

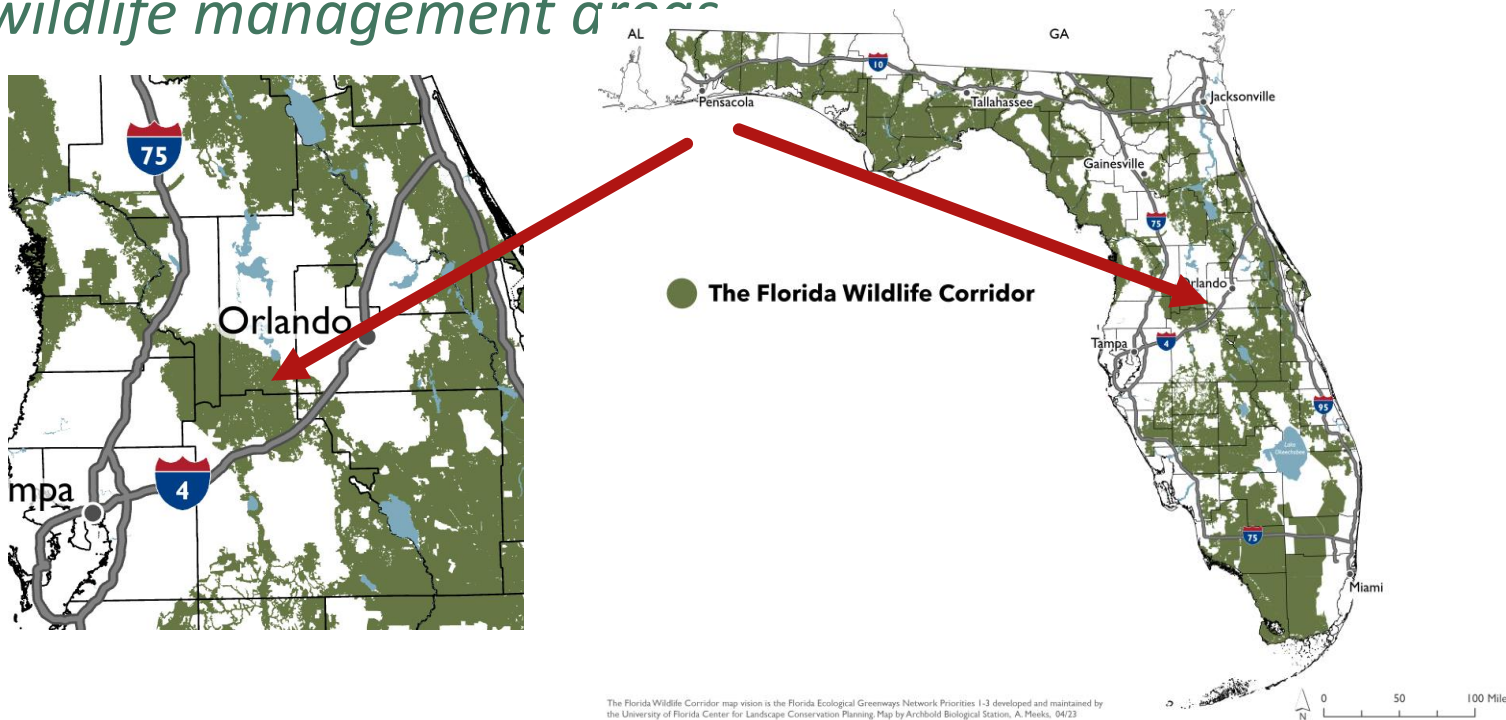


*Conservation & Wildlife  
Committee*

**FERAL HOGS STUDY 2024**



*Solivita is located in the middle of the Florida Watershed System and Florida Wildlife Corridor - a statewide network of nearly 18 million acres of connected ecosystems containing state parks, national forests, and wildlife management areas.*



*Many forms of wildlife (often protected) migrate long distances during the various seasons to promote the vitality of the species. The Florida Panther will travel from north of Orlando to the Everglade area and back.*





## FERAL HOGS

- *The wild hog (*Sus scrofa*), also called feral hog, feral swine, feral pig, wild boar, wild pig or piney woods rooter.*
- ***An invasive species:** Likely introduced by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto as early as 1539.*
- ***Invasive species** is an introduced species to an environment that harms the new environment. Invasive species adversely affect habitats and bioregions, causing ecological, environmental, and economic damage.*



## FERAL HOGS

- *Wild hogs occur in all 67 counties of Florida. They are found in a wide variety of habitats, preferring oak-cabbage palm hammocks, freshwater marshes and sloughs, pine flatwoods, and more open agricultural areas.*
- *Experts at the University of Florida report that they will eat almost anything, including dead animals but when natural foods are scarce or inaccessible, hogs will forage on almost any agricultural crop and livestock feed.*



## FERAL HOGS

- *Wild hogs can be 5 to 6 feet long, weigh 100 to 200 pounds. Although they prefer to run and escape danger, they can be aggressive when they're injured or cornered. They can move with great speed and can cause serious injury with their tusks.*
- *Feral pigs are known to be dangerous to people, traveling in herds with their young. They have been known to be aggressive toward dogs and other pets.*



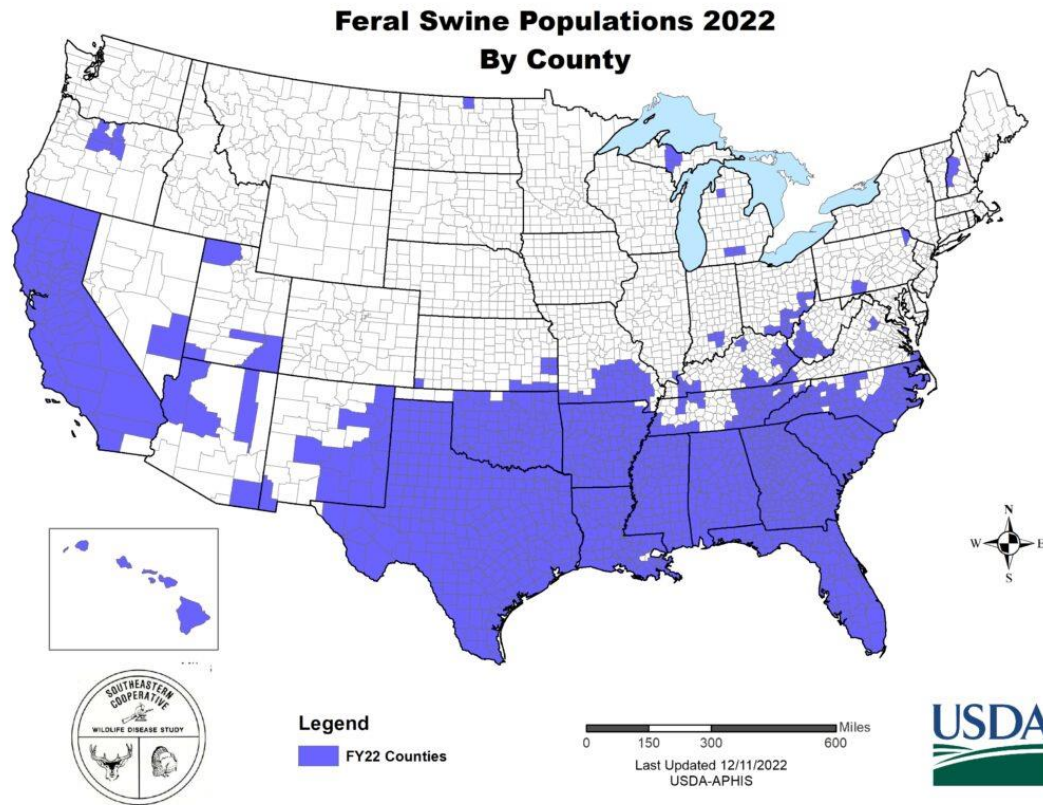


## FERAL HOGS

- *Female hogs become fertile at the age of six months, producing litters of up to twelve (12) piglets every six (6) months.*
- *Hogs are exceptionally intelligent animals, able to recognize danger and avoid areas of danger.*
- *The meat of a feral hog may be eaten, but you need to harvest and process them safely. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites brucellosis as the main risk to humans who consume wild game.*



