Preserve Habitat Maintenance

2021

Victoria Park Community Council is required by State and regional permit to maintain a wildlife habitat in the preserves of Victoria Park. The VPCC contracts with a state Certified Environmental Consultant in Wildlife management to meet the requirements.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Florida Department and Environmental Protection (DEP)

Florida Forest Service (FFS)

Saint John Water Management Districts (SJWMD

19-23 April

Alternative to a Prescribed Burn

Heavy Duty Mowing

A Preserve Maintenance and Wildlife Enhancement Technique

A Safe and Important Wildlife Management Tool

Naturally-occurring fires caused by lightning once played a major role in forming and maintaining much of Florida's pine lands, sandhills, scrub areas, prairies and wetlands. Over time, many wildlife species came to depend on the nourishing vegetation that burst from fire-enriched soils.

Today, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) uses safely-controlled prescribed fire techniques to improve and maintain habitats for deer, quail, turkey and many other wildlife species. Some of Florida's rare, fire-adapted plants and animals that cannot thrive without fire include the red-cockaded woodpecker, fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, indigo snake and Florida scrub-jay.

When fire has been absent for an extended period of time, an undesirable, dense growth of shrubs and trees can quickly overtake a natural area, making it difficult for wildlife to survive and more prone to wildfires that are difficult to control.

Often times, setting a controlled fire is not prescribed for a variety of reasons - the site is too small to conduct a safe prescribed burn approved by state agencies without impacting surrounding highways, homes, hospitals, and schools with smoke, the site is too over grown with dead vegetation (or fuel for the fire) and will cause an extremely intense fire that is harder to control, or weather conditions have been unfavorable. When situations like this arise, ecologist utilizes an option that mimics natural fire - Wildfire Mitigation - where the vegetation is mowed by machines. In habitats such as scrub, heavy duty mowing is used to create open areas attractive to scrub-jays, sand skinks, scrub lizards, and gopher tortoises.

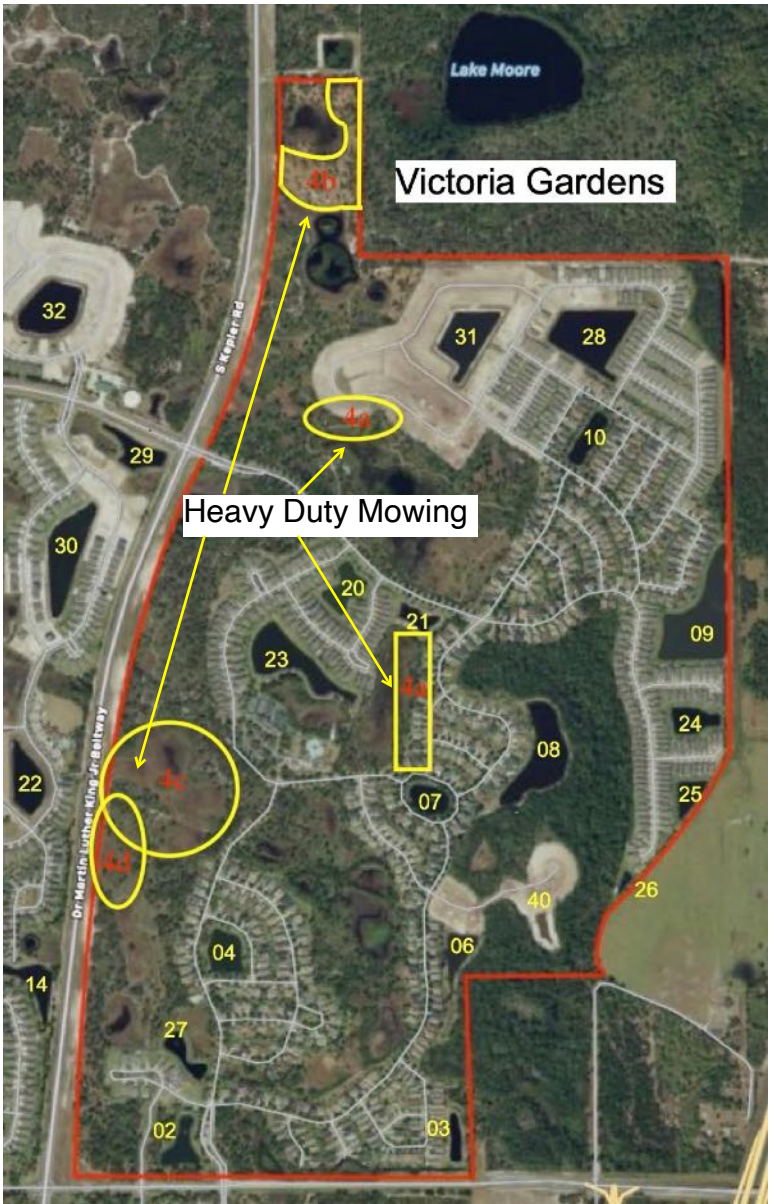
For homes against a preserve, the heavy duty mowing provide a degree of relief from the buildup vegetation, which, when ignited by a lighting strike may spread out of control faster and make it more difficult for the local fire departments to bring the wildfire under control.

