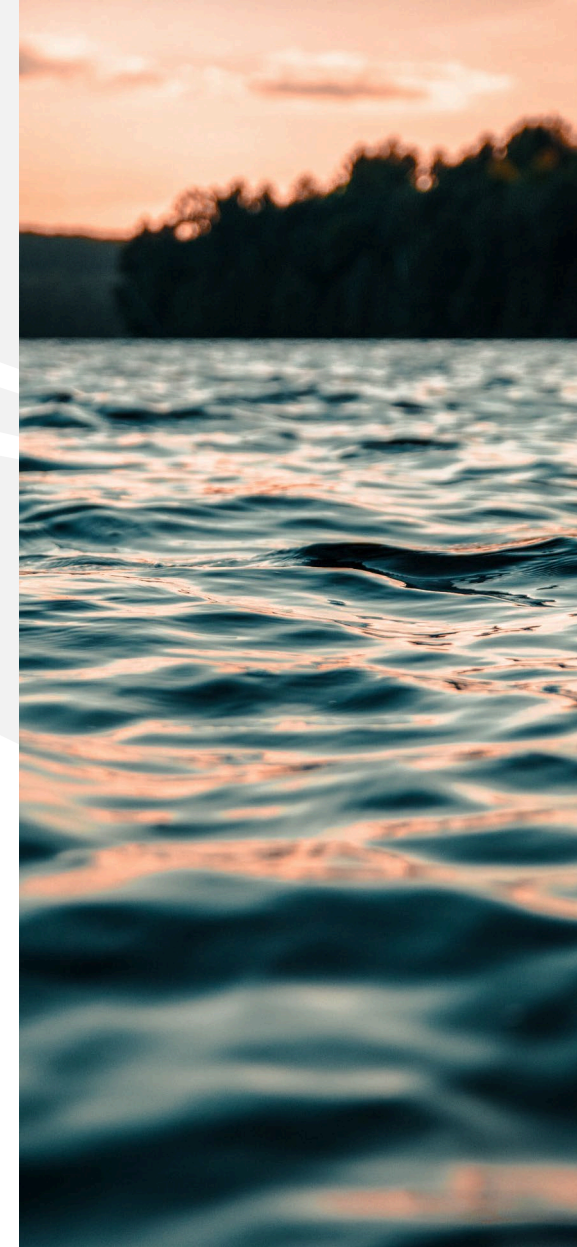




Conservation Collier Referendum Information

October 12, 2020



Presented by: Laura DeJohn, AICP

Moderator: Amanda Martin



Agenda

Meeting Format

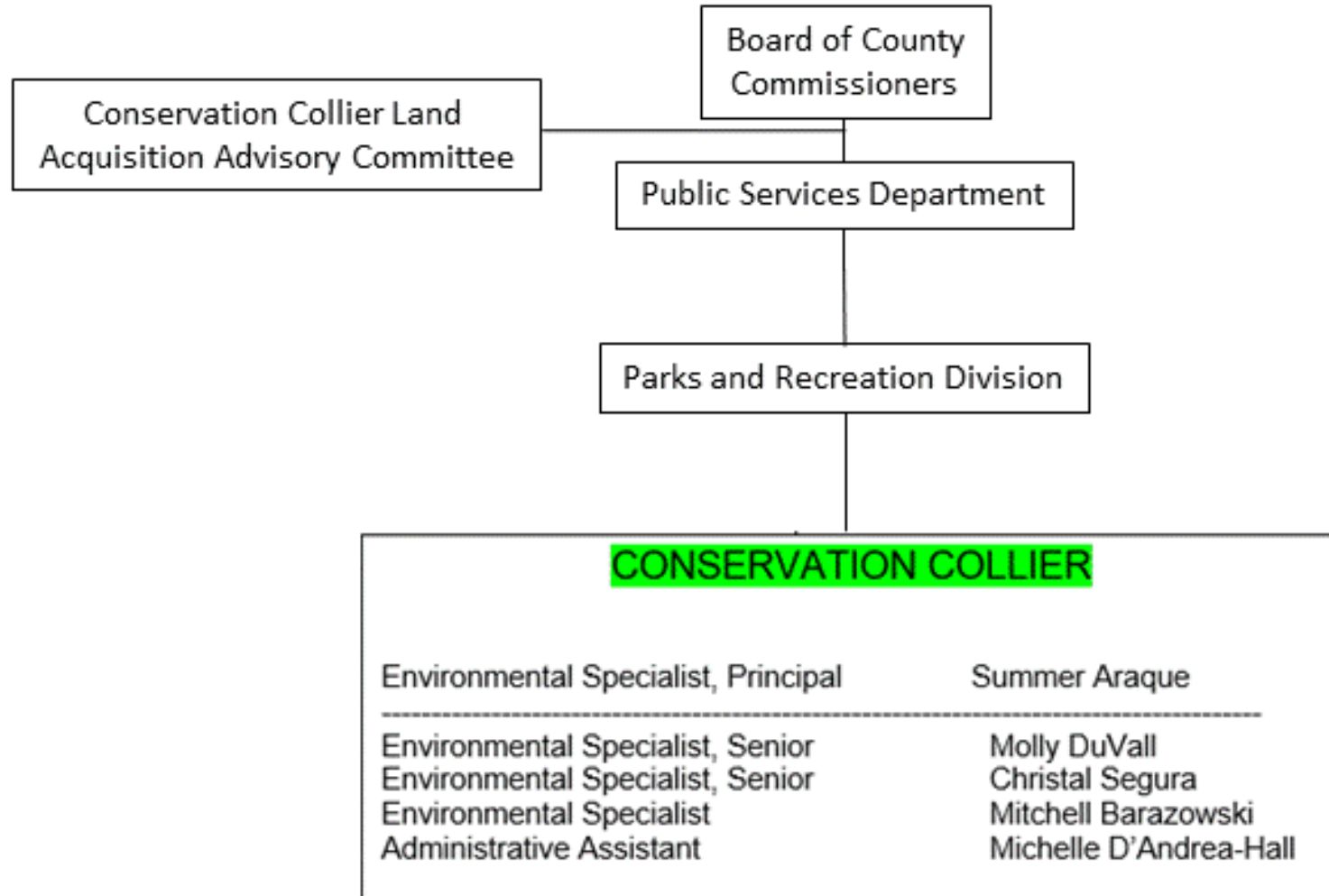
About the Program

About the Preserves

Land Management

About the Referendum

Questions & Answers



Question & Answer Session

- Conservation Collier & Parks Staff present:
Summer Araque, Melissa Hennig, Christal Segura, Molly DuVall
- All questions will be addressed after the presentation as time allows
- The Moderator will alternate recognizing your questions in sequence:
in-person attendees → online participants → phone participants
- Limit your question to 3 minutes

Program Mission

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.



What is the Purpose of Conservation Collier Preserve Land?

- Improve local water quality and recharge our drinking supply
- Protect disappearing rare habitat that supports threatened wildlife species and connect important wildlife corridors
- Provide hiking, biking, equestrian, paddling, hunting, and fishing opportunities

Clean Water



Nature-based Recreation



Wildlife Habitat



Program History & Current Status



**Approved in 2002 referendum by 60% of voters.
Affirmed in 2006 referendum by 82% of voters.**



Ad valorem tax of 0.25 mills was through 2013.



**Acquired 21 different preserves for a total of
4,345 acres.**



**Continuing management of existing preserves
with management funds set aside to manage
the land in perpetuity.**

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee

- Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
- Recommend properties for acquisition to BCC
- Nine-member committee
- Membership has representation from the following Interests:
 - Agricultural and business
 - Educational
 - Environmental and conservation
 - General civic and citizen

Criteria for Selection of Preserves

- (1) Land with the most rare, unique and endangered habitats found in Collier County, order of preference tropical hardwood hammocks, xeric oak scrub, coastal grand, native beach, xeric pine, riverine oak, high marsh (saline, tidal freshwater marsh, other native habitats).
- (2) Land offering the best human social values, including equitable geographic distribution, appropriate access for natural resource-based recreation, and enhancement of the aesthetic setting of Collier County.
- (3) Land which protects the most water resource values, including aquifer recharge, water quality, wetland dependent species habitat, and flood control.
- (4) Land containing the most biological value, including biodiversity, listed species habitat, connectivity, restoration potential, and ecological quality.
- (5) Land which enhances and/or protects the environmental value of current conservation lands through function as a buffer, ecological link, or habitat corridor. (CONTIGUOUS TO EXISTING CONSERVATION LANDS)

