

APPENDIX K

Neighborhood Survey of Preferred Public Uses – Summary of Results and Comments Received

Neighborhood Survey of Preferred Public Uses Summary of Results

On October 6, 2002 a preferred public use survey was sent to all residents within an 850-foot radius from the boundary of the Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve. This survey was sent to assess the opinions of adjacent residents regarding the public amenities they would most prefer to see instituted within the Preserve. The survey was mailed to 660 private property owners. 196 completed surveys were mailed back for a response percentage of 36%.

Question #1

How would you rate the following potential public uses for the Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve (From 1-5; 1= not very important; 5=very important):

- ☐ Hiking/walking trails
- ☐ Biking trails
- ☐ Canoe trails
- ☐ Fishing piers with boardwalks
- ☐ Equestrian riding trails
- ☐ Picnicking areas
- ☐ Motorized boat use/access
- ☐ Nature appreciation/Educational opportunities

Residents were asked to rate the following public uses in order of importance; hiking/walking trails, biking trails, motorized boat access, equestrian trails, education/nature appreciation, picnicking, canoe trails (1=least important, 5=very important). The data were analyzed by considering a response greater than 3 to indicate the respondent felt that amenity was important. The number of respondents who gave a particular amenity a value greater than 3 was tallied and this number was divided by the total respondents to assess the percentage who considered a particular amenity important. The results are summarized as follows for all 196 respondents:

	Hiking	Biking	Canoeing	Fishing	Equestrian	Picnicking	Ed./Nature
IMPORTANCE COUNT (respondents who valued this >3)	156	99	106	114	57	107	115
PERCENT	79.6	50.5	54.1	58.2	29.1	54.6	58.7

These results indicate overwhelmingly the most preferred public use for this Preserve is hiking and walking trails followed by a cluster of uses in the following decreasing order of preference: educational opportunities/nature appreciation, fishing, picnicking, canoe trails, and lastly, equestrian trails.

These uses are already planned for the Preserve and therefore will not be discussed further. The real polarizing issue is equestrian use, and the following questions on the

survey were tailored to provide the maximum amount of information regarding public attitude towards this use.

The preferences of residents who live within 200 ft of the Preserve contrasted with those residents living in the neighborhood north of the existing horse trail off of Racetrack Road (hereto referred to as "north neighborhood"). These areas were compared independently of the total respondents because they are the most likely to either own horses, utilize the existing stables, or be somehow affected by existing equestrian use, or lack thereof because of their proximity. The results indicate that residents in the north neighborhood showed the highest percentage favoring equestrian use of the Preserve and the lowest percentage favoring hiking and walking trails, respectively, 60% and 47%. Residents close to the Preserve (within 200 ft.)¹ on all sides exemplified a different trend: 89% indicated hiking and walking trails were important, while 25% indicated equestrian trails were important. The results for this group are similar to all responses.

In conjunction with data demonstrating the uses important to the public, it is equally informative to understand the uses they are against. In a further analysis of the total responses; if a particular use was rated a 1 or a 0, we assumed it was considered either completely unimportant to them or, in the case of a 0 rating, they were actually against it. The result of this analysis for all respondents is depicted in the following table.

	Hiking	Biking	Canoe	Fishing	Equestrian	Picnicking	Ed/Nature
Rated 1	2%	13%	12%	13%	35%	8%	10%
Rated 0	7%	11%	9%	10%	18%	11%	11%
Total	9%	13%	21%	23%	53%	19%	21%

The above indicates a significant margin people are opposed to equestrian use in comparison to opposition to other uses. The issue of equestrian use in the Mobbly Bayou Preserve is clearly contentious and polarizing.

Questions #2

Do you have specific comments concerning any of the above?

and Question #6

Do you wish to provide us any other feedback that may help us determine the best uses of the Preserve?

These were not actually questions, but blank spaces with which respondents could provide us additional information (see attached addendum for full list of comments).

Of the 196 total respondents, 132, or 67% provided additional written comments. 42% percent of those who commented indicated they were pro-environment/nature. 26% indicated they were strongly pro-equestrian use, while an almost identical percentage (26.5%) indicated they were strongly against. Interestingly, a significant margin of those

¹ This group does not contain residents of the north neighborhood who also happen to live within 200 feet of the Preserve.

who indicated they were pro-equestrian also indicated they were pro-environment (32%); demonstrating a possible lack of appreciation for the potential impacts created by high intensity equestrian use.