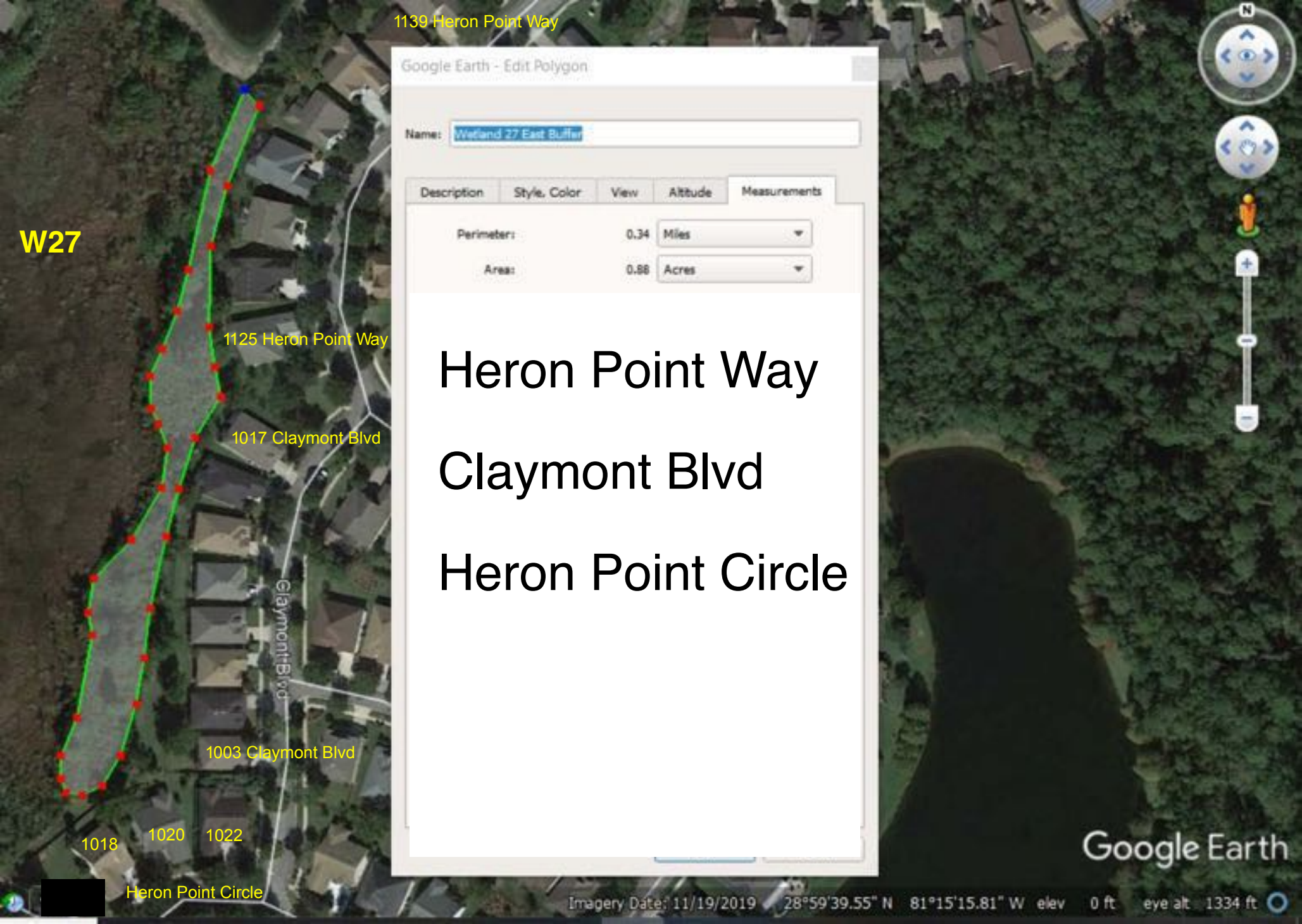
Heavy Duty Mowing

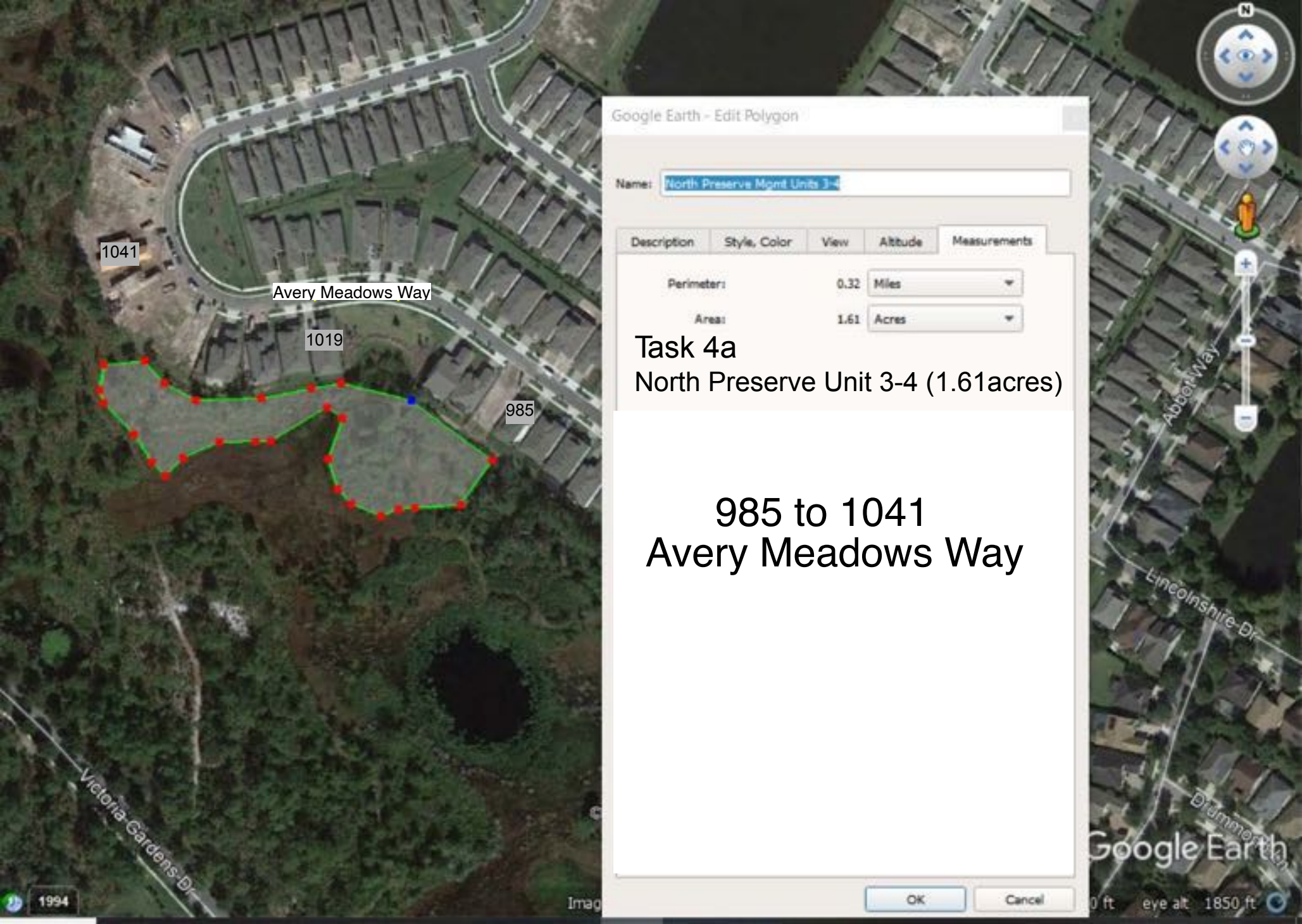
before
after
Six months later

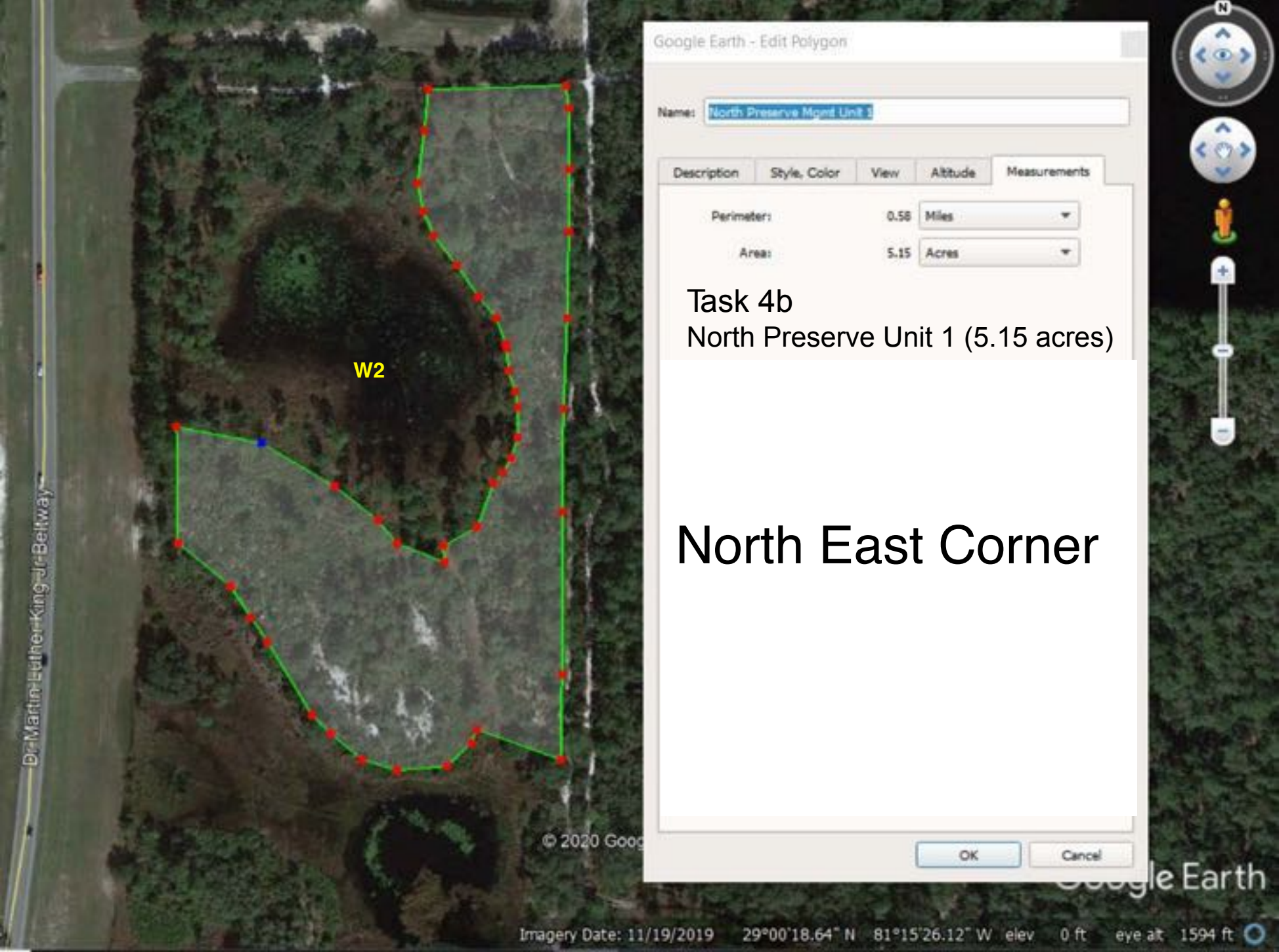
2021

Locations




1139 Heron Point Way
Google Earth - Edit Polygon
Name: Wetland 27 East Buffer
Description
Style, Color
View
Altitude
Measurements
Perimeter: 0.34 Miles
Area: 0.88 Acres
W27
1125 Heron Point Way
1017 Claymont Blvd
Heron Point Way
Claymont Blvd
Heron Point Circle
Claymont Blvd
1003 Claymont Blvd
1018
1020
