

Conservation Collier Annual Report



2016-2018



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| I. Executive Summary | 3 |
| Table 1. Preserve Category Matrix | 6 |
| 2. CCLAAC –Members, Summary of meetings and Actions for between 2016 and 2018 | 7 |
| 3. Program Lands Acquisition Status | 11 |
| Table 2. Good Deals, Land Donations | 12 |
| Table 3. Monetary Donations | 13 |
| Table 4. Multi-parcel Property Acquisitions in 2018 | 14 |
| Program Land Management Status | 15 |
| Alligator Flag | 15 |
| Camp Keais Strand Parcels | 16 |
| Caracara Prairie | 16 |
| Cocohatchee Creek | 17 |
| Freedom Park | 18 |
| Gordon River Greenway | 19 |
| Logan Woods | 20 |
| McIlvane Marsh | 21 |
| Nancy Payton | 22 |
| Otter Mound | 23 |
| Pepper Ranch | 24 |
| Panther Walk | 27 |
| Railhead Scrub | 28 |
| Red Maple Swamp | 29 |
| Redroot | 30 |
| Rivers Road | 31 |
| Shell Island | 32 |
| Wet Woods | 33 |
| Winchester Head Multi-parcel Project | 34 |
| 4. Program Financial Status | 35 |
| Table(s) 5 – Summary of Conservation Collier Financial Activity for FY16, FY17 and FY18..... | 36 |
| 6. Conservation Collier Programs, Events, and Community/Educational Outreach..... | 38 |
| Pepper Ranch Hunt Program | 38 |
| Caracara Prairie Preserve Hunt Program | 38 |
| Pepper Ranch Guided Hike Program..... | 38 |
| Pepper Ranch Sunflower Festival..... | 39 |
| Social Media | 39 |
| 5. Mitigation Programs | 40 |
| 6. Partners | 40 |
| 9. Grants | 41 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 7. Volunteers..... | 42 |
| 8. 2019 Objectives | 43 |
| Exhibits..... | 44 |
| Exhibit A. 2018 Map of Conservation Collier Program Lands and Proposed Acquisitions | 44 |
| Exhibit B. Conservation Collier Program Public Amenity Work Plan and Preserve Category Matrix | 45 |
| Exhibit C. Conservation Collier Preserves by Commission District | 51 |

I. Executive Summary

Responsibilities

In accordance with the Conservation Collier Ordinance, as amended (2007-65, Section 12.6), there will be an annual meeting to update the Board of County Commissioners (Board) and public on the Conservation Collier Program. The following annual report is intended to serve as an additional update to the Board and public.

The Conservation Collier Program is responsible for implementing the mandate of the electorate of Collier County as provided by public referendum votes in November, 2002, and again in November, 2006 confirming that mandate, to levy a 0.25 mill ad valorem property tax for a period not to exceed 10 years for acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of environmentally sensitive lands in Collier County for the benefit of present and future generations.

Lands Inventory

Conservation Collier has now implemented its mandate for 15 years. In March 2013, at the ten-year mark, the ad valorem tax levy ceased. During this time 4,040.84 acres meeting program criteria were acquired in 19 different locations for a cost of \$103,900,000. A total of \$47,332,251 was bonded for use in property acquisition, via bonds in 2004 and 2008, with both bonds now retired. Since 2011, when the general buying ceased, an additional 22 parcels, or 61.02 acres, were added to the inventory from donations, good deals and FY 18 acquisition in the multi-parcel projects, for a current total of 4,101.86 acres.

On February 14, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners (Agenda Item 11B) directed staff to restart Conservation Collier land acquisition utilizing up to \$17 m of on-hand Conservation Collier Program Land Management Trust Funds. These funds are to be repaid by either a property tax in FY20, when a referendum will be conducted or, failing voter acceptance, by some other means including potentially the County’s general fund.

Following an acquisition cycle that lasted through April 2018, 11 properties (3,620 acres) were recommended for acquisition by the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC), including a recommendation to continue acquiring in the multi-parcel projects (Red Maple Swamp and Winchester Head) using future offsite preservation donations only. In April, the Board approved the multi-parcel projects continuance and 2 additional acquisitions (Gore and Hack - 197 acres), asking for the remainder of the list to be brought back in July. Board concerns

included using funds that might be needed in the event of a hurricane and using Land Management Trust Funds without a clear repayment plan. Appraisals were performed and offers made on the two properties in June-July. One owner accepted (Gore) and one owner rejected the County's offer (Hack).

In July 2018, the Board decided to move ahead with the remainder of the recommended acquisitions, placing another 3,423 acres in the 'A' category of the Active Acquisition List. Three (3) of the properties are adjacent to current preserves and four (4) are in new locations. A couple of the new projects adjoin each other in new locations. If all are acquired, the Conservation Collier Program will be responsible for 7,683 acres in 23 locations. Staff is currently moving forward with due diligence on the remaining properties

Of the 19 currently acquired Conservation Collier properties, fifteen (15) have approved Final Management Plans (FMP) and four (4) have approved Interim Management Plans (IMP). Twelve (12) Conservation Collier preserves are currently open or opening shortly for public use in categories 1 through 4 with signs, trails and benches installed.

Program Costs

The cost for management of all preserves for the period of FY16- FY18 totaled \$537,511, representing an average of \$180,000 per year for land management. This funding accomplished management actions on acquired preserve properties as described in approved land management plans and as prioritized by the CCLAAC and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Grants in the amount of \$366,000 were received between 2016 and 2018 to fund land management.

The cost for Program operations, including salaries, for the period of FY16-FY18 totaled \$1,112,630, representing an average of \$371,000 per year for operations.

Total fund spent for capital projects between FY16 and FY18 are \$88,135 and included repairs to the caretakers cottage at Pepper Ranch, site plan development for an RV site at Pepper Ranch, Gordon River Greenway solar gate and Conservation Collier's portion of costs for removing tree debris from the Gordon River.

Total program expenses for FY16-FY18, including capital projects, equaled \$1,764,192, representing an annual average program cost of \$588,064.

Ordinance

During 2018, CCLAAC reviewed the Conservation Collier ordinance upon request of the Board of County Commissioners. Changes have been discussed and the ordinance will likely come back to the Board in December 2018 requesting these changes. During 2018 the Land Development Code section 03.05.07 governing offsite preservation changed. Depending on particular changes, policy Resolutions will need to be revised and brought to the Board, including the Purchase Policy, the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Policy, and the offsite preservation policy.

Public Activities

Public activities at preserves between FY16 and FY18 included adult and youth hunts, festivals, tours, volunteering, presentations and guided hikes. Activities planned for 2019 include an Earth

Day festival, volunteering, camping, biking, hiking and guided hikes on selected seasonal weekends.

Conservation Collier preserves have been categorized to identify what public uses are currently available (approved as part of the Annual Report, 10/23/12 16D4). Table 1 describes these categories and identifies corresponding preserves.

Looking Ahead

Management activities for FY 2019 are expected to increase depending on how many potential acquisitions come to fruition. Funds budgeted for land management in FY19 equal \$326,000. Estimates for initial land management activities on new properties are \$2.9 million but this work will take more than one year to accomplish. For FY19, approximately \$228,000 is thought to be needed to start initial exotic work. Currently approximately \$100,000 has been budgeted. If all additional properties are acquired, one additional land manager will be needed. As properties are acquired, budget amendments will be sought for needed funding.

Please accept this report on the activities of Conservation Collier calendar years 2016-2018.

Table 1. Preserve Category Matrix

| Preserves | | Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 | Category 5 |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | Primary Use Preserves: easily accessible with public amenities and parking | Intermediate Use Preserves: few to no amenities, limited parking, primitive trail system | Neighborhood Preserve: no onsite parking or amenities other than benches, trails and picnic tables | Seasonal Use Preserves: may have parking and trails but will be closed during seasonal rainfall months | Resource Protection/Restoration Preserves: currently no public access due to lack of physical or legal access or where there are unsafe conditions for public |
| 1 | Alligator Flag | | | | X | |
| 2 | Camp Keais | | | | | X |
| 3 | Caracara Prairie | | X | | | |
| 4 | Cocohatchee Creek | | X | | | |
| 5 | Freedom Park | X | | | | |
| 6 | Gordon River Greenway | X | | | | |
| 7 | Logan Woods | | | X | | |
| 8 | McIlvane Marsh | | | | | X |
| 9 | Nancy Payton | | X | | | |
| 10 | Otter Mound | | X | | | |
| 11 | Panther Walk | | | | X | |
| 12 | Pepper Ranch | X-currently seasonal, off season by appt. | | | | |
| 13 | Railhead Scrub | | | | | X |
| 14 | Red Maple Swamp | | | | | X |
| 15 | Redroot | | X | | | |
| 16 | Rivers Road | | X | | | |
| 17 | Shell Island | | | | | X |
| 18 | Wet Woods | | | | | X |
| 19 | Winchester Head | | | | | X |
| 20. | Robert H Gore III (coming) | X | | | | |

2. CCLAAC –Members, Summary of meetings and Actions for between 2016 and 2018

The primary purpose of the CCLAAC, as defined by the Conservation Collier Ordinance, has been to assist the Board in establishing an Active Properties Acquisition List with qualified purchase recommendations consistent with the goals of Conservation Collier. During 2016 there was no acquisition cycle. There were 7 CCLAAC members and they met quarterly, focusing on land management. At the end of 2016 the Board restarted a buying cycle for the Program and members began meeting monthly again, and began adding new members to return to a 9-member status One new member was added in 2017. Initially, staff was advised to evaluate only previous A and B lists properties and the Committee heard presentation during early 2017. In June of 2017, the decision was made to accept new properties too, which delayed the cycle for several months. During 2018 there were 9 active members. Membership of the CCLAAC is intended to be comprised of broad and balanced representation of the interests of Collier County citizens, including:

- Environmental, land management, and conservation interests
- Agricultural and business interests
- Educational interests
- General civic and citizen interests throughout the county.

Members currently serving, and their backgrounds and areas of expertise are:

- **William Poteet, Jr.** – Chairman (Business Interest) Re-appointed for a sixth term in February 2016, Mr. Poteet is a local Realtor and business owner who has been a member of the CCLAAC since its inception in March 2003. He has served as Chairman of the CCLAAC since August 2005 with unanimous re-election as Chair each year. He also served as a member of the Outreach Subcommittee and as Chairman of the Ordinance, Policy and Rules Subcommittee during active acquisition phases. He currently serves as the Chair of the Lands Evaluation and management Subcommittee. Mr. Poteet is an outstanding leader, assisting with the development of many Program policies. He was recognized as an Outstanding Advisory Committee Member of the month in March 2007.



- **Patricia Sherry** – Vice Chair (General Civic/Citizen Interest) Appointed in April, 2015, Ms. Sherry comes to Conservation Collier from a background of civic engagement. She served on the Town Council and Sewer Commission in her home state of Connecticut where she owned her own Insurance Agency, gaining experience with government operations and property acquisitions. Locally, Ms. Sherry has served 2 years on the Waste Water Authority in Naples, where she worked with many land issues, and has served on the Board of the Friends of Fakahatchee and on the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Action Committee.



- **Susan Calkins** – (Education Interest) Ms. Calkins was appointed in January 2015. She is



currently retired, having been previously employed as a professor of anthropology and sociology. Ms. Calkins taught courses in Eco-Tourism for Macomb College and the Hodges Center for Lifelong Learning. She is a volunteer for Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and the Community Foundation. She was actively engaged with the Conservation Collier Program at its conception, and has been engaged through the years of its operation, many times providing input to the County Commission on issues and properties.

- **Michael Seef** – (Environment-Education Interest) Mr. Seef was appointed to CCLAAC



in September 2015 to fill a vacant term through February 2017, and was reappointed for a 3 year term in February 2017. He is a retired consultant/analyst who worked with major businesses like Quaker Oats and McDonnell Douglass, and also the Federal Government in Housing and Urban Development. Locally, Mr. Seef is a Board member of various environmental and educational organizations and is a Master Naturalist volunteering for CREW and Audubon. He has managed the Clam Pass Guide educational program and has volunteered in environmental educational programs in Australia and Japan. In his own residential community, he has managed the preserve and has instituted Florida friendly landscaping, butterfly gardening and ponds management.

- **John Psaras** – (General Civic and Citizen Interest) Mr. Psaras was appointed in April



2016. Currently retired and doing consulting, He has a Ph.D. and MBA and has worked for 20 years in the chemical industry (Allied Chemical & Monsanto) in various engineering and management positions. Following that, he worked with the Department of Energy as Chief Scientific Officer of Nuclear Waste Management. In that capacity, all the Environmental Assessments he reviewed had land conservation and cleanup as components. As a result, he developed a keen interest in ecosystem damage mitigation.

He has served on his Parish Council, as a board member of several condominium associations, and is currently a board member of the Naples Council of World Affairs and serves as a Model UN Judge. While much of his career has involved engineering and business management, his life's avocation is Minoan Archeology. He has participated in archeological digs on the island of Crete and has experience in conservation of archeological sites.

- **Jacob Winge** – (Education Interest) Mr. Winge was appointed in September 2016. A



Fourth Generation Floridian, Jacob's family has lived in Collier County since the 1920s. Jacob has volunteered, supported, and served with a number of organizations and local boards including the Collier Republican Club, the Greater Naples Better Government Committee, the Friends of Rookery Bay, the East Naples Civic Association, the Friends of the Collier County Museums, Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, The Latchkey League, East Naples Kiwanis, the NAACP, and Youth Haven. He also serves on the Growth Management Oversight Committee. Jacob's professional experience includes marketing, community outreach, and strategic planning.

- **Carol Pratt** – (Environmental and Conservation) Ms. Pratt was appointed on June 27,



2018 to fill the remainder of a vacant term. She worked for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for 8 years (1992-2000) as a federal law enforcement officer stationed at J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge where she enjoyed educating visitors about wildlife and habitats. For 4 years (2006-2010) she worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as a Public Relations Specialist. She currently serves on the Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Association board, the GAC Land Trust Committee, and is a member of FWC's South Bear Stakeholders Group. She has been a Collier County resident for decades, has a good understanding of the challenges associated with conservation, and a knack for communicating with the public making science interesting and understandable.

- **Gary Bromley** – (General Civic/Citizen) Mr. Bromley was appointed January 23, 2018



for a 3-year term. Mr. Bromley has lived in Collier County for 4 years, originally from Westchester, NY, where he served as an environmental educator. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in social science work and is currently retired. This is Mr. Bromley's first time serving on a County Board, but he is a member of the League of Women voters where he participates on the Environmental and Government Committees. He has also participated in efforts to place Constitutional Amendments on voter ballots and has participated with the Stonecrab Alliance on environmental issues.

- **Brittany Patterson-Weber** – (Environmental/Conservation/Education) Ms. Patterson-



Weber was appointed on June 12, 2018 for a 3-year term. She is currently the Director of Education & Visitor Experience at Naples Botanical Garden, and a member of the Garden’s executive team. She has spent the last 15 years in Florida and the Caribbean working in environmental education as both an educator and program/center Director at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium (Ft. Myers), Pidgeon Key Marine Science Foundation (marathon), South Seas Island Resort (Captiva), and Ambassadors of the Environment by Jean-Michel Cousteau at the Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman. She also has done graduate work in Agricultural Extension Education and has a professional relationship with Lipman Family Farms, whom she works with to bring a program about agriculture and food systems called “Collier Greens” to teachers in Collier County. She also works with the Collier County School district to make use of Florida’s unique habitats as outdoor classrooms.

Past Members 2016-2018:

- **Tracey Dewrell** – (Business Interest) Re-appointed to a second term in April 2015, Mr.



Dewrell is a real estate and general litigation attorney and the managing partner in Dewrell and Sacks, LLP. Mr. Dewrell has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1998 and is also admitted to practice in GA, where he is a registered arbitrator. He is the author of the Federal Bar Review of Florida (1998-2008) and the Georgia Foreclosure Investors Report, a statewide publication of mortgage foreclosures with investment analysis maintaining over 1800 monthly subscribers. He is also chairman and CEO of U.S. Title Insurance Corp, a national provider of title insurance and escrow

services. Mr. Dewrell has experience in land appraisal, a strong interest in conservation and land management.

- **John Hamilton Burton II** - (Agriculture and Business Interest) Re-appointed in February



2013, Mr. Burton is a Broker Associate with Premiere Plus Realty in Naples. He is a native Floridian, and has been a local resident for over 30 years. His background is in commercial and residential real estate as well as the landscape nursery industry. His skills include areas like contract negotiations, construction and appraisals. He studied Agricultural Economics at the University of Florida, Warrington College of Business and is active in the Naples Area Board of Realtors. Mr. Burton’s appointment ended Feb 11, 2016.

- **Clarence Tears** - Clarence Tears, Jr. - (Environmental and Conservation Interest) Mr. Tears served from February 2010 to January 2016. Prior 2014, Mr. Tears had been the Director of the Big Cypress Basin /South Florida Water Management District, serving since October 1996, until he retired in early 2014. He was responsible for the management of water resources for the public's health, safety, and welfare in Collier and northwest Monroe Counties with experience spanning more than 24 years. Mr. Tears has served in numerous positions of community leadership including graduate of Leadership Florida, Chairman of Leadership Collier Class of 2001, Chairman Lake Trafford Restoration Task Force, and appointment to the Immokalee Area Master Plan Committee and 951 Horizon Study. He an active member of the US Air Force Reserves with more than 24 years of service.



3. Program Lands Acquisition Status

At the December 13, 2016 Board meeting (Agenda Item 10B) Commissioner Saunders presented an item calling for the re-establishment of funding of the Conservation Collier Program. Staff was asked to come back in January 2017 with a report on current status of the program and options for gauging public sentiment regarding re-authorization of the levy. The options staff brought back on 1/24/17 (Agenda Item 11-C) included informal polling already done by the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) and proposals for a poll. No specific decision was made but staff was asked to come back in February to further explore funding options.

At the February 14, 2017 Board meeting, Commissioner McDaniel came back with a plan to start acquisitions immediately by borrowing from the Land Management Trust Fund and going to referendum later, presumably in 2018, to recoup the funds. The final Board vote at that meeting was to use up to \$17 million of Land Management Trust Funds and restart the program. At that time, it was thought that a countywide referendum could be done in 2018, but there was another tax increase also proposed for 2018, the one penny tax. After subsequent considerations of including Conservation Collier as a beneficiary of the one penny tax, it was determined in June not to do this and to wait until 2020 for a referendum so as not to compete with the one-penny tax.

In April 2017, staff brought back an executive summary to the Board to expand the membership of the CCLAAC in anticipation of a land acquisition phase for the program. At that time, the goal was to seek the A and B list properties from the 2011 AAL.

In June 2017, staff was asked to bring an item to the Board giving an historic overview and status of the Conservation Collier Program. At that time, staff was told to include new properties in addition to existing A & B properties. This set the cycle 9 timing back by several months, as typically, the cutoff for applications in a cycle was June (six months for applications and six months to develop the list).

In July 2017, the Board discussed proposed millage rates and considered adopting millage for Conservation Collier in the FY18 budget. After much public comment it was decided not to include Conservation Collier in the FY18 budget but to look at including it in the one-penny tax.

That idea was also unsuccessful as it was opposed by local Conservation organizations. The fallback plan was a public referendum in 2020.

In November 2017 staff was asked to bring an item regarding possible changes to program selection criteria and to the Board. As many of the property reports were already completed by that time, it would have set the program back even further to change the criteria midway in a cycle. Staff's proposal was to develop a Resolution allowing the Board to better focus existing criteria for this cycle. The Board declined to sign the Resolution.

In February 2018, staff was asked to approach the Board again, go through the acquisition cycle process again and get direction regarding the program criteria, again. Since the cycle was nearly completed by this time, a discussion about changing criteria at this point was potentially cataclysmic. Staff brought back the Resolution further focusing criteria for a future cycle, which the Board did sign.

In April 2018, staff brought the CCLAAC-recommended Active Acquisition List to the Board. The CCLAAC recommended all but one of the offered properties, and staff recommended only buying the Hack property and continuing acquisitions in the multi-parcel projects using funds donated through the offsite preservation option in the LDC (03.05.07). The Board only approved both the Gore and Hack properties for acquisition, citing concern about spending Conservation Collier funds which may be needed during hurricane season, but approved the acquisition of multi-parcel projects parcels with offsite preservation donations. Staff was asked to come back in July to discuss the remainder of the recommended properties.

In July 2018, staff brought back the remainder of the CCLAAC-recommended properties to the Board, recommending placing them on the "B" List until additional funding could be secured. The Board approved the entire list as A-List properties and asked staff to develop more information and return in the fall of 2018.

Staff plans to return to the Board in December 2019, 2 years after cycle 9 was started, still recommending not to acquire the remaining 7 properties on the Cycle 9 AAL until a dedicated source of funding can be found. At this time the Gore property is close to acquisition and the Hack parcel owners have refused the County's offer.

In addition to the cycle 9 properties, Conservation Collier also acquired properties between 2016 and 2018 through the offsite preservation option for developers in the Land Development Code and also had approval to approach the Board for "good deals." No "good deals" were offered, but 6.6 acres were acquired in the multi-parcel projects as donations, and approx. \$120,000 was received as monetary donations. These donations were used to acquire an additional 11.15 acres in the multi-parcel projects for \$105,700. See listings in Tables 2. and 3.– *Good Deals, Land Donation and Monetary Donations* - and 3. – *Multi-parcel project parcels acquired in 2018* - below.

Table 2. Good Deals, Land Donations

Good Deals: None acquired between 2016 and 2018.

Land Donations: The following land donations under the Offsite Preservation option in the Land Development code (LDC 3.05.07, H.1.f. iii. a. and b.) were accepted by the Board between 2016 and 2018:

| Owner | Acres | MPP Location | Endowment Provided | Assessed Value | Board Approved /Item Number | Date Closed |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| PNC Bank Donation | 1.14 | Winchester Head | \$0 (Straight Donation) | \$15,134 | 4/26/16 – 16A19 | 8/24/16 |
| Lane Park | 1.14 | Winchester Head | \$19,608 | \$13,620 | 12/13/16 – 16D1 | 4/26/16 |
| Richmond Park | 1.59 | Winchester Head | \$6,193.05 | \$18,997 | 1/10/17 – D5 | 12/8/17 |
| Vincentian PUD | 2.73 | Red Maple Swamp | \$10,633.35 | \$21,431 | 10/25/16 – 11E | 2/22/17 |
| Total | 6.6 | | \$36,434 | \$69,182 | | |

Table 3. Monetary Donations

Monetary Donations: The following monetary donations were accepted by the Board between 2016 and 2017.

| Owner | Land Acquisition Provided | Endowment Provided | Board Approved/Item Number | Date Received | Earmark |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Chatham Woods | \$33,499.30 | \$8,374.82 | 12/13/16 16D1 | 12/14/16 | Multi-parcel projects (MPPs) |
| Comcast Data Facility | \$1,775.94 | \$443.98 | 3/28/17 16D1 | 4/5/17 | MPPs |
| Naples Self Storage | \$36,030.56 | \$9,007.64 | 4/11/17 16D4 | 5/23/17 | MPPs |
| Price Street and 41 | \$48,641.26 | \$12,160.31 | Administratively Approved | 5/28/17 | MPPs |
| Total | \$119,947.06 | \$29,986.75 | | | |

*Donations through the LDC section 3.05.07, H.1.f. iii. a.

The Land Development Code off-site vegetation retention provision provides the criteria and process for land and endowment donations. Two approved multi-parcel projects (MMPs), Winchester Head (aka North Golden Gate Estates (NGGE) Unit 65) and Red Maple Swamp (aka NGGE Unit 53) are active in accepting donations. In July 2015, after accepting 6 land donations, the Board directed staff to review the current endowment donation amount with the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) and the Development Services Advisory Committee (DSAC) for recommendations to amend the LDC to increase the long-term management endowment. On 7/10/18, fully 2 years later, the Board approved the revised off-site preservation section of the Land Development Code. In this amendment, the size of preserve that can be taken offsite was reduced to ½ acre and endowment fees were increased. Several projects have elected to utilize the offsite preservation monetary option during 2018, but these donations

have not yet come to fruition. Per Board direction from April 24, 2018 (Agenda Item 11B), donation funds received are being used to acquire properties within the MMPs.

Multi Parcel Projects Acquisition with Donation Funds: Since the start of the offsite preservation option in 2010, monetary donations in the amount of \$700,600 have been received, with \$440,000 designated for land acquisition and \$260,600 designated for land management. A total of \$18,919 have been used for land management at the Gordon River Greenway addition and in the Red Maple Swamp Preserve in 2016 and 2018. A total of \$179,226 has been used for acquisition starting with the CDC parcel (Gordon River Greenway Addition) in 2015 and 6 parcels within the MMPs in 2018, as noted below.

The following properties were acquired or are in the acquisition process after the Cycle 9 Active Acquisition List (AAL) was approved by the Board on 4/24/18 (Item 11B):

Table 4. Multi-parcel Property Acquisitions in 2018

| Owner | Acres | Location | Cost | Assessed Value | Date Acquired/Status |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Thurston | 1.14 | Red Maple Swamp | \$6,555 | \$8,949 | Acquired 5/17/18 |
| Celsnak | 2.73 | Red Maple Swamp | \$15,698 | \$21,431 | Acquired 5/16/18 |
| Romak | 1.14 | Red Maple Swamp | \$6,555 | \$8,949 | Acquired 7/23/18 |
| Bueno | 2.73 | Winchester Head | \$34,125 | \$36,241 | Going through probate |
| Wallace | 1.14 | Winchester Head | \$14,250 | \$15,134 | Acquired 5/31/18 |
| Wilson/Foster/Smith | 1.14 | Winchester Head | \$14,250 | \$15,134 | Going through probate |
| Mejia | 1.14 | Winchester Head | \$14,250 | \$15,134 | Acquired 6/12/18 |
| Total | 11.16 | | \$105,683 | \$120,972 | |

Program Land Management Status

Properties are presented alphabetically. All photos and maps shown were created and taken by Program staff unless otherwise indicated. Preserves are categorized for public use in the following manner:

Category 1 – Primary Use Preserve; easily accessible with public amenities and parking.

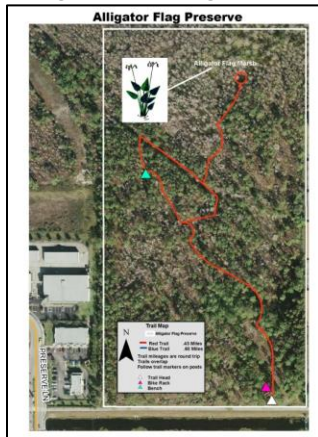
Category 2 – Intermediate Use Preserve; few to no amenities, limited parking, primitive trails.

Category 3 – Neighborhood Preserve; no onsite parking or amenities other than benches, trails and picnic table.

Category 4 – Seasonal Use Preserve; may have parking and trails but will be closed during seasonal rainfall months.

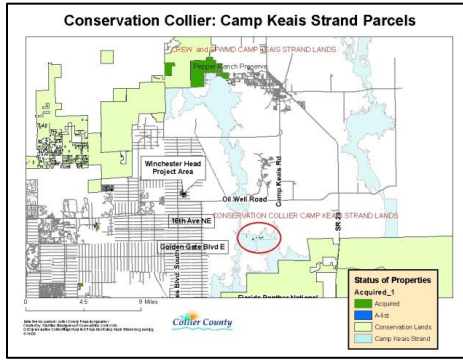
Category 5 – Resource Protection/Restoration Preserve; currently no public access due to lack of physical or legal access or where there are unsafe conditions for the public.

Alligator Flag – 7875 Immokalee Road, North Naples. This 18.46 acre Category 4, seasonal use preserve is located on the north side of Immokalee Road across from Gulf Coast High school. It was acquired in July 2006 at a cost of \$4,960,000 or \$268,741 per acre. It is open to foot traffic between dawn and dusk during dry season as the preserve floods in the summer. There is no dedicated parking and no restroom, but it does have an approximately 1 mile long established trail system and resting bench. Visitation at this preserve is mostly from surrounding residents and from the nearby schools.



This preserve is representative of several of the typical habitat types in Collier County, including seasonally flooded cypress-pine-cabbage palm, cypress wetlands and pine flatwoods. Seventy-eight species of plants have been identified growing on the preserve, including 4 species protected by the State of Florida (3 bromeliads and 1 fern). Many species of wildlife have been recorded on the preserve, including wetland dependent and migratory bird species, black bear, deer, raccoon, and snakes. The preserve is also suitable for foraging by the state and federally endangered wood stork, and is home to the state threatened Big Cypress fox squirrel. This preserve provides outfall to the Immokalee Road canal for an identified flow way connecting with the adjacent 160-acre Olde Cypress PUD preserve, to larger undeveloped areas to the north, and the 60,000-acre Corkscrew Marsh Complex to the northeast.

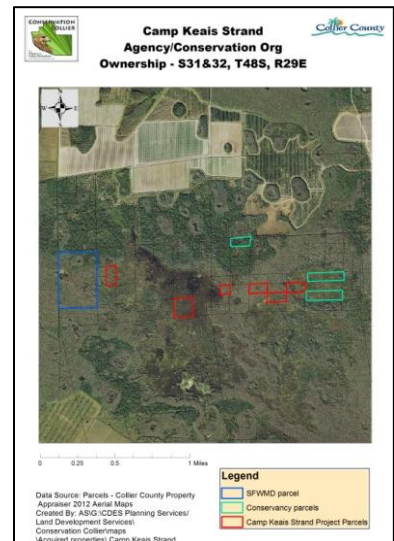
In 2016 and 2017, the emphasis focused on general trail maintenance. A monitoring project for the Big Cypress Fox Squirrel was initiated by the University of Arizona. The study is scheduled to be completed in June 2019 and results will be provided to staff. Hurricane Irma in September 2017 downed many tree branches and scattered debris, but no significant damage was done. The preserve was reopened to the public in November 2017. In June 2018 a people counter was installed to gauge visitation. The counter was installed in April 2018 and counted 50 persons a week accessing the preserve that month. That number fell off during the summer to 20 persons per week. Counts are approximations. Exotic removal continued through 2018.