# TODAY'S FERAL HOG PROBLEM IS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM





## SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

- *Solivita has employed the same established hog trapper for many years (team 8/12 trappers)*
- *Single traps (23) have been set and trapped hogs are taken offsite to be destroyed.*
- *Current harvest approximately **500** pigs per year.*
- *Periods of drought and hunting season increases numbers.*



## SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

### Zone B

- Archery season: Oct 14 – Nov 12
- Crossbow season: Oct 14 – Nov 17
- Muzzleloading gun season: Nov 18 - Dec 1
- Youth deer hunt weekend: Nov 25 - 26
- General gun season: Dec 2 – Feb 18



## SOLIVITA HOG CONTROL

- *Hogs cause extensive damage rooting in landscaped areas for acorns and grubs. In 2023 landscaper reported over 80,000 sq ft of sod torn up during acorn season.*
- *Solivita spends thousands of dollars per year repairing landscaping in common areas and residences. Solivita also spends significant sums per year on trapper fees.*
- *There have been many expressions of outrage about trapping by well intended residents. Some residents go into the woods at night and release hogs from the traps.*









- Solivita is surrounded on three sides by thousands of acres of open, undeveloped state woodland that serves as home for feral swine. Much of this land is designated by the state for hunting (in season).*



## *Conservation & Wildlife Committee*

- *In 2023 the Solivita HOA Conservation & Wildlife Committee accepted the challenge of defining the problem scientifically with an objective of developing a management strategy leading to a more positive outcome.*
- *Research provided the identities of the two most respected topical experts and invited them to a high-profile symposium focused on developing a better understanding of the nature of the hogs and possible solutions.*





## *Conservation & Wildlife Committee*

- *A symposium took place in Mosaics on October 17, 2023.*
- *The two topical experts in attendance:*

***Parker Hall***, *Wildlife Biologist, State Director of the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – Florida*

***Samantha Wisely***, *Ph.D. is a professor in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department at the University of Florida.*



***Attendees included:***

*Bob Monica, C&WC Chair*

*Larry Anson, HOA President*

*Marie Sepe, HOA Vice President*

*Rudy Bautista – LCAM*

*Anita Nelson – PCDD Supervisor*

*Hank Stuart – Landscape Committee Chair*

*Carl Warren - Maintenance Committee Chair*

*Brad Thompson – Floralawn*

*Members of the C&WC Committee*



## *What we learned*

- *Feral Pigs are very intelligent and difficult to destroy*
- *Due to reproductive biology trapping must focus on the females*
- *Trapped hogs must be immediately destroyed on site*
- *The use of single traps on this large a property is not productive.*
- *The use of chemical biopesticide may work in very large areas (statewide) but not in limited areas like Solivita. They often have a derogatory effect on other wildlife.*





## *What we learned*

- *The use of chemical biopesticide may work in very large areas (statewide) but not in limited areas like Solivita.*
- ***Sodium Nitrite** bait is very effective but also can have derogatory effect on other wildlife.*
- *Problem with poison is not the poison itself but how to distribute the poison*
- *As of now there are no EPA approved toxicants for feral pigs - **poisoning is off the table.***



## *What we learned*

- *The ideal approach is setting large traps that may capture large groups of pigs at one time.*
- *These traps are monitored and controlled remotely by the trapper on a cell phone*
- *Hogs should be baited using sour corn*
- *The size of the land surrounding Solivita requires multiple traps that are **moved frequently**.*
- *A key component is the installation of a boundary (fence) between the community and the undeveloped areas not protected by a fence or street.*