Additional comments received related to motorized boat use (2% for, 8% against; ATV use (2% for, 4% against); Pets (8% for, 0% against); traffic concerns (6%); and safety/security concerns (14%).

Question #3

If equestrian trails are a concern of yours, please circle all that apply:

- A. You own a horse/s that is kept on your property, or boarded.*
- B. You have future plans to become a horse owner.*
- C. You rent a horse/s from a commercial stable/riding facility.*
- Other: _____*

This question asked respondents to answer whether they preferred to see equestrian use continue in the location it currently occurs (the eastern section of the Preserve; but out of tidal wetlands, as stated in note following question). 37% answered "yes", and 28% answered "no," It would appear, based on the responses to this question that many people may have misinterpreted it, or they did not factor in the note stating use would be moved out of the tidal wetlands. This question may be valuable only for the responses to its second part: 5% said they live within walking distance and own their own horse, 15% said they had rented a horse from a commercial stable/riding facility, and 17% responded with "other."

Question #4

Is direct equestrian access important to you, or would trailer access be acceptable?

- ☐ *Direct access*
- ☐ *Trailer access*

This question asked if direct equestrian access was important, or if trailer access would be acceptable. 30% answered "direct," 6% answered "trailer," and 2% answered "both," indicating the majority of those who value horse trails would not find it acceptable to have to trailer horses to the Preserve. The results to this question are not at all surprising. However, it is possible this question was also slightly misinterpreted with respondents answering more in terms of what they prefer, rather than what they will accept.

Question #5

What is the minimum length of equestrian trail that would be acceptable to you?

- A. 0-1 miles*
- B. 1-2 miles*
- C. +2 miles*

This question asked respondents to provide their minimum acceptable equestrian trail length. From the following choices; 6% chose 0-1 miles, 19% chose 1-2 miles, and 15% chose +2 miles. This indicates the majority of users would prefer to have a trail one mile long or greater.

Comments From Neighborhood Survey of Preferred Public Uses

Have concerns about staffing this area. Ex: on duty hours of staff and how secure area will be after hours as regards to accessibility by teens after hours. Lexington St. already has problems with teen and young adult traffic after dark due to availability of adjacent field. Living at the end of the street we experience many drivers cutting through our front yard to exit field.
Thank you for asking me for my input. I think it should be a nice place where people could come and enjoy the beach and fish and walk and eat and be kept as natural as possible, as we do have other parks with lots of things to do. As this is a beautiful area. Eileen J Bradley.
Our main concern is unsupervised juvenile activity. We are not anti-kids, but we are convinced that their activities must be supervised- AND there must be the frequent and obvious presence of a patrolling Sheriff
1) I just feel that hiking and biking are things that the majority can participate in. Fewer people fish and still fewer canoe and horseback ride, although all would be GREAT to see. 2) I like to see things as much in their natural state as possible. The more trees and woods the better. There is one area of Bicentennial that I love because lots of trees were kept and one area that seems to be excavated that just doesn't have the same feeling. I'm hoping we can keep the preserve very natural.
1) If there is no conflict between equestrian riding trails and hiking/walking trails, I would welcome equestrian riding trails. My only concern is safety. Flat bottomed boats with quiet electric motors should be allowed. 2) Please eliminate the following: Airboats - noisy and dangerous, personal water craft, motor bikes and other motorized vehicles.
The fishing pier that already exists in Oldsmar is sufficient. Would like to see more emphasis on nature appreciation. 2) Do not own a horse, would favor equestrian use only in areas where no damage is made to the environment.
1) The use of the recreation facilities within the Oldsmar Park system tends to lose its focus as residents get involved. The term "passive" or "nature" should be adhered to. If the potential uses of Mobbly Bayou remain "as is", the park will fit our wishes for an area known as preserve. 2) This area is known for equestrian activity and should continue. 3) The equestrian use will only make up a minor usage of the park. The size of the trail as well as the location should keep this in mind. The horse owner and users will be the loudest but "NOT" represent the majority of the users of the park. The really sounds "Great"! The Jean family.
1) They are all good ideas. 2) Sounds like a plan to me.
1) Picnicking in limited areas. 2) The wilderness Preserve should remain exactly that - a preserve of the natural habitat. Appreciation should determine that the use should allow visitors to observe and leave nothing but footprints. 3) Occasional guided nature walks. No concessions
Should be a quite park for children to see nature.
Never let motorized boats or jet skis in the waters, it would harm all fish and wildlife as you well know. Be prepared to extra crime in the park. I hope this wooded park doesn't become a curse
I thought that canoe and nature was always planned for the Preserve.
Possibly add a small area for controlled ATV (all terrain vehicle) use. Only for people who live in Oldsmar, maybe with a rec card. Just an idea - my kids have nowhere to ride . Thanks
We need to leave it as much as possible as a WILDERNESS, not another recreational park.
Provide the maximum opportunities for varied use.
As little impact as possible is my number one concern. Also, the land seems rather barren around the asphalt path that comes behind the houses on Lafayette. I would like the land to look more lush and inviting.
Fishermen tend to leave a lot of trash and fish carcasses behind. We also find empty cans and cigarette butts all over.

