



Wetlands Mitigation Trust Fund

Mission

To ensure that the City of Pembroke Pines maintains and preserves its vital ecosystems. The restoration of lost and degraded wetlands to their natural state is essential to ensure the health of Florida's watershed.

Goals

In accordance with the Mitigation Bank Irrevocable Trust Fund Agreement, the City of Pembroke Pines is required to maintain, protect and preserve the wetlands, developed as a diverse multi-habitat ecosystem, in perpetuity.

Objectives

To account for all activities relating to the Wetlands Mitigation Trust and to invest the revenues earned to achieve the highest yield in order to sustain the wetlands in perpetuity.

Major Functions and Activities

On October 21, 1992, the City entered into an agreement with the Florida Wetlandsbank™ (FW), a Florida Joint Venture, wherein the City granted FW a license to develop a Wetlands Mitigation Bank at a site containing approximately 450 acres located in the Chapel Trail Preserve.

This agreement, which ended on December 31, 2004, established the first Wetland Mitigation Bank in Florida and the second in the nation. Florida Wetlandsbank's responsibilities included designing, permitting, and constructing the ecosystem; maintaining and monitoring the wetlands for a five-year period once construction was completed; and the sales and marketing of the mitigation credits.

On January 1, 2005, the City assumed full responsibility and maintenance for the wetlands. The City now owns various sites totaling approximately 620 acres of wetlands of which 502 are maintained by the Trust Fund. The City became the Grantor of the Mitigation Bank Irrevocable Trust Fund on April 5, 1995 in order to hold the funds to maintain the wetlands in perpetuity. The current Trustee is the Bank of New York, and the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund are the City, the South Florida Water Management District, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Broward County. Payments are made quarterly from the investment earnings of the Trust Fund to cover the cost of maintaining the wetlands. In the event that investment earnings are insufficient to cover expenses, payments from the principal of the

Trust can be utilized with the written consent of the Trust's beneficiaries.

Budget Highlights

Expenditures for maintaining the wetlands have remained constant, with no changes anticipated in FY2013-14.

Accomplishments

In spite of the extremely low interest rate environment, the City continues to utilize only the accumulated interest earnings to cover the expense of maintaining the wetlands.

Wetlands Mitigation Trust Fund Performance Measures

Indicator	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	2013-14
	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Goal	Goal
Outputs						
Funds set aside for wetlands maintenance	\$574,475	\$561,000	\$560,237	\$600,009	\$611,475	\$600,000
Effectiveness						
Investment yield	0.25%	0.50%	0.30%	6.00% *	2.00%	1.00%

* In FY2012 a proposed change to the investment policy that would have allowed investments in preferred stock was not approved by City Commission.

Wetlands Mitigation Trust Fund - Budget Summary

Revenue Category	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2013-14 Budget
Investment Income	1,516	1,695	36,000	1,700
Beginning Surplus	-	-	-19,500	14,800
Total	1,516	1,695	16,500	16,500

Expenditure Category	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2013-14 Budget
Operating				
Professional Services	1,460	1,460	1,500	1,500
Other Contractual Services	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Repair and Maintenance Services	8,091	4,172	5,000	5,000
Operating Subtotal	9,550	15,631	16,500	16,500
Total	9,550	15,631	16,500	16,500