

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Shane Hamilton, Director of Parks & Facilities
Date: May 22, 2023
Discussion: Natural Areas Master Plan Review

Agenda Item # 6A

Staff has worked with Bedrock Earth, LLC for the last eight months to prepare the District's first Natural Areas Master Plan. The Natural Areas Master Plan will serve as the District's road map as it pertains to maintaining all-natural area properties, similar to what we do with our Parks Replacement plan.

Staff identified all areas throughout the District to be included in the plan, decided upon each location's service level and put dollar amounts to the work to be performed at each location. Staff was tasked with deciding whether each site was a high-profile area needing additional care or small hidden areas where the service level could be on a smaller scale. Staff also identified where in-house labor could be utilized to reduce costs by working under the supervision of Bedrock Earth.

This plan will be re-visited every year during our budget process and resources will be spent on the highest profile, most degraded areas first. The single most important part of any plan such as this is to keep it as a working document and not allow it to sit on a shelf. With the Board's help, in 2022 we began dedicating funds specifically to natural area maintenance. This plan allows us to spend those resources wisely with in-depth information to back up the plan of attack.