to final approval.

Budget Impact:
N/A

Strategic Impact:
N/A

Recommendation
Advisory Board approve minutes as transcribed.

Attachment(s):
1. PRAB Minutes 05-16-22_DRAFT

Prepared by: Jeanann Hand, Deputy City Clerk
Reviewed by: Troy Shonk, Leisure Services Administrator Final Approval - 7/13/2022

CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES

Mary 16, 2022
City Hall
510 N. Baker St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757

Call to Order

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chairperson Mark Woerner called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. in the Mount Dora Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Members Present
Derrick Campbell, District 2
Rick Cooper, At-large
Vice-chairperson Amy Fortenberry, Mayoral Appointee
Chairperson Mark Woerner, District 4
Marsha Blum, District 1, Alternate

Also Present
Amy Jewell, Leisure Services Director
Troy Shonk, Leisure Services Manager
Jeanann Hand, Deputy City Clerk

Not Present
Suzanne Scheck, District 1
Kate Barnard, District 3
William Larkin, District 5

Approval of Minutes

A. March 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY MS. FORTENBERRY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 21, 2022 MEETING MINUTES; MS. BLUM SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Presentations

A. Mount Dora Community Trust Parks Funding Presentation

Mr. Rob English from the Mount Dora Community Trust delivered a presentation regarding funding through the Trust, especially as it would relate to Parks funding.

City Staff

A. Cultural and Special Events Update

Mat Cady, Practice Administrator from Adult Medicine of Lake County, an organization who will be sponsoring a Soap Box Derby in Mount Dora on July 30th, spoke about the derby and other events the organization hopes to host in the City in the future.

Mound Dora Cultural and Special Events Manager Chris Carson answered questions about the Taste in Mount Dora that was held on April 30th.

B. Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. Shonk provided a Recreation update to board members, mentioning current and planned programs. He then informed about ongoing Parks projects, reviewing statuses and answering questions, particularly in the context of upcoming budget decisions. Mr. Shonk spoke about Cauley Lott Park, the Triangle Elementary playground, Lincoln Pool, the kayak launch, the Mount Dora Music Hall, the mountain bike trail, and Forest Park. Board member Cooper expressed concern regarding Forest Park falling under the care of the library rather than the Parks division.

Mr. Shonk then updated about fiscal year 2022-23 capital outlays and CIPS, including the Frank Brown field conversion to add more green space, the new greenhouse, a cemetery kiosk and software, and new recreation program software. A maintenance update included the resurfacing of the pickleball and tennis courts and improvements to the Donnelly Park Building. An update on other projects included Earth Day tree plantings and America in Bloom activity.

Communications and Reports

A. Board Member Kate Barnard

B. Board Member Derrick Campbell

C. Board Member Rick Cooper

Board member Cooper spoke favorably about the cleanliness of the City on Sunday mornings.

D. Board Member William Larkin

E. Board Member Suzanne Scheck

F. Board Member Alternate Marsha Blum

G. Vice-chair Amy Fortenberry

H. Chair Mark Woerner

Future Meeting Dates

A. June 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

B. July 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

C. August 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR FORTENBERRY TO ADJOURN; BOARD MEMBER CAMPBELL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED BY A UNINANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:48 p.m.

MR. MARK WOERNER,	***JEANANN HAND***
ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR	***DEPUTY CITY CLERK***

CITY OF MOUNT DORA

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DATE: **July 18, 2022**

TO: **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members**

FROM: **Amy Jewell, Leisure Services Director**

SUBJECT: Forest Preserve Update - Library Director Cathy Lunday

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Introduction:

Forest Preserve is the 12-acre tract of forest located directly west of the W.T. Bland Public Library.

Discussion:

Originally named the Forest School, this project is now identified as Forest Preserve. The City was awarded a $50,000 grant from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) in 2021, with a completion deadline of April 2024. The grant proposal's allocations have been modified several times, with the majority of the funds now slated for interpretative signage and a possible ADA trail extension.

The preliminary site assessment of Forest Preserve has been completed (ATTACHMENT #1), with a complete review of the flora and fauna contained within the tract. A 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey was conducted and no burrows were observed. There were no other findings that would prevent adding interpretative signage, a possible ADA trail connector or a second trailhead. A trail assessment study is underway, with completion expected before the end of September 2022.

The proposed 2022-23 Capital Improvement Plan for Forest Preserve includes a new survey splitting Forest Preserve from Pine Forest Cemetery and engineering and construction estimates. As a library project, the development of Forest Preserve will include environmental programming, a sponsored story walk and a connection to the Nunan Butterfly Garden. The preserve's management is proposed to emulate the garden's, with library staff oversight (in tandem with Parks and Public Works staff), increased support by library nonprofits and extensive volunteer participation.

The 2022-23 engineering and construction estimates will not include nor are there plans for:

- Bathrooms.
- Park and playground equipment, picnic tables or pavilions for rent.
- Pavilions with roofs, walls or electricity.
- Extensive new trails.

A forest management plan is in development, which will include conservation areas, invasive species plans and long-term goals for the ecological health and biodiversity of the preserve.

Budget Impact:

The proposed 2022-23 Capital Improvement Plan for Forest Preserve has expenditures of up to $65,000 and, if approved by City Council, will be funded by the Library Impact Fund: GL #310-5555-580.63-01-LI2207.

Strategic Impact:

This project aligns with the City's 2020 Strategic Plan - Economic Development in that it addresses trail improvement and Infrastructure/Public Safety in that it enhances connectivity and accessibility.
This project aligns with the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation n/a

Attachment(s):

1. ATTACHMENT #1 - City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve PESA Report 6-14-22 Final
2. ATTACHMENT#2 - Forest Preserve Map 2021

Prepared by:	Jennifer Schwarz, Administrative Assistant	
Reviewed by:	Cathy Lunday, Library Director	Approved - 7/12/2022
	Troy Shonk, Leisure Services Administrator	Final Approval - 7/13/2022

ATTACHMENT #1

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

CITY OF MOUNT DORA FOREST PRESERVE

West 20th Avenue
Mount Dora, Florida 32757

Prepared for:

Mrs. Cathy Lunday, Library Manager
City of Mount Dora, W.T. Bland Public Library
1995 North Donnelly Street
Mount Dora, Florida 32757
(352) 735-7151
lundayc@cityofmountdora.com

Prepared by:

Habitat Restoration & Wildlife Protection Services, LLC
1517 East Orange Avenue
Eustis, Florida 32726
(352) 589-4013

APRIL 2022

This report represents a true, accurate, and representative description of the site assessment at the time of survey.

Signed_____ Date _April 20, 2022__

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

CITY OF MOUNT DORA
FOREST PRESERVE
West 20th Avenue
Mount Dora, Florida 32757

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT REPORT
For
CITY OF MOUNT DORA FOREST PRESERVE
West 20th Avenue
Mount Dora, Florida 32757

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment (PESA) was to conduct a "Threatened & Endangered Plant & Animal Species Survey and a "Preliminary Wetland Delineation" on (1) one vacant parcel (~ 9.5 acres) and a portion of another vacant parcel (~ 7.23 acres) identified in the Lake County Property Appraiser records as Parcel #30-19-27-0001-000-01001 and Parcel #30-19-27-0001-000-011001 respectively. The vacant land parcels are located at West 20th Avenue, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 and are owned by the City of Mount Dora (see Figure 1, Project Location Map - Appendix I).

This Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment was conducted to provide information regarding any potential issues that will need to be addressed as part of a proposed future trail system, part of which will be handicap accessible. This PESA also included a 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey and a preliminary wetland delineation. For clarification purposes the two parcels will be referred to as the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve in this report.

The fieldwork for the Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment was conducted between 09 March 2022 and 15 April 2022 by experienced field biologists from Habitat Restoration & Wildlife Protection Services, LLC (HRWP). This report summarizes the findings of those investigations.

2.0 HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

According to the land use codes outlined in the Lake County Database (2022), one (1) upland habitat type was identified within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (see Figure 2, Land Use Map - Appendix I). The entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve is listed as (8089) Vacant Government Municipal property. However, the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve is currently a dense forest dominated by large laurel oaks (*Quercus laurifolia*). The City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve also contains scattered mature longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) with a few live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*) and cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*). In addition, the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve has a variety of nuisance/exotic tress including Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), Camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*).

The mid-story contains scattered beautyberry (*Calicarpa americana*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), with wax myrtle *(Myrica cerifera*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) along the wetland edge. HRWP biologists also observed large patches of exotic coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*) throughout the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Coral ardisia is listed as a Category I invasive species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC). Coral ardisia is a small upright shrub that is used and sold extensively in the

horticulture industry as an ornamental plant. It has red berries and looks visually desirable, but shades out native seedling and understory plants, preventing their growth and development and disrupting native plant communities. HRWP biologists also observed dense patches of primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*) and Mexican primrose willow (*Ludwigia octovalvis*) along the edge of the wetland.

The groundcover within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve is composed of shade tolerant herbs, graminoids, and vines including scattered patches of Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), blackberry (*Rubus spp*.), grapevine (*Vitis spp*.), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Caesar's weed (*Urena lobata*), beggar's tick (*Bidens alba*) and greenbrier (*Smilax spp*.) along with a few patches of sedges (*Carex spp*.) and cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) along the transitional edge of the lake and the forest canopy. The lake edge contains patches of native blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muhlenbergia*) but dominated by large patches of nuisance/exotic species such as torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*), and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) all of which are listed as Category I exotic species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC).

HRWP biologists also observed several large patches of exotic Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Cogon grass aggressively invades areas such as open forests, pastures, and right-of-ways. It is considered a severe fire hazard as the "grass" is extremely flammable (Miller, Chambliss, and Loewenstein, 2010) and is listed as a Category I invasive species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC). HRWP biologists also observed paragrass (*Urochloa mutica*) along the transitional edge of the lake and the forest canopy. Paragrass is also a nonnative category I invasive species in central and south Florida. This perennial grass species outcompetes native vegetation, is capable of rapid spread by vegetative reproduction.

However, even more prevalent are extremely large patches of exotic Boston fern **(***Nephrolepis cordifolia***)** that are dominant throughout the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, which have prevented native plant growth. Boston fern, also called tuberous sword fern, erect sword fern or ladder fern is listed as a Category I invasive species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council.

The remainder of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve consists of open canopy with either grapevine, bracken fern and/or leaf litter (detritus) or pine needles.

3.0 SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

According to the Lake County Database (2022) **s**oil metadata, five (5) soil types occurred within City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (see Figure 3, Soils Map - Appendix I) along with a 0.3-acre portion of open water (Lake John) along the west side of the two parcels. The five soil types are (8) Chandler sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes (0.9 acre), (9) Chandler sand, 5 to 12 percent slopes (12.4 acres), (10) Chandler sand, 12 to 40 percent slopes (1.1 acres), (17) Arents (0.1 acre) and (40) Placid sand Myakka sands, depressional (2.1 acres).

The Candler sand series consists of very deep, excessively drained, very rapidly to rapidly permeable soils on uplands of Southern Florida Flatwoods, South Central Florida Ridge, Eastern Gulf Coast Flatwoods, and the Atlantic Coast Flatwoods. They formed in thick beds of eolian or sandy marine deposits. The mean annual precipitation is about fifty-five inches. Slopes are primarily 0 to 12 percent but range up to 40 percent in the more dissected areas. The water table is at depths

greater than eighty inches.

Arents soils are considered disturbed soils that do not have diagnostic horizons because they have been deeply mixed by plowing, spading, or other methods of moving by humans. Arents soils throughout Lake County and are typically the result of native habitat being converted to citrus groves, cropland, urban land, or pasture.

The Myakka series consists of very deep, very poorly or poorly drained, moderately rapid, or moderately permeable soils that occur primarily in mesic flatwoods of peninsular Florida. They formed in sandy marine deposits. Myakka soils have an average annual precipitation is about fifty-five inches. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent. The water table is at depths of less than 18 inches for 1 to 4 months duration in most years and recedes to depths of more than forty inches during very dry seasons. Depressional areas are typically covered with standing water for periods of 6 to 9 months or more in most years.

Placid sands are associated with Southern Florida Flatwoods along low broad flats, depressions, drainageways, and floodplains and were formed by sandy marine sediments. Placid sands have negligible to extremely low surface runoff with frequent ponding where the soil is covered by water (ponded), very frequently for exceptionally long duration for more than 6 months.

The City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve slopes from a high ridge (145-150 feet of elevation) on east side of the property down to Lake John (75 feet of elevation) on the west side with an elevation change of between 65 to 75 feet drop in elevation. HRWP has provided a Topology Map of the site City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve for reference (see Figure 4, Topology Map - Appendix I). During this PESA no artesian wells or surficial springs were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, despite noting some obvious erosion and/or channeling from surface rainfall. Note: HRWP did not conduct a hydrological assessment as part of this PESA.

4.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Listed Species Survey

The Threatened & Endangered Species Survey (T&E) conducted at the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve was conducted in general accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Multiple Species Inventory & Monitoring Technical Guide, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) Wildlife Survey Methodology Guidelines, FFWCC Specific Species Listed Species Management & Permitting Guidelines, FFWCC Imperiled Species Management Plans and United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Act (ESA) Protection Guidelines. Pedestrian-transect surveys for listed species of wildlife were conducted by HRWP staff on 09 March 2022 and 15 April 2018. During this survey, the entire site was canvassed for listed species. Pedestrian transects were used to cover 100% of the area within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Observations of any listed species as well as physical features that may indicate the presence of these species such as tracks, scat, nests, burrows, and cavity trees were mapped on aerial maps of the site. HRWP biologists searched for any listed plant and animal species along specific pedestrian transects in all habitats in the study area for any listed species, including gopher tortoise burrows as part of this survey. Any species observed were recorded by GPS and labeled for mapping purposes.

Gopher Tortoise Survey

HRWP conducted a 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey within the upland habitat of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, to approximately twenty-five feet outside the project boundary to locate gopher tortoise burrows and estimate the density of gopher tortoises on site. Observed burrows were categorized as "active," "inactive" or "abandoned." The gopher tortoise burrow survey was conducted in accordance with the FFWCC Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines April 2008 (Revised July 2020). HRWP biologists censured gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows on straight-line pedestrian of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Widths of the strip transects were determined by visibility, a function of the density and height of the vegetation at (10) ten feet apart. Active and inactive burrows were marked with wood survey grade stakes (1/2" x 2"x 36"), labeled and flagged with orange biodegradable marking tape in the field.

Florida Black Bear

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve is within the range of the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*). The Florida black bear is regulated by the FFWCC Black Bear Management Plan. According to the FFWCC Black Bear Management Plan (December 11, 2019), "The first regulations on Florida black bears were established in 1936 when they were listed as a fur-bearing mammal. Since then, many changes have occurred regarding seasons, weight limits, and other hunting-related regulations, as well as listing as a State-designated Threatened Species in 1974. Prior to removal from the list of State-designated Threatened Species in 2012, five sections of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) specifically addressed bears: feeding prohibitions (F.A.C. 68A-4.001(3)), possession (F.A.C. 4.004), sale or purchase (68A-12.004(12)), exemption from take as nuisance wildlife (68A-9.010), and restrictions related to State-designated species (68A-27.003). In addition, Florida Statutes (F.S. 379.411) addressed intentional killing of State-designated species. The Bear Conservation Rule states, "In 2012, the FWC approved the Florida Black Bear Conservation Rule (F.A.C. 68A-4.009), which prohibited the unauthorized take, possession, injuring, shooting, collecting, or selling of bears or their parts. Given the potential for illegal trade in bear parts and bear hides, the level of specificity and detail in this rule was considered necessary to aid in successful enforcement and prosecution. Violation of any provisions of the Bear Conservation Rule is a second-degree misdemeanor."

