

VCA PRESERVE POLICY

REVISED 9-1-2024

Preserve areas within communities in Florida are established to protect the wetlands, woodlands and the resident wildlife we all enjoy. If you live along the Preserve, consider it the same as living next to a state park; there are restrictions that homeowners and their HOA associations must be aware of and comply with. Violations will result in cost to the homeowner or a sub-association including fines and potential on-going monitoring by Sarasota County. Below is the list of expectations for all sub-associations and their homeowners within Venetia regardless of whether or not they reside along a Preserve boundary.

1. Homeowners and associations are expected to be aware of their personal property lines and may only plant or landscape within the limits of that property. This must also be communicated to your personal or community landscape contractors who have the potential to violate this policy on your behalf.
2. The above and below applies to any Homeowner who rents their property. Their renter must comply with these requirements; any violations will be the responsibility of the owner.
3. Dumping – the Preserve is not a dumping ground. Examples include, but are not limited to, expired food and leftovers, landscaping debris from landscapers or the owner, used charcoal, dead/dying house plants, pottery and planters, building materials. And the dumping of any liquids such as paint, fuel, cleaning fluids, used cleaning water, outdated fertilizer or pesticides, mulch, etc.
4. Avoid planting invasive plants near the Preserve such as vines, Mexican Petunias, Oyster Plants which will gravitate toward the Preserve. House plants that are replanted outside should be avoided and already have and will quickly move into the Preserve; owners are responsible for the cost of removing these plants as they encroach and kill healthy trees.
5. Motion-activated outside lighting and landscape lighting should never be directed toward or into the Preserve, only toward the residence.
6. Fences are not allowed within Venetia which includes any security or electric fences around a Preserve area intended to deter wildlife.
7. Residence cannot place benches or other furniture, container plants or flowers, birdbaths, umbrellas, and other like items within the Preserve. Birdfeeders are not allowed with Venetia.
8. All pets are to be leashed and never be allowed to freely play or roam throughout Venetia; this includes Preserve areas which are dangerous areas for a domesticated pet.

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9. The Preserve Committee should be contacted regarding any Preserve growth that crosses over into the owner's property. In many cases the country arborist must review trimming requirements to ensure the continued health of plants and trees. Once approved, the homeowner may proceed to trim back hanging branches but only to their property line.

The Preserve Committee conducts annual Preserve trimming and regular monitoring of the Preserve. At this time, we are not removing Pepper Trees unless they are on common property, or we see new trees sprout up along the edge of the Preserve. We all know that they are invasive and a nuisance, however cost prohibits us from taking aggressive action on the larger trees at this time.