



Winns Morass and Oyster Bay - Recommended Areas for Tree Preservation

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is pursuing the designation of a Tree Preservation Order, under the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations, 1967 for the Winns Morass and Oyster Bay areas of Falmouth, Trelawny based on the significance of the Glistening Waters Luminous Lagoon to biodiversity and tourism.

Background: At the east end of the Falmouth Harbour, is a shallow estuary receiving the waters from the Martha Brae River. The area is known as “Glistening Waters Lagoon” and is one of 2 sites in the Caribbean and one of only four of its kind in the world, famous for its persistent bioluminescence. Oyster Bay borders the northern coastline of the Winns Morass area. The unique characteristics of the bay’s environment allows for high concentrations of microscopic bioluminescent dinoflagellates, *Pyrodinium bahamense* var. *bahamense*, to flourish and accumulate in the bay creating the glistening effect. The bay is surrounded by mangroves and salt flats which are essential in supplying key nutrients to the dinoflagellates.

The Public is hereby invited to provide their written comments on the proposal. Comments should be submitted by November 16, 2020 by e-mail: puned@nepa.gov.jm.