Listed Species Small Mammal and/or Funnel Trapping

No small mammal and/or funnel trapping was conducted for listed species within City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve as these areas were shown to have unsuitable habitat and/or occurrence was unlikely.

Florida Scrub-jay Surveys

No Florida Scrub-jay habitat occurred within or immediately adjacent to the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Florida Sandhill Crane Surveys

No Florida Sandhill crane habitat occurred within or immediately adjacent to the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Other Listed Species Survey

During the survey, HRWP observed several armadillo burrows. HRWP staff looked for signs of other listed species, including frogs and snakes within those burrows. HRWP also looked for signs of short-tailed snakes (*Stilosoma extenuatum*) and Florida pine snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitas*). HRWP also looked for signs of Sherman's fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger shermani*) in the adjacent habitat. HRWP also searched for southeastern American kestrels, along with potential nesting cavities in trees adjacent to the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. The methodology followed the FFWCC Technical Report No. 13: Ecology and Habitat Protection Needs of the Southeastern American Kestrel (*Falco spaverius paulus*) on Large-Scale Development Sites in Florida (Stys 1993).

HRWP also searched the areas surrounding the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve for bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nests in all large pine and/or oak trees since the property is along side of Lake John.

5.0 LISTED SPECIES SURVEY RESULTS

Tables 1 & 2 – Appendix II provide a list of Listed Plant & Wildlife Species that have the potential to occur within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Florida Black Bear

Despite reports of Florida black bear sightings by local residents, no Florida black bears were observed, or any sign of this species occurred on the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve during this PESA. It is our professional opinion that there is potential for roaming bears to traverse the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve on rare occasions.

Gopher Tortoise

During the 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey HRWP biologists censured gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows on straight-line pedestrian transect (see Figure 5, Pedestrian Transect Survey Map – Appendix I). No gopher tortoise burrows were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. This is likely because the habitat is dense with a closed tree canopy, which is not suitable for gopher tortoises. HRWP staff conducted a 100% Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Burrow Survey (as required by the FFWCC Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines) within suitable upland habitat by our FFWCC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent (Permit #GTA-09-00027H).

Sand Skink

No suitable sand skink (*Neoseps reynoldsi*) habitat occurred within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Therefore, HRWP staff did not survey for sand skinks.

Eastern Indigo Snake

The eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) is a large, wide-ranging predator that occupies most native upland and wetland habitats in Florida. Indigo snakes are often associated with gopher tortoise burrows, which they use as refugia from extreme temperatures (Moler

1992). No eastern indigo snakes were observed within City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, and it is highly unlikely of occurrence on site. However, trail construction crews should be aware of the "potential for occurrence," as the eastern indigo snake is "federally listed" as a "threatened" species by USFWS, which requires construction be halted immediately upon observation and a knowledgeable biologist must be consulted.

Gopher Frog

No suitable gopher frogs (*Lithobates capito*) habitat occurred within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Therefore, HRWP staff did not survey for gopher frogs.

Sherman's Fox Squirrel

No Sherman's fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger shermani*) were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve or adjacent habitat near the project area. Fox squirrels typically forage in the pine flatwoods, open pastures and palmetto prairies and they primarily nest in the pines and oaks

Florida Sandhill Crane

The Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) is listed as "threatened" and is non-migratory in peninsular Florida (Nesbitt 1996). Florida sandhill cranes are late winter to early spring nesters, although the nesting season can be protracted. Cranes nest in emergent wetlands with water 1 - 3 feet in depth (Nesbitt 1996). No sandhill cranes were observed within City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve or in the adjacent. However, there is a remote possibility that sandhill cranes could nest in the hourglass portion (shallow grassy areas) of the middle portion of Lake John.

Southeastern American Kestrel

No Southeastern American kestrels (*Falco sparverius paulus*) were observed within or near the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, nor were any nest structures or nests observed within or near the project area.

Bald Eagles & Ospreys

No bald eagles or ospreys were observed within or near City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, nor were any nests observed within or near the project area.

Florida scrub-jay, red cock-aided woodpecker, red knot

No Florida scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), red cock-aided woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) or red knots (*Calidris canutus rufa*) were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, nor was there suitable habitat in the immediate adjacent areas around the project area.

Listed Wading Birds

Wood storks (*Mycteria americana*) were not observed on the property during the survey. According to the USFWS database, no wading bird colonies are reported within two miles of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. However, HRWP staff did observe a pair of nesting ospreys

(*Pandion haliaetus*) off-site approximately 243 feet southwest of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve southwest boundary corner. The pair of ospreys are utilizing Lake John for foraging and nesting in a mature longleaf pine tree southwest of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (see Figure 6 – Listed Avian Species Map – Appendix I).

Anuran Species

No listed anuran species were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. HRWP staff observed (2) two anuran species during this assessment (one native and one exotic species). HRWP staff observed a native American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and an exotic Cuban tree frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), neither of which is a protected species.

Fish species

During the site assessment, no dip-net samples within Lake John were conducted. However, HRWP biologists observed mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*). It likely that Lake John contains Florida largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides floridanus*) and several catfish species (*Amerius spp*.), both of which are game species regulated by FFWCC.

Other Animal Species

During the T&E survey, HRWP biologists encountered one (1) black racer snake (*Coluber constrictor*) and one (1) common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), one (1) Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) and one (1) nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). HRWP did observe small mammal holes throughout the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. Tracks from several nuisance animal species were also observed throughout the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, including nine-banded armadillo and Virginia opossum all of which cause damages soil and vegetation and typically interferes with forest regeneration, and can lead to erosion problems, especially on slopes.

No other Endangered, Threatened or Species of Special Concern were observed within or immediately adjacent to the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Listed Plants

Several Listed Plants shown in Table 2 (Appendix II) and are known to occur in Lake County. Only one listed plant species Pineland Butterfly Pea (*Centrosema Arenicola*) was observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve during the pedestrian survey. *C. arenicola* is a vining species with tri-foliate leaves, endemic to central peninsular Florida and is listed as State endangered. *C. arenicola* was observed on the upper eastern portions of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

6.0 WETLAND ASSESSMENT

Prior to the site visit, HRWP conducted a desktop review of the current available wetland maps (Florida Department of Environmental Protection Wetland Database (FDEP), Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory (FWS NWI), National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Lake County to determine the proximity of

potential wetlands that may occur on the property. During the PESA, HRWP traversed the entire east and west edge of Lake John.

HRWP conducted a preliminary wetland delineation along the edge of Lake John (see Figure 7 – Wetland Map – Appendix I). HRWP determined the approximate wetland boundary line(s) by onsite ground-truthing by soil probing soils, observations of wetland vegetation and high-water marks on trees. The approximate wetland boundary line was marked with wood survey grade stakes (1/2" x 2"x 36"), labeled and flagged with the wetland line was marked and GPS'd as points #96 – 112 (Flags #1 – 16 in the field). It has not been determined at this time if the wetlands and/or any portion of the lower elevation areas were known historical wetlands.