Summary of Acquisition Process



1. Target Areas	The Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee and Board of County Commissioners determine properties to target for acquisition.
2. Solicit Sellers	Solicit interested voluntary and willing sellers through direct mail contact.
3. Cycle	Selection and ranking of properties.

What did Conservation Collier do with the funds that were collected from 2004 to 2013?

- Acquired and restored 4,345 acres of natural lands in 21 different locations
- Opened 13 preserves to the public
- Allocated approximately 20% into Management Trust Fund



Where are existing Conservation Collier preserves?

Conservation Collier Program Lands 2020



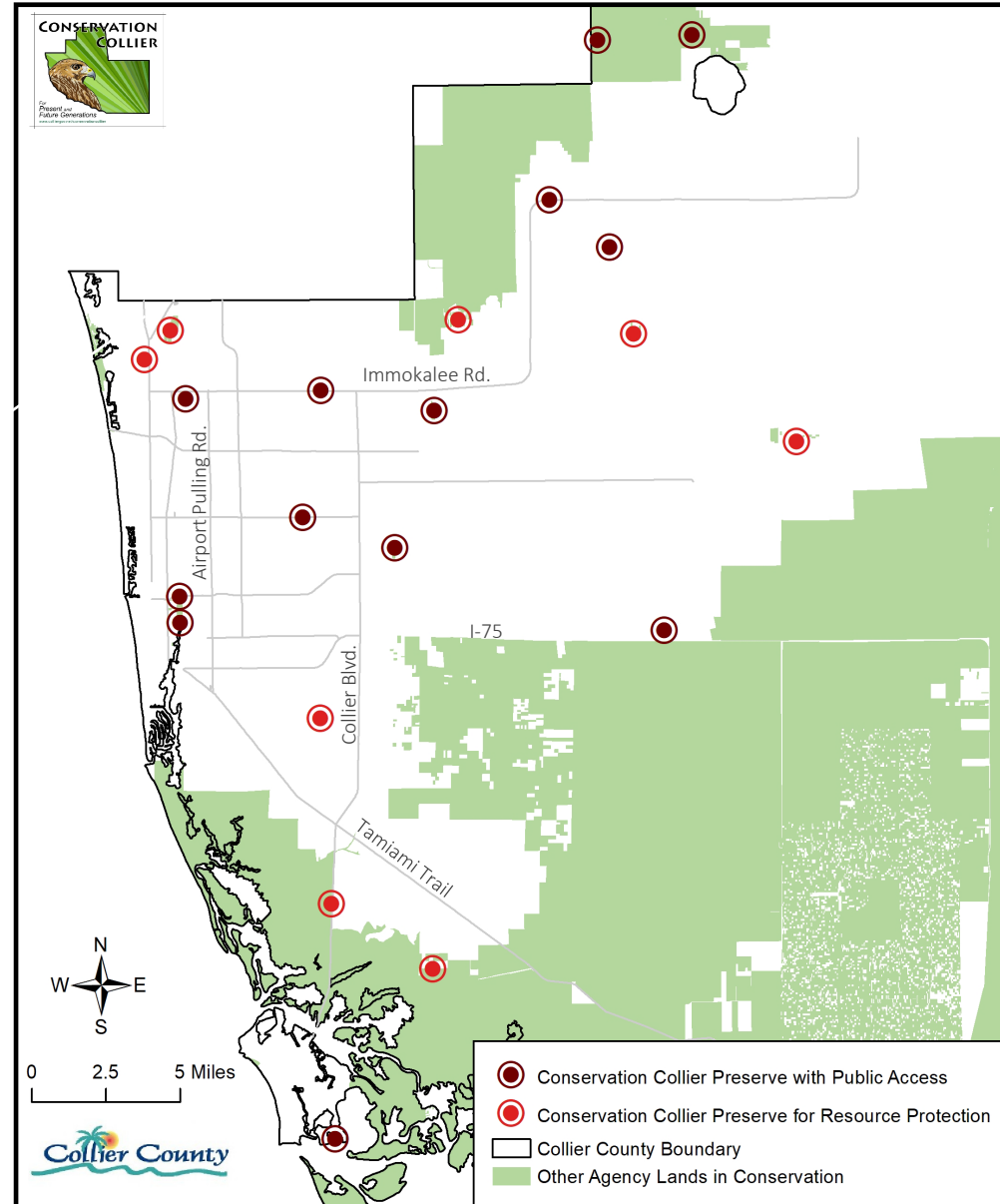
Threatened Gopher Tortoise at Railhead Scrub Preserve



