



## CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND STEWARDSHIP

Once a preserve is acquired, Land Stewardship staff develops a Stewardship Plan which identifies the physical and natural resources of the site, identifies management needs and determines appropriate resource-based recreational opportunities. Typical stewardship activities you may see on our Preserves include:

- Posting boundary signs
- Removing invasive exotic plants
- Prescribed burning
- Restoring natural waterflow
- Trapping feral hogs
- Trash removal

## CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND ACQUISITION

The program only considers land for purchase from willing sellers who nominate their property. Nominations are evaluated according to their significance for wildlife habitat and water resources. They are given a higher priority if they are contiguous to existing conservation lands or are large enough to be managed effectively on their own. The Division of County Lands negotiates the acquisition of successful nominations.



For more information about Lee County Parks and Recreation please see our website:  
[www.leeparks.org](http://www.leeparks.org)



For more information about the Conservation 20/20 program, please see our website:  
[www.conservation2020.org](http://www.conservation2020.org).



For more information about the nomination and acquisition procedures, please contact Lynda Thompson at (239) 533-8833 or by email [lthompson@leegov.com](mailto:lthompson@leegov.com).



For more information about land stewardship activities and volunteer opportunities, please contact Cathy Olson at (239) 533-7455 or by email [colson@leegov.com](mailto:colson@leegov.com)



# CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES

Lee County, Southwest Florida



## BACKGROUND

Conservation lands are lands important for wildlife habitat, water supply, flood storage and water quality. These lands also provide important green space for public use and enjoyment. Such lands are typically owned and managed by government agencies or private land trusts to insure that they will be protected for the long term.

In 1996, voters approved a grass roots referendum to create a local conservation land acquisition program. Lee County had very little conservation land set aside, especially in comparison to the rest of the State. Growth was rapidly replacing open space with land development. The citizen group that created the referendum coined the label of "Conservation 20/20" to signify a future vision of Lee County with large open green spaces in the form of public conservation land.

The referendum provides funds for the program by a 0.5 mil increase in property taxes (50 cents/\$1,000 of taxable property value). Ninety percent of the tax revenues are used for buying land and ten percent are set aside for restoration and long term stewardship. Between 1997 and 2011 over 24,000 acres have been preserved.

The Board of County Commissioners formed a 15-member citizen advisory committee to develop a program to select suitable properties for acquisition and to oversee their restoration and long term management. The committee is named the Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee or CLASAC. CLASAC has been meeting regularly since 1997.



## PUBLIC USE CATEGORY LEVELS FOR ALL CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES

### PRIMARY USE PRESERVE – CATEGORY 1

Preserves in this category have easy access, their size allows for space to construct parking and other amenities. Grants are available to fund capital improvements.

- Additional resource-based, recreational activities will be offered once a Land Stewardship Plan has determined which uses will be compatible with protecting the animal and plant communities found at the specific preserve.
- A parking area, with marked spaces will be provided.
- Restrooms will be provided.
- Daily staff presence.
- Regular environmental education programs will be offered.
- Interpretive signs.
- Capital improvements, such as boardwalks, canoe/kayak launches, overlooks, picnic benches, bike racks and marked trails will be provided for visitors where feasible.
- ADA accessibility provided.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours, unless special arrangements are made.

#### CURRENT CATEGORY 1 PRESERVES:

Billy's Creek, Caloosahatchee Creeks, Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park\*, Pineland Complex\*, Prairie Pines, San Carlos Bay-Bunche Beach\*, Six Mile Cypress Slough\*

*\* Not entirely purchased with 20/20 funds*

### INTERMEDIATE USE PRESERVE – CATEGORY 2

Preserves in this category have space to provide limited parking without degrading the preserve and are conducive to providing a trail system for more than one recreational use.

