



## NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

AQUATIC SERVICES AND WATERWAYS ♦ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

16161 FLIGHT PATH DRIVE ♦ BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

P 352.754.4742 ♦ W [www.HernandoCounty.us](http://www.HernandoCounty.us)

# Hunter's Lake Management Discussion

**Option 1: CIP dredge project to FY27.** The Hunter's Lake boat ramp dredge is currently listed as a CIP project for FY28. Moving this project up one year would allow quicker public access to the lake.

Pros:

- Reestablish public access to Hunter's Lake more quickly.
- Increased vessel traffic on the lake may assist with slowing tussock formation thus improving navigation.

Cons:

- Budgetary constraints.
- Identifying additional funding source(s) takes time. Natural Resources Dept. is pursuing grants options through FWC currently.

## Option 2: Vegetation Management Alternatives.

- Establish a contractual means to harvest tussock (as needed) within Hunter's Lake. This option would require authorization from FWC prior to work starting.
- Waterfront property owners may choose to manage aquatic plants along the shoreline adjacent to their property by contacting Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) at 863-534-7074 or online at <https://app.myfwc.com/CrossDOI/PermitSystem/>
- Addition of grass carp to Hunter's Lake.

Pros:

- Grass carp are an affordable option for controlling aquatic vegetation compared to herbicide treatments or mechanical removal.

Cons:

- Timeframe. Grass carp usually takes six months to a year to be effective in reducing problem vegetation.
- Water clarity impact. Aquatic plants remove nutrients in the water. When plants are removed, nutrients may then be utilized by phytoplankton, turning the water green.
- Grass carp have definite preferences for certain types of plants and will not eat all aquatic vegetation.
- Permit required from FWC to stock grass carp in a waterbody.



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- Overstocking resulting in lack of vegetation. Once stocked in a lake or pond, carp are very difficult to remove. If overstocking occurs, it may be ten years or more before the vegetation community recovers.
- Any inflows or outflows through which carp could escape into other waters require barriers to prevent fish from escaping into waters not permitted.

**Option 3: Stay in abeyance until drought conditions improve.**