HRWP hereby provides notification that this assessment is a "preliminary wetland delineation only." If any impacts are to occur within wetlands identified within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve it will be necessary to file the appropriate wetland permit applications, provide FDEP, SJRWMD, ACOE and local agencies with a Formal Wetland Determination and provide mitigation funding to impact the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve, none of which are not included as part of this PESA.

7.0 OTHER OBSERVATIONS

As mentioned earlier in this report, HRWP walked the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve during this assessment. During the site visits, HRWP staff did not observe any stained soils, chemical, oil or gas spills, stressed vegetation, or visual evidence of any hazardous chemicals within City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. *Note: HRWP did not complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment on this site as part of our investigation.*

6.0 SUMMARY

During this Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment, HRWP conducted a listed floral and faunal species survey, evaluated on-site wetlands along with their connection to or lack thereof to adjacent properties or roadways and conducted a pedestrian survey of the entire City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Observations of all listed species as well as physical features that may indicate the presence of these species such as tracks, scat, nests, burrows, and cavity trees were mapped on aerial maps of the site. HRWP biologists searched for any potential listed plant and animal species throughout the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve for any listed species.

A 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey was conducted as part of this assessment and no gopher tortoise burrows were located or observed in the available upland habitat.

No listed fish, reptiles, birds, or mammals were observed during the PESA. No listed vertebrate and/or invertebrate species were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. HRWP biologists did not encounter any threatened or endangered avian or anuran species within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve. HRWP did not encounter any bald eagle nests or wading bird rookeries in the vicinity or immediately adjacent to the project area. However, HRWP staff did observe a pair of nesting ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) off-site approximately 243 feet southwest of the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve southwest boundary corner. The pair of ospreys are utilizing Lake John for foraging and nesting in a mature longleaf pine tree southwest of the City of

Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

HRWP did not observe any signs of the Florida black bear within or immediately adjacent to the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve.

Although several Listed Plants shown in Table 2 (Appendix II) and are known to occur in Lake County, no listed plant species were observed within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve during the pedestrian survey.

HRWP conducted a preliminary wetland delineation along the edge of Lake John. HRWP determined the approximate wetland boundary line(s) by onsite ground-truthing by soil probing soils, observations of wetland vegetation and high-water marks on trees. The approximate wetland boundary line was marked with wood survey grade stakes (1/2" x 2"x 36"), labeled and flagged with the wetland line was marked and GPS'd as points #96 – 112 (Flags #1 – 16 in the field). It has not been determined at this time if the wetlands and/or any portion of the lower elevation areas were known historical wetlands. The remaining habitat is high and dry, suitable for building hiking trails, potential picnic areas and other minimal impact public amenities. HRWP did not conduct a hydrological assessment as part of this PESA.

In addition, HRWP did not observe any stained soils, stressed vegetation, or visual evidence of any potential hazardous chemical structures (old pumps, wells, tanks, etc.) within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve during this PESA. However, there is a County operated water treatment facility and power substation along east shoreline of Lake John. HRWP did not perform a formal Phase I Hazardous Waste Assessment as part of this PESA.

HRWP also notes that the result of this environmental survey was based on observations and technical information available at the time of this assessment. This report is for general planning purposes only. The wildlife surveys conducted within the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve boundary does not preclude the potential for any listed species from occupying the site at any given time in the future.

HRWP took representative photos of the site during the environmental assessment. Representative photographs are included in Appendix III.

7.0 LITERATURE CONSULTED

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APPENDIX I

FIGURES 1-7

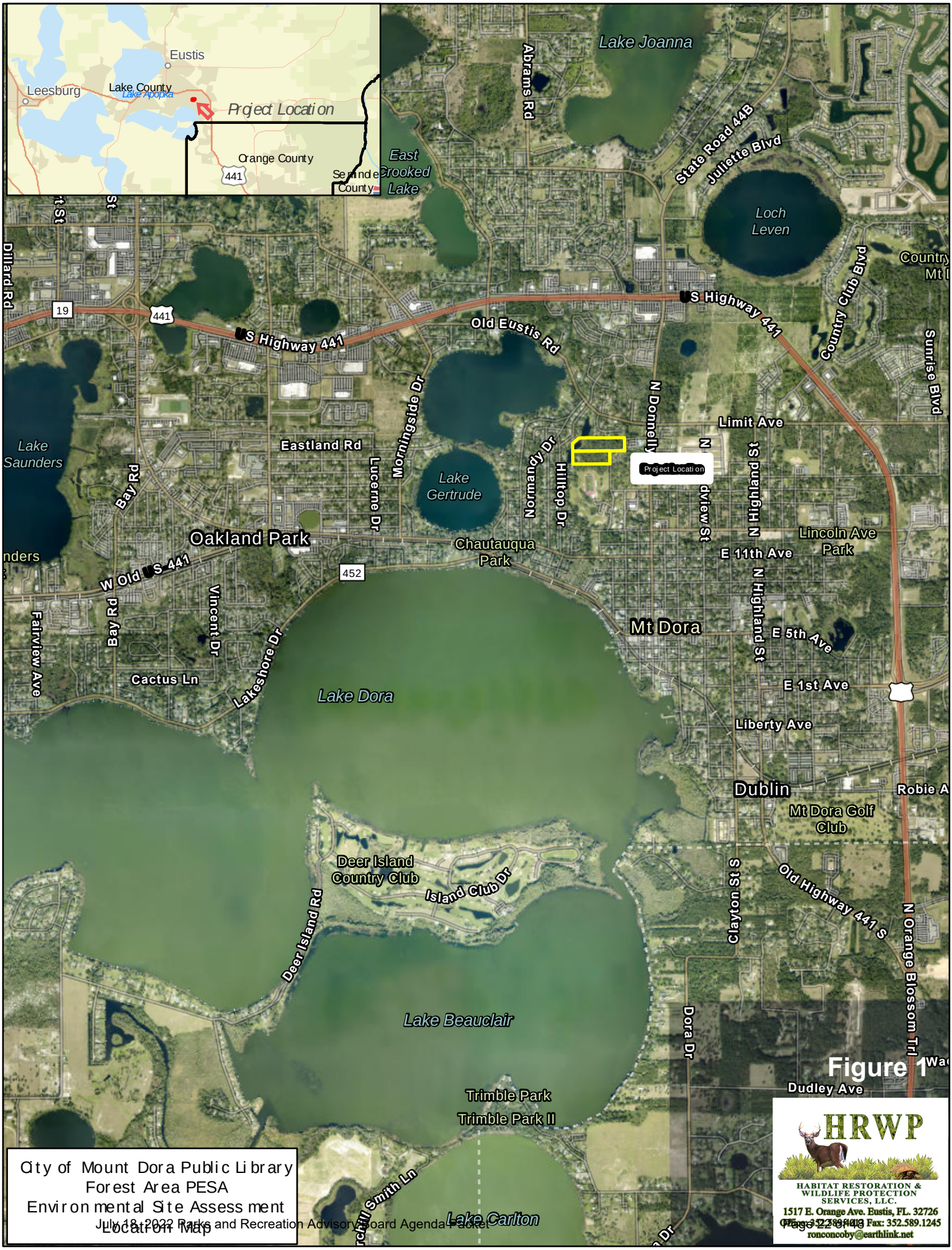
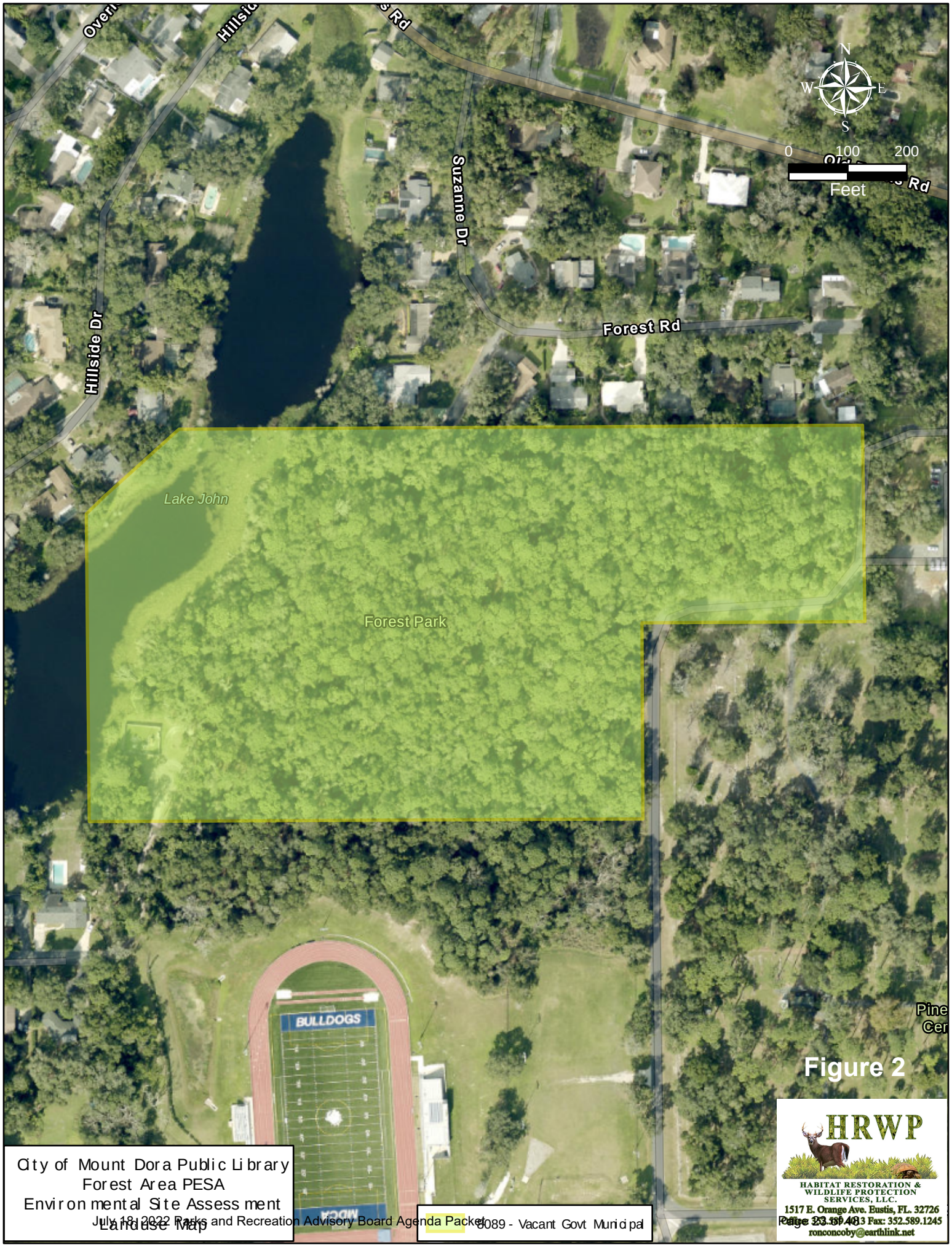


