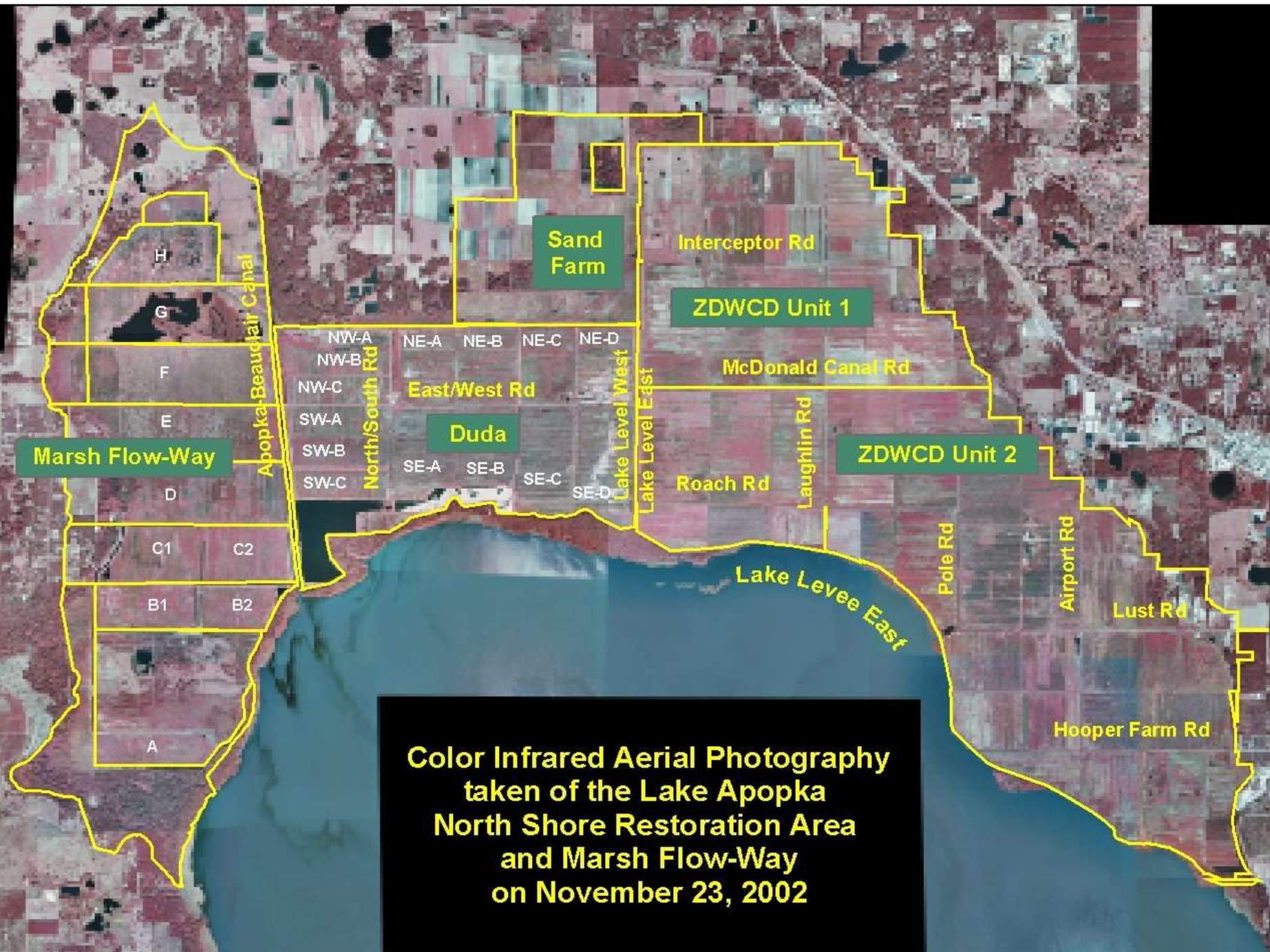


**Public Access to the
Lake Apopka
North Shore Restoration Area**

FNRLI

October 22, 2004





Sand Farm

Interceptor Rd

ZDWCD Unit 1

NW-A NE-A NE-B NE-C NE-D
NW-B

McDonald Canal Rd

North/South Rd

East/West Rd

NW-C
SW-A
SW-B
SW-C

Duda

SE-A SE-B SE-C SE-D

Lake Level West
Lake Level East

ZDWCD Unit 2

Roach Rd

Laughlin Rd

Marsh Flow-Way

Apopka-Beaulair Canal

H

G

F

E

D

C1

C2

B1

B2

A

Lake Levee East

Pole Rd

Airport Rd

Lust Rd

Hooper Farm Rd

**Color Infrared Aerial Photography
taken of the Lake Apopka
North Shore Restoration Area
and Marsh Flow-Way
on November 23, 2002**

Background

- **Nearly 20,000 acres of farmland purchased for restoration project**
- **Purchase price > \$115,000,000**
- **Only limited public access available since the buyout was completed in 1998**

Problems

- **Human health concerns due to potential exposure of public to residual pesticides**
- **Legal liabilities of the District**
- **Final restoration footprint uncertain**
- **Staff resistant to change**
- **Public stakeholders requesting more access**
- **Guided tours over-extending staff**

Leadership Strategy

- **Seek approval from Senior Management to address issue**
- **Develop a consensus within the agency on how to proceed**
 - **Facilitate meeting with key staff from all appropriate divisions**
 - **Develop draft public access plan**
- **Take draft plan to stakeholders for review and input**
- **Incorporate into Land Management Plan with budget components and Governing Board Approval**

Results

- **Successfully facilitated meeting with 15 individuals from the following divisions:**

Land Management

Operations and Public Works

Engineering

Environmental Sciences

Hazardous Material Management

Office of General Counsel

Office of Communications

Project Management

Results (con't)

- **Consensus reached on how to proceed**
 - **Immediately post signs warning of non-apparent hazards**
 - **Develop scope for public use Human Health Risk Assessment and budget funds in FY04-05**