I own horses
We would like to see the preserve stay as natural as possible, but still allow for public use in a non-intrusive way
I would like to a preserve to stay as natural as humanly possible. 2) Education purposes, natural as possible.
Would like to have map or survey of land and entrance.
(regarding 3.c. - I don't believe the overall impact will be significant. Our country was discovered on horseback. 2) regarding note - that seems most appropriate 3) regarding 4. - no thought /input one way or another 4) regarding 5. - whatever is required to enjoy the preserve. 5) Keep it simple. Let the generations in the future enjoy it. My son is a little over a year only and I want him to see nature as it was 100's of yrs. ago. Thank you for including us.
Canoe launch, bike trail
Would not like any trails going directly behind our houses - Country Club Dr.
Pets should be allowed only leashes and there need to be sufficient personnel to enforce the rules and provide for the safety of the visitors to the Preserve.
Regarding fishing piers - too shallow. 2) Don't overdue -you will drive the wildlife to leave - keep it as pristine as possible - we are grateful to use or visit a portion of the preserve - "preserve" - for the wildlife. 3) Regarding 4. - pick up drops. 4) Don't over develop! We have lived here 17 years and have always taken our dogs to the power plant beach to swim along with many others - we hope - at least during the week, we'll still have access to the beach - the most annoying - jet skis - not good.
Being a small area it should be used for humans only - no horses or commercial use of any kind 2) Keep the horses out.
No trails directly behind homes. 2) Just respect home owners on western edge of park.
I do not want an equestrian trail.
Regarding 3.c - preservations of this area for riders is #1
1) "Less stress is best" 2) "Less stress is best"
I think it is especially important we keep out motorized boats etc to preserve the area. I would also recommend the fenced area around the park off of National Orange/Patty Drive at boat ramp be removed - It is an eye-sore! The weeds and bushes should be removed at fenced area - It is very important this park is kept up to maintain the beauty and wildlife - The field with power line towers should be mowed and maintained instead of the homeowners keeping up this responsibility. 2) I would suggest dogs be allowed to enter park in all areas - maybe place garbage cans with plastic bags for waste - Too many people enjoy taking their dogs on long walks in parks - as long as people clean up after their animals I don't feel this would be a problem.
Horses are fine, but not important. This area should be for foot/bike traffic separate from horse areas. It would be great to have fishing piers. Should be some covered areas also to escape the sun for those persons with skin conditions. 2) Horses are o.k.
1) DO NOT MAKE THE PRSERVE FOR PUBLIC USE. I MOVED HERE TO ENJOY THE PRESERVE IN ITS QUIET RESIDENTIAL STATE. TO INVITE THE PUBLIC IN WOULD BE TO DESTROY THE SERENITY OF THE PRESERVE! 2)Please keep the public out so we may continue enjoying the preserve as a real preserve!
1) Let the horses stay. 2) I think the horse trails are a good and fun way to enjoy the area, and since they already exist they should be allowed to stay. There are no other places for people to ride horses in this area that I am aware of. Let them stay.
To develop the park with as little disruption to the wildlife and forest as possible. To work with Hillsborough County and advise them the adjacent 30 acres owned by Mr. Kumar should also be protected. 2) To continue to add undeveloped adjacent lands and keep the park passive.