1022
Heron Point Circle
Google Earth
Imagery Date: 11/19/2019 28°59'39.55" N 81°15'15.81" W elev 0 ft eye alt 1334 ft


1041
Avery Meadows Way
1019
985
Victoria Gardens Dr
Abbot Way
Lincolnshire Dr
Drummond
Google Earth
1994
Google Earth - Edit Polygon
Name: North Preserve Mgmt Units 3-4
Description
Style, Color
View
Altitude
Measurements
Perimeter: 0.32 Miles
Area: 1.61 Acres
Task 4a
North Preserve Unit 3-4 (1.61acres)
985 to 1041
Avery Meadows Way
OK
Cancel
eye alt 1850 ft


Google Earth - Edit Polygon
Name: North Preserve Mgmt Unit 1
Description
Style, Color
View
Altitude
Measurements
Perimeter: 0.58 Miles
Area: 5.15 Acres
Task 4b
North Preserve Unit 1 (5.15 acres)
North East Corner
OK
Cancel
W2
Dr Martin Luther King Jr Beltway
© 2020 Goog
Google Earth
Imagery Date: 11/19/2019 29°00'18.64" N 81°15'26.12" W elev 0 ft eye alt 1594 ft

Google Earth - Edit Polygon
Name: South Preserve Mgmt Unit 2
Description
Style, Color
View
Altitude
Measurements
Perimeter: 0.68 Miles
Area: 3.19 Acres
Task 4c
South Preserve Unit 2 (3.19 acres)
South Preserve
W30
W31
W35
OK
Cancel
© 2020 Google
Google Earth
1994
Imagery Date: 11/19/2019

Google Earth - Edit Polygon
Name: South Preserve Mgmt Unit 3
Description
Style, Color
View
Altitude
Measurements
Perimeter: 0.37 Miles
Area: 2.69 Acres
W35
Task 4d
South Preserve Unit 3 (2.69 acres)
South Preserve
Bellingrath Terrace
Overlen Gardens Ln
Google Earth
1994
Imagery Date: 11/19/2019 28°59'26.21" N 81°15'37.84" W elev 0 ft eye alt 1758 ft