- Some additional passive, resource based, recreational activities will be offered once a Land Stewardship Plan has determined which uses will be compatible with protecting the animal and plant communities found at the specific preserve.
- Primitive trail head will be provided.
- Restrooms may be provided.
- Frequent, but not daily, staff presence.
- Occasional field trips and/or educational programs will be provided.
- Interpretive signs may be present.
- Primitive trails will be provided.
- Picnic tables and bike racks may be provided.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours unless special arrangements are made.

#### CURRENT CATEGORY 2 PRESERVES:

Hickory Swamp, Matanzas Pass\*, Pine Island Flatwoods, Pop Ash Creek, Powell Creek, Yellow Fever Creek

### LIMITED USE PRESERVE – CATEGORY 3

Preserves in this category are intended to be more of a "neighborhood" preserve. At this time, there is no space available for parking for either ecological, priority, or safety reasons. Members of the public who would like to visit these preserves may have to walk, bike or paddle a distance from public parking areas.

- If the preserve is fenced, at least one walkthrough will be provided.
- No parking or restroom facilities available.
- Staff present for site inspections and at other times as necessary for the proper management of the preserve.
- If there is a public interest, field trips and/or educational programs will be provided.
- Some primitive trails may be marked.
- Will be open to the public during daytime hours unless special arrangements are made.
- May only be accessible to boaters.

#### CURRENT CATEGORY 3 PRESERVES:

Alva Scrub, Charlotte Harbor Buffer, Estero Marsh, Pine Lake, Yucca Pens

*Planned to become a Category 1 Preserve:* Galt

*Currently only waterfront access:* Carver, Columbus G. McLeod, Deep Lagoon, Imperial River, Orange River

### RESOURCE PROTECTION & RESTORATION PRESERVE – CATEGORY 4

Preserves in this category do not currently provide regular public access. This could either be due to the fact that public access is not feasible (such as a preserve that has no road access or one that consists entirely of mangrove swamps), preserves where the land stewardship activities could create unsafe conditions for the public (such as a preserve with an active cattle license) or a newer acquisition that has not been evaluated.

- No facilities or marked trails will be offered.
- Staff present for site inspections and at other times as necessary for the proper management of the preserve.
- If there is a public interest, staff may provide guided field trips when there are no safety concerns and it is compatible with protecting the animal and plant communities found at the specific preserve.

#### CURRENT CATEGORY 4 PRESERVES:

Cayo Pelau, CREW, Flag Pond, Gator Hole, Greenbriar Connector, Hidden Cypress, Imperial Marsh, Koreshan, Oak Creek, Six Mile Cypress-North, Smokehouse Bay, West Marsh.