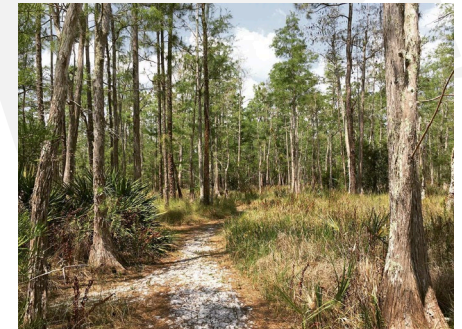
Protected Live oak scrub at Railhead Scrub Preserve



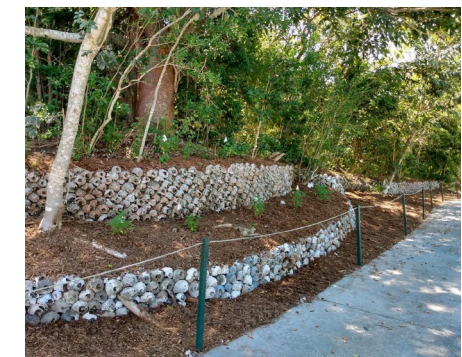
Threatened Pine Lily at Wet Woods Preserve



Cocohatchee Creek Preserve



Alligator Flag Preserve



Otter Mound Preserve



Conservation Collier Preserves

Gordon River Greenway Park

Naples, FL

140 acres protected
(51 Conservation Collier acres)

- Miles of asphalt, boardwalk, and mulched recreation trails
- Free kayak launch and river access into Naples Bay
- Fishing pier and covered viewing platforms along the Gordon River
- Wildlife viewing and photography: see Florida gopher tortoise, manatees, bald eagles and wading birds



Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park

Naples, FL

50 acres protected
(11.6 Conservation Collier acres)

- Winding boardwalk and asphalt trails
- Freedom Memorial- tribute to lives lost on 9/11/01
- Park design filters stormwater before it enters Gordon River
- Catch and release fishing
- See barred owls, migratory warblers, river otters, bobcat, and raccoons



Pepper Ranch Preserve

Immokalee, FL

2,512 acres protected

- Miles of hiking, camping mountain biking, and equestrian trails
- Lake Trafford overlook and boardwalk
- Scenic wildlife drive
- Public and Youth Hunt Program
- Wildlife viewing: spot Sandhill cranes, crested caracara, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and more!



Land Management

Management Funds are used to restore and maintain natural lands through activities including:

- Treatment and Removal of Exotic Plant Species
- Prescribed Burning
- Vegetation Mowing
- Restoration of native plant communities through plantings
- Trail Maintenance
- Preserve Security and Resource Protection



Wildlife Surveys

Management Funds are used to monitor the health of wildlife populations that depend on Conservation Collier Preserves

- *Monitoring of key wildlife species like the Florida panther, Florida black bear, migratory birds, breeding frogs, white-tailed deer and more*
- *Wildlife surveys help to define land management goals and activities to improve habitat for wildlife*






Public Access and Recreation Opportunities at Conservation Collier Preserves

- 13 Conservation Collier preserves, from Marco Island to Immokalee, are open to the public with trails for nature-based recreation
- Hiking, mountain-biking, equestrian trails, fishing, hunting
- Bird-watching, picnicking, wildlife viewing, photography
- Historical preserves with interpretive signage