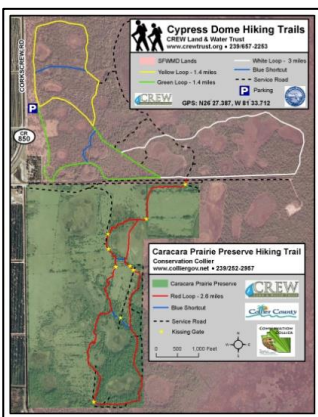
Camp Keais Strand Parcels - The Camp Keais Strand project, a Category 2 resource protection preserve constitutes 6 parcels totaling 32.5 acres within the Flowway Stewardship area of the Rural Lands Stewardship Area, south of Oil Well Road and east of Desoto Boulevard in Sections 31 and 32, Township 48 South, Range 29 East. These parcels were acquired between 2008 and 2009 for a total cost of \$81,250 or \$2,500 per acre. Three of the parcels are contiguous and three are non-contiguous. Because there is no legal access established to the properties and physical access to this area is dangerous and difficult,

staff has not visited the properties other than to view them from above by airplane at the time they were offered. To the best of staff’s knowledge, the parcels are comprised of cypress forest, freshwater marsh and mesic pine flatwood vegetation communities.

Most of the land in the vicinity is owned by large agribusiness in section sized parcels; however, within the two Sections where these are located, the parcels have been subdivided into 1 to 80-acre parcels and are owned by private individuals and agencies. The Conservancy of SW Florida and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) also own parcels within this area. An Interim Management Plan (IMP) update was approved by the Board on 12/8/15 (Agenda Item 16D9), and again on 4/10/18 (Agenda Item 16D5). The Conservation Collier Financial Plan does not provide for management of these parcels. The approved Interim Management Plan will be reviewed every 2 years for changes in conditions and is in effect a monitoring plan until current access conditions improve.



Caracara Prairie – 2320 Corkscrew Road. This Category 2, 367.7-acre, intermediate use preserve is located in the unincorporated northeast area of Collier County at the east end of Corkscrew Road at the Lee/Collier County boundary. It was acquired in December 2007 for \$5,032,000, or \$13,685 per acre in partnership with the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem (CREW) Trust, who contributed \$300,000 toward the purchase price. The parcel is surrounded on 3 sides by CREW lands. This preserve is open to the public year-round from dawn to dusk for hiking and wildlife viewing. A three-mile trail system connects with adjoining CREW Cypress Dome trails and parking, located approximately 1 mile north. Visitation at this preserve is growing during dry season but low during the wet season.



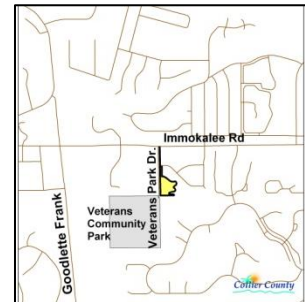
The preserve contains three distinct native vegetation communities, prairie, depressional marsh wetlands and mesic pine flatwoods. The pastures provide habitat for native Florida wildlife species including the federally endangered Florida panther, state threatened Florida sandhill crane and the federally endangered crested caracara.

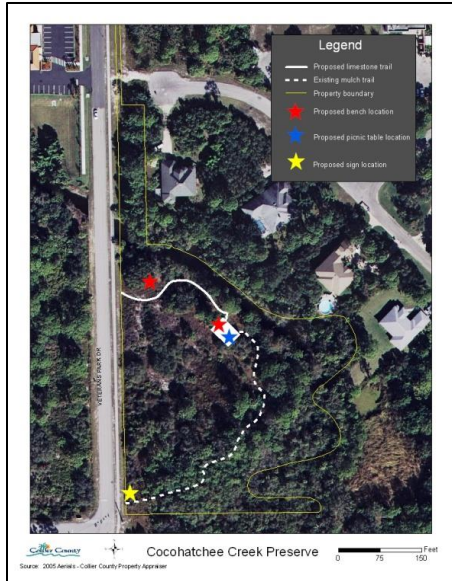
The preserve lies within Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)-designated priority panther habitat and within the FWC Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA), a designation that permits recreational hunting with FWC oversight. This preserve was also utilized for U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) panther mitigation for the Collier County Solid Waste Department’s Resource Recovery Park in 2014.

This preserve currently has a cattle lease which is planned to be phased out over time. Eagle Scouts have provided hiking gates, tables, resting benches and an information kiosk. In 2016, a prescribed burn for fuel reduction was performed with good results. Additionally, one-hundred (100) Cordgrass plantings took place in the northwest marsh. Monitoring of wildlife camera surveys continued throughout 2016, 2017 and 2018 with panther, deer, hogs, turkey, owl, cattle egret, great blue heron and other species noted. Hurricane Irma in September 2017 downed many trees, requiring extensive cleanup which was completed, and the preserve reopened in December 2017. In July 2018, another 29 acres were burned in the southwest section of the parcel to reduce understory, reduce hazardous fuel buildup, improve wildlife habitat, improve vegetation diversity, and increase native grasses and forbs. In October 2018, staff received notice from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that the leaseholder for the Oil, Gas, and Mineral Rights (OGMs) has applied for re-drilling an exploratory test oil well on the site (Permit Application #1335D) and has requested a surface lease. Staff has responded by requesting that specific protections for the site and its wildlife be built into the permit and requesting assistance from the County Attorney’s Office in regard to a Surface Lease.

Cocohatchee Creek– 1880 Veterans Park Drive, North Naples.

This 3.64-acre preserve is located along Veterans Park Drive just outside the entrance to Veterans Community Park off Immokalee Road in North Naples. It is a Category 2, intermediate use preserve. Parking, restroom facilities and handicapped parking are located at Veteran’s Community Park, a short walk away. A shell trail winds approximately 700 feet through the preserve to a picnic area under the oaks along the Cocohatchee Creek. The portion of the trail leading to the picnic area is handicapped accessible. Table, bench and trash/recycle receptacles are provided. Visitation is approximately a dozen people a day. Two Eagle Scout projects have been developed here. The first is a seating area at the north entrance and the second is a viewing platform next to the creek at the picnic area.





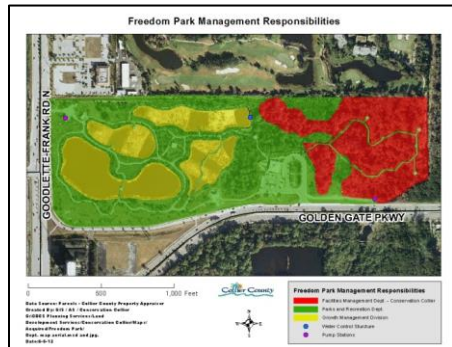
This preserve contains one of the priority plant communities targeted in the Conservation Collier ordinance: riverine oak. Remnant patches of upland scrub (another program priority) pine flatwoods and cabbage palm forest make up the remainder of the upland habitats. A portion of Cocohatchee creek is included within preserve boundaries. This small freshwater creek separates the preserve from the neighboring residential development and contains wetlands used by foraging wading birds. The preserve buffers and protects this creek, which flows north to the County’s Wiggins Pass. The preserve is also home to several gopher tortoises, a state species of special concern. In 2016, with assistance from FWC, the creek was treated to remove invasive grass. Additionally, herbicide maintenance applications are applied to control exotic weeds and poison ivy. In September 2019 Hurricane Irma dropped tree limbs and

other debris in the preserve, but these were cleaned up and the preserve reopened to the public in October 2017. The management focus is on keeping the preserve free of exotic plants and trash, keeping the creek free of exotic plants, maintaining the trail, and monitoring the resident gopher tortoises.

Freedom Park – 1515 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples.

This 12.5-acre Category 1, primary use preserve is part of the larger Freedom Park (50 acres total), formerly called the Gordon River Water Quality Park. After the County had acquired Freedom Park in 2004 under a Florida

Communities Trust (FCT) Grant, the eastern 12.5 acres were sold to the Conservation Collier Program for \$56,300.



Freedom Park is associated with the Gordon River Greenway Corridor, a 2-mile ecological trail corridor centrally located within the Naples-Collier County urban area. One overall

Land Management Plan was developed and approved by the Board and FCT for management of both Freedom Park and the Gordon River Greenway Park. The Freedom Park preserve portion is located on the eastern side of the park and encompasses natural wetlands. Responsibilities for this park are shared between the Parks and Recreation Department, Stormwater Department and Conservation Collier, as shown on the map. Conservation Collier benefits by the presence of onsite restrooms and parking maintained by Parks and Recreation. The Conservation Collier portion has a boardwalk on it that is also maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Habitat on the Freedom Park Preserve portion is freshwater tidal swamp with a small hammock containing a mix of wetland hardwood tree species and cabbage palms. Numerous wetland dependent bird species utilize the wetlands and listed wildlife observed includes Big Cypress fox squirrels, tricolored herons, little blue herons and snowy egrets.

Ongoing maintenance of multiple exotic species along the boardwalk, trail and berms throughout the preserve was facilitated during 2016 and 2017 by staff and private contractors. This preserve is well used by the public. In June 2018 a people counter was installed to gauge visitation. The counter was installed in May 2018 and counted 400 persons per week accessing the preserve that month. That number peaked in June to 600 persons, fell to about 400 per week for the remainder of the summer and is counting 600 per week again starting in September 2018. Counts are approximations. Exotic removal continued through 2018.

Gordon River Greenway – 1596 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples. The 117.6-acre Gordon



River Greenway Park is a signature property and partnership project including Conservation Collier, Parks and Recreation, SW Florida Land Preservation Trust, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Naples Zoo, Naples Municipal Airport and City of Naples. Conservation Collier's portion is 50.51 acres at the south side of the Park. Joining with Parks and Recreation as one seamless project has enabled Conservation Collier to maintain the preserve qualities of the property, yet provide access via a paved trail and boardwalk, and access to parking, restrooms and other amenities that are not typically found on conservation lands. The Gordon River Greenway is a category 1 preserve, indicating it is a primary use preserve, easily accessible with public amenities and parking. There are over 2 miles of boardwalks and trails on the entire project with a third of a mile on the Conservation Collier portion. The initial 43-acre preserve property was acquired in April 2006 for a cost of \$2,085,900, or \$48,509 per acre. An additional 7.51 acres was acquired in November 2015

for \$400,000, or \$53,262 per acre. The development of trails, boardwalks and construction added \$1,755,496 for a total project cost of \$4,241,396. The Park was opened to the public in November 2014 and is extremely popular with residents and visitors.

Habitats seen from the trail on the Conservation Collier preserve portion include the Gordon River, wetland hardwoods, scrub and mangrove forest. The preserve is home to many species of native and protected wildlife including numerous species of wading birds, migrating bird species, alligators, gopher tortoises, Big Cypress fox squirrel and manatees. A 17-



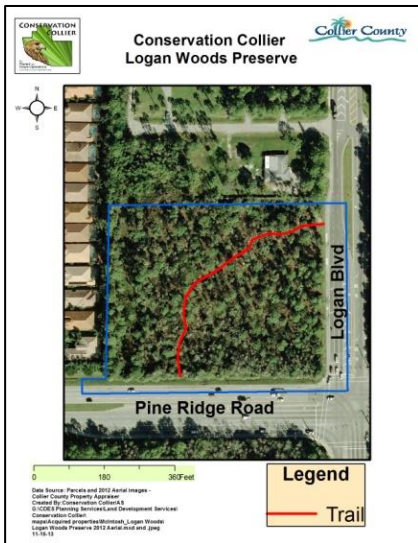
acre gopher tortoise preserve lies within the overall park, with a portion of that inside Conservation Collier's portion. The preserve contains wetland mitigation areas where, after exotics are removed, staff will monitor native plant recruitment and potentially add supplemental plantings. In the summer of 2015, an Eagle Scout project and an FGCU work day, provided restoration plantings in upland areas where exotics were removed. In July 2017, another Eagle Scout installed plant signs along the trail. Numerous listed plant species have been observed within the preserve area and are being routinely monitored. Initial archeological surveys discovered an historic spoil pile on Conservation Collier lands but it did not qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Collection of artifacts or disturbance of archeological or historical sites is prohibited. Interpretive signage is in the development process and nearly completed.

2016 began with a post storm/tornado assessment with several trees down and blocking boardwalk but no damage to infrastructure. 2016 and 2017 continued with trail and boardwalk monitoring and removal of exotics by hand or chemically throughout preserve. In fall of 2017, Hurricane Irma did damage to the forest and some trees were removed but more were staked and retained. Minor damage to the boardwalk was repaired in early 2018. In late 2017, the new 7.51-acre portion that was added in 2015 had a mulched trail installed and was planted with native species as part of an Eagle Scout planting project to restore areas where significant exotics had been removed. The planting project was completed in summer 2018.

This preserve is well used by the public. In April 2018 a people counter was installed to gauge visitation. The counter was installed in May 2018 and counted 3,250 persons per week accessing the preserve that month. That number fell in June to 2,000 persons and has stayed in that range for the remainder of the summer through September 2018. Counts are approximations. Exotic removal continued through 2018.

Logan Woods – 831 Logan Blvd, Naples.

Logan Woods is a 6.78-acre Category 3 neighborhood preserve located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Logan Blvd. and Pine Ridge Road, about one mile east of I-75 at the Pine Ridge Road exit. It was purchased in October 2005 for \$711,983, or \$105,012 per acre. The Transportation Department partnered with Conservation Collier to acquire future road Right Of Way both along Pine Ridge Road and Logan Blvd. Until this portion is needed for road expansion, it will be managed as preserve land. There is an approximately 700-foot mulched trail, bike rack, picnic table, bench, trash and recycle receptacles at the preserve. The preserve is used regularly by neighbors.

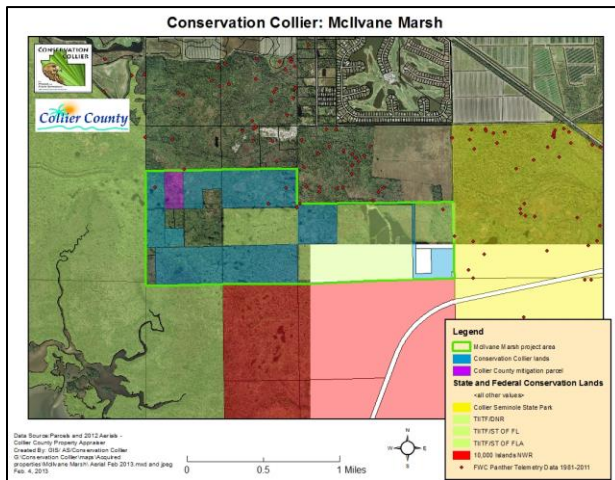


This preserve was acquired primarily as green space. The surrounding residential community strongly supported its acquisition and made that support known to the Conservation Collier Committee and Commissioners. Their support was a critical factor in the decision to purchase this preserve. The vegetation community present is typical for Collier County – Cypress-pine-cabbage palm. It was severely infested with melaleuca and Brazilian pepper prior to acquisition. Extensive exotic removal was funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Invasive Plant Management. The University of Florida also removed melaleuca on a neighboring property to avoid reinfestation using their TAME Melaleuca Project. The primary goal for this preserve is to keep it clean and safe and to maintain the trail and picnic area for use by visitors.



