

Dear Commissioner Hamman,

My name is Peter Krilivsky, President of the Tara Woods Homeowners Association. Tara Woods is an over 55, land leased community which is owned by Hometown America. I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Tara Woods in North Fort Myers FL.

Several years ago, an easement was granted to Lee County by Hometown America covering the southernmost swale which divides the Tara Woods Community and Raintree community. As explained to me, the agreement was that Tara Woods would allow the county to run some wires through the Tara Woods swale and the easement provided that the county would be responsible for the trimming and maintenance of the swale. All the water runoff of Tara Woods feeds into this swale which then deposits the water into the county sewer system. If the swales are not trimmed and occasionally dredged, the water floods the swale and the overflow spills onto our residents' properties, putting outdoor air conditioners and other equipment in danger of being damaged by the flood waters.

At the onset of the agreement, the tenants of the agreements were met in a timely manner. Since 2023, not at all. When our management office and some of our concerned residents call to get a maintenance update, they get answers such as, "not sure when", "sorry, we ran out of money since your community is in the northern most portion of the county", "what easement?" etc.

We are now into the rainy season here in SW Florida. The swale is severely overgrown, and we are concerned that any severe weather, hurricanes, heavy rain, will flood the swale and subsequently the residents' yards and cause damage.

We are asking for your intervention in this matter and not only address the current overgrowth in the swale but also make sure Tara Woods gets the attention we deserve under the easement agreement in subsequent years.

Your prompt attention in this matter is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

*Peter Krilivsky*  
*President, TWHOA*

Good afternoon Peter,

After speaking with our Natural Resources staff, Commissioner Hamman learned that the ditch along the southern portion of Tara Woods is part of the Gator Slough filter marsh that was built by the county. This ditch and filter marsh is maintained 3 times a year to manage exotic plants and ensure water flow. Maintenance was last performed in May of this year with another event scheduled in August. The ditch does have plants growing in it that are beneficial to improving water quality. The ditch also has two environmental rock weirs built as part of the water quality project.

Our Operations Manager, Phil Gillogly is more than happy to discuss this with you in more detail if you'd like. He can be reached at either [pgillogly@leegov.com](mailto:pgillogly@leegov.com) or (239) 850-2636.

Thank you,

**Matt Spielman**

Executive Assistant

Commissioner Brian Hamman, District 4