Visit the Conservation Collier Interactive Map at www.colliercountyfl.gov/conservationcollier

Explore Your Conservation Collier Preserves

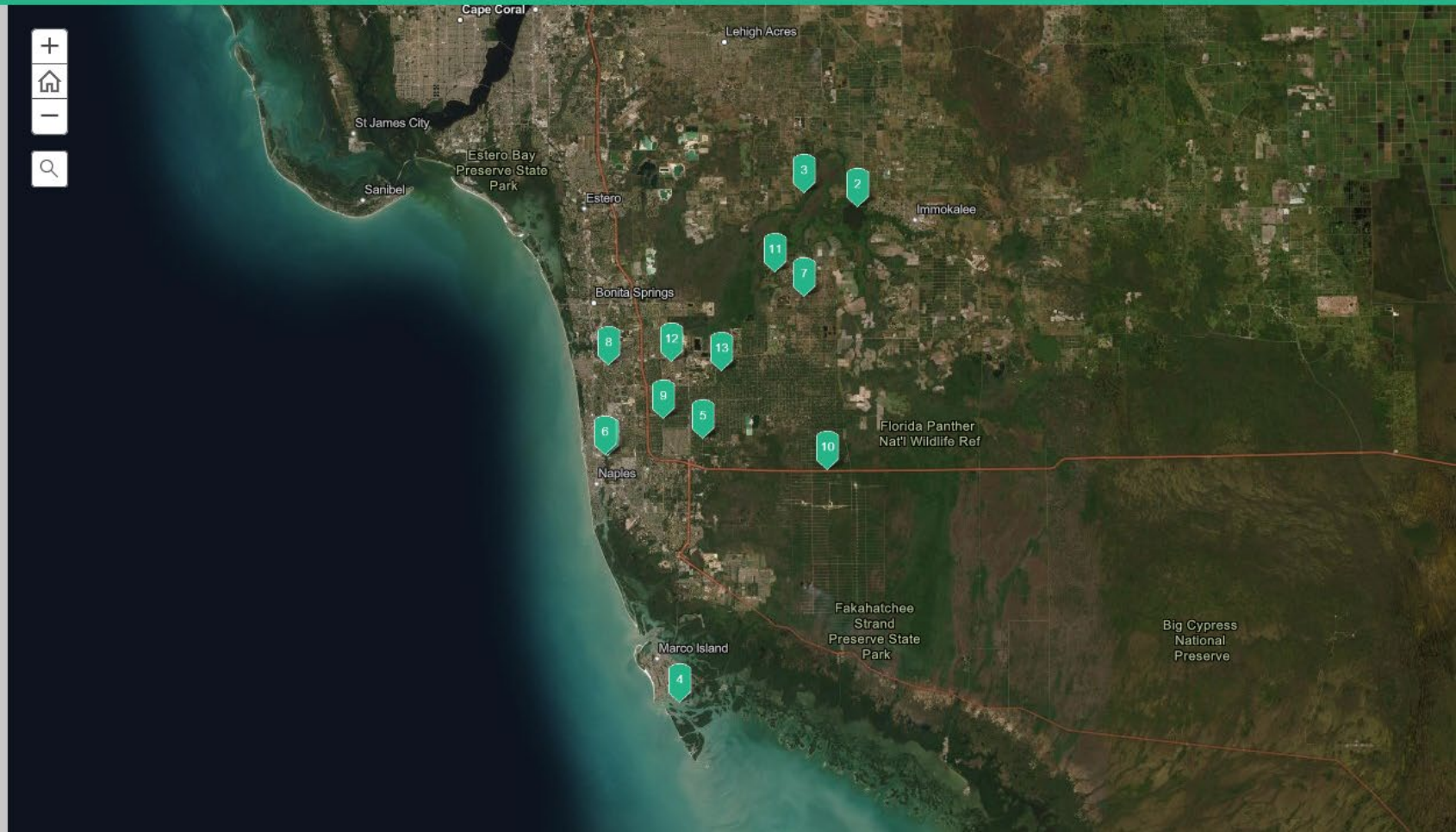
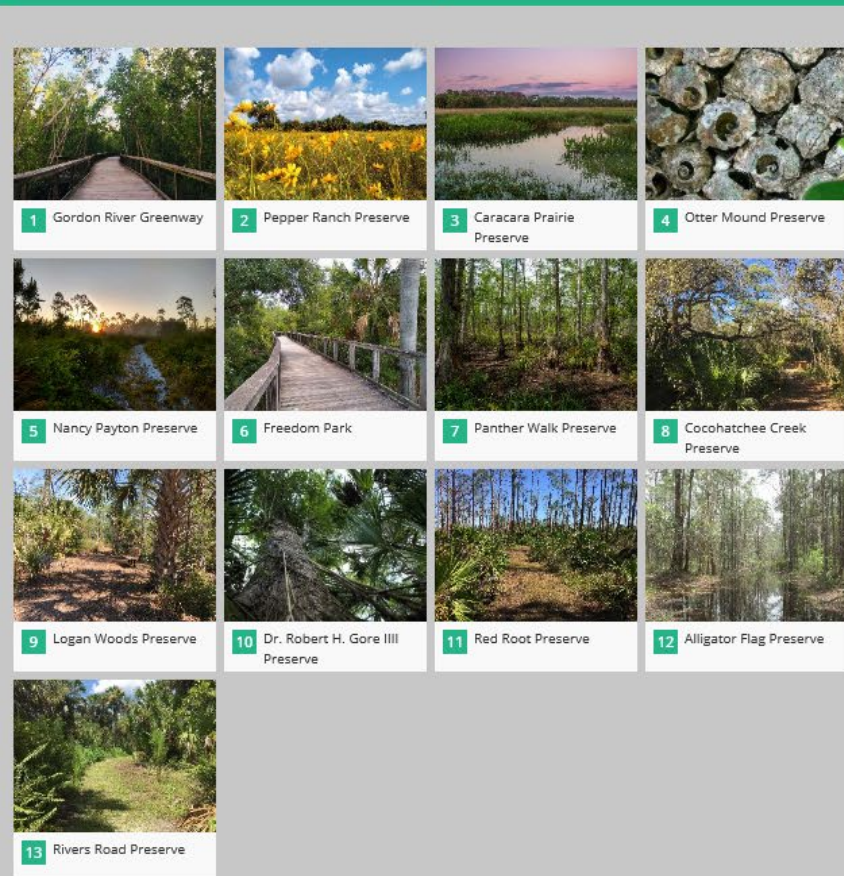
Conservation Collier   