Figure 1

City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
Location Map

HRWP
HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC.
1517 E. Orange Ave. Eustis, FL. 32726
Office: 352.589.1113 Fax: 352.589.1245
ronconcoby@earthlink.net



City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
Landuse Map

8089 - Vacant Govt Municipal

Figure 2

HRWP
HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC.
1517 E. Orange Ave. Eustis, FL. 32726
Phone: 352.589.4083 Fax: 352.589.1245
ronconcoby@earthlink.net

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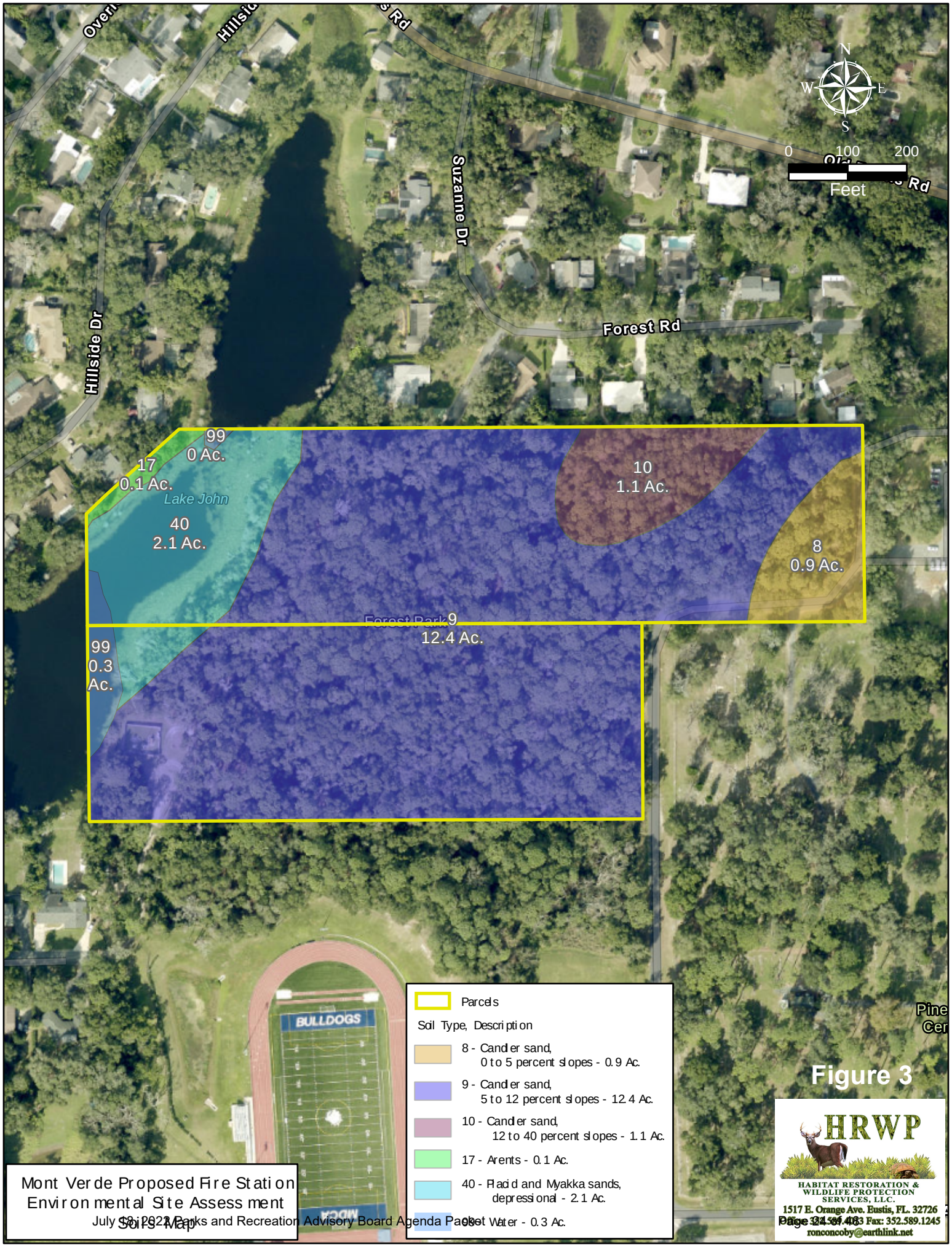

Figure 3

Mont Verde Proposed Fire Station
Environmental Site Assessment
Soils Map

HRWP
HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC.
1517 E. Orange Ave. Eustis, FL. 32726
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ronconcoby@earthlink.net