Exotic maintenance control continued in 2016 as well as general trail maintenance by several volunteer groups and individuals. The north property fence painting was assisted by 28 students from St. John Neumann High School in early 2017. In 2016 and 2017 removing a dead pine tree leaning over neighboring property hastened an evaluation of several other large pines along the preserve border. Residents wanting to remove these pines prompted the CCLAAC to consider a tree policy for urban preserves, which will come forward when finalized. Unfortunately, many of the trees residents were concerned about fell on their homes in Hurricane Irma. The tree canopy in the preserve was significantly impacted. Many large pines fell and were subsequently removed.

McIlvane Marsh- No address assigned. This Category 5, resource protection preserve is located northeast of Marco Island and southwest of the intersection of U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) and County Road 92 (San Marco Road). The McIlvane Marsh is an 800-acre mangrove salt marsh with unpaved gated access from Curcie Road off CR 92. Conservation Collier owns 9 parcels totaling 378.87 acres in a mosaic pattern with the State of Florida (329 acres), Collier County Transportation Department (20 acres) and private owners (80 acres). It was acquired between May 2007 and January 2012 for a cost of \$2,804,791, or \$7,403 per acre. There is currently no public access. It has an approved

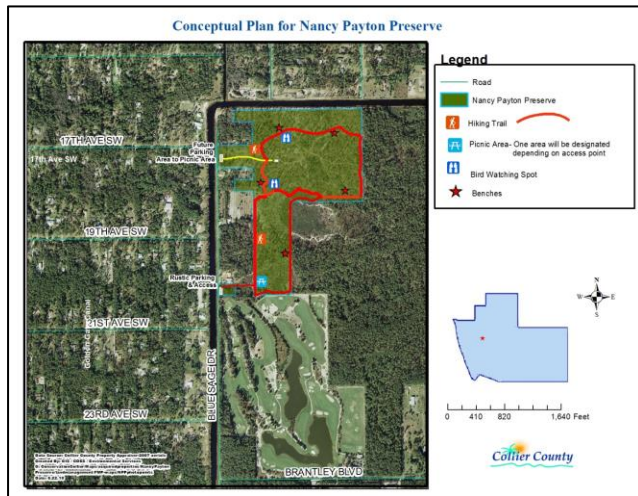


Interim Management Plan with the key objective to protect the habitat onsite, most recently updated on 4/10/18 (Agenda Item 16D2).

McIlvane Marsh is a tidally influenced wetland consisting primarily of open marsh and mangrove wetlands with small upland island areas on its northern and eastern edges. Approximately 15-acres of pine flatwoods uplands exist on the north side of the marsh and 6 acres of cleared uplands exist on the eastern edge of the marsh. Any treatment and retreatment of exotic vegetation is dependent on the planned management activities of adjacent agency lands. Wildlife surveys should be developed and coordinated with surrounding conservation agencies to determine monitoring plan goals, techniques and parameters.



Nancy Payton – 1540 Blue Sage Drive, located east of Golden Gate City, taking White Blvd to 23rd St SW, turning south and then traveling west on Brantley Blvd. to Blue Sage Drive. This 71-acre Category 2, intermediate use preserve was acquired in sections between September 2005 and April 2010 for a total cost of \$2,507,250, or \$35,313 per acre. In December 2006, it was officially renamed the “Nancy Payton Preserve” by the Board of County Commissioners. Nancy Payton recently retired after working for many years for the Florida Wildlife Federation and has been very active in the preservation of this Collier County Belle Meade Area.



to 23rd St SW, turning south and then traveling west on Brantley Blvd. to Blue Sage Drive. This 71-acre Category 2, intermediate use preserve was acquired in sections between September 2005 and April 2010 for a total cost of \$2,507,250, or \$35,313 per acre. In December 2006, it was officially renamed the “Nancy Payton Preserve” by the Board of County Commissioners. Nancy Payton recently retired after working for many years for the Florida Wildlife Federation and has been very active in the preservation of this Collier County Belle Meade Area.

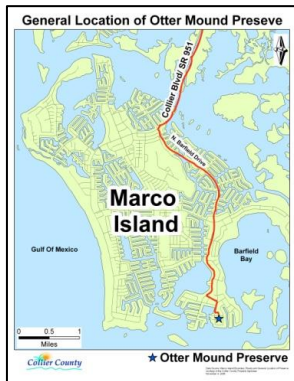
Management of this preserve balances resource restoration and protection with natural resource-based recreational and educational use. This preserve is covered under a US Fish and Wildlife Service “Safe Harbor Agreement” to implement management actions that will provide a net conservation benefit for the Red Cockaded woodpecker (Federal–E). The preserve opened to the public in May 2015, however, access issues exist. Blue Sage Drive is an unpaved easement road that is in very poor condition. Staff is researching road improvement potential. The public can access this site and educational tours for summer camps and other groups have been conducted at the site. A nature trail, benches, picnic tables and educational interpretive signs have been provided for visitors, with contributions by Eagle Scouts.



Downed trees across the trail from the January 2016 tornado were removed and an interpretive sign damaged by the tornado was repaired. Additionally, cameras were installed as problems with ATV riders increased in 2016 and 2017. In early 2017, a wildlife camera was destroyed by vandals and a police case was opened, but no charges were filed as the perpetrator was not discovered.

After Hurricane Irma in fall of 2017, multiple trees and limbs were down blocking the trail and the parking area. Following Hurricane Irma, a wildfire was started by a lightning strike. Trees were cleared from trails by November 2017 and the preserve was reopened to the public. In 2018, there were 3 breeding bird surveys done on the property expanding the bird list. Also, Gopher Tortoise surveys were conducted in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (with help from FWC) which included mapping of burrows. Maintenance of exotics continued throughout the preserve. This preserve is a destination site for bird watching. Exotic removal continued through 2018.

Otter Mound – 1831 Addison Court, Marco Island. Otter



Mound Preserve is a 2.46-acre Category 2, intermediate use urban preserve located in southwestern Collier County in a residential area of Marco Island. The preserve was acquired between 2004 and 2007 for \$2,064,976, or \$839,421 per acre. The entire preserve site is a Calusa shell mound (c. 700 A.D.-1200 A.D.) that contains artifacts of both archaeological and historical significance. Access to the preserve is from Osceola Court and Addison Court - with 3-space public parking available including handicapped space at the entrance. It is



Otter Mound Preserve was purchased because it contains tropical hardwood hammock habitat, a priority habitat designated by the Conservation Collier Ordinance (2007-65, as amended, Section 10.1.a.). In addition, the preserve contains the following features that make it an important archaeological and historical site: undisturbed Calusa shell mounds, a historic pioneer structure (outhouse), and shell terracing that runs along the northern and western sections of the property. The location of the preserve in the urban area provides an opportunity for citizens, visitors, and school-age children to view this habitat type and some Island history without traveling far.

Otter Mound Preserve is well used by Marco Island residents and visitors including numerous local bike tours, neighbors who routinely walk the preserve and students and other local groups who gather for educational programs given by staff. The City of Marco Island partners with Conservation Collier to maintain the Right of Way in front of the preserve.



In March 2016, staff called the Marco Island Police to open a case stemming from complaints of drug activity going on at night in the preserve. Staff installed cameras and requested increased police patrols, and the problem ceased. The case was closed in December 2017 because there never was a specific person of interest identified.

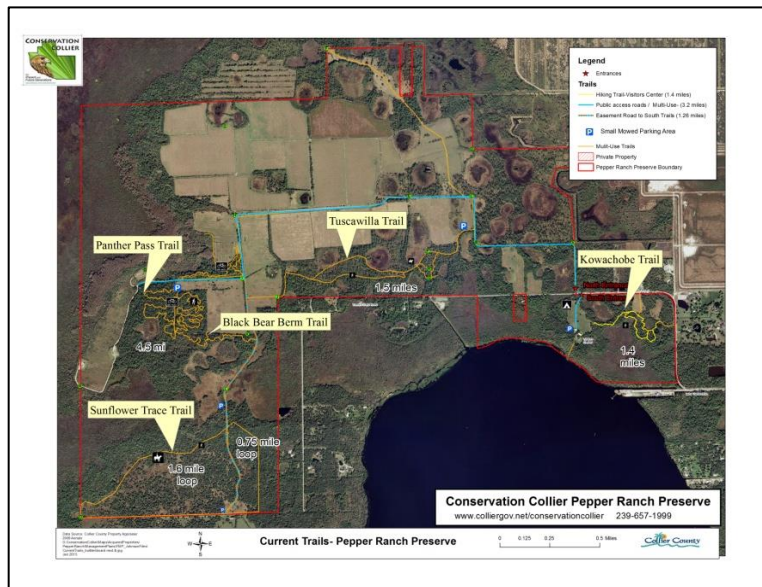
During 2016 and 2017, general trail maintenance by staff and volunteer groups (FGCU and the Sunrise Rotary of Marco Island), including hand pulling and chemical applications for exotics by staff, was ongoing. During this time there were continuing disease issues with gumbo limbo trees, remaining from a 2013 infestation of an unknown organism that caused gumbo limbo trees to collapse, requiring removal. Tissue samples had been sent to the Florida Division of Plant Industry, which were inconclusive, and Dr. Doug Caldwell at IFAS was asked to come evaluate the infestation. Several trees were treated with Imidacloprid as a test, but widespread treatment was not pursued on advice from IFAS./UF. This problem subsided but the preserve was still losing gumbos in 2017. A total of 6 large gumbo limbo trees were removed after collapsing. There was never a specific disease agent identified. As of October 2018, no additional gumbo limbos have collapsed.

In the fall of 2017, Hurricane Irma decimated the preserve, felling at least 20 large royal Poinciana trees and taking most of the existing canopy. Many of the downed trees that did not impact the trail remain where they fell. As budgets allow, the downed trees will be removed but they are not impacting visitation.

The trail was reopened for visitors in December 2017. In January 2018, the Sunrise Marco Rotary members had a workday cleaning and re-mulching the trail. Since then, routine management has been done to clear exotics and maintain the trail. Visitation is high at this preserve, as local tour operations take their visitors here and the Marco Island Museum hands out brochures and recommends visitation to its visitors.

Pepper Ranch – 6315 Pepper Road, Immokalee.

Pepper Ranch Preserve, a Category 1 preserve located west of the town of Immokalee and north of Lake Trafford, is the largest of the Conservation Collier Preserves at 2,512 acres. It was acquired in February 2009 for \$32,525,080, or \$12,948 per acre. The perception continues to exist that Conservation Collier paid too much for the property, although it was actually some of the least expensive land (per acre) that was acquired by the program – on par with lots acquired in North Golden Gate Estates.



Since its acquisition, staff has been working to remove trash and exotic

plant species, document wildlife and plants, and develop trails, programs, permit the ranch for mitigation, and provide public amenities. Currently there are approximately 15 miles of trails for use by hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. The ranch has an active cattle lease, primarily to maintain pasture areas and for security purposes, which also provides revenue of \$24,000 per

year. A limited hunt program provides opportunities for young hunters to learn the skill and for County residents to hunt hog, a pest animal that damages habitat with its rooting, and some deer and turkey, if population surveys allow. The hunt program pays for itself with fees. In 2015, a small boardwalk and covered overlook was built that provides a beautiful view of Lake Trafford.



There is an active oil operation on the western side in 2 quarter sections (330 acres) where there is one operating and two non-operating wells. The producing well pulls approximately 80 barrels of oil daily. While most of the oil, gas and mineral rights on the preserve are owned by Collier County, the 2 quarter-sections have had the rights severed and are owned by a private entity and leased to an operator - Hendry Energy Services. The oil company maintains the lime rock ranch road.

In 2014, program staff submitted an application for a Conservation Bank to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with the intention of banking and selling Panther Habitat Units to County Departments needing panther mitigation credits. No response was received from USFWS until December 2015, when USFWS responded to the original proposal submission with encouragement. A finalized proposal was submitted in 2018 and approved by the Board on October 9, 2018 (Agenda Item 16D6). The resulting Conservation Bank will provide 8,669 Panther Habitat Units (PHUs) for development of future County projects at a cost savings of \$1,077,123.25.

Staff is also working with the Lake Trafford Management Team, a multi-agency group seeking to address water quality issues in Lake Trafford. Conservation Collier has collaborated with UF/IFAS on a project to redefine the watershed boundaries for Lake Trafford to determine what inputs may be affecting the lake's water quality. That project was completed in December 2016, and the data will be used to inform future restoration of the preserve. It is anticipated that restoration activities on the preserve will primarily involve blocking and filling ditches that lead into Lake Trafford with adjacent berm material. Staff has been applying for an FWC grant for several years to conduct the modeling portion of the project. It has been turned down 3 times, but FWC staff still appear interested and discussions are ongoing. Depending upon the results from the modeling, restoration along the ditch leading to Lake Trafford may also include some type of engineered flap structure or weir to allow only a one-way flow of water from Pepper Ranch to Lake Trafford. Staff has been consulting with the Big Cypress Basin to determine opportunities for SFWMD assistance with funding of the construction, but the project will require significant matching funds from Conservation Collier, which will need to be budgeted for FY20, as they are currently not budgeted.

The preserve boasts 10 distinct types of natural plant communities, including forests, hammocks, flatwoods, prairies, marshes, swamps, strands and sloughs. Four hundred and fifteen (415) plant species have been recorded at the preserve. Fifty-two (52) bird species have been documented. with ten (10) listed species, including Audubon's crested caracara, bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane, limpkin, roseate spoonbill, and woodstork.





One of the major reasons to protect habitat is to protect the species that use it. The entire area of the ranch is included within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-designated Primary Panther Habitat. Panthers are routinely seen and recorded on wildlife cameras at the preserve. Other wildlife on the ranch includes Florida black bears, bobcats, big cypress fox squirrels, coyotes, deer, wild hogs, alligators, and snakes.

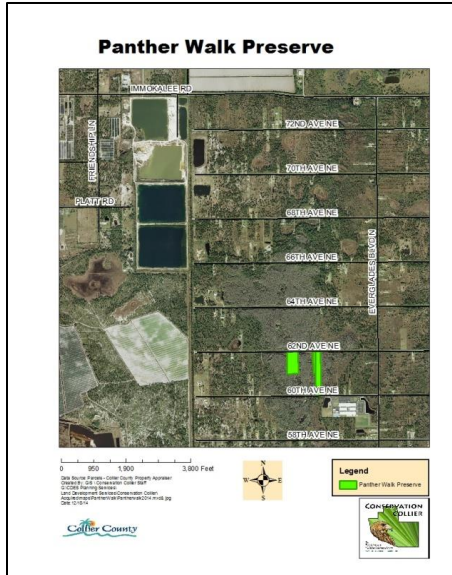
Public activities at the Preserve include festivals and guided hikes. Staff developed a volunteer-led hike program for the 2016 season, with four

Master Naturalists recruited and trained to provide the hikes at no charge to the visiting public. Four hikes occurred during the 2016 season and 3 during early 2017, however the program was halted during the remainder of 2017 and 2018 because staff was fully engaged with the 9th acquisition cycle.

