

Per agreement between VCA's Preserve Committee and Sarasota County, the following is an important annual E-Blast Preserve policy update all owners must review, even if your residence isn't located on our Preserve. Review the entire policy not just the highlighted clarification sections as we continue to see violations throughout VCA. This will only take a few minutes and is painless – but it can save you future headaches and dollars.

As a property owner in Venetia, you are personally held responsible for violations regardless of **who** ignores policies, consequently:

Landscapers: VNA-1: Ensure that the owner of your landscape provider receives a copy of this policy; we advise proof of receipt by emailing or getting a signature that you retain. For our other sub-associations, ensure that your community landscaper is notified; VCA uses Twin Palm for much of our Preserve work and they will already have this on file.

Renters: The same applies if you rent your residence, ensure that this policy is communicated clearly to renters.

If you have further questions, please email Jan Weis, Chair for the VCA Preserve Committee at janisweis@msn.com. This revision has been posted on our Venetia Community site along with other related documents.

VCA PRESERVE POLICY REVISED 9-16-2026

The below policy supports Sarasota County's June, 2024, Environmental Protection Division FAQ.

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 their own property. This must also be communicated to your personal or community landscape contractors who have the potential to violate this policy. The Preserve

Committee notifies of potential violations and the need for immediate action. If there is no resolution by the date stated in the notice, it is then referred to Sarasota County and Solitude to determine your cost to restore your property.

2. IMPORTANT: 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 or our ponds and weirs are not dumping grounds. As you walk throughout Venetia (or your own property), should you see palm fronds or other vegetation that has fallen, please see that this is moved to the curb if you are able, for pickup by the County collection or our Venetia Landscape contractor. NEVER toss anything into the Preserve. We especially find this occurring along Natale Drive and Corso Venetia Boulevard with the large Royal and Foxtail palms. Further examples of Dumping that we've found 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, and building materials. As well, we find dumping of liquids or containers such as paint, fuel, cleaning fluid containers, used cleaning water, outdated fertilizer or pesticides, mulch, etc. To drop off any of the above, visit Sarasota County's Chemical Collection Center located here in Venice at 250 S. Jackson Road in Venice, Monday-Saturday 8a.m to 4p.m. or refer to Sarasota County's Solid Waste and Chemical Collection go to scgov.net for disposal.**
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: these plants have and will quickly move into the Preserve; owners are responsible for the cost of removing these plants before they encroach and kill healthy trees.
5. Outside lighting and landscape lighting should never be directed into or around the Preserve, only onto a residence or building.
6. Fences are not allowed within Venetia which includes any security or electric fences, which we have found, around a Preserve area intended to deter wildlife.
7. Residents cannot place benches or other furniture, container plants or flowers, birdbaths, umbrellas, and other like items within the Preserve. Birdfeeders are not allowed in 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 domestic pets.
9. Owners may, at their expense, trim back trees, etc. that encroach onto their property. HOWEVER, prior to any trimming, the Preserve Committee should be contacted immediately. In many cases the country or Solitude's arborist must review trimming requirements to ensure that trees are cut properly to ensure they are not unbalanced or that the trim jeopardizes their continued health. Once

approved, the homeowner may proceed to trim back hanging branches, etc at their cost but only to their property line.

10. The Preserve Committee should immediately be contacted should a tree FALL from the Preserve onto residential property especially if there is damage to property. Do NOT personally, or have your personal landscaper, attempt to remove this. The committee, or one of our contractors, will need to first take pictures of the situation to assess any damage and possibly call an arborist to determine the best way to proceed to ensure no damage (or further damage) occurs.

The Preserve Committee conducts annual trimming and regular monitoring of our 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 highly invasive and a nuisance, however cost prohibits us from taking aggressive action now on the larger trees at this time.