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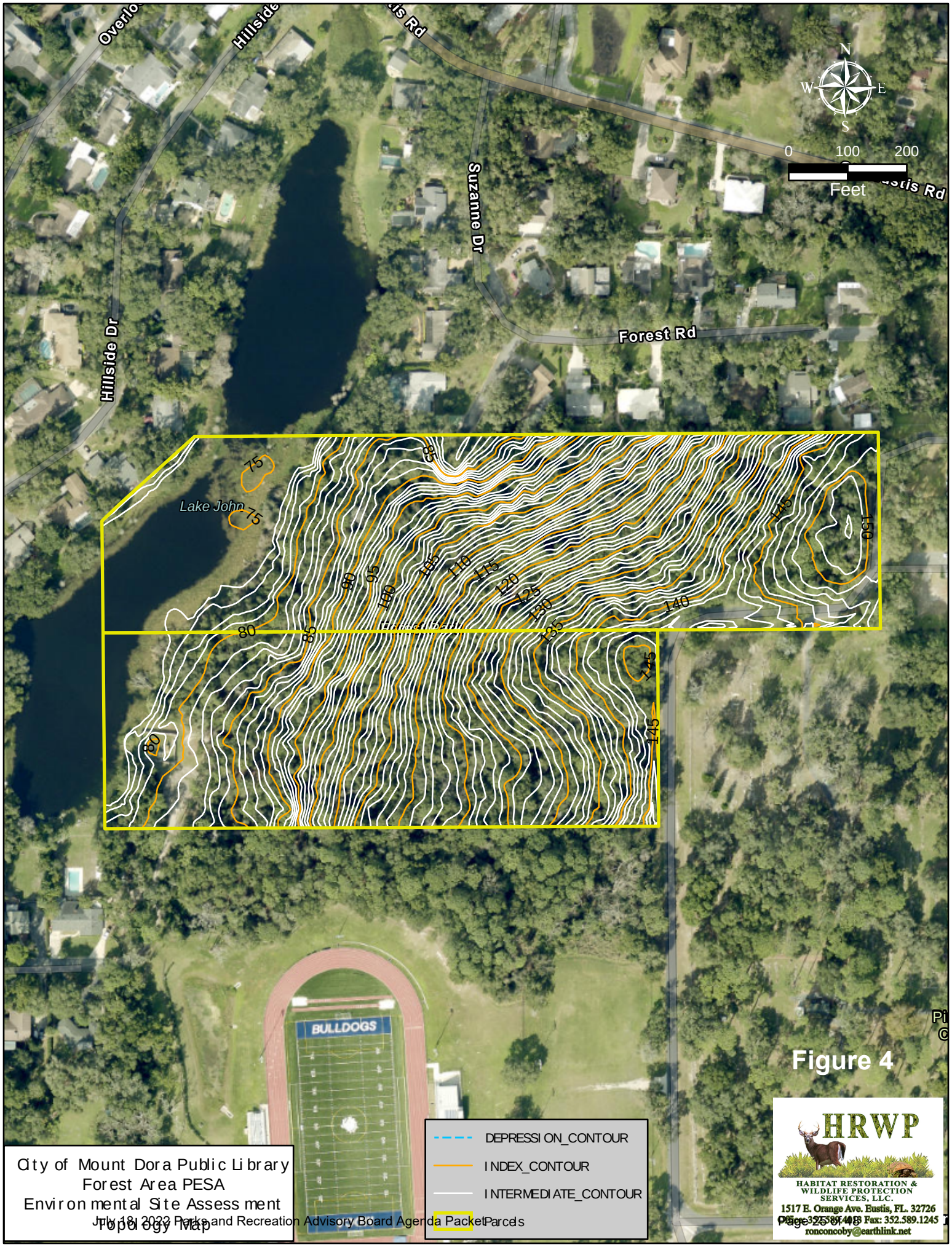

City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
Topology Map

Figure 4

HRWP
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ronconcoby@earthlink.net

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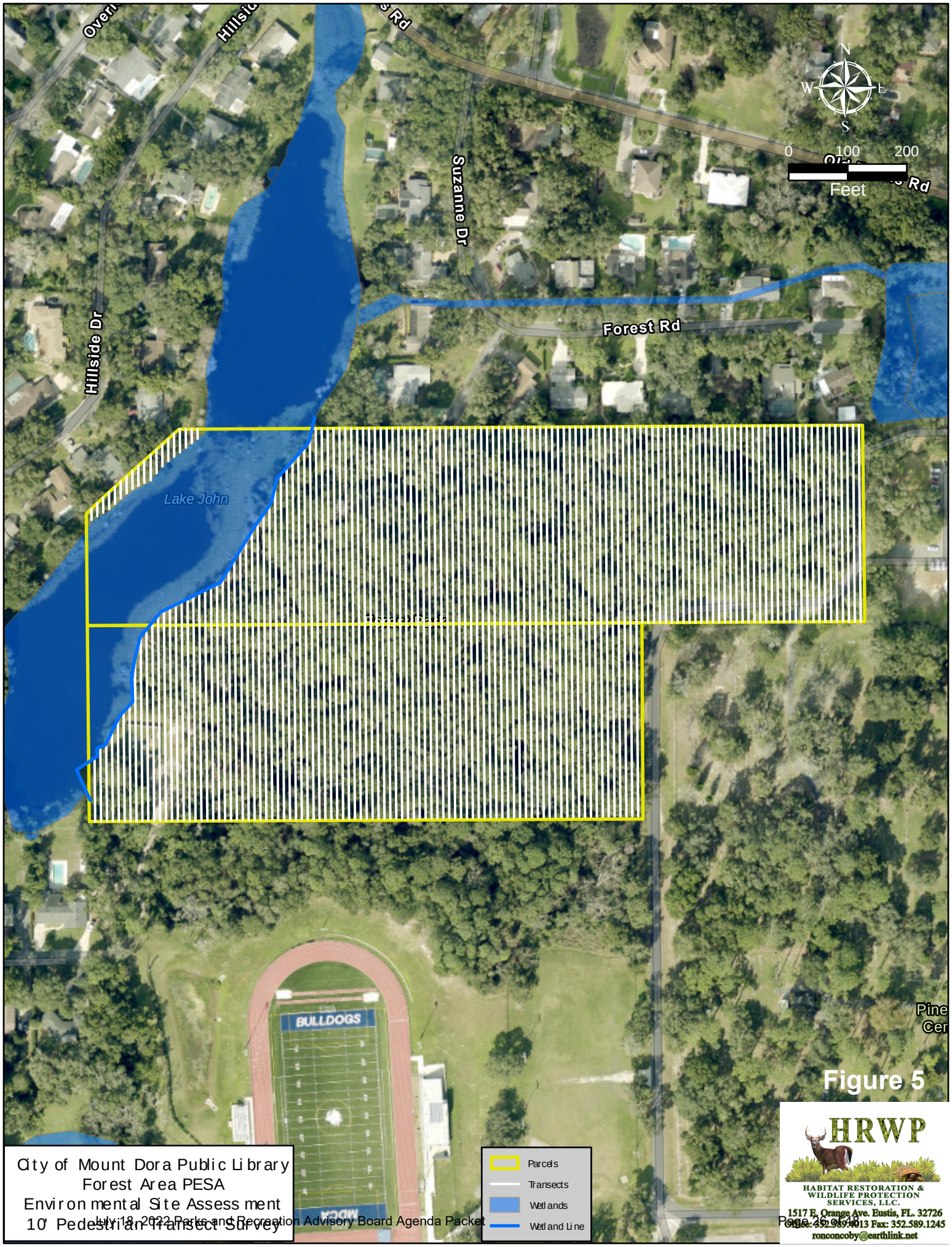