Additional activities at the preserve between 2016 and 2018 included monitoring, exotic removals, and assisting with youth hunts, general hunts, special events (Earth Day/Sunflower Festival), general camping and Eagle Scout construction projects. Trail maintenance, including walking and biking, continued as did exotic maintenance and debris removal throughout the preserve. Hurricane Irma, in late 2017, created debris throughout the preserve, but much of the debris along the trail system has been removed and all trails were reopened by January 2018. Mid-summer 2018 saw a large grant funded exotic removal project completed. Staff opened the Preserve for 2 weekends, in late Sept and early October 2018 for sunflower viewing, with 2,066 people attending to view the spectacular display!

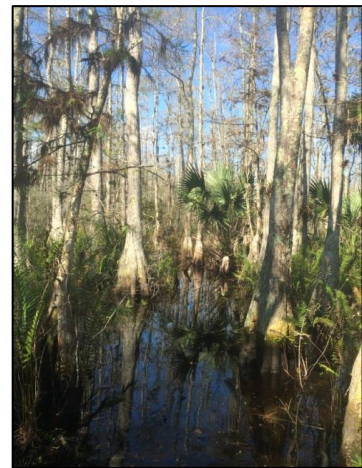


Cycle 9 is poised to add an additional 1,035 acres on the south side of the preserve, but this potential will not be realized, if at all, until 2019.



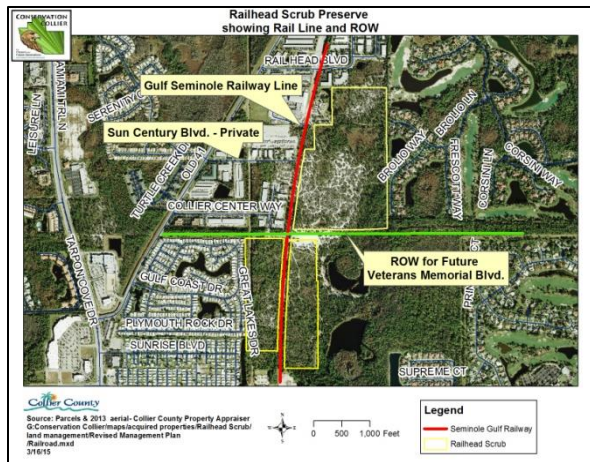
Panther Walk – 2845 60th Ave NE, Golden Gate Estates. The preserve is located west of Everglades Blvd., north of Oil Well Road, and extends between 60th Ave and 62nd Ave NE in North Golden Gate Estates in S31 T 47 R28. This preserve consists of 10.69 acres acquired between 2007 and 2014, with 5.00 acres of that a donation accepted under the Land Development Code off-site vegetation retention provision (LDC 3.05.07, H.1.f. iii. b.) and another 1.14-acres accepted as a straight donation. The cost for the purchased portions of the preserve (4.55 acres) was \$93,130, or \$20,468 per acre. In 2009, the adjacent Estates Elementary School held a preserve naming contest and the winning name of “Panther Walk Preserve” was chosen by a student and was approved by the Board. This is a Category 4, seasonal use preserve. A seasonally accessible trail allows visitors to cross the property between 60th and 62nd Aves NE.

Native plant communities within the preserve include high quality cypress wetlands, which are part of a larger wetland slough system known as Horsepen Strand. To date, 64 plant species have been recorded on the preserve. Conservation Collier staff conducted floristic inventories in 2006, 2007 and June 2010. Two listed plant species have been documented and the preserve contains habitat used by listed species including Florida sandhill cranes, wood storks, Florida panthers and mangrove fox squirrels.



In addition to its Estates zoning, this parcel is subject to the Golden Gate Area Master Plan, which has as Objective 1.3 to protect and preserve valuable natural resources. Also, as part of the Watershed Management Plan, County staff is conceptually considering projects to enhance flows of surface water through the Horsepen Strand and to make this a “sending” area in a TDR and/or Watershed Mitigation Program. A Vacant Land Market Analysis done in November 2016 estimated the market value as \$10,000 per acre. The Property Appraiser tax assessment is approximately \$6,750 per acre. For 2016, 2017 and 2018, exotic control has been ongoing. Visitation is minimal to this preserve.

Railhead Scrub – 14510 Old US 41, North Naples. Railhead Scrub



Preserve is an approximately 135-acre natural area located in the northwest corner of Collier County, south of the Railhead Industrial Park and east of Old US 41. One of the first large program purchases,



eighty acres of the preserve were acquired in July 2004 for \$21,967,050, or \$274,588 per acre. The

remaining 55 acres were acquired in June 2007 for \$10,650,000, or \$293.636 per acre. Currently Railhead Scrub Preserve is a Category 5 (Resource Protection/Restoration) preserve and will remain so until acceptable access can be secured. The preserve contains approximately 117 acres of upland habitat, primarily pine flatwoods and xeric oak scrub/scrubby flatwoods, and 18 acres of wetland habitat including cypress and hydric pine flatwoods. Xeric oak scrub is the second-most preferred habitat type identified in the Conservation Collier Ordinance (2007-65, as amended, Section 10.1.a.). This is some of the last undeveloped xeric oak scrub in Collier County,

including less than 200 acres protected in Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and another 78 acres protected by the Hamilton Harbor PUD. The previous owners of the parcel had plans to develop it into an industrial park before it was acquired.



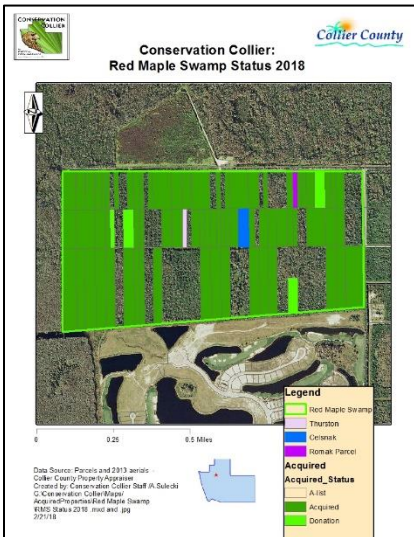
Public access to this site has been problematic. When the first part of this preserve was acquired, in 2004, the County Transportation Department had acquired Right of Way (ROW) and had planned to develop a County road along the south side of the preserve – called Veterans Memorial Blvd. When the second portion of the preserve was acquired in 2007, the ROW bisected the north and south sides of the preserve. Veterans Memorial Blvd. was the planned access point for parking and preserve access; however, after the 2004 acquisition, Veterans Memorial Blvd. was delayed, first to the County’s 2017 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and then to the 2035 LRTP. Staff attempted to create a small parking area off the east side of Veterans’ Memorial Blvd. and utilize an existing 1-mile trail westward along the ROW for hikers to access the preserve, but persons trespassing with ATVs along the ROW to get to interior recreational areas damaged the gate and made the trail too dangerous for hikers.

Along the western side of the northern portion and bisecting the southern side down the center, there is a railroad owned by CSX Railroad and leased to Seminole Gulf Railway (see red line on first Railhead map shown). This rail line presents an obstacle to public access from the west. For

the public to cross it, the County would be required to bring the crossing up to federal railroad crossing standard, including grade elevation changes and installation of a railroad crossing signal, and to lease the crossing with annual fees, both of which are cost prohibitive. A recent June 2018 conversation with Seminole Railway management resulted in them advising they are no longer interested in providing pedestrian crosswalks. Additionally, the access road from Old US 41, Sun Century Blvd., is a privately maintained roadway. There is no visitor parking along this road. Therefore, this preserve is not currently open to the public.

In 2016 and 2017, the breeches at the gates and along the fences continued. Trucks and ATVs continue to damage fences and trespass at the preserve. Police are called, but trespassers are generally gone by the time deputies get there. Camera installation and re-positioning continues despite numerous attempts to damage and dislodge cameras. Preserve maintenance, including exotic abatement, continues. In 2018, staff arranged limited access through the adjoining Railhead commercial development and will partner with Florida Gulf Coast University to facilitate herpetological surveys, with all data provided to Conservation Collier.

Red Maple Swamp – No address assigned. This Category 5 (currently) preserve is one of



two formally designated multi-parcel projects. This type of project has proved challenging for the program. Challenges include fluctuating values ranging from \$7,500 to \$15,000 over multiple years of buying, unwilling sellers within the project boundary, and lack of assurance that in-holding parcels can be acquired in the future - a particular challenge of the willing-seller environment. The project covers the entirety of North Golden Gate Estates Unit 53, located north of the Twin Eagles PUD and west of the County Fairgrounds. Between 2004 and 2011, approx. 200 acres out of a total of 305 (66%) were acquired. In the map, acquired parcels are shown as dark green, and donation parcels in pink. Between 2016 and 2018, 7.7 acres were donated or acquired within Red Maple Swamp.

The most recent valuation for both multi-parcel projects was performed in July 2017 returning an average value of \$5,570 per acre. This is significantly lower than a 2008 appraisal of \$15,842 per acre, and a 2009 appraisal of \$7,500 per acre but higher than a 2016 appraisal value of \$3,650 per acre. Property Appraiser’s Office taxable values are currently (as of October 25, 2018) approximately \$9,150 per acre. If additional funds are identified to resume purchasing within the multi-parcel projects, new appraisals will be obtained before making offers.

Within NGGE Unit 53, a 53-acre contiguous area has been acquired and initial exotic removals have been ongoing since 2013, with exotic maintenance on this area being done

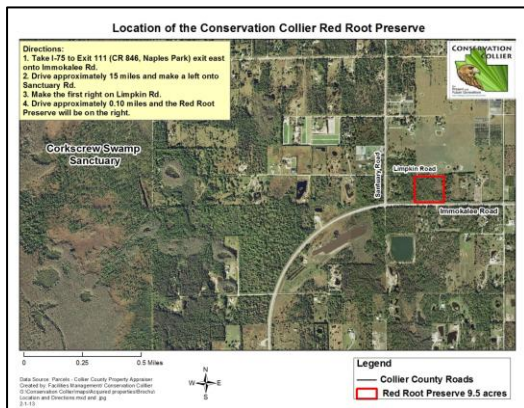


annually. Grants for exotic removal totaling \$70,000 were received from state agencies during 2017 and 2018.

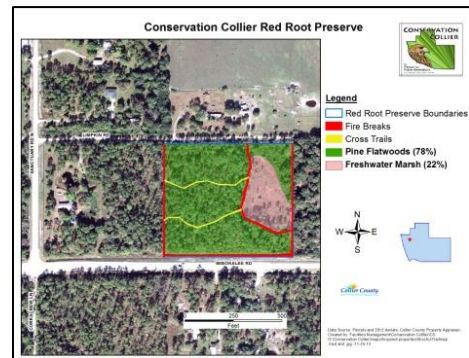
There is no current public access; however, the area is easily accessible via 41st Ave NW and Shady Hollow Blvd. West. The parking lot and trail access for SFWMD’s Bird Rookery Swamp and its 12 miles of hiking trails are located along Shady Hollow Blvd. West. Once enough parcels are acquired to allow for comprehensive management, staff will evaluate creating trails that can be linked up with Bird Rookery Swamp trails.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, routine maintenance consisted of site inspections and continued exotic species management over a 50-acre contiguous area on the west side of the preserve. In 2018, with additional acquisitions resulting in more contiguously-owned lands, another 40 acres were treated on the eastern side.

Redroot – 1330 Limpkin Road, Big Corkscrew Island Community. This 9.26- acre, Category 2, intermediate use preserve was acquired in June 2006 for \$440,000, or \$47,516 per acre. The parcel is located along Immokalee Road just east of the turn off on Sanctuary Road to get to the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. The access for the parcel is along Limpkin Road, which is the first right turn off Sanctuary Road. The entire cost of the parcel was \$460,000. The Public Utilities Department partnered with Conservation Collier for \$20,000 to acquire a 15,000 square foot (150’ X 100’) at the northwest corner for a future well site.



When the well site is constructed, visitors will be able to use a small parking area which will be placed on the well site. Currently, parking for visitors is along Limpkin Road.



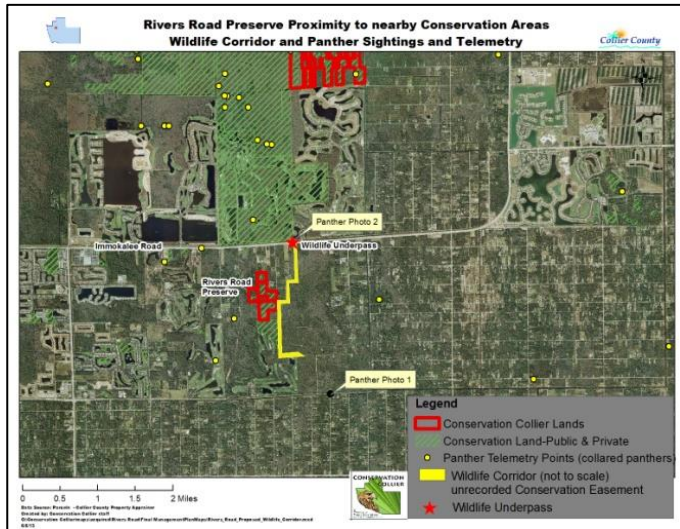
There is a little over half a mile of trails on the property, which are often used by horseback riders. This preserve was primarily acquired to establish a conservation presence along Immokalee Road in the developing urban fringe. There are two types of vegetation communities existing at the preserve: pine flat wood and freshwater marsh. The parcel lies within FWC priority 2 panther



habitat. Some of the adjacent properties are cleared and developed but there still exists an intact ecological link with Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. This habitat requires prescribed fire. Staff conducted a prescribed fire in 2011 and completed a second one in December 2016, improving the habitat.

Exotic maintenance continued in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Burned areas have regenerated and overall maintenance of trails continues.

Rivers Road—No address assigned at this time. Rivers Road Preserve is a 76.74-acre Category 2, intermediate use preserve acquired in 10 parcels between 2008 and 2010 for a total cost of \$5,128,300, or \$66,826 per acre. It is located south of Immokalee Road, between and accessible by private roads, Rivers Road and Moulder Road, 2.5 miles east of Collier Blvd. (CR 951) in S30 T48 R27.



The 10 parcels were offered together by 6 different owners. There are 9 different plant communities which include several listed plant species. Wetlands exist onsite and provide habitat for wetland dependent plants and wildlife. The preservation of

these properties forms a contiguous conservation area connecting to a wildlife corridor that utilizes an underpass under Immokalee Road to connect through Twin Eagles Development with the 60,000 acres of Conservation lands including the Bird Rookery Swamp and the Corkscrew Marsh complex.

This preserve opened to the public with trails, picnic tables, and parking May 25, 2016. Grant funds from FWC contributed to the initial exotic removal, completed in early 2015. Fire lines and trails have been put in and an Eagle Scout installed a picnic area and benches along the trail. Trail maintenance, including exotic species abatement, was ongoing throughout 2016, 2017 and 2018. Eagle Scout projects have contributed picnic table, and benches and a kiosk to the preserve. In September 2017, Hurricane Irma did significant damage to the preserve, with multiple trees down over all trails and firebreaks and in the picnic area. By December most of the downed trees that impacted the trail were removed and the preserve was reopened. Staff continued to treat exotics, provide tours and mow trails. Trails at this preserve are used by horseback riders.