Use the tabs below to learn about your 20 Conservation Collier Preserves

Preserves with Public Access Trails

Preserves for Resource Protection





Conservation Collier Referendum

- The Conservation Collier referendum is on the November 3rd ballot for Collier residents. The question for voters is if they want to re-establish funding to acquire preserve lands in Collier County.*

What is the Conservation Collier Referendum?

The Referendum asks voters if they would like to:

- Reestablish a levy of .25 mil ad valorem tax
- \$25 per \$100,000 of *taxable property value* for ten (10) years
- Continue to fund the Conservation Collier Program's acquisition and management of environmentally sensitive lands.

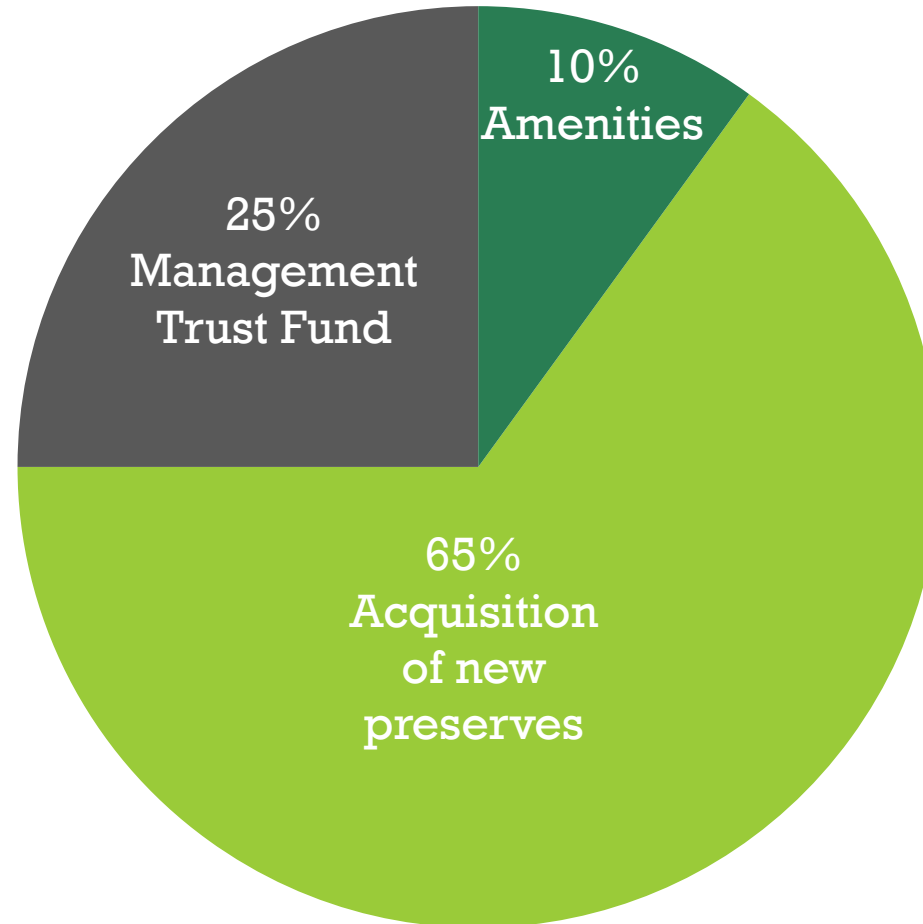
Taxable Value	Tax Impact @ .25 Mills
100,000	\$25
200,000	\$50
300,000	\$75
400,000	\$100
500,000	\$125
750,000	\$188
1,000,000	\$250

If the Referendum passes, what does Conservation Collier plan to do with the money?



Management Trust Fund

25% will be used for management of acquired preserve lands in perpetuity.



Amenities

Up to 10% will be used to fund public amenities at preserves (may include boardwalks, facilities, parking, interpretive programming, etc.)



Acquisition

65-75% will be used to acquire new preserve land

Inventory of Undeveloped Lands

The *Future Acquisition Strategies* document indicates the following undeveloped lands:

Table 2. Potential Acquisition Acreage within Collier County

Future Land Use Map Designation Area	Acreage	Number of parcels
Urban [Residential Subdistrict]*	8,635	2,286
Estates	25,665	11,094
Rural Fringe Mixed Use District	12,540	1,575
Agricultural/Rural	6,282	19
Conservation	6,401	125
Rural Lands Stewardship Area*	2,709 identified on map +36,719	18 identified on map
Total	98,951	15,099

* The acreage for the RLSA were obtained from the RLSA White Paper, May 21, 2019. There are currently 39,428 out of 89,288 acres of HSA, FSA, and WRA not protected through an SSA designation.