1) Allowing use after dark for fishing /camping would be nice. Also - although I really like horses they have decimated the trails near the water as well as lack of room for trailers. There are other nearby trails that are large enough and nice - the "business" should not be damaging the area for private profit. Allowing pets in the park would be nice (on a leash). Fishing pier would be great! Continuing to not allow motorized vehicles - including boats (other than trolling motors) to be used in Preserve. 2) regarding 3. - no, too damaging, not for horses. 3) Enforcement of the no motor vehicle policy - ATV's are often in the area.
I would hope you would allow dogs on walking trails.
I am starting with a question: How do you propose to keep this preserve from such things as motorized vehicles like ATV's and such? The ATV's do much more damage to the environment than are equestrian horses. I really enjoy seeing them ride by. I do like horses, but I am not a rider or owner.
If we are to keep out the horses, all others should be kept out unless on foot! If a trail is set up separately for horses, bikes could use that as well.
Maintain a reasonable balance between public use and preserving nature
1) regarding 3.c. - do not own a horse and live within walking distance. 2) Fishing piers would bring an element into my neighborhood (Timber Bay Cr.) I would not want to have around. Equestrian trails will be fine if they are completely separate from the normal hiking and jogging trails
Developing this wilderness area is an asset to the community in making this community a family oriented city and recreational avenues along with conservation of the wilderness I look at every day and walk along Shore Drive to the beach area would make this Preserve an outstanding and beautiful area in Oldsmar.
We would like to see a dog park somewhere that we could let our dogs run in a fenced in area.
We have lived here for 37 years - leave the area as it is. I don't want horses in my backyard
This area is mostly waterfront and hard to get to so make the most of the water and open it up so residents can use it. Do not close it up like a prison like Brooker Creek Preserve. Why can't Oldsmar residents use the 8,000 acres of Brooker Creek Preserve which is in our backyard like the proposal for Mobbly Bay Preserve? 2) Please don't restrict use like the Brooker Creek "prison" Preserve.
regarding 3.c - live within walking by do not ride or own a horse
More entrances
Make sure to safeguard to security for preserve users at all times.
1) DOG WALKING 2) It is such a huge area that there should be room for everything. It is a really wonderful place. The only other thing I would ask is a gate by Shore and Lexington to prevent cars getting in at night. Local residents walk their dogs and fish but there is an element that drive fast, drink, smoke pot and generally trash the place up. If there is only foot access that should keep that out because most young kids won't go anywhere. 3) Do not prevent people walking their dogs. I hate the dog park at the end of Shore Drive. There is nothing nice down there. It is barren and ugly.
1) Wouldn't like the trails right behind the houses on Patty Dr. and Country Club Dr. 2) Canoeing, Fishing, and bird watching info.
1) I will support whatever is important to the area and the people of Oldsmar
1) I would like to see exercise stations on walk/hiking trails
1) regarding 3.c horse trailer in area 2) With tidal action I believe the horse's do minimal damage to the wetlands. I think it is important to preserve all equestrian uses of the land. Marshall Harris 797-0888
1) Will there be grills and restroom facilities 2) So far what has been done is great. We look forward to the continued advances Oldsmar is making in the Parks department. I only wish that the development "The Estuary" did not happen truly a waste of beautiful land!!
1) No horses, dogs on leashes and owners clean up after them.
1) Would like to know where this is located. So I could check it out.
1) No commercial horse back without a BIC tax! The stables are located in Hillsborough county not Pinellas. Let Hillsborough County build a trail.

