

JUNE 2017 UPDATE

*** WOODS STILL IN DANGER ***

How You Can Help Save the Woods and Create the "Braden River Preserve"

BACKGROUND

As you know, we have been working for more than a year to preserve a beautiful natural habitat along the Braden River.

Last November, the developer (Neal Communities) put its construction project on hold because it was not approved by the Planning Commission due to the requirement for a Comprehensive Plan amendment. In December a newly-formed company, Myarra Property Joint Venture LLC, owned by Pat Neal and others, purchased the property from Albert Myara and resumed planning for the gated subdivision.

STATUS

Unless action is taken, thirty-three acres of pristine land along Manatee County's Braden River will be developed into a gated subdivision. The adjacent 11.5 acres were recently bequeathed as a nature preserve and we are trying to conserve the entire 45 acres for indigenous wildlife and protection of the river, which supplies Bradenton's drinking water.

While the owner/developer (Pat Neal) is proceeding to obtain approval from the County, he has indicated a willingness to sell the property instead *if we can raise the money*. **Time is of the essence, so we are pursuing funding sources.**

OPTIONS

We would welcome an individual who would like to purchase the 33 acres and locate one home on the site, while protecting the majority of the land with a conservation easement to take advantage of significant tax benefits.

We are seeking financial contributions toward the purchase of the 33 acres and long-term maintenance of all 45 acres. Our goal is \$3 million. The **Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast** is accepting donations to help with preservation of "The Woods."

Also, we are participating in discussions to establish a Municipal Service Benefit Unit that would allow the County to purchase and maintain the property; the County would be reimbursed by local residents through a special tax assessment that would be amortized over many years to minimize its impact.

HOW TO HELP

This is the last chance to save this wildlife habitat from destruction.

- Send letters/emails to the Manatee County Commissioners (see our website) asking them to preserve this land.
- Write to the local newspapers indicating your support for the preservation of this natural habitat.
- **Make a tax-deductible donation to the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. Make sure to specify that your contribution should go to "Keep Woods." You can find the donation link on our website or go to**

<https://conservationfoundation.com/forms/keepwoods/>

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" - Native American proverb.

Let's start preserving natural habitats for future generations!

For more information, visit www.keepwoods.com