

**15. CITY MANAGER**

**a. Informational Items**

**vii. Brazilian Pepper Update**

**City of Sanibel**  
**Natural Resources Department**

**Memorandum**

**February 24, 2009**

**TO:** Judie Zimomra, City Manager

**FROM:** Holly Downing, Environmental Specialist  
Rob Loflin, Natural Resources Director

**RE:** Brazilian Pepper Eradication Program Update

In 1992, the City of Sanibel, along with its partners at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began a coordinated effort to collectively eradicate Brazilian pepper from the island's conservation lands, as the first step in the environmental restoration of these lands. **Today, nearly 7,700 acres (~70% of the entire island) are free of Brazilian pepper.** These conservation lands are maintained through the implementation of a perpetual rotating maintenance program employing the use of herbicide treatments, mowing, prescribed fire, and native plant enhancements.

Shortly after efforts began to eradicate Brazilian pepper from the island's conservation lands, City Council adopted the Brazilian Pepper Eradication Program with an ambitious goal of eradicating the invasive exotic pest plant from all areas of the City including private, developed and undeveloped, residential and commercial properties. Due to the high cost of such a comprehensive program, the City implemented a phased approach designed to systematically eradicate pepper within six geographic implementation zones (Zone 1-6; see attached map). This was to allow for improved management and complete eradication of pepper in one zone before progressing to another zone.

Following a zone designation by Council, eradication consists of a "voluntary" and subsequent "mandatory" phase. During the "voluntary" phase (~1 year), the City offers incentives to property owners to help reduce the cost of removing pepper. In the past, these incentives have included free curbside pickup of *unbundled* pepper debris and an opportunity for 20% reimbursement towards the cost of pepper removal. Once a zone is designated "mandatory" by Council, property owners are no longer eligible for the "voluntary" phase incentives. The zone is surveyed by Natural Resources staff (via roadside inspections) and those properties that still have pepper are subject to code enforcement actions (Warning Letter, Notice of Violation, Notice of Hearing) until the pepper is eradicated.

## IMPLEMENTATION ZONES AND CURRENT STATUS

### PUBLIC LANDS

LOCATION: City, SCCF, and USFWS properties island-wide  
STATUS: Perpetual rotating maintenance of ~7,700 acres (~70% of the island)

### PRIVATE LANDS

#### Zone 1

LOCATION: Lighthouse Beach Park west to Lindgren/Causeway Road  
PHASE: Mandatory; March 1998 (City Ordinance 98-02)  
STATUS: In Compliance (July 2000)

*Next action(s):* Follow-up on citizen complaints; repeat roadside and waterfront survey

#### Zone 2

LOCATION: Lindgren/Causeway Road west to Dixie Beach and Casa Ybel Road  
PHASE: Mandatory; August 2000 (City Ordinance 00-15)  
STATUS: In Compliance (April 2002)

*Next action(s):* Follow-up on citizen complaints; repeat roadside and waterfront survey

#### Zone 3

LOCATION: Seaspray Lane west to Blind Pass  
PHASE: Mandatory; May 2002 (City Ordinance 02-07)  
STATUS: In progress; Roadside survey repeated in September 2008 resulting in 167 cases; ~65% now in compliance (as of 2/09)

*Next action(s):* Continue follow-up and code enforcement actions for active cases;  
Anticipate 10-20 cases to require Code Enforcement Hearings (Est. 05/09)

#### Zone 4

LOCATION: Dixie Beach and Casa Ybel Road west to Tarpon Bay Road  
PHASE: Mandatory; June 2005 (City Ordinance 05-008)  
STATUS: In progress

*Next action(s):* Repeat roadside survey and initiate code enforcement actions (Est. 05/09)

#### Zone 5

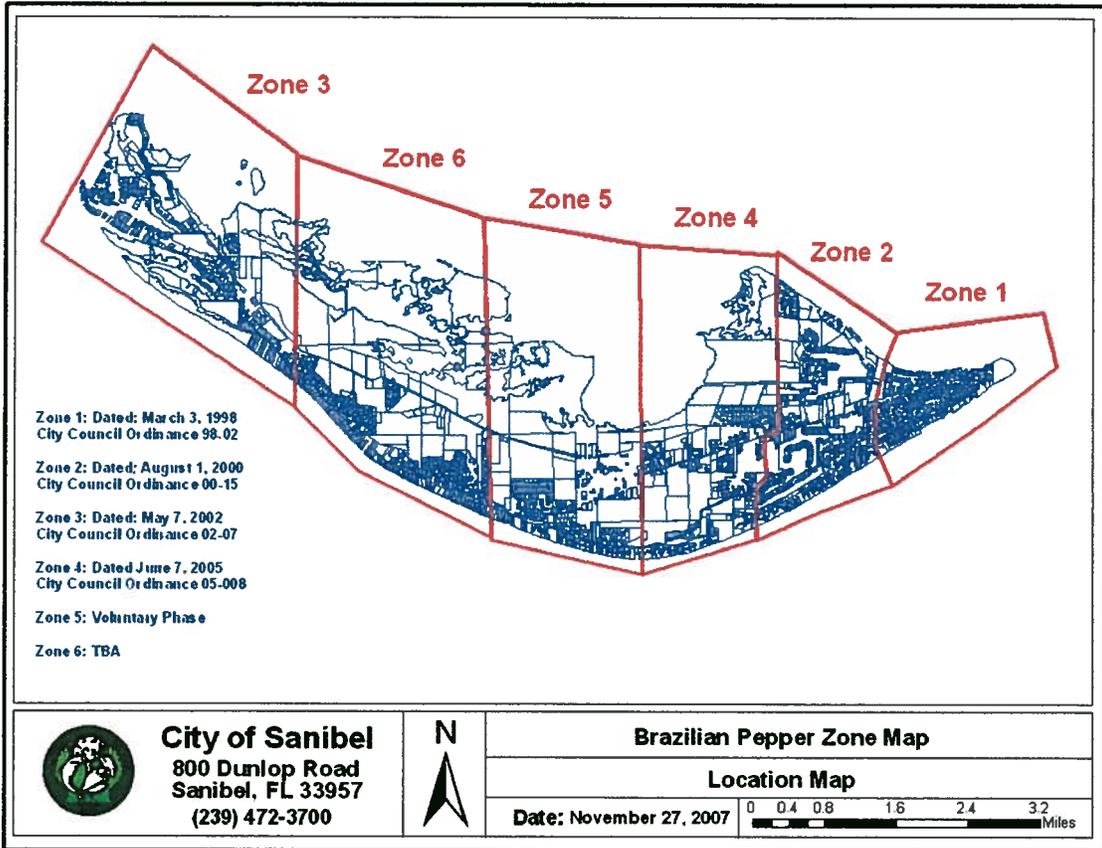
LOCATION: Tarpon Bay Road west to Rabbit Road  
PHASE: Voluntary; June 2005 (City Ordinance 05-008)  
STATUS: In progress; Informational reminder letters regarding the eradication program and voluntary phase incentives were mailed to all property owners (June 2006)

*Next action(s):* Request to Council for Mandatory designation (Est. 09/2009)

#### Zone 6

LOCATION: Rabbit Road west to Seaspray Lane  
PHASE: None  
STATUS: None

*Next action(s):* Request to Council for Voluntary designation (Est. 09/2009)



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**Brazilian Pepper Zone Map**

**Location Map**

Date: November 27, 2007