1) Keeping the preserve as natural as possible is important. Man's impact should be minimized. 2) No dang horses!! They ruin the environment!
1) I do not want equestrian riding trails. 2) Please discontinue equestrian use!!
1) More use if hiking/walking trails next would be picnicking and bikes, FL is known for family fishing. 2) Leave access where it currently is.
1) Hiking and walking trails open the area to the greater majority of people. As public property this should be the optimum use. In whatever design package you incorporate it is essential to keep the neighborhood unchanged-- to the best extent possible. Limit noise, traffic, jet skies, and maintain security and cleanliness.
1) We have enough picnic areas that are walking distance from this park. 2) Would like to see an area for dirt bikes and ATV. How about using some of the power line area.
1) Have no interest at all! 2) I can't believe that the people who own horses funded the majority of the money for the preserve or the majority of taxes. Probably less than 1/10 of 1%. If you allow horses than you have to allow dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, etc. Should only be for walking and I know my family nor anyone I know use it at all. If it gets right down to it, preserve it and keep everyone out!!
1) I do not fish but I love walking the boardwalk! 2) It would be nice to send the Oldsmar residents a nice detailed map of the area including. How to get there and the different sections.
1) Area should be developed in the interest of the majority of the residents/ guests of Oldsmar. 2) Equestrian uses seem to only benefit a small portion of the general public!
1) Aim towards establishing an estuaries education center funded by the county in the future. This could be used by local school children, adults, and others to enhance their understanding of our bays and estuaries.
1) We would like to see some of the old trails around the ponds made more stable to walk on. For example the trail that runs from the boat launch along the top of the dikes to the dam should be easier to walk on.
1) We are concerned that the trails and fishing piers, and even the picnic areas, could bring in a number of people who do not live in Oldsmar, and increase the very heavy traffic on Shore Dr. Hiking, biking and canoeing will probably attract residents of Oldsmar. 2) regarding 4. no horses! Messy!! 3) We've been waiting since 1981 for just one tennis court in Oldsmar for taxpayers who do not have children or teenagers.
1) Hiking and walking trails would be used more than other uses. 2) Thanks for asking my opinion!
1) Family oriented uses would be best.
1) How would people driving enter the preserve and park? Will they still be able to enter at Shore Dr. We don't need any more added traffic on Shore Dr.!!
1) I would like to see it used as natural as possible.
1) I think having the trails for the horses is very important. The horses help to remind me we are a small city away from busy streets. Please keep the trails. 2) regarding 3.c I live close but don't own a horse. 3) While I think it is important to help nature I think both (the horses and wetlands) can survive together. They should share the land.

1) Noise from traffic, current traffic disobeys speed limit signs on Lafayette Blvd. and no one enforces it. Lack of neighborhood patrol. Motorcycles, minibikes do more harm than horses should be totally outlawed, kids do not obey signs and they are noisy, there should be noise disturbance signs forbidding as well as don't bother the wildlife, no picking flowers, stay on path signs, etc. Public should walk to canoe launching sites rather than driving in. No other boats other than paddle boats should be allowed in or near the preserve. Native wildflowers should be planted. Strict bike paths should be made. No electric bikes should be allowed due to noise and destruction of the preserve. Parents should accompany kids at all times. Ecological bathrooms should be provided. No concession stands, keep area natural from commercialism. 2) regarding 3c. Enjoy the quiet the owners provide, concern for preserving and horse use in other ecological areas.

1) You do not include pet areas as a choice - Oldsmar needs a real, leash free, dog park area... The pet areas at R.E. Olds and Canal Park are a joke, the pet areas are as far from paved parking as you can get. Take a hint from the county, they have great "dog playgrounds" at Anderson and Ft. Desoto. Let's get real, horse trails, but no dog playground? 2) regarding 3c. Need good dog park 3) regarding 4. No access 4) regarding 5. no miles 5) Don't ruin what little beach we now have. Look into a dog playground. Be sensitive of the natural beauty.

1) If dogs/animals are permitted I think it should be in a restricted area.

1) We think the most paramount items on the list are the activities with the least stress on the eco system. The number one priority for everyone should be an educational process also that people would have a better understanding of their impact on our environment and appreciate the fact that they have the opportunity to use mother nature and all her splendor in the proper way. We also put a #5 on equestrian trails reason, for the animals have been part of the natural system from the beginning. Keep in mind what ever choices are made, man is the one that brings unnatural elements into the equation. Thank you for the opportunity to give our opinion. 2) regarding 3c. It doesn't matter as long as it is being used properly. 3) Having more access to the water ways for fishing and canoeing would really be nice. To be able to put a canoe in the water and appreciate our surroundings even without the use of touching the inner land would be a big plus. Also like we stated before riding horses on thru trails is still a very natural happening!

1) The 300 acres set up for the park is already a sensitive environmental area that would probably be served much better as a passive park. Though horses are a great idea, they have the potential to damage the area. Also, when you look at the entire picture there are fewer people with horses than without.

1) It would be helpful to view the "management plan that will identify appropriate public uses" prior to its implementation. Incidentally, it is reassuring to know that the aim is to avoid creating "undo" (undue?) ecological stress- a condition which is truly difficult or even impossible to undo. (Quotes from paragraph above.) 2) In as much as half of the questions relate to equestrian trails, I am wondering what proportion of the preserve's potential users are horse owners.