Shell Island – No address assigned. This 83.18-acre Category 5, resource protection/restoration



preserve was acquired in 2006 for a cost of \$4,750,000, or \$57,105 per acre. The original sales price was \$4,875,000 and Conservation Collier was unable to pay that as it was above appraised value. The Conservancy of Southwest Florida contributed \$125,000 above what Conservation Collier was able to pay to meet the owner’s price. The purchase price was higher than expected due to a 1989 Settlement Agreement between Collier County and the owner (OR BK 1488 PG 777) which the owner believed guaranteed him between 3 and 4 units per acre.

This parcel fulfilled program qualifications by satisfying all applicable screening criteria. It is an example of one of the unique and endangered plant communities listed as preferred by the Conservation Collier Ordinance (tidal freshwater marsh). The nearly pristine marsh habitat is considered an outstanding aesthetic feature.

This parcel provides habitat for wetland dependent species, water quality enhancement for the adjacent Rookery Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water, and will provide on-site

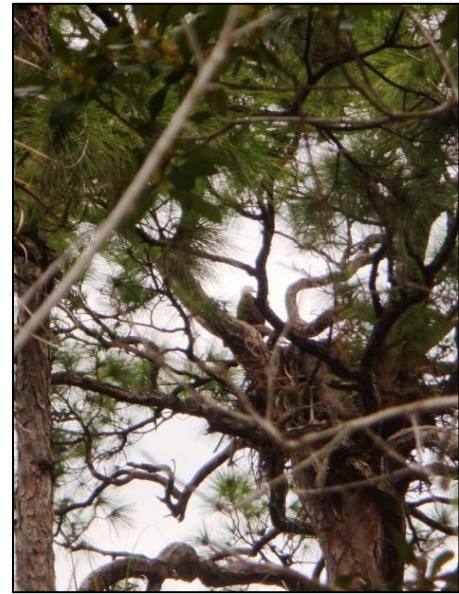


attenuation of floodwaters. Wildlife includes wood stork (Federal Endangered (E)), white ibis (State–SSC), snowy egret (State– Species of Special Concern (SSC)), tricolored heron (State-SSC), little blue heron (State-SSC), and American alligator (Federally threatened due to similarity of appearance to crocodiles). A number of listed plant species were also observed on the property, including leather fern (Federal E) and several listed Tillandsia (Bromeliad) species. Restoration potential is high, as the only major

restoration project would be to remove the old roadbed crossing the property.

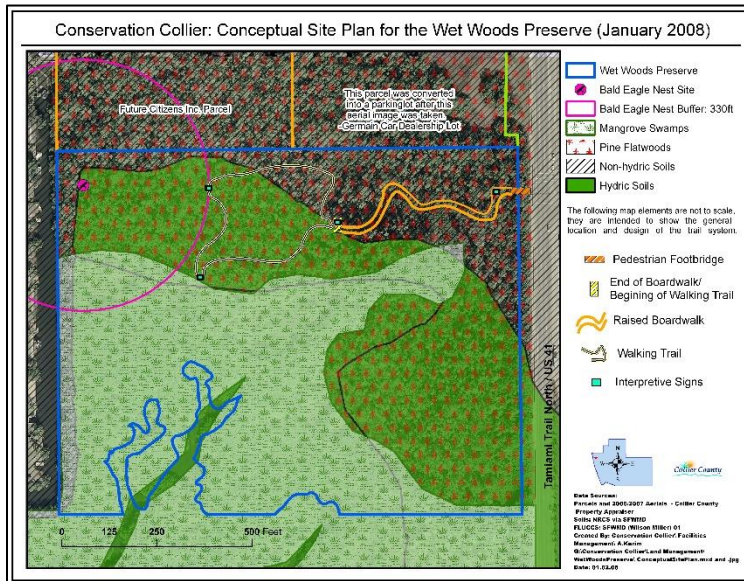
Legal and physical access exists from C.R. 951 on the east boundary, and from Shell Island Road. There is no vehicle access from C.R. 951, but there is access via Shell Island Road, which cuts diagonally across the southeast corner of the property. Shell Island Road is a part of this parcel but also provides access to state and Conservancy-owned lands to the west and is used by the

public to access Rookery Bay for fishing and kayaking at the end of Shell Island Road. Collier County has entered a cooperative agreement with the state to fill and grade the road on at least one known occasion, in 2003. This parcel is directly adjoining the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR) and will serve to buffer and protect it from the effects of development on neighboring properties. The parcel is almost entirely wetlands, except for the approximately 4 acres of old raised road bed (CR 22). This parcel has been utilized by Florida Gulf Coast University as a “wetland lab,” for student research.



In 2016, a FWC funding grant was received for treatment of exotics Brazilian Pepper, Climbing fern and Melaleuca. While it remains remarkably clean, the preserve continues to be monitored for exotic re-growth. Providing public access to this preserve would involve building a boardwalk, as wetland soils are not appropriate for developing trails. Because a public boardwalk that is accessible from Shell Island Road exists approximately 0.5 miles west of the preserve and contains an observation platform that overlooks a lake that is part of the preserve, creation of an additional boardwalk is not necessary.

Wet Woods – 12815 Tamiami Trail N, Naples. The preserve is a 26.77-acre natural area located within the urban boundary of Collier County in the northwest corner, immediately west of U.S. Highway 41 and south of Wiggins Pass Road in S16 T48 R25. It is being maintained as a Category 5 preserve until public access can be established.



This preserve was acquired in 2005 for \$2,160,000, or \$80,687 per acre. It was named Wet Woods Preserve by local school children, a name approved by the Board, in December 2006. The preserve contains various native plant communities including pine flatwoods, mangrove forests, and both saltwater and freshwater

wetlands, with about 58% being wetlands and 42% uplands.

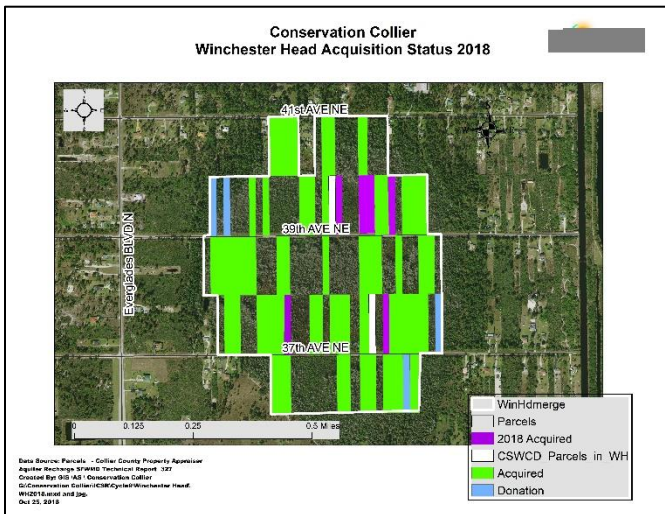
To date, 132 plant species have been recorded at the preserve. Of these, 110 (83%) are native and 22 (17%) are exotic. Seven listed plant species have been recorded at the preserve. Exotic species are treated annually.

Forty-four bird species, including many protected by the State of Florida and the Federal government, have been recorded on the property. A bald eagle nest that regularly fledges young is in the flatwoods portion.

Currently, there is no sanctioned public use of the site. The closest public road to the property is US Hwy 41 (Tamiami Trail North). A drainage ditch running north-south is located on the eastern edge of the property and separates the preserve from US Hwy 41. This ditch makes the preserve virtually inaccessible currently from US 41.

In 2016, focus on exotic plant species continued with hand and chemical treatment of the accessible areas. Exotic maintenance continued in 2017 and 2018 to manage patches of wild taro. Hurricane Irma, in Sept 2017 downed significant vegetation, and most remains in the preserve, with only downed trees along the border with Germain Dealership having been removed. To provide public access, there would need to be parking and a boardwalk. Staff has looked for suitable parking solutions but has not found one yet and plans for a boardwalk in 2008 were halted following the economic downturn with no alternative funding source yet identified.

Winchester Head Multi-parcel Project – No address assigned. This preserve is one of



two formally designated multi-parcel projects and is currently considered a Category 5, resource protection/restoration preserve. Multiparcel projects have proved challenging for the program. Challenges include higher prices for smaller lots, fluctuating values over multiple years of buying, unwilling sellers within the project boundary, and lack of assurance that in-holding parcels can be acquired in the future - a particular challenge of the willing-seller environment. The project covers a portion of NGGE Units 62 and 65. Between 2004 and 2016, approx. 80 acres out of a total of 158.67 (50%) were acquired. In the map,

acquired parcels are shown as bright green, targeted parcels with no color, donations as light blue, purple as those properties acquired in 2018 and white as properties owned by the Collier Soil and Water Conservation District.

Two Vacant Land Market Analyses for both multi-parcel projects (and including Horsepen Strand) were contracted by the County’s Appraiser in July 2017. In earlier appraisals, property values have fluctuated. In 2008, values were \$16,375 per acre. In 2009, values dropped to \$10,000 per acre. In 2016, values were at \$13,500 per acre. The most recent 2017 Market Analysis reached an averaged value of \$12,500 per acre. Property Appraiser’s Office taxable values currently vary between \$17,000 and \$19,000 per acre, depending on size.

If additional funds are identified to resume purchasing within the multi-parcel projects, new appraisals will be obtained before making offers. Otherwise, bargain sales and donations will be the only avenues for acquisition in these projects. Conservation Collier has acquired four 1.14-acre lots as donations under the Land Development Code off-site vegetation retention provision

(LDC 3.05.07, H.1.f. iii. (b.) in this area (shown in purple on the map). If funds can be identified for additional purchases it will benefit the program by consolidating the acquired areas and making it feasible for comprehensive management to begin. Exotic maintenance is being done on donation parcels to maintain them in the condition they were donated in.

There is no current public access; however, the area is easily accessible via 2 paved County roads, 37th and 39th Ave NE.; The project is a wetland and is only accessible during dry season. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, staff has continued to monitor the area and abate significant exotic maintenance issues as they occur.

4. Program Financial Status

Conservation Collier spent approximately \$105,125,402 on properties between 2003 and 2018, acquiring and managing 4,071 acres in 19 locations throughout Collier County. Since 2011, donation and good deal properties have added another 30 acres to the portfolio for a current total of 4,101.86 acres. Acquisition and management funds were generated from an ad valorem property tax of up to .25 mil, or \$25 for each \$100,000 in taxable property value for property owners in Collier County. Additional income was derived from investment and banking interest, grants and the sale of Panther Habitat Units (PHUs) to the Solid Waste Department in 2014. In March 2013, at the ten-year mark, the ad valorem tax levy authorization expired.

As taxes were collected, 15% of the net levy went into the Land Management Trust Fund (174) and 85% went into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (172). On May 25, 2010 (Agenda item 16.E.2), the Board of County Commissioners authorized a transfer of up to an additional \$10.3 million, above the ordinance mandated 15% of ad valorem taxes, from the “Land Acquisition Fund” to the “Land Management Fund” during FY2011 – FY2013 to ensure land management funding in perpetuity. On April 12, 2011 (Agenda Item 10F) the Board authorized early repayment of Bond Series 2008. Bond Series 2004 and 2008 were retired in FY 2013.

The Conservation Collier Program utilizes four active funds (172, 174, 179, 674, and 673) to manage program financial resources and has 1 inactive fund - 272. Fund 673 is a new fund created in October 2018 to hold funds for the recently approved Pepper Ranch Conservation Bank. Fund 172, the Land Acquisition Fund, is used to account for property acquisition activity. Fund 174, the Land Maintenance Trust Fund, is the primary Conservation Collier operating and maintenance fund. This fund also contains long-term Conservation Collier Maintenance Trust reserves. Significant infrastructure improvements are managed through the Conservation Collier Capital Improvement Fund 179. Pledged Caracara Preserve endowment funds and Caracara Preserve maintenance costs are accounted for in Caracara Preserve Trust Fund 674. Fund 272 was associated with a bond that has been paid and is not currently in use.

Sustained low interest rates and resulting low earnings on Conservation Collier Trust Funds are an ongoing financial concern. In FY14 and FY15, staff addressed this matter with the Board of County Commissioners. Using conservative projections, a Ten-Year Financial Plan was developed which focused on reducing and containing expenditures, establishing a combined Conservation Collier program minimum fund balance of \$32,000,000, and establishing a three-year financial planning window to ensure adopted budgets and spending practices remain consistent with long range financial targets. During FY16, staff held costs to planned levels and, in some areas, less

than planned due to wet weather interference and grant assistance. During 2017 costs were also held to planned levels. FY 2018 saw an increase in expenditures associated with ramping up for new acquisitions per Board direction to begin cycle 9 using management reserves as funding. One additional land manager / Environmental Specialist was hired in the beginning of 2018 to take over the land management load being handled by the program manager, so she could focus on cycle 9 acquisition. Depending on what properties are finally approved for acquisition, another land manager may also be needed. The following tables show Conservation Collier expenditures during FY16 - FY18. The interest rate on Conservation Collier funds is approximately 1.37% annually at the time of this writing in November 2018. This is better than the half a percent generated between 2011 and 2017 but not the 2.5% needed to fully fund the long-term management fund.

