

Two More Environmentally Sensitive Properties are Protected

The Fraser (0.22-acre) and Egner (0.30-acre) properties closed on April 22, and May 25, 2004, respectively.

These parcels are part of the **Warm Mineral Springs Creek Protection Priority Site**. The site consists of lots located along the banks of the creek, within the Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) subdivision. The attached map shows the entire site as well as the parcels.

The creek flows from a spring and has not been channelized, providing a pristine, riparian habitat as well as a winter/cold weather refuge for up to 75 West Indian Manatees. It is one of the largest refuges in southwest Florida and possibly the only naturally occurring one. This site also contains scrubby flatwoods that support foraging habitat for gopher tortoises and Florida scrub-jays. Several listed plant species occur, including the golden leather fern, bromeliads, and the Florida coontie. WMS Creek is a tributary of the Myakka River, and protects water quality for the river's drainage area and outlet into Charlotte Harbor. The spring itself contains a significant archeological site.

If you have any questions please call Brooke Elias at 861-6259.

