



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust Expands Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary

27th October 2025 – The National Trust is thrilled to announce the successful expansion and preservation of Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary, a vital natural area for local and migratory birds, nestled in North Side. This tranquil sanctuary offers our community and neighbouring schools a place to connect with local wildlife.

Malportas Pond serves as an essential stopover for migratory birds and a feeding ground for local species, contributing significantly to our biodiversity. This wetland area recently welcomed a flamingo in December of 2023, which is a rare occurrence. The visiting flamingo sparked island-wide excitement for local birders, photographers, and members of the community who flocked to Malportas Pond for a chance to see the visiting flamingo. The flamingo became an inspiration for expanding the National Trust's existing protected area at Malportas Pond and highlighted the importance of preserving such habitats for both native and migratory birds.

Recognising Malportas Pond's ecological and community value, the National Trust launched a community-driven fundraising campaign to secure the 2.5 acres, where the flamingo resided during its stay, now known as "Flamingo Point". Generously supported by landowner Tommy Scofield and his family, who offered the land at a reduced cost, the National Trust was given two years to raise the necessary funds. This mission was embraced by the community, with donations pouring in from local corporations, individuals, and even children like ten-year-old Jackson Pollack, who creatively raised funds through a Flamingo-Ade stand.

Thanks to this overwhelming support, the National Trust expanded their protected area at Malportas Pond for public enjoyment, ensuring its natural beauty remains accessible to all. This achievement is a testament to the community's dedication to preserving natural spaces that contribute to our physical and mental well-being. Immersing oneself in nature has been proven to reduce stress, enhance mood, and improve overall health, making Malportas Pond an invaluable resource for residents and visitors alike.

Moreover, the preservation of Malportas Pond is a critical step in maintaining a sanctuary for birds, essential for their survival and migration patterns. Protecting wetlands like this is not just about conserving avian life; it's about fostering a healthier, more vibrant island environment for everyone.

The National Trust extends heartfelt thanks to the corporate sponsors who made this preservation possible: Wheaton Precious Metals, Deloitte, KPMG, Refuel, Greenlight Re, Strategic Risk, and Property Cayman.



Special thanks go to Mike and Joan Austin for generously sponsoring the flamingo plushies that became the centrepiece of our community fundraising campaign. Through the sale of these plushies—each accompanied by a certificate and often given as gifts—the public contributed significant funds toward the purchase of this property and the protection of this important natural area.

Together, we have safeguarded a special corner of the island, ensuring that Malportas Pond remains a place where nature thrives and people can reconnect with the natural world.

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About the National Trust for the Cayman Islands

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is a non-governmental organization whose mandate under the National Trust Law (2010 Revision) includes the preservation of the historic, natural and maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.



About the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme

The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme began in 1990 with only 30 dedicated Blue Iguanas and the primary goal to restore the wild population to 1,000 Blue Iguanas, encouraging viable population in the long-term. Having met its primary goal in 2018, the initiative formally transitioned to the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme in 2019 with a new focus of sustainably conserving the native species of Grand Cayman.

About the National Trust's Environmental Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' environmental programme was founded on the concept that the protection of native plants and animals is best achieved by protecting the natural areas in which they depend.

About the National Trust Conservation Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' conservation programme strives to protect Cayman's native species and the habitats in which they live, and includes the endemic Blue Iguana of Grand Cayman, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana and Cayman's native bat species.

About the National Trust Historic Preservation Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands introduced the launching of its *Historic Preservation Fund* at its Annual General Meeting in September 2021 for the purpose of inviting increased support of its continuing efforts to encourage the preservation and protection of historic homes and buildings for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands.