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Local officials honored two-time former Pinellas County Administrator, Fred Marquis with a plaque.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Local official honored for land conservation

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ANDREA LYPKA / MyFoxTampaBay.com

TARPON SPRINGS - Brooker Creek Preserve celebrated National Trails Day by honoring key people who played a mayor role in land conservation and land acquisition in the Bay Area.

They also unveiled 22 interpretive and directional signs along the nature trails throughout the preserve.

Local officials honored two-time former Pinellas County Administrator Fred Marquis with a plaque on June 6. The previous county administrator supported land acquisition, conservation and the environment in Pinellas County.

Visitors also got a rare glimpse inside the Wilde Tract, an 870-acre piece of land, purchased last year with funds from Penny for Pinellas.

The property, which is home to a number of native plants, is located north of Keystone Road and east of East Lake Road and was purchased with the help of Marquis.

Currently, the Wilde Tract provides ranching activities, a citrus orchard and numerous active wells that serve both Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. The Wilde Tract portion of the preserve will remain closed to the public.

The hiking trails at Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs are open seven days a week starting at 7 a.m. Trails close 30 minutes prior to sunset.

To find out more information about the trails at Brooker Creek Preserve go to <http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/>

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