Figure 5

City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
10' Pedestrian Transect Survey

Parcels
Transects
Wetlands
Wetland Line

HRWP
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1517 E. Orange Ave. Eustis, FL. 32726
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ronconcoby@earthlink.net

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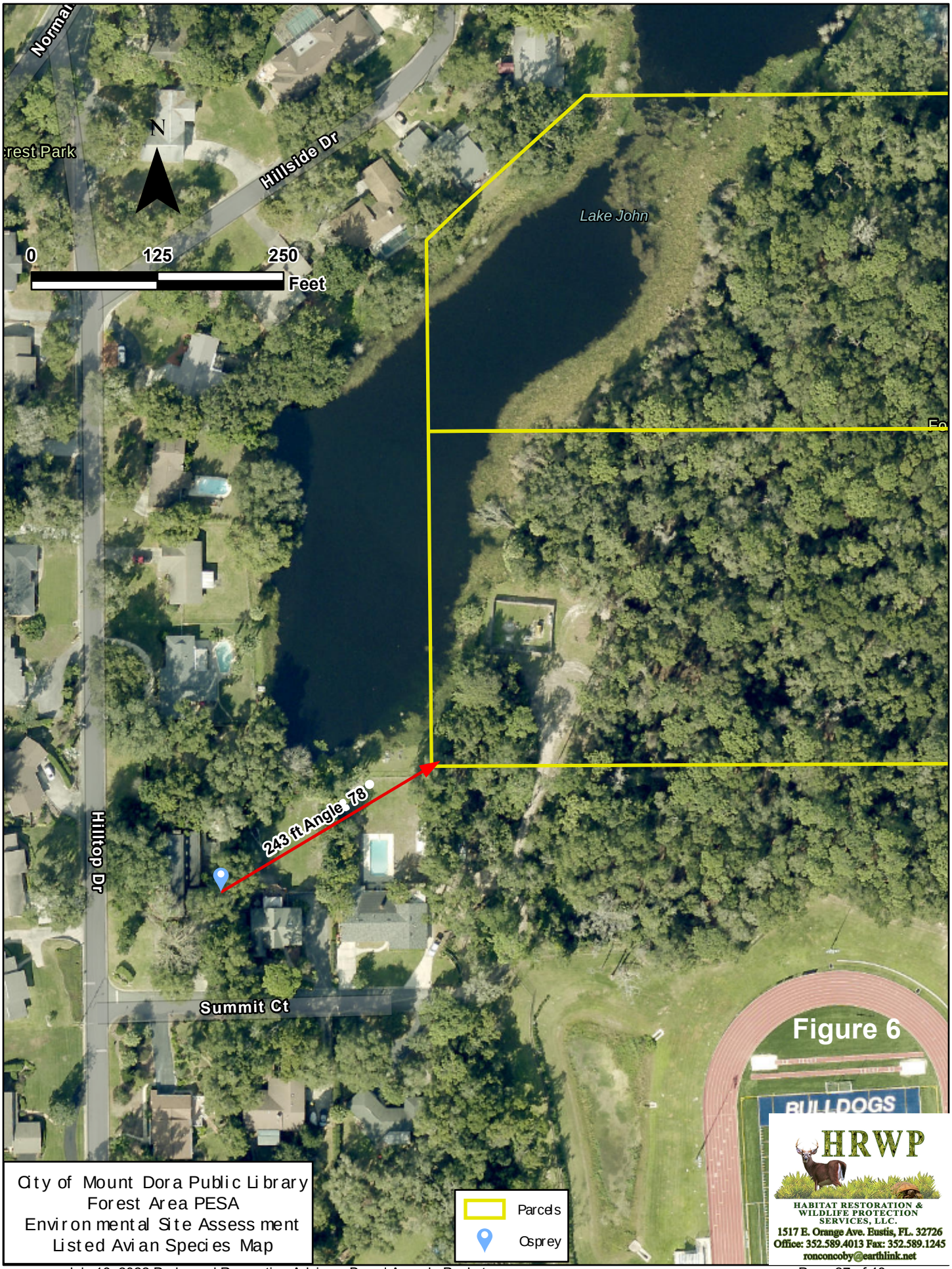

Figure 6

City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
Listed Avian Species Map

HRWP
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1517 E. Orange Ave. Eustis, FL. 32726
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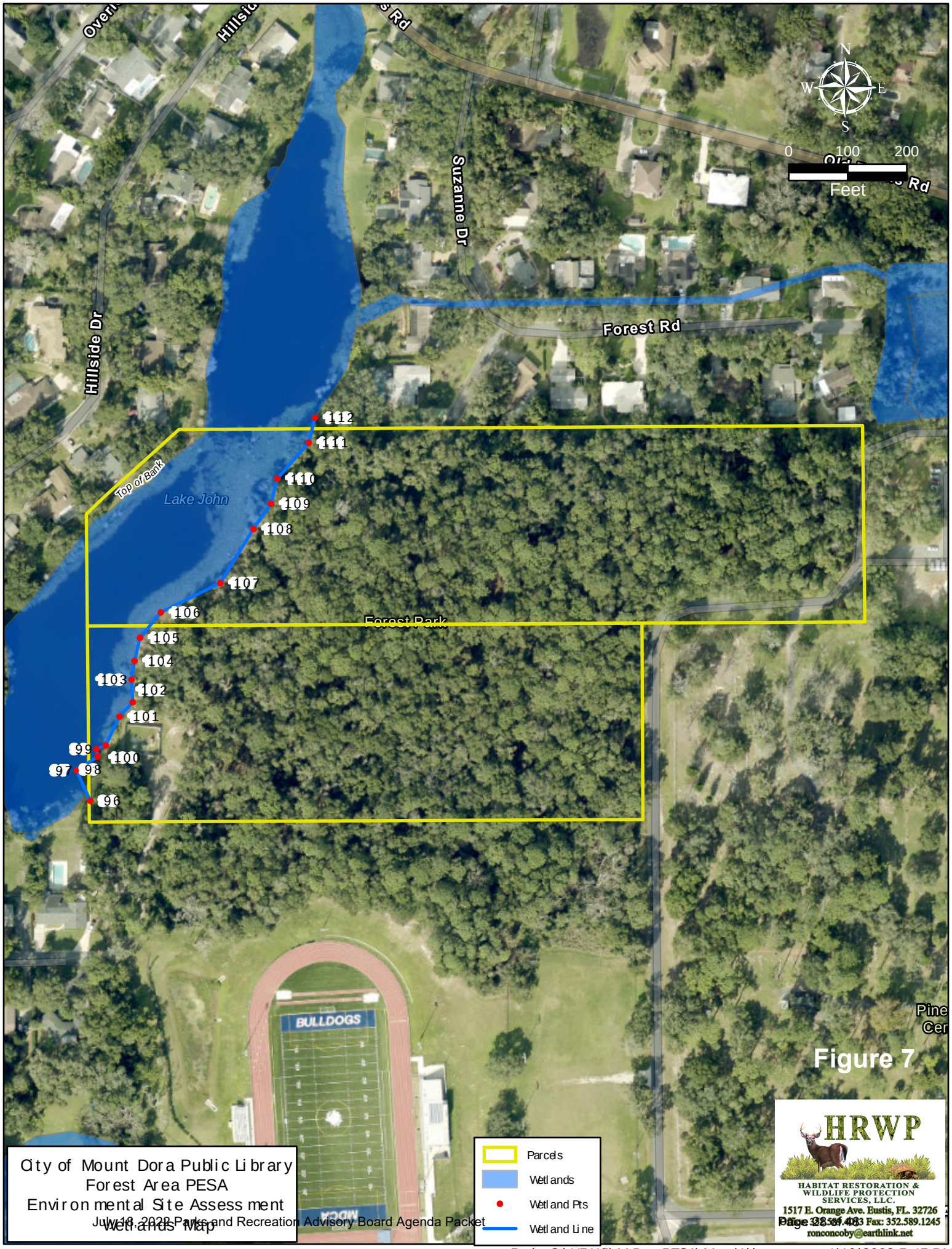
ronconcoby@earthlink.net



City of Mount Dora Public Library
Forest Area PESA
Environmental Site Assessment
Wetlands Map

Figure 7

HRWP
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ronconcoby@earthlink.net

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APPENDIX II

Table 1. USFWS Potential for listed wildlife species in Lake County (Pages 1-2)

Table 2. USFWS Potential for listed plant species in Lake County (Page 1)

Appendix I

Table 1. Potential for listed wildlife species at the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (Lake County, Florida).