1) You have covered all the important uses of the preserve. I think it is a great idea.

1) Equestrian trails would invite riders shortcuts through the neighboring streets. This would create a safety hazard as these streets are not designed with a margin to support this traffic. 2) regarding 3c. Neighbor 3) We need to maintain a quiet safe environment for the children to discover nature in its pristine state.

1) Would very much like to continue riding on designated trails- this is an opportunity not found so close to this area and has been a wonderful family outing.

1) regarding 3c. Don't see why we can't accommodate equestrians. 2) Personally, I am more concerned with the water access than equestrian use.

1) regarding 3c. Have never rode a horse but I would like to keep the option open. 2) Why can't you just leave this alone! (Can't read handwriting) Leave it alone!!

1) More people would benefit more from hiking/biking trails. Not many people in my area own a horse.

1) Please do not overload the area with usage.

1) I would like to see a combo walking/biking trail like is in Seminole Lake Park. This combo trail could be miles long and provide enjoyment for people who different activities. You will have two parks on Shore Dr. where people can fish from a canoe. You already have canoe access from Orange Dr. that will take you into the bayou. Spend money on a trail system. 2) I do not own a horse but I think it is a stupid idea to ban horses from the tidal zone. This is another example of environment extreme.

1) I am not aware of any problems with having an equestrian trail here but if there are environmental problems I would not like having it here. 2) regarding 3. Not important. 3) regarding 4. No I would not like the equestrian trail. 4) I see from above that there are problems(environmental issues), so I do not support the equestrian trails at all. I understand they have been using these trails for awhile but things change all the time, we must all adjust to these changes or just find a new city to call home.

1) There are at least 75-100 horses in the area at boarding stables and private homes that have been using the riding trails for many year. This would put the boarding stables out of business if unable to use the trails. 2) regarding 3a. Board horses at Western Bay Stables.

1) Haven't been on a horse in 50 years but we did go on a trail through a park in Dover, NJ. Town or county not aware of this but trail also accommodated those who walked and it does make a difference. 2) Keep as natural as possible. Have seen more progress than I care to in 43 years in Oldsmar. As long as nothing motorized is allowed and it doesn't overflow into backyard lake.

1) We do not have a preference. If the equestrian users have a strong preference for keeping their trails we are not opposed to it. The educational opportunities would be welcomed(as listed) other than that, we would enjoy any amenities that are out there. (If they are those as listed)

1) We already have a fishing pier at RE Olds. No canoeing in Oldsmar -that would be fantastic. We already have a horse stable and lots of picnicking. 2) We need basketball courts somewhere where RE Olds Park. Thank you!

1) I feel that hiking/walking trails and nature appreciation/educational opps. Can be combined. Along the trail - have educational plaques discussing vegetation and wildlife. 2) regarding 3c. Ride quite often and would like to see this continued.

1) I am not in favor of horses being allowed in the preserve at all. They foul the environment for hiking and picnicking. Canoe and Kayak trails would be great. There are bird nesting areas to see and other nature. Trails should be marked -it is easy to get lost in there. No Fires!! A good place for young fishermen. 2) regarding 3. Against equestrian trails!! 3) Keep it simple! Will we be able to police the area well enough? How? Keep it rustic.

1) All of the above is important.

1) I think there are enough parks in the area and I'd like to see it left alone. 2) regarding 3c. They've been riding there for years and haven't hurt it - it should continue.

1) I would love to see all of the above! My only concern with the biking is the speed of the bikers on the same path with pedestrians. Also, although I have never personally used the services of Hire-a -Pony for equestrian riding through the trails, I believe that the service should remain an available option for those who like to ride. I would suggest a separate trail for them.

1) Please do not close off the area like they did at Brooker Creek Preserve!! That place is only accessible by the inner circle, the rest of us peons cannot use it and the area that is now Mobbly Bayou Preserve has been a favorite hiking and fishing area for Oldsmar residents for decades. I am glad that we are "preserving" the area from development. We, and our future generations of Oldsmar residents, need an empty spaces. But please allow us to continue to enjoy it and not be fenced out. 2) regarding 3c. I believe it is important to be able to allow this bit of history to continue- If we think ahead 100 yrs. where else can we get back to nature in this quiet way? 3) regarding 4. I believe both can be accommodated. 4) regarding 5. Please think of the future- would you like to be able to see your great grandchildren experience the joy of a trail ride in the wilderness- or just show them a picture of a horse and say well these used to be around. 4) Please improve the small boat launch so small boats with electric motors may use the canal to fish. Catch and release fishing is acceptable(or small limit of salt water fish perhaps)..