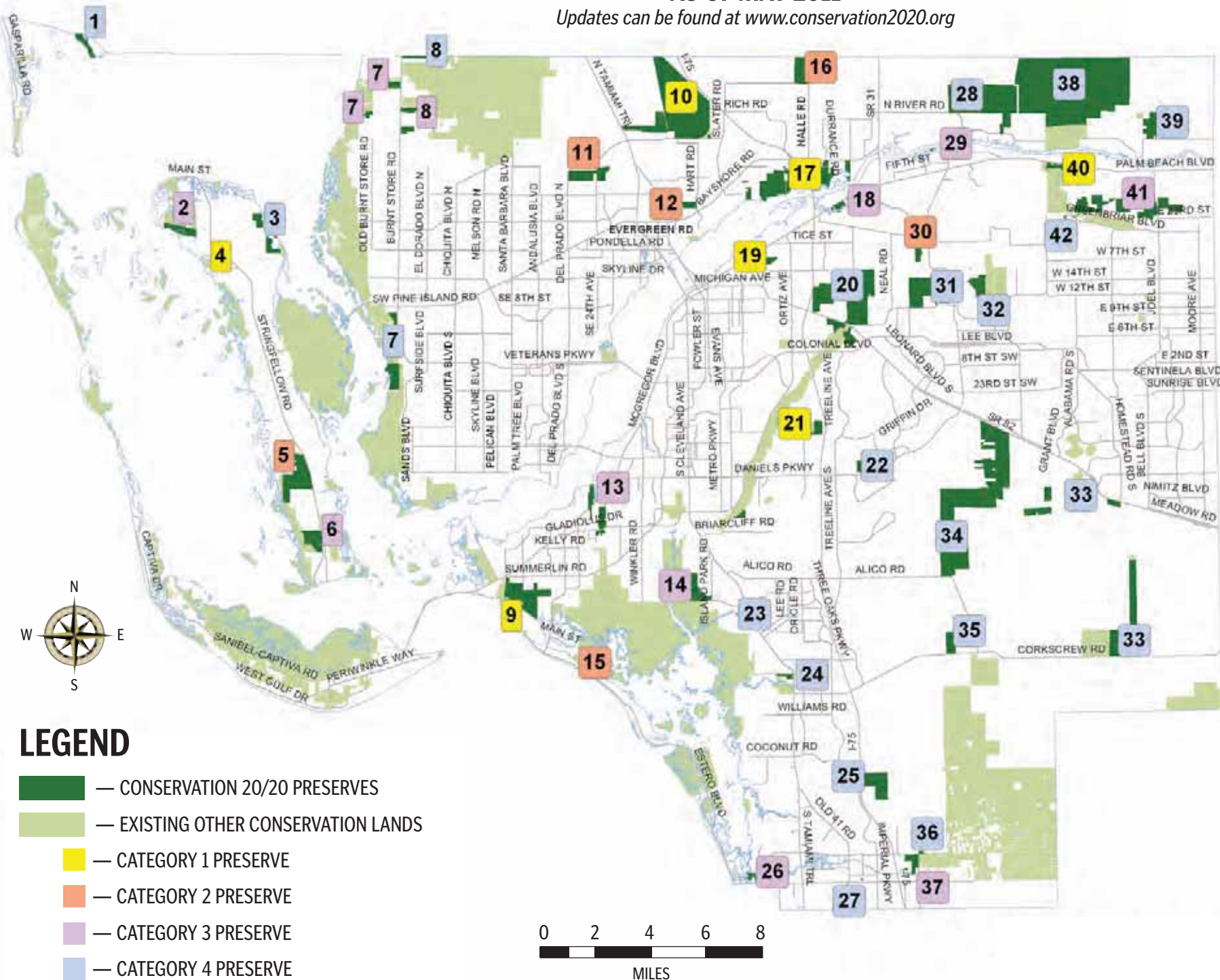
*Planned to become a Category 1 Preserve:* Wild Turkey Strand

*Planned to become a Category 2 Preserve:* Bob Janes, Buckingham Trails, Daniels Preserve, Telegraph Creek

# LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES

AS OF MAY 2011

Updates can be found at [www.conservation2020.org](http://www.conservation2020.org)



1. Cayo Pelau
2. Carver
3. Smokehouse Bay
4. Pineland
5. Pine Island Flatwoods
6. Galt
7. Charlotte Harbor Buffer
8. Yucca Pens
9. San Carlos Bay-Bunche Beach
10. Prairie Pines
11. Yellow Fever Creek
12. Powell Creek
13. Deep Lagoon
14. Estero Marsh
15. Matanzas Pass
16. Pop Ash Creek
17. Caloosahatchee Creeks
18. Orange River
19. Billy's Creek
20. Six Mile Cypress, North
21. Six Mile Cypress Slough
22. Flag Pond
23. Mullcok Creek
24. Koreshan
25. Hidden Cypress
26. Imperial River
27. Oak Creek
28. Telegraph Creek
29. Columbus G. McLeod
30. Hickory Swamp
31. Buckingham Trails
32. West Marsh
33. Imperial Marsh
34. Wild Turkey Strand
35. Gator Hole
36. CREW
37. Pine Lake
38. Bob Janes
39. Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek
40. Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park
41. Alva Scrub
42. Hickey's Creek Greenbriar Connector

## CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES



Lee County will continue to improve access to Conservation 20/20 Preserves. This brochure illustrates opportunities that are currently available. The Land Stewardship staff will be happy to lead organized small group field trips to the Preserves.