Common Name	Scientific Name		Legal Status		Preferred Habitat	Comments
			USFWS	FFWCC		
Reptiles						
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*		C	T	Inhabits sandhills, xeric oak scrub, sand pine scrub, and scrubby flatwoods.	Active & inactive gopher tortoise burrows on site.
American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*		T	T	Inhabits marshes, rivers, lakes, and ponds.	None were observed but potential to occur if the conditions become appropriate.
Sand skink	*Neoseps reynoldsi*		T	T	Inhabits sandhills, sand pine scrub, and xeric hammocks.	None were observed.
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*		T	T	Inhabits gopher tortoise habitat.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Mammals						
Florida black bear	*Ursus americanus floridanus*		-----	T	Inhabits large wilderness areas.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Sherman's fox squirrel	*Sciurus niger shermani*		-----	SSC	Inhabits sandhills with some pines and mesic flatwoods with low ground cover.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Birds						
Florida sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis pratensis*		-----	T	Breeds in emergent palustrine wetlands and forages in pastures.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Southeastern American kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*		-----	T	Inhabits open lands and nests in natural cavities of dead trees and abandoned woodpecker nests.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		*ESA	*ESA	Nests in tall trees along coasts, rivers, and lakes.	None were observed, and no appropriate nesting trees were observed in adjacent areas.
Everglades snail kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*		E	E	shallow freshwater marshes	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*		E	E	Old growth longleaf pine habitat	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent suitable upland habitat.

Common Name	Scientific Name		Legal Status		Preferred Habitat	Comments
			USFWS	FFWCC		
Florida scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma coerulescens*		T	T	Inhabits low, open xeric oak scrub in peninsular Florida.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent suitable upland habitat if available.
Roseate spoonbill	*Ajaia ajaja*		-----	SSC	Breeding: marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, rivers; nest underneath canopy in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*		T	T	Inhabits estuarine or freshwater wetlands; nest in tops of trees in cypress or mangrove swamps.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
White ibis	*Eudocimus albus*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, and rivers. Nests in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, lakes, and rivers. Nests in large trees and power poles.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Limpkin	*Aramus guarauna*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes, and rivers. Nests in herbaceous material, shrubs, and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, and rivers. Nests in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Snowy egret	*Egretta thula*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, and rivers. Nests in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Tri-colored heron	*Egretta tricolor*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, and rivers. Nests in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.

Appendix II

Table 2. Potential for listed plant species at the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (Lake County, Florida).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Legal Status		Preferred Habitat	Comments
		USFWS	FFWCC		
Plants					
Clasping (wide leaf) warea	*Warea amplexifolia*	E	E	Inhabits Longleaf pine/wiregrass.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent longleaf pine habitat.
Britton's beargrass	*Nolina brittonia*	E	E	Inhabits longleaf pine, scrubby flatwoods, and xeric scrub.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in appropriate adjacent habitat.
Scrub buckwheat	*Eriogonum longifolium var gnaphalifolium*	T	T	Inhabits scrub habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent scrub habitat.
Okeechobee gourd	*Cucurbita okeechobeensis ssp. okeechobeensis*	E	E	Inhabits specific transitional areas of wetland forested ponds.	None were observed. Unlikely occurrence in the RT area.
Florida bonamia	*Bonamia grandiflora*	T	T	Inhabits scrub and high pine habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent habitat.
Scrub plum	*Prunus geniculata*	E	E	Inhabits scrub and high pine habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent habitat.
Papery Whitlow-wort	Paronychia chartacea (=Nyachia) pulvinata	T	T	Inhabits scrub habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent scrub habitat.
Pineland Butterfly Pea	Centrosema arenicola	-----	E	Inhabits upland hardwood habitat.	Identified on site w/o leaves or flowers. Confirm species identification in summer during flowering stage.

Federally Listed Species Code Key: E = Endangered, T = Threatened, CH = Critical Habitat Designated, C = Candidate
State Listed Species Code Key: E = Endangered, ST = Threatened, SSC = Species of Special Concern

*Not Listed, but Protected Under the Endangered Species Act = *ESA

Appendix I

Table 1. Potential for listed wildlife species at the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (Lake County, Florida).

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			USFWS	FFWCC		
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Sand skink	*Neoseps reynoldsi*		T	T	Inhabits sandhills, sand pine scrub, and xeric hammocks.	None were observed.
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*		T	T	Inhabits gopher tortoise habitat.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
Mammals						
Florida black bear	*Ursus americanus floridanus*		-----	T	Inhabits large wilderness areas.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
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Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		*ESA	*ESA	Nests in tall trees along coasts, rivers, and lakes.	None were observed, and no appropriate nesting trees were observed in adjacent areas.
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Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*		-----	SSC	Inhabits marshes, swamps, ponds, estuaries, and rivers. Nests in shrubs and small trees.	None were observed but potential to occur on-site.
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Appendix II

Table 2. Potential for listed plant species at the City of Mount Dora Forest Preserve (Lake County, Florida).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Legal Status		Preferred Habitat	Comments
		USFWS	FFWCC		
Plants					
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Scrub buckwheat	*Eriogonum longifolium var gnaphalifolium*	T	T	Inhabits scrub habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent scrub habitat.
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Scrub plum	*Prunus geniculata*	E	E	Inhabits scrub and high pine habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent habitat.
Papery Whitlow-wort	*Paronychia chartacea (=Nyachia) pulvinata*	T	T	Inhabits scrub habitat.	None observed, but potential for occurrence in adjacent scrub habitat.
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State Listed Species Code Key: E = Endangered, ST = Threatened, SSC = Species of Special Concern

*Not Listed, but Protected Under the Endangered Species Act = *ESA

APPENDIX III

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

1) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – NE Boundary Corner looking West

2) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – NE Boundary Corner looking South

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

3) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – South Boundary looking South

4) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – South Boundary looking North

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

5) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – South Boundary looking East

6) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – South Boundary looking North

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

7) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – SW Boundary Corner looking East

8) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – SW Boundary Corner looking North (exotic Torpedo grass along Lake John)

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

9) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Wetland line along Lake John

10) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – North Boundary @ End of Suzanne Road (Entrance to Preserve)

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

11) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – NW Boundary Corner Looking East

12) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – NW Boundary Corner Looking South

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

13) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – *Coral ardisa* (exotic plant)

14) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Water hyacinth (exotic plant) in Lake John

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

15) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Boston fern (exotic plant)

16) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – East side interior groundcover vegetation

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

17) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Boston fern (exotic plant) south central of parcel

18) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – North central interior groundcover vegetation

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

19) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Water Treatment Substation along west side of Lake John

20) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – – Closeup of Water Treatment Substation along west side of Lake John

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

19) City of Mt Dora Forest Preserve – Pineland Butterfly Pea (*Centrosema arenicola*) "State Endangered Plant"

ATTACHMENT #2 – Forest Preserve 2021 Map