1) The Western edge/side of the North/South Run of the Florida Power Easement is the private line of effected residents. The F.P.E. was purchased by the city, for the purpose of fresh water-rainfall retention of drainage, with outfall culverts, or weir structures at approx. +3' and diked to an elevation of +7.5' against 25 yr. salt storm tides; where FL state E.P.A. laws require the retention of all fresh water drainages, up to the high-tide elevation of the subject area with emergency discharge into pristine and protected salt waters; this is the most valuable most necessary engineering that must take place, first and before the use(proper use), of wilderness area, can be engineered and planned. If not understood, please have the city engineer or water and waste water superintendent come and see me at 427 Country Club Dr. (855-1124). I have a long vested and invested interest in the area. 2) regarding 3c. All of the above; my daughter raised here, did! 3) regarding 4. The controlled access must apply! 4) My property at 427 Country Club Dr. is greatly effected and affected and I am greatly vested and invested as, The Mowery Family Trust!!! I must protect and defend; There are engineering priorities that must come first before the recreation!! It is called "Environmental Reasoning!"

1) Keep as natural as possible with passive use as much as possible.

1) Camping making residents receive permit from city for fee. Also making campers responsible for any trash that is left by way of fine.

1) We appreciate all the work being done to maintain the serenity and cleanliness of the preserve and surrounding area.

1) No Horses!! Keep this place in its pristine natural state. Do not develop! We need a place to go for quiet walks and reflection. 2) Walking and hiking a priority!!

1) Hiking/walking trails- b/c we have no dog park in Oldsmar it would be nice to be able to walk our leashed pets there. Biking trails- I would worry that people would be encouraged to create their own trails. Equestrian trails- I kayak out in what is the preserve quite often and have come across horseback riders on a regular basis. I don't have a problem with them out there and kind of enjoy meeting them. I think thr business owner if the hire-a-pony should help support the wilderness trails. 2) regarding 3c. I would like the opportunity to exist if I decide I would like to ride out there. 3) regarding 4.&5. Can't answer these questions having never ridden out there. 4) I'm glad that the city worked out taking over this land to prevent development and the tentative plans for the area be better in an imperfect world.

1) It is very important to have fishing and picnic areas. There are very few places left to fish from without a boat.

1)I believe that the preserve should be left as it should be a wilderness preserve for all the many species of animals, birds, etc. that make the preserve their home. I see no need in encroaching upon their area. There are very few places left that our precious wildlife can call home. This area happens to be on of them. I also believe that this area does not need to be opened up to the many activities mentioned above. Please leave the area as pristine as possible. There are plenty of parks in the area that can be used for the activities mentioned. I don't believe it needs to be used at all for equestrian activities even though we have horses.

1) Keep equestrian trails separate and marked. An occasional night walk educational series. Bike lanes. 2) regarding 3c. Although we have never rented a horse I can envision this activity for future grandchildren! HA! 3) We are very happy Oldsmar will have this preserve. Thanks for asking.

1) I was very sad to see the large EXPENSIVE development in this area. I feel strongly that the preserve did not need this extra strain on it's resources, nor did the Shore Dr. area. Since it's inception and the increased demand in our sewer and water systems, I have experienced more flooding and washout as well as an obvious pressure in my water and reclaimed systems. I hope the city pushes for better natural preservation of this area.

1) The only potential public use listed above that is an existing use today, is the equestrian riding trails. The other non-existent uses listed above will require a costly development of the necessary infrastructure. Also the use in the wetlands are present as trails. It would make sense to continue this use as it existed and existed for years. The damage, if any, should be evident. Since the wetlands are thriving with the co-existence with of the equestrian trails, they should continue in the present conditions and location. 2) Horseback educational guides. Wetlands are surviving today with equestrian trails let them continue. Work with the preserve with the present use rather than spending more money to stop existing uses and create new ones.