There is additional information available about each preserve at our website [www.conservation2020.org](http://www.conservation2020.org) including Land Stewardship plans and staff contact information.

### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALLOWED ON ALL CONSERVATION 20/20 PRESERVES:

Hiking • Bird watching • Nature photography • Nature study  
Picnicking

### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALLOWED AT DESIGNATED SITES:

Canoeing/kayaking • Horseback riding • Mountain biking  
Swimming • Leashed pets • Fishing

### PROHIBITED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Fire • Collecting cultural/historical artifacts • Model airplanes  
Hunting or unauthorized trapping • Motorized vehicles • Campfires  
Collecting plants or animals, dead or alive • Discharging fireworks  
Motorized vehicles • Firearms (Unless in compliance with F.S. CH. 790)

### PAVED PARKING

Caloosahatchee Creeks • Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park  
Prairie Pines • San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach  
Six Mile Cypress Slough

### PICNIC TABLES

Caloosahatchee Creeks • Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park  
Prairie Pines • San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach  
Six Mile Cypress Slough

### UNIMPROVED TRAILHEAD

Hickory Swamp • Matanzas Pass • Pine Island Flatwoods  
Pop Ash Creek • Yellow Fever Creek

### MARKED HIKING TRAILS

Billy's Creek • Caloosahatchee Creeks  
Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park • Matanzas Pass  
Pine Island Flatwoods • Six Mile Cypress Slough • Prairie Pines

### RECOMMENDED FOR HIKING

(No marked trails) Hiking is allowed at every preserve, but these are more suitable for hiking  
Charlotte Harbor Buffer • Pop Ash Creek • Yellow Fever Creek  
Yucca Pens

### ADA FACILITIES

Billy's Creek • Caloosahatchee Creeks  
Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park • Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Prairie Pines

### RESTROOMS

Caloosahatchee Creeks • Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park  
San Carlos Bay-Bunche Beach • Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Prairie Pines

### NATURE STUDY & PHOTOGRAPHY

All Preserves

### CANOE/KAYAK OPPORTUNITIES

Billy's Creek (primitive landing) • Caloosahatchee Creeks (launch)  
Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park (landing) • San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach (launch)

### HORSEBACK RIDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pop Ash Creek • Prairie Pines

### LEASHED PETS

Caloosahatchee Creeks • Prairie Pines

### SWIMMING

San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach

### FISHING

San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach • Pop Ash Creek

### CULTURAL RESOURCE

Buckingham Trails • Pineland Site Complex • Wild Turkey Strand

### EXCEPTIONAL BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

Alva Scrub • Caloosahatchee Creeks • Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park  
Hickory Swamp • Pine Island Flatwoods • Prairie Pines  
San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach • Six Mile Cypress Slough  
Wild Turkey Strand • Yucca Pens



### SCENIC CYPRESS SWAMP

Daniels Preserve • Flag Pond • Gator Hole • Imperial Marsh  
Six Mile Cypress Slough • Wild Turkey Strand

### SCENIC OAK HAMMOCK

Daniels Preserve • Hickory Swamp • Matanzas Pass  
Powell Creek • Yucca Pens

### SCENIC PINE FLATWOODS

Alva Scrub • Charlotte Harbor • Gator Hole  
Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park • Pine Island Flatwoods  
Pop Ash Creek • Prairie Pines • Telegraph Creek  
Wild Turkey Strand • Yellow Fever Creek • Yucca Pens

### SCENIC MANGROVE SWAMP

Caloosahatchee Creeks • Carver • Charlotte Harbor • Deep Lagoon  
Galt • Imperial River • Matanzas Pass • Orange River  
San Carlos Bay – Bunche Beach • Smokehouse Bay

### SCENIC MARSH/PRAIRIE

Alva Scrub • Deep Lagoon • Estero Marsh  
Hickey's Creek Mitigation Park • Pop Ash Creek • Prairie Pines  
Six Mile Cypress Slough • Yellow Fever Creek • Wild Turkey Strand