

F. USE OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (sUAS)

Launching, landing, and operation of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), including but not limited to “drones,” from Land Bank Preserves can conflict with management of natural areas as they have high capacity to disturb wildlife, negatively impact visitor experience, create potential invasion of privacy issues, and pose physical risks to visitors. However, responsible use of sUAS for certain purposes and under certain conditions can be beneficial to the Land Bank and the community. These include but are not limited to: Biological surveys; visitor impact assessments; participation in search-and-rescue operations, and; photography or filming of Preserves for use in grant applications or Land Bank outreach materials.

As such, *recreational* operation of sUAS from Land Bank Preserves is prohibited.¹ The Land Bank Director may grant permission to non-recreational sUAS operators to use Land Bank Preserves under the following conditions:

- 1) The operator must have a valid Remote Pilot Certificate issued by the FAA;
- 2) operators must comply with the FAA sUAS operational limitations;
- 3) all sUAS craft must be registered with the FAA, and;
- 4) operators must have liability insurance coverage of at least \$1 million.

Such permission may apply to specific instances within a defined time frame or may be granted periodically to individuals to use various Preserves for specific purposes. All operators must have (and carry) written authorization from the Director for any such use.

1. Stonebridge-Terrill Preserve is an exception to this policy as there has been a model airplane club utilizing a portion of the property since before the Land Bank purchased it. The club is required to have a \$1 million insurance policy and operates under a recreational license issued by the Land Bank. Recreational operators of model aircraft are exempt from any FAA licensing requirement.