Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

Land Management Plan

Managed By:
Collier County, FL
Conservation Collier Program

June 2022-June 2032 (10 Yr Plan)

Prepared by: Collier County Conservation Collier Staff

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Land Management Plan Executive Summary

Lead Agency: Conservation Collier Program, Collier County Parks & Recreation Department, Collier County Public Services Department

Properties included in this Plan: Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

Preserve lands consist of five parcels located within Township 49S, Range 28E and Section 33, in Collier County, Florida (41500040008, 41506600002, 41616920009, 41506800006, 41502560007) Full legal descriptions are provided in Appendix 1.

Total Acreage: 172.8 acres

Management Responsibilities: Collier County Conservation Collier Program staff

Designated Land Use: Preservation

Unique Features: The preserve contributes to an important wildlife corridor connecting the Golden Gate Estates to the state and federal conservation lands of the Picayune Strand State Forest, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. The parcels that comprise the preserve were previously purchased and protected by Dr. Robert H. Gore III, a Collier County resident who was passionate about preserving ecologically sensitive lands and educating future generations about their importance.

Management Goals:

Goal 1: Restore native plant communities to enhance the integrity of the habitat and resiliency to future disturbance

Goal 2: Manage habitat and public use to promote utilization of the preserve by focal wildlife species.

Goal 3: Seek opportunities and partnerships for improvements to site hydrology and water management that are compatible with surrounding land uses.

Goal 4: Preserve the archeological, historical, and cultural resources of the preserve.

Goal 5: Provide opportunities for compatible, nature-based recreation to the community.

Goal 6: Incorporate methods to prevent unauthorized activities within the preserve and develop a response procedure to incidents

Goal 7: Pursue the acquisition of parcels adjacent to or nearby the existing preserve boundary.

Public Involvement: As part of the Land Management Plan drafting process, a public meeting will be held in the spring of 2022 to gather input from members of the public and preserve stakeholders.

Table 1: Acquisition History and Status of the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve	
Year	**Benchmark**
2008	Property nominated to the Conservation Collier Program
2009	Property recommended for the Cycle 6 Acquisition B-List by the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
2017	Application Received by the Acquisition Program for Cycle 9
2018	168.87 acres Gore parcels purchased by Conservation Collier in November
2019	2.34 acres I-75 Berman Trust parcels purchased by Conservation Collier in June
2020	Developed Interim Management Plan- BCC Approved
2022	1.59 acres Rudnick Parcel donated to Conservation Collier
2022	Developed Final Management Plan April- CLAAC and BCC Approval Pending

Table 1. Acquisition History and Status of the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

Conservation Collier: Land Acquisition Program and Management Authority

The Conservation Collier Program was originally approved by voters in November 2002 and subsequently confirmed in the November 2006 and 2020 ballot referendum. Both voter-approved referendums enable the program to acquire environmentally sensitive lands within Collier County, Florida (Ordinance 2002-63, as amended). Properties must support at least two of the following qualities to qualify for consideration: rare habitat, aquifer recharge, flood control, water quality protection, and listed species habitat. The BCC appointed a Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CCLAAC) to consider any selected or nominated properties that an owner has indicated a willingness to sell. The committee recommends property purchases for final approval by the BCC.

Lands acquired with Conservation Collier funds are titled to "COLLIER COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, by and through its Conservation Collier program." The Board of County Commissioners of Collier County established the Conservation Collier Program to implement the program and to manage acquired lands. As such, Conservation Collier holds management authority for the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve.

Purpose and Scope of Plan

The purpose of