 - **If risk assessment determines public use is safe, begin implementing an “interim” public access plan in 3-phases**

Warning

**Visitors must stay on the roads.
No fishing is allowed on this property.**

These lands are former agricultural land that were subject to regular use of agricultural chemicals, some of which, such as DDT, are persistent in the environment and may present a risk to human health.

Advertencia

**Visitantes deben permanecer en la carretera.
Prohibido pescar en esta propiedad.**

Estas tierras fueron tierras, agrícolas sujetas al uso regular de químicos agrícolas, algunos de los cuales, tal como DDT, persisten en el ambiente y pueden presentar un riesgo a la salud.



St. Johns River Water Management District

4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178 • 1429 • (386) 329-4500 • (800) 451-7106

2004/10/13

**Toxaphene Pesticide Soil Sample Results
Lake Apopka North Shore
Ambient Field, Delineated and Airstrip Sites
1999 - 2001**

Toxaphene in 0 - 12 in. soil layer (ug/kg)

- 0 - 3750
- 3750 - 7500
- 7500 - 11,831
- 11,831 - 24,876
- 24,876 - 37,922
- 37,922 - 50,967
- 50,967 - 160,000

median = 7500 ug/kg, mean = 11,831 ug/kg, S.D. = 13,045 ug/kg



1 0 1 Miles



NW-A

NE-A

NE-B

NE-C

NE-D

NW-B

NW-C

SW-A

SW-B

SW-C

SE-A

SE-B

SE-C

SE-D

Duda

East/West Rd

Apopka-Beauclair Canal

North/South Rd

Lake Level Canals

Color Infrared Aerial Photography
of Duda in the Lake Apopka
North Shore Restoration Area
on November 23, 2002



2004/09/30



Bird Data Highlights from the NSRA

- **Total species list of 333**
 - *Second in FL after Everglades National Park (344)*
- **174 species identified on the 1999 CBC**
 - *Record for inland North America in >100 year history of CBC*
- **38 species of shorebirds**
 - *Third in FL after ENP (41) & Merritt Island NWR (39)*

Lessons Learned

- **Allow input on the agenda from all participants**
- **Ensure key folks attend meeting**
- **Do not surprise anyone**
- **Inform stakeholders of progress without prematurely getting their hopes up**