Ballot Question



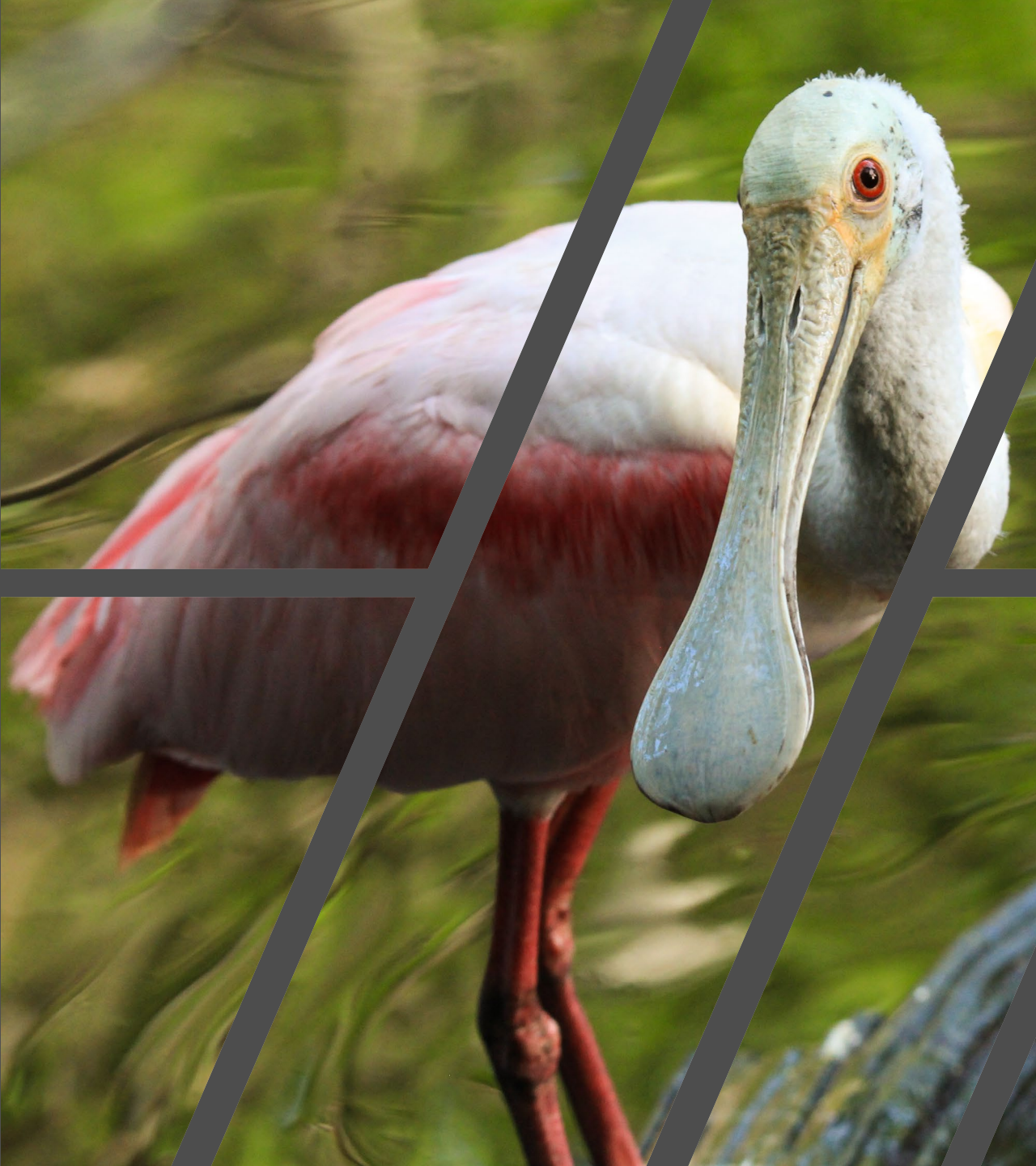
Reestablish funding for Conservation Collier to protect water quality, water resources, and wildlife habitat

Shall Collier County reestablish the levy of a .25 mil ad valorem tax for 10 years for the purpose of continuing to acquire, preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands, and provide compatible public access wherever applicable to such lands, for the protection of water quality, water resources, wildlife habitat, and public open space in perpetuity?

Restablecer fondos para Conservación Collier para proteger la calidad del agua, los recursos hídricos y el hábitat de la vida silvestre

¿Deberá el Condado de Collier restablecer la exacción de un impuesto ad valorem de .25 mil por 10 años con el propósito de continuar adquiriendo, preservando y administrando tierras ambientalmente sensibles, y proporcionar acceso público compatible donde sea aplicable a dichas tierras, para la protección de la calidad del agua, recursos hídricos, hábitat de vida silvestre y espacios públicos abiertos a perpetuidad?

- Yes / Sí
- No



THANK YOU!

The Conservation Collier
Program can be reached at:

Phone:

239-252-2961

Email:

ConservationCollier@CollierCountyFL.gov

Referendum Website:

www.ConservationCollier.com

Conservation Collier main Website:

www.CollierCountyFL.gov/conservationcollier