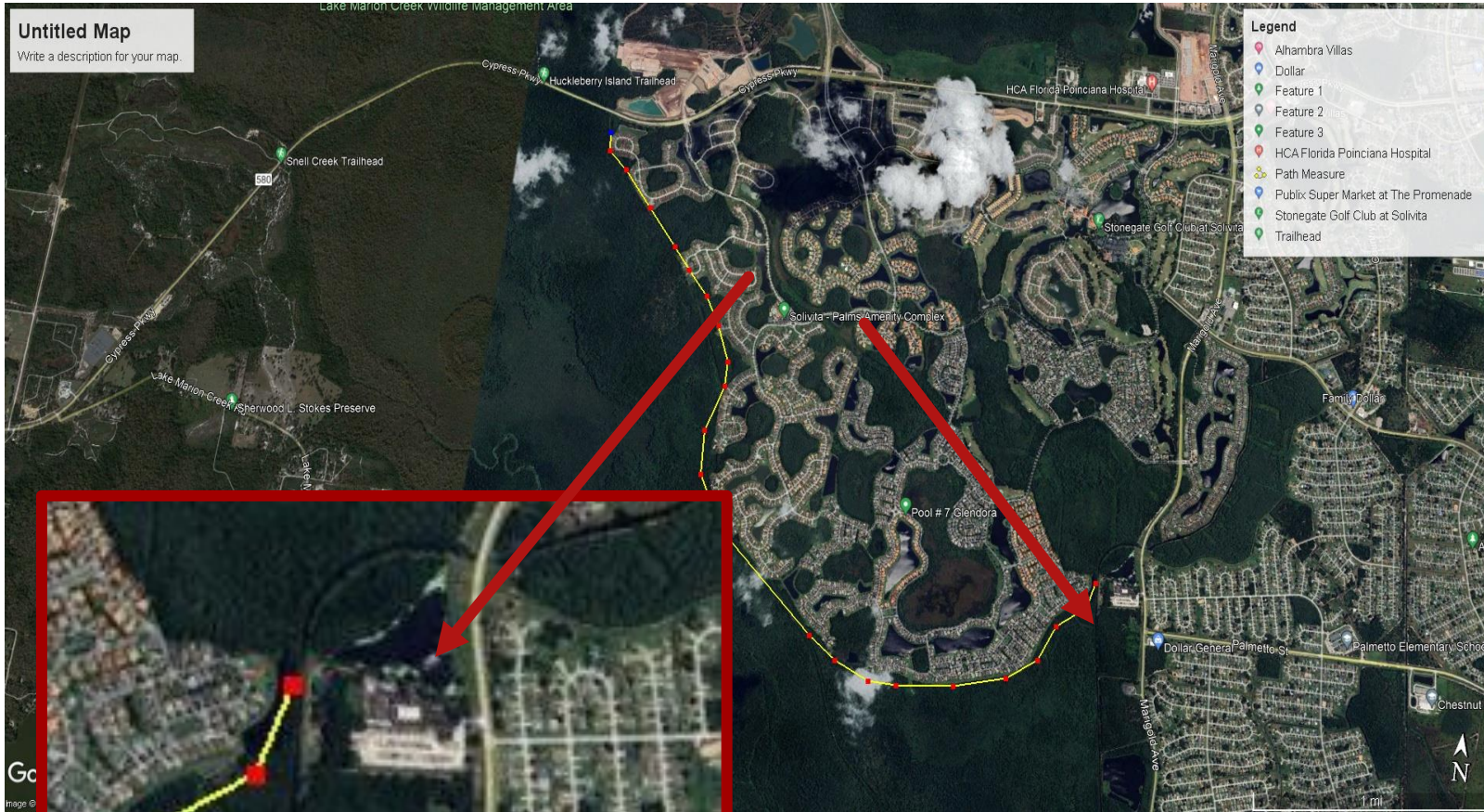


## ***What we learned***

- *A key component is the installation of a boundary (fence) as a control mechanism between the community and the undeveloped areas. Continual migration must be eliminated for success.*
- *Fencing must be solid but can be inexpensive – **High-tensile, woven-wire steel mesh with a “fixed knot” fencing.***
- *Fences need to be 3 – 4 feet in height*
- *The Solivita area required to be fenced is approximately 21,000+ linear feet.*







## Association of Poinciana Villages Public Works





## *Where we are now*

- Rudy Bautista has been working with Parker Hall's team to analyze our needs*
- A large remote-controlled trap was installed in the Davinci Pass area as a test. Due to the presence of dogs only three pigs were trapped.*
- It is clear that an area as large as Solivita will require multiple traps (4/6 traps).*
- No comprehensive level of success can be achieved without the installation of the boundary.*



# Q & A