Table(s) 5 – Summary of Conservation Collier Financial Activity for FY16, FY17 and FY18

**Conservation Collier
FY 16 Budget to Actual Comparison
Funds 172, 174, 179, 674, 272**

| Commit Item / Fund Ctr | Adopted Budget | Amended Budget | Commitment | Actual | %Consumed |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE - OPERATING | (199,800) | (214,500) | - | (466,148) | 217.32 |
| CF, CONTRIBUTION AND TRANS | (35,679,800) | (35,793,908) | - | (36,079,289) | 100.80 |
| REVENUE Total | (35,879,600) | (36,008,408) | - | (36,545,437) | 101.49 |
| PERSONAL SERVICE | 275,000 | 277,000 | - | 275,416 | 99.43 |
| OPERATING EXPENSE | 504,400 | 534,240 | 59,596 | 349,909 | 76.65 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 486,300 | 571,807 | - | 433,632 | 75.84 |
| TRANSFERS | 584,900 | 598,982 | - | 564,980 | 94.32 |
| RESERVES | 34,029,000 | 34,026,379 | - | - | |
| EXPENSE Total | 35,879,600 | 36,008,408 | 59,596 | 1,623,937 | 4.68 |
| Carry forward/Fund Balance at YE | 34,029,000 | 34,026,379 | | 34,921,500 | |
| 102.63 | | | | | |

Conservation Collier
FY 17 Budget to Actual Comparison
Funds 172, 174, 179, 674, 272

| Commit Item / Fund Ctr | Adopted Budget | Amended Budget | Commitment | Actual | %Consumed |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE - OPERATING | (368,700) | (410,574) | - | (533,736) | 130.00 |
| CF, CONTRIBUTION AND TRANS | (34,456,000) | (34,626,332) | - | (34,921,521) | 100.85 |
| REVENUE Total | (34,824,700) | (35,036,906) | - | (35,455,258) | 101.19 |
| PERSONAL SERVICE | 282,800 | 292,700 | - | 281,429 | 96.15 |
| OPERATING EXPENSE | 537,600 | 586,089 | 17,228 | 381,570 | 68.04 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 54,000 | 187,035 | - | 6,058 | 3.24 |
| TRANSFERS | 5,000 | 19,082 | - | 4,100 | 21.49 |
| RESERVES | 33,945,300 | 33,952,000 | - | - | |
| EXPENSE Total | 34,824,700 | 35,036,906 | 17,228 | 673,158 | 1.97 |
| Carry forward/Fund Balance at YE | 33,945,300 | 33,952,000 | | 34,782,100 | |
| 102.44 | | | | | |

Conservation Collier
FY 18 Budget to Actual Comparison
Funds 172, 174, 179, 674, 272

| Commit Item / Fund Ctr | Adopted Budget | Amended Budget | Commitment | Actual | %Consumed |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE - OPERATING | (532,000) | (739,176) | - | (737,558) | 99.78 |
| CF, CONTRIBUTION AND TRANS | (34,578,900) | (35,666,072) | - | (36,087,975) | 101.18 |
| REVENUE Total | (35,110,900) | (36,405,247) | - | (36,825,533) | 101.15 |
| PERSONAL SERVICE | 433,100 | 433,100 | - | 354,806 | 81.92 |
| OPERATING EXPENSE | 595,800 | 729,085 | 52,209 | 358,805 | 56.37 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | 54,400 | 1,255,480 | 12,108 | 102,339 | 9.12 |
| TRANSFERS | 306,300 | 1,316,282 | - | 1,315,782 | 99.96 |
| RESERVES | 33,721,300 | 32,671,300 | - | - | |
| EXPENSE Total | 35,110,900 | 36,405,247 | 64,317 | 2,131,733 | 6.03 |
| Unaudited Carry forward/Fund | | | | | |
| Balance at YE | 33,721,300 | 32,671,300 | | 34,693,800 | |
| 106.19 | | | | | |

6. Conservation Collier Programs, Events, and Community/Educational Outreach

Pepper Ranch Hunt Program

Two separate hunt programs exist at Pepper Ranch Preserve - a public hunt program that is open to all Collier County residents, regardless of age, and an FWC sponsored youth hunt program that is open to children aged 12-17 (12-15 for youth turkey hunts). Although children from Collier County are given first choice of youth hunt participation, youth hunts are open to all Florida youths if openings cannot be filled by Collier County residents. Hogs are considered a nuisance species and are hunted without limit. Staff conducts annual deer and turkey surveys to set quotas.

2016-17 Hunt Season:

A total of 8 hunts were conducted at Pepper Ranch Preserve during the 2016-2017 hunting season: 5 public and 3 youth hunts. Three of the public hunts were hog hunts, one for deer and one for turkey. Youth hunts included one hog, one deer and one turkey hunt.

85 applications were received from Collier County residents for the hunting season, with 29 hunter permits issued. A total of 5 hogs, 4 female deer, and 5 turkeys were harvested during the 2016-2017 hunting season.

2017-2018 Hunt Season:

A total of 7 hunts were conducted at Pepper Ranch Preserve during the 2017-2018 hunting season: Five public and two youth hunts. Three (3) of the public hunts were hog hunts, 2 for deer and 1 for turkey. Youth hunts included 1 hog and 1 turkey hunt.

Seventy-nine (79) applications were received for the hunting season, with 31 hunter permits issued. A total of 4 hogs, 1 male deer, and 2 turkeys were harvested during the 2017-2018 hunting season.

2018-2019 Hunt Season:

A total of 8 hunts are scheduled at Pepper Ranch Preserve during the 2018-2019 hunting season, starting in December 2018: 5 public and 2 youth hunts. Three (3) of the public hunts are hog hunts, 1 for deer and 1 for turkey. Youth hunts will include 1 hog, 1 deer and 1 turkey hunt.

Seventy-nine (79) applications were received for the hunting season, with 19 hunter permits issued at this time, and two hunts not yet assigned. No harvest has occurred at the time of this writing.

Caracara Prairie Preserve Hunt Program

Caracara Prairie Preserve is established as part the Corkscrew Marsh Unit of the CREW Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA). This allows for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulated public hunting for hog and spring turkey to occur within Caracara Prairie Preserve.

FWC runs these hunts and data is captured for the entire Wildlife Environmental Area (WEA) without separating out the Caracara Prairie harvest data, but in speaking to FWC staff, only 5 turkeys have been harvested during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 hunt seasons, and no wildlife has been harvested yet in the 2018-2019 hunt season.

Pepper Ranch Guided Hike Program – During late 2014, staff recruited a small group of volunteers, mostly Master Naturalists and experienced hikers from the Alligator Amblers

chapter of the Florida Trail Association to lead hikes on Pepper Ranch Preserve trails for the general public at no charge. These volunteers have been trained on the trails, trained as volunteers in the Parks and Recreation System and have received safety training. In 2016 the program offered 4 free guided hikes to the public. The hikes were well attended and enjoyed by visitors. With the advent of acquisition cycle 9 in 2017, there was no longer staff ability to run this program. Perhaps it can be started again in 2019.

Pepper Ranch Sunflower Festival – The Sunflower Festival was an event hosted by Conservation Collier and the Parks and Recreation Department at the Pepper Ranch Preserve between 2014 and 2016. The most recent festival was held in on October 1, 2016 was a great success, drawing over 400 people to visit and view the ranch and its fabulous displays of native Florida sunflowers – the Southeastern sunflower – *Helianthus agrestis*. Activities at the event included hay rides, guided hikes, narrated van tours of the Preserve, food vendor, music, a bear program for children, and an arts and crafts table. The event drew in many people from the Immokalee community who had not visited the preserve before. The problem with holding an annual sunflower festival in early October is that the preserve is still quite wet and large groups parking cars damage the lawn and trails are too wet to hike. Additionally, the sunflowers do not bloom every year. Staff determined it was better to hold a festival in April (for Earth Day) which is reliably drier and does not depend on the sunflowers. For the last two years, staff has partnered with the One by One Foundation to put on an Earth Day festival at Pepper Ranch, involving local residents and increasing local interest. In 2018 staff opened the preserve for visitors to drive through to see the sunflowers on 2 weekends, which were highly successful with 2,066 visitors driving through in the 6 days the preserve was open.

Social Media

Face book – Conservation Collier maintains a Face book Page titled “Conservation Collier Program.” Since its inception in 2011, the Conservation Collier Page has 395 total page likes, with over 1,040 people reached. As of November 6, the Conservation Collier Facebook page has 1,452 “likes” and 5,376 people reached. The FB page is becoming the best way to reach supporters with information and events.

Website – Conservation Collier maintains a website within the Collier County website at www.Colliergov.net/ConservationCollier. Visitors can find information about preserves, their locations, what amenities are located there, contact information for staff, volunteering information, links to hiking information, and what kind of experience each of the preserves open to the public offer. Land Management Plans, forms, all meeting agendas, agenda item backup, and meeting minutes are also maintained on the website.

Printed Materials

The Outreach subcommittee has been working through 2017 and 2018 to develop outreach materials and distribute them throughout the County at hotels, the Chamber of Commerce, museums, attractions, and other public locations throughout the County. The Committee has designed a rack card and a panel that will be placed at the Naples Preserve, to expand and complement the existing 8 preserve brochures.

5. Mitigation Programs

Conservation Collier has followed 2007 Board direction (6/26/07, Agenda Item 10A) in pursuing both wetland and Panther Habitat Unit (PHU) mitigation credit for those properties where the opportunity exists. Wetland mitigation credits have not been economical for the program to pursue. The costs associated with wetland mitigation bank establishment within Conservation Collier lands are high, because only hydrologic restoration can provide the “lift” or “functional gain” necessary to generate credits. Credits are not provided by state or federal agencies for exotic vegetation removal since this restoration activity is already required as part of the Conservation Collier program.

Caracara Prairie Preserve – Collier County’s Solid Waste Department has used all 2,272.72 PHU credits available at Caracara Prairie Preserve to mitigate for development of the Collier Resource Recovery Park. The Conservation Collier Program received a total of \$1,301,600 in revenue over FY14 and FY15 for the PHU credits. This revenue is estimated to fund 25% of routine management costs and 100% of costs associated with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) PHU mitigation requirements.

Pepper Ranch Preserve – Staff submitted a Pepper Ranch Preserve Panther Habitat Conservation Bank Proposal to USFWS on July 23, 2014. A Panther Habitat Conservation Bank would allow multiple County projects to be mitigated through the preservation and enhancement of Pepper Ranch Preserve. USFWS did not respond to the proposal until December 2015, when it provided feedback that the proposal was viable. In the final documents, 8,669 PHU credits were identified and are expected to be used for development of future County projects at a cost savings of \$1,077,123.25. Conservation Bank documents were signed by the Board of County Commissioners in September 2018 and by USFWS in October 2018. Staff is approximately 1 month from being able to sell credits and has already been approached by staff in other Divisions for potential purchases.

6. Partners

Conservation Collier is pleased to have developed acquisition funding, land management, research, project development, and other related program partnerships with a multitude of agencies and organizations. These agencies and the nature of their partnerships are listed alphabetically below:

Audubon of Collier County – Community and Advisory Committee Support

Boy Scouts of America – 12 Eagle Scout projects have been completed or are in the process on Conservation Collier Preserves

City of Marco Island – Management partnership – Otter Mound Preserve

City of Naples – Gordon River Greenway partner

Collier County Parks and Recreation Department – Freedom Park and Gordon River Greenway Park management partnership –Management Plan approved through Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant Program in place - Cocohatchee Creek Preserve – management assistance.

Collier County Solid Waste Department – Caracara Prairie Preserve - panther mitigation credit (PHUs) for Resource Recovery Park.

Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) – Labor for preserve projects under the Weekender Workers Program
Conservancy of Southwest Florida – Community and Advisory Committee Support
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Trust (CREW) – Caracara Prairie Preserve - acquisition and education programs; Land donation in Red Maple Swamp
Florida Division of Forestry – Prescribed fire within urban preserves
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) - Exotic Removal funding (Conservation Collier staff coordinates the regional working group that distributes exotic removal funding in south Florida) – Wet Woods, Logan Woods, Railhead Scrub, Shell Island, Rivers Road, and Pepper Ranch Preserves; Pepper Ranch Preserve Youth Hunt partnership.
Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) – Research - Caracara Prairie Preserve, Lake Trafford Management Team, Volunteers
Florida Southwestern State College (FSW) – Student Field Trips, Volunteers
Florida Wildlife Federation – Community and Advisory Committee support
Naples Airport Authority – Gordon River Greenway partner
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Rookery Bay NERR) – Pursuing management partnership for Shell Island Preserve and McIlvane Marsh management activities.
South Florida Water Management District – Caracara Prairie Preserve – property management, wildlife monitoring, Lake Trafford Management Team
Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust – Gordon River Greenway partner
University of Florida (UF) – Logan Woods Preserve-exotic removal, Lake Trafford Management Team
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Exotics removal grants under the Partners Program and Coastal Program for Otter Mound, Shell Island, Railhead Scrub, Rivers Road, Pepper Ranch and McIlvane Marsh.

9. Grants

Conservation Collier has actively pursued grants for both acquisition and management purposes. Currently, there have been no awards for land acquisition, but many for management, primarily for the removal of invasive, exotic species but also for needed equipment and plant community restoration. Exotic removal grants have come from state and federal government agencies, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Partners Program), the State of Florida through the Invasive Plant Species Management Council, and the University of Florida. The table below shows the amount of grant funds obtained and Conservation Collier management funds expended for each preserve between 2016 and 2018. Conservation Collier has had approximately 17% of all land management activities funded through grants. The total value of grants awarded to the program for land management since 2003 is \$1,088,714.

| Preserve | Year preserve Acquired | Year Grant Awarded | Grant Funds Acquired |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Gordon River Greenway | 2006-2015 | 2016 | \$50,000 |
| Pepper Ranch | 2009 | 2016 | \$50,000 |
| Shell Island | 2005 | 2016 | \$10,000 |
| Railhead Scrub | 2011 | 2017 | \$20,000 |
| Red Maple Swamp Multi-parcel Project | In progress | 2017 | \$20,000 |
| Freedom Park | 2008 | 2017 | \$8,000 |
| Pepper Ranch | 2009 | 2018 | \$150,000 |
| Red Maple Swamp Multi-parcel Project | In progress | 2018 | \$50,000 |
| Wet Woods | 2005 | 2018 | \$8,000 |
| Nancy Payton | 2005 | 2018 | \$12,000 |
| | | | |
| Total Grants 2016-2018 | | | \$378,000 |

7. Volunteers

During 2016, Conservation Collier was the grateful recipient of 1,473.75 volunteer hours. During 2017, Conservation Collier was the grateful recipient of 1,646.75 volunteer hours. During 2018, Conservation Collier was the grateful recipient of 946.25 volunteer hours (as of Nov 9, 2018).

If the total volunteer hours for 2016, 2017 and 2018 (4,066.95 hours) are multiplied by the Florida minimum wage (\$8.20/hr.), **which amounts to a savings to the program of \$33,349!** Volunteer tasks accomplished include:

- Exotic plant treatment,
- Preserve monitoring and maintenance,
- Trail creation and maintenance,
- Hike leadership,
- Mountain bike trail construction and maintenance,
- FWC Youth Hunt guides,
- Wildlife surveys,
- Vegetation management

The above does not include Eagle Scout projects where total hours worked are not collected. The service of volunteers for Conservation Collier is governed by Collier County and Parks and Recreation Volunteer Policies. The following are Eagle Scout projects done for Conservation Collier between 2016 and 2018:

- Jorge Cortes – Troop 52, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – Natural play area at Pepper Ranch Preserve
- William Mentillo – Troop 25, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – Privacy plantings at 5 Pepper Ranch Campsites
- Joseph Manuel - Troop 25, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – benches-amphitheater at Panther Walk Preserve
- Thomas Hogle – Troop 25, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – Kiosk at Rivers Road Preserve
- Jeffrey Harth – Troop 25, Alligator District, SW Florida Council - Planting privacy shrubs between 5 campsites at Pepper Ranch Preserve
- Charles Niveyro – Troop 951, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – bridge in campground crossing ditch and bench at Lake Trafford Overlook
- Connor Jenkins – Troop 165, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – bike trail bridge at Pepper Ranch Preserve
- Jonathon Poteet – Troop 2, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – plant signs at the Gordon River Greenway
- Nicholas Laws - Troop 165, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – Gordon River Greenway Native Planting
- Lincoln Stranger – Troop 165, Alligator District, SW Florida Council – Gordon River Greenway Native Planting

8. 2019 Objectives

1. Acquire newly approved lands and place them under management.
2. Continue to accept donation properties under the Land Development Code Offsite Preservation Option.
3. Continue to develop public access for acquired properties as directed by the Board of County Commissioners.
4. Continue to implement land management practices at all preserves as outlined in each Board-approved Land Management Plan.
5. Continue to implement the Collier County Hunt Program at the Pepper Ranch Preserve.
6. Secure grant funding wherever possible.
7. Look for any and all ways to reduce expenditures without sacrificing quality of land management and public access amenities.
8. Continue to pursue mitigation opportunities on acquired lands.
9. Continue to evaluate potential for sale/trade or donation of lands where it would benefit the Program.

Exhibits

Exhibit A. 2018 Map of Conservation Collier Program Lands and Proposed Acquisitions

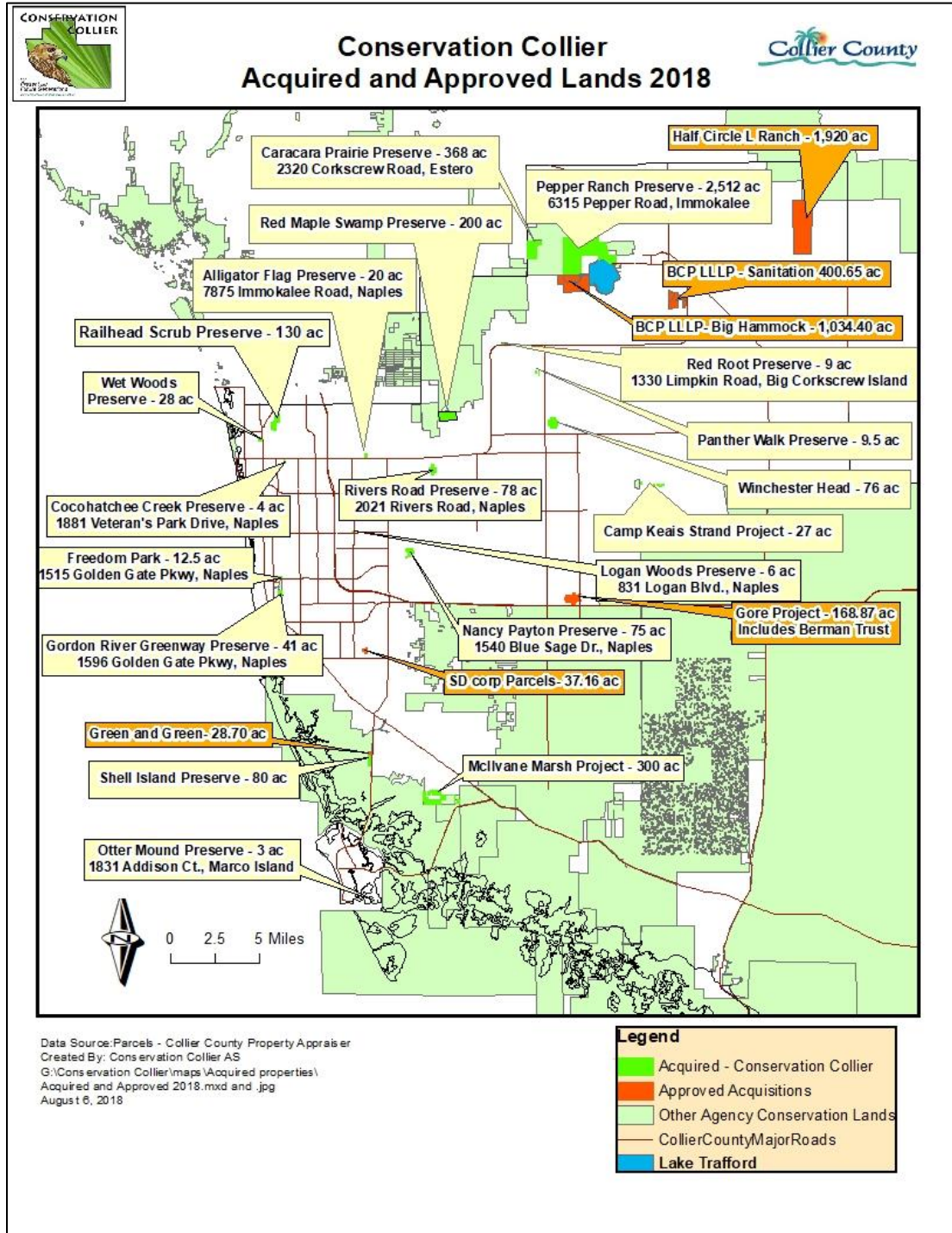


Exhibit B. Conservation Collier Program Public Amenity Work Plan and Preserve Category Matrix

Conservation Collier Program Public Amenity Work Plan

(Proposed Revision as of December 2018)

Introduction:

The Conservation Collier Program is responsible for implementing the mandate of the electorate of Collier County as provided by public referendum votes in November, 2002, and again in November, 2006 confirming that mandate, to levy a 0.25 mill ad valorem property tax for a period not to exceed 10 years for acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of environmentally sensitive lands in Collier County for the benefit of present and future generations. A nine (9) member citizen's advisory committee named the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) was appointed in early 2003 to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on land purchases and program policies. Members are appointed for 3 year terms. On February 10, 2015 (Agenda Item 17E), the CCLAAC membership was reduced from 9 to 7 members until active acquisition resumes. Active acquisition resumed in January 2017, and the CCLAAC began to advertise for 2 additional members. In June 2017 an eighth member was appointed, and one member's term ended. In 2018, two new members were appointed, one in January and the other in July. Currently, the CCLAAC is fully staffed with 9 members.

Conservation Collier has been implementing its mandate for 15 years. During this time 4,100 acres have been acquired in 19 different locations for a cost of \$105.1 million. Two approved multi-parcel projects, Winchester Head and North Golden Gate Estates Unit 53, have continued to acquire through offsite preservation donations and bargain sales between 2016-2018. A total of 6.6 acres were received as donations or good deals since the beginning of 2016. During 2018, an additional 11.16 acres were acquired in the multi-parcel projects through acquisition, using funds that had been donated for offsite preservation.

Per the Conservation Collier Ordinance (2002-63, as amended, Section 2), the main objective of Conservation Collier is to acquire, preserve, restore, and maintain vital and significant threatened natural lands, forest, upland and wetland communities located in Collier County, for the benefit of present and future generations. However, one ancillary purpose of the Program is "to have the acquired sites available, with minimal risk to the environmental integrity of the site, to educate Collier County's school-age population and the general public about the uniqueness and importance of Collier County's subtropical

ecosystems and natural communities” (Collier County Ordinance 2007-65, Section 4.10.). This document is intended to update the 2015 Work Plan and provide annual guidance regarding the construction of public access amenities within Conservation Collier Preserves.

In 2011, the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) categorized each preserve based upon its existing and proposed public access amenities. The “Conservation Collier Preserve Public Amenity Matrix” (Exhibit A) identifies all public amenities - existing and proposed - at all 19 Conservation Collier Preserves, and categorizes each preserve into 1 of 5 categories. Additionally, the CCLAAC created a “Conservation Collier Public Amenity Priority List” (Exhibit B). This identified not only the public amenities recommended at each preserve, but also the priority in which these public amenities should be constructed. In 2013, after considering the current financial status of the Program, some planned amenities were postponed or reduced. This update provides a proposed revised Work Plan for 2016. This plan may be revised annually, or as needed.

With the exception Gordon River Greenway Preserve and Pepper Ranch Preserve, which are anticipated to receive a high volume of public visitation, the improvements proposed at each preserve represent the minimum amenities necessary to provide safe and economically feasible public access.

Background:

As mandated by Collier County Ordinance 2007-65, 15% of ad valorem taxes received through the Conservation Collier Program were placed into a “Land Management Fund” annually since FY 2003. This 15% transfer stopped in FY 2013, when the levy ceased. The “Land Management Fund” is separate and distinct from the Conservation Collier “Land Acquisition Fund” and is intended to generate enough interest annually so that only the interest will be used to fund recurring annual management activities at all Conservation Collier preserves in perpetuity. With interest rates around half a percent following the economic downturn, a reassessment of planned expenses was necessary to conserve principal in the Land Management Fund.

Concern about long term Program finances began in 2009, when data gathered on management costs, coupled with revenue forecasts and future interest rate projections, suggested that there would be insufficient funds in the “Land Management Fund” to complete all Board approved land management activities and potential public access improvements. CCLAAC budget workshops were held to discuss long term maintenance funding for Conservation Collier preserves during the July 13, 2009 and September 14, 2009 CCLAAC meetings. As a result of these workshops, on May 25, 2010, Agenda Item 16E2, the Board of County Commissioners authorized a transfer of up to an additional

\$10.3 million, above the ordinance mandated 15% of ad valorem taxes, from the “Land Acquisition Fund” to the “Land Management Fund” during FY2011 – FY2013 to ensure land management funding in perpetuity.

In November 2010, the Collier County Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommended that projected future interest rates be revised downward. These revisions severely impacted the projected “Land Management Fund” balance. Because of this situation and in order to ensure sufficient management funds in perpetuity, on January 25, 2011, Agenda Item 10B, the Board: directed the County Manager, or his designee, to prepare a Public Amenity Master Plan for all Conservation Collier preserves, suspend all Conservation Collier acquisitions until a Master Plan was approved by the Board, and approved the Conservation Collier Cycle 8 Active Acquisition List for purchase when funds are available. The 2012 Public Amenity Work Plan was the Board requested Master Plan drafted by Conservation Collier staff based upon recommendations by the CCLAAC. It was approved on October 23, 2012, Agenda Item 16D4.

Between 2013 and 2015, interest rates remained low, and the Public Amenity Work Plan was further revised. This 2016-2018 Public Amenity Work Plan represents the most current status of this plan.

Preserve Categories:

Conservation Collier Ordinance 2007-65 defines natural resource-based recreation as, “all forms of uses which are consistent with the goals of this program and are compatible with the specific parcel. Such uses shall include but not be limited to hiking, nature photography, bird watching, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, hunting and fishing.”

To date, the Conservation Collier Program manages 19 separate preserves throughout the County, nine of which are officially open to the public. See Exhibit A. Recreational opportunities offered at these open preserves are compatible and appropriate to their location, hydrology and plant communities. Additionally, the natural resource-based recreational opportunities coincide with the approved Land Management Plans of these preserves. The “Conservation Collier Preserve Public Amenity Matrix” (Exhibit A) identifies all public amenities, existing and proposed, at all 19 Conservation Collier Preserves, and categorizes each preserve into 1 of 5 categories. Category descriptions are provided below. Regardless of category, preserves may be closed to the general public when deemed appropriate by staff (i.e., conducting a prescribed burn, after storm events, debris removal, levels of unusually high water, days when hunting is permitted, etc.).

Category 1 – Primary Use Preserve

- Easily accessible and enough space to construct parking on or near the parcel and other amenities such as restrooms may be available on or near the preserve.
- ADA accessibility (parking and trails) will be provided.
- May have a daily staff presence (as appropriate) and staff is available to conduct interpretive tours of the preserve by request.
- Occasional field trips and/or educational programs may be provided.
- Natural resource-based recreational opportunities offered will correspond with the preserve's approved Land Management Plan.
- Marked trails and interpretive materials will be available on-site.
- Capital improvements, such as boardwalks, canoe/kayak, launches, overlooks, picnic benches, and bike racks will be provided for visitors where feasible.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours, unless special arrangements are made.

Category 2 - Intermediate Use Preserve

- Has space to provide limited parking on or near the parcel without degrading the hydrology and plant communities and may be conducive to providing a primitive trail system. In such cases, an unimproved trailhead may be provided.
- Additional natural resource-based recreational opportunities may be offered where feasible and will correspond with the preserve's approved Land Management Plan.
- Restrooms may be provided on or near the site where feasible.
- Will not have a daily staff presence but staff will be available to conduct interpretive tours of the preserve by request.
- Interpretive signs, brochures, picnic tables and bike racks may be present.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours, unless special arrangements are made.

Category 3 - Neighborhood (Limited Use) Preserve

- Intended to be a “neighborhood” preserve. There is no space available for parking for either ecological, access, or safety reasons. Members of the public who would like to visit may have to walk or bike a distance from public parking areas.
- No restroom facilities will be available.
- Primitive trails will be provided.
- Interpretive signs, brochures, picnic tables and bike racks may be present.
- Additional natural resource-based recreational opportunities may be offered where feasible and will correspond with the preserve’s approved Land Management Plan.
- Staff will be present for periodic site inspections and at other times as necessary for the proper management of the preserve.
- Staff will be available to conduct interpretive tours of the preserve by request.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours.

Category 4 - Seasonal Use Preserve

- Parking may be available for the public on or near the site.
- Seasonal (usually winter months), marked, primitive trails will be available during appropriate times of the year.
- Restroom facilities may be available.
- Interpretive signs, brochures, bike racks may be present.
- Additional natural resource-based recreational opportunities may be offered where feasible and will correspond with the preserve’s approved Land Management Plan.
- Staff will be present for periodic site inspections and at other times as necessary for the proper management of the preserve.
- Staff will be available to conduct interpretive tours of the preserve by request.
- Will be open to the public seasonally and only during daytime hours. The public is advised to check with Conservation Collier staff or on the Conservation Collier website for up-to-date information.

Category 5 - Resource Protection/Restoration Use Preserve

- Provide no public access. Public access may not be feasible due to the lack of physical and legal access or where the land stewardship activities could create unsafe conditions for the public.
- No restrooms or marked trails will be offered.

- Staff will be present for periodic site inspections and at other times as necessary for the proper management of the preserve.

| Preserves | | Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 | Category 5 |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | Primary Use Preserves: easily accessible with public amenities and parking | Intermediate Use Preserves: few to no amenities, limited parking, primitive trail system | Neighborhood Preserve: no onsite parking or amenities other than benches, trails and picnic tables | Seasonal Use Preserves: may have parking and trails but will be closed during seasonal rainfall months | Resource Protection/Restoration Preserves: currently no public access due to lack of physical or legal access or where there are unsafe conditions for public |
| 1 | Alligator Flag | | | | X | |
| 2 | Camp Keais | | | | | X |
| 3 | Caracara Prairie | | X | | | |
| 4 | Cocohatchee Creek | | X | | | |
| 5 | Freedom Park | X | | | | |
| 6 | Gordon River Greenway | X | | | | |
| 7 | Logan Woods | | | X | | |
| 8 | McIlvane Marsh | | | | | X |
| 9 | Nancy Payton | | X | | | |
| 10 | Otter Mound | | X | | | |
| 11 | Panther Walk | | | | X | |
| 12 | Pepper Ranch | X-currently seasonal, off season by appt. | | | | |
| 13 | Railhead Scrub | | | | | X |
| 14 | Red Maple Swamp | | | | | X |
| 15 | Redroot | | X | | | |
| 16 | Rivers Road | | X | | | |
| 17 | Shell Island | | | | | X |
| 18 | Wet Woods | | | | | X |
| 19 | Winchester Head | | | | | X |
| 20. | Robert H Gore III (coming) | X | | | | |

| Priority | Preserve | Amenities | Estimated Cost | Estimated year of construction |
|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Pepper Ranch | RV pad and utilities | \$77,000 | FY 19 |
| 2 | Robert H. Gore III | Parking and trail system | \$40,000 | FY 19 |
| Total | | | \$117,000 | |

Exhibit C. Conservation Collier Preserves by Commission District

