

HERNANDO COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS SUNSHINE GROVE ROAD WIDENING: Gopher Tortoise Surveys, Permitting and Relocation

Project Description: MGC conducted several gopher tortoise burrow surveys on 12,000 linear ft (MOL) Sunshine Grove Road widening and improvements project. Surveys were conducted for initial baseline documentation and for 90 day maximum updates per FFWCC policy to facilitate permit amendments and phased relocation from the western and eastern project corridors. Obtained off-site relocation permits from the FFWCC, authorizing the relocation of tortoises from the construction area to the long-term protected C. Herman Beville Ranch in nearby Sumter County, Florida. MGC attended multiple pre-construction meetings with Hernando County Department of Public Works, utilities, and the construction contractor to coordinate on project planning and provide council specific to gopher tortoise management issues. Coordinated Florida One Call underground utility locates and coordinated with Florida Gas Transmission Company due to the recently installed gas line within portions of the project area. Ultimately, relocated 52 tortoises from 86 potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows.



Location: Hernando County, Florida

Project Period: 2010-2011

Client: Hernando County Dept. of Public Works
 1525 E Jefferson Street
 Brooksville, FL 34601
 Diana Koontz / Brian Malmberg
 352-754-4060

Project Size: 12,000 In ft. / 48 acres (MOL)

Tortoises Relocated:

52 tortoises relocated from a total of 86 potentially occupied burrows excavated.

Services Provided:

- Conducted multiple gopher tortoise burrow surveys over course of project, including establishment of 25' radius caution flagged protection zones around burrows in most sensitive areas during construction equipment staging.
- Obtained off-site relocation permit from FFWCC and amendments as required for renewals and surveyed population changes.
- Attended several pre-construction and general project planning meetings to provide council on gopher tortoise management.
- Coordinated Florida One Call underground utility locates.
- Conducted two gopher tortoise relocations to facilitate phased construction of the project.



Sunshine Grove Road Widening
 12,000 linear ft (MOL) in Hernando County, Florida
 Data Source: GWF/WMD, Field Results Created By: AH
 Michael G. Czerwinski, P.A. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS MGC
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This map is for informational purposes only. This is not a survey. Boundaries are approximate.