1) The least disturbance with passive activity and access the better. How can the area sustain and provide the natural wildlife and diversity- and avoid the litter and disregard for the land and water that is evident now? Concern that the area may attract a crowd and noisy use(outboards, radio music picnicking) rather than natural recreation in balance with the wilderness.(including the airboats that disturb the area for miles)

1) Parking facilities for where the people who are using the preserve. Is there adequate space and would it be designed as not to interfere with the residents of the area? 2) regarding 3c. Own property and would like to see equestrian trails available for others to enjoy.

1) Leave It Alone!!!

1) Include trucking in the sand for a beach area, public swimming pool, BBQ grills, basketball courts, and boat launch.

1) Keep it family oriented.

1) Areas to sit and look at the water. Pier?

1) Horse trails are important to many people. I have no problem w/ them staying as long as they put the trails as noted above.

1) regarding 3c. We believe there should be an area for this activity. 2) regarding 4. Doesn't matter as long as it is available. 3) As much as possible this area should be used for a variety of activities that would be provided for all ages.

1) Since this is our "little piece of paradise" lets keep it uncluttered and natural. We are aware of the damage horses do to property since we lived on our farms. Oldsmar is unique with our parks. The environment of a small town is special. Lets keep it that way. Thank you. 2) The attached map of the Withlacoochee State trail states horses are to have proof of recent negative coggins. Who is going to check this especially if we have a long trail.

In general the activities and access need to be carefully managed to allow for "access to the preserve environment without degrading and disrupting the wildlife and natural environment that are the essence of the "preserve"

I believe the acreage is far too small and sensitive to allow equestrian riders/ trails. Our backyard setback would be too close to the pine flatwoods area. As it is now the horses come thru to end of Gilford. In the past 8 years, the "riders" have shown little respect for this area - tree/mangroves have been chopped, soda cans, etc. are tossed as they ride.

Sorry this is late. Been thinking about this matter for some time. Have also been through the areas designated as the Preserve. My suggestion after careful thought is to abandon any public recreational use. I have been a resident on Gilford for approximately 13+ years. I've seen the wildlife population adversely affected by the encroachment of unchecked development. Simply stated, why not leave the area as a wildlife Preserve? Do we really need more recreational space? There is a very nice park already located east of the Preserve. 2) If this area is to be designated as a wilderness preserve - let's leave it to nature and keep it just as it was without any interference from humans.

Please don't take the horses away. We live across the street from a local stable and not only enjoy renting and riding the horses, but also immensely enjoy all the riders going by. We would certainly make use of any amenities the Preserve will provide. It's a beautiful area that our family already appreciates. 2) I would hope that the look and feel of the area will not be drastically changed. It would be wise to take tips from Caladesi Island...another natural area that we take advantage of.

If as in the note (reference to my note about taking horse trails out of the wetlands to repair environmental damage)
I don't have a horse.
Question 4 (access) answered this way due to concerns over where trailers would be parked while owners ride and possible increased traffic on South Racetrack Rd.
The equestrian trails would benefit me as a horse owner. There is limited areas to ride and Mobbly Bayou is one of them. 2) I believe no motorized vehicles should be allowed!
Trails would be acceptable provided it does not increase the current traffic - current stables acceptable but additional facility would not be acceptable. Any entrance off Race Track to any type facility would not be acceptable.
Horses add to the original plans for Countryside Estates. 2) Please have hours posted maybe 8:30-6pm
Horses should not be allowed because they impact the sensitive ecosystem and tend to exclude other users like bicyclists and hikers. There is a comprehensive equine trail system currently in place at the Brooker Creek Preserve. 2) regarding 3.b. - the City and County should not provide public land for Private business. 3) regarding 4. - People who rent horses are not good riders and more likely to get injured - suing the City and County since equine providers are not liable under Florida law.
I think it is very important to maintain the equestrian riding trails in the preserve. Riding through on horseback is one of the best ways to see the preserve.
Fishing piers with boardwalks would add an extremely desirable facet to the Mobbly Bay Wilderness Preserve. Not many public use areas could boast of such an amenity. Pier 60 is an outstanding example of what may be achieved - perhaps Pier 60 in Clearwater could be analyzed and some of its features applied to a pier at the Mobbly Bay Wilderness Preserve. 2) Please focus on waterfront amenities: pier, boat launch, boardwalks, waterfront picnic areas, etc.