

INVASIVE BRAZILIAN PEPPER AND LEAD TREE PLANT REMOVAL

PRIVATE PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT

Summary:

The Brazilian Pepper and Lead Trees are plant species that have the potential to spread rapidly in certain areas of Hernando County, displacing the diverse native Florida vegetation and associated wildlife habitat.

The Florida Legislature and the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners have recognized the problem and have enacted both statutory regulations and local ordinances to control the removal of associated noxious plant species from both private and public properties.

Analysis and Inventory:

In December 2014, a Coastal Invasive Plant Inventory was conducted by Environmental and Engineering staff. The inventory ranged from Aripeka to Hernando Beach North and comprised of a listing of multiple invasive plant species.

The inventory delineates approximate locations and type of plant species utilizing GIS mapping code and umbrellas both Hernando Beach North and Hernando Beach South areas.

General Notification Approach:

As a courtesy to the residents of the Hernando Beach North and Hernando Beach South areas, an informational sheet comprising of ordinance requirements, appropriate removal methods, and enforcement timeframes, and a list of licensed contractors will be provided. This will give direct advisement of upcoming enforcement efforts and allow the residents to be pro-active on managing their properties. Public outreach will be coordinated through Virginia Singer's office.

Secondly, I recommend a (1) one year educational time period beginning October 1st. This will allow time for public outreach, informational brochures, general removal methodology, and necessary staff training to effectively coordinate an enforcement plan.

Enforcement Phasing:

Utilizing the known location data from the Coastal Invasive Inventory list and subsequent field inspections to verify existing Lead Tree and Brazilian Pepper locations the Code Enforcement Department shall create a comprehensive list of properties subject to enforcement protocols for the eradication of known Brazilian Pepper and/or Lead tree species. Enforcement will begin after an education and outreach period.

Phasing will be set based off of specie density and locations throughout each identified subdivision. The residential areas with the higher specie density will be

grouped first. Properties will be inspected and a verified for compliance from the initial general notification information sheets.

The Coastal Invasive Plant Inventory collected in December of 2014 show the areas located in Hernando Beach North to be more heavily populated with both Brazilian Pepper and Lead Tree plants than residential areas located in Hernando Beach South. Based off of this data, enforcement efforts will be initializing from north to south.

Enforcement Procedures:

Upon finding and determining a violation exists, the Code Enforcement Department shall notify in writing the record owner requesting such owner to cause the situation to be remedied within (20) twenty days of delivery.

If the situation is not remedied, enforcement shall be in accordance with the terms and provisions of Chapter 2, Article III, of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances. Appeals or contestments shall be heard before the Hernando County Special Master, who will assess the matter and determine a final order.

Cost and Staff Man Hours:

Hernando Beach (Residential Units):

	Hernando Beach Residential Property (2382 total)	Violation Inspections x 3 (Initial, Follow-up, and Maintenance)	Hours Inspection and Case processing (2 hours)	Cost \$35(hr)
Lead Tree	477	477(3) = 1431	1431(2h) = 2862h	2862h(35) = \$100,170.00
Brazilian Pepper	328	328(3) = 984	984(2h) = 1968h	1968h(35) = \$68,880.00
TOTAL	805	805(3) = 2415	2415(2h) = 4830h	4830h(35) = \$169,050.00

Hernando Beach (Commercial/Multifamily Units):

	Hernando Beach Commercial Property (174 total)	Violation Inspections x 3 (Initial, Follow-up, and Maintenance)	Hours Inspection and Case processing (2 hours)	Cost \$35(hr)
Lead Tree	73	73(3) = 219	219(2h) = 438h	438h(35) = \$15,330.00
Brazilian Pepper	76	76(3) = 228	228(2h) = 456h	456h(35) = \$15,960.00
TOTAL	149	149(3) = 447	447(2h) = 894h	894(35) = \$31,290.00

GRAND TOTAL = \$200,340.00

There are approximately 2080 work hours for 1 person in a year. The cost recap indicates approximately 4830 hours of inspection and case processing for known existing code violations. Therefore, enforcement will be a multi-year effort.

Currently, the Code Enforcement Department has 5 Officers that average over 130 active, pending, or open cases that may require Court action. The Lead Tree and Brazilian Pepper Code will provide additional work to the Code Enforcement Department. This work will require one additional Code Officer as we currently do not have the resources to accommodate an aggressive effort and meet our other obligations in the County. The additional employee could also process tree permits and complete landscape inspections which are currently done by the other code officers.

Annual Cost w/ Benefits for 1 additional employee:

New Class Title	Hourly Rate	FRS	W/C	Benefit Dollars	FI/ME	Total Hourly w/ Benefits	Total Annual w/ Benefits
Landscape Code Enforcement Officer	\$16.5600	1.22	1.06	\$4.40	\$1.27	\$24.5033	\$50,966.86

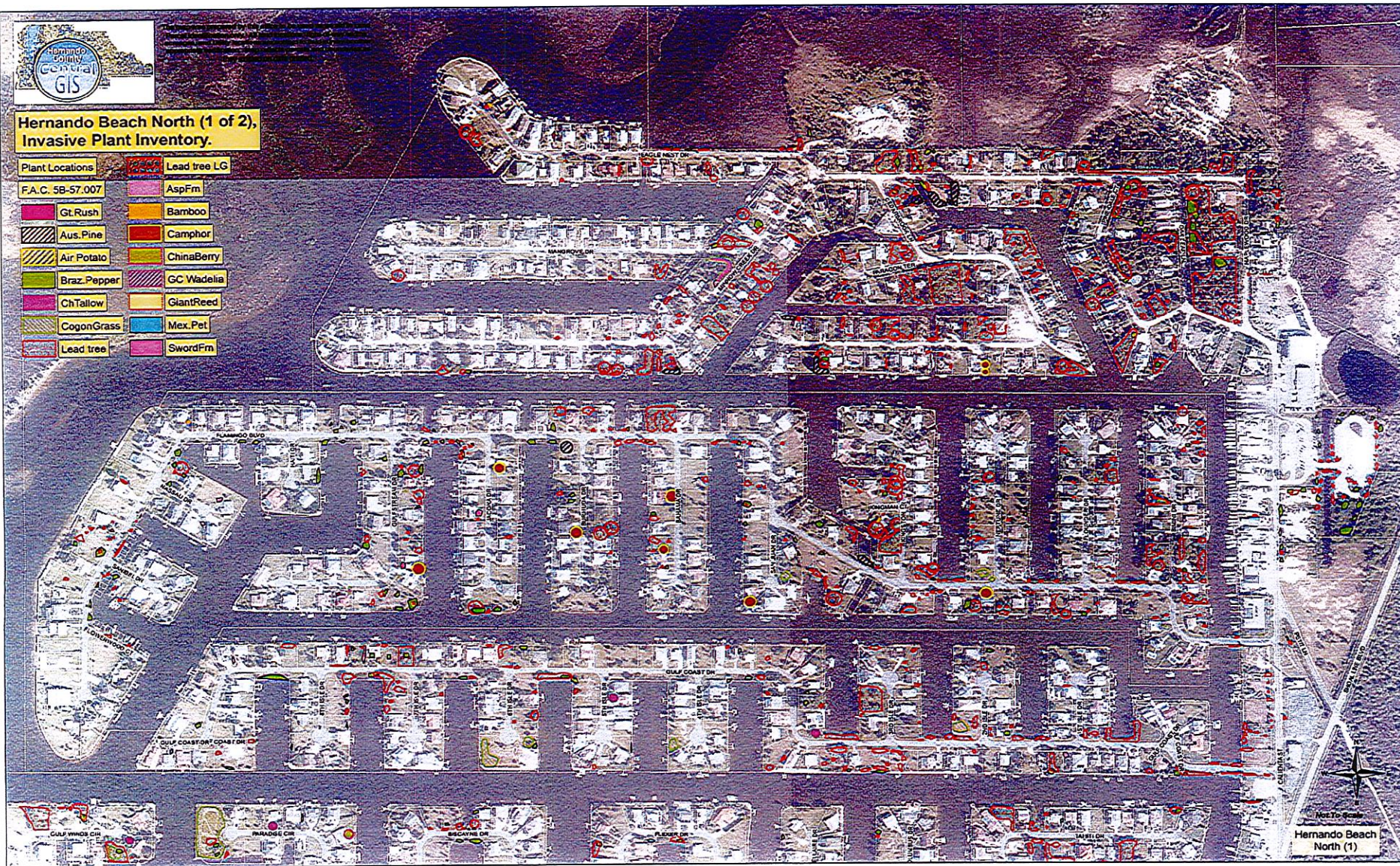
Future Prevention & Maintenance:

It is anticipated that complete eradication will be a multi-year effort both for public lands and private property. To appropriately manage areas susceptible to Lead tree and Brazilian Pepper plant growth, a 3rd or "Maintenance" inspection should be made on closed compliant properties. This additional inspection would allow the Code Officer the ability to pro-actively address visible reoccurring growth in the early stages. Early notice of reoccurring growth also allows for a less costly cleanup and quicker compliance timeframes.



Hernando Beach North (1 of 2), Invasive Plant Inventory.

Plant Locations	Lead tree LG
F.A.C. 5B-57.007	AspFm
Gt.Rush	Bamboo
Aus.Pine	Camphor
Air Potato	ChinaBerry
Braz. Pepper	GC Wadelia
ChTallow	GiantReed
CogonGrass	Mex.Pet
Lead tree	SwordFm



Not To Scale
Hernando Beach
North (1)



Hernando Beach North (2 of 2), Invasive Plant Inventory.

Plant Locations	Lead tree LG
F.A.C. 58-57.007	AspFm
GLRush	Bamboo
Aus.Pine	Camphor
Air Potato	ChinaBerry
Braz.Pepper	GC.Wadelia
Ch.Tallow	GiantReed
CogonGrass	Mex.Pet
Lead tree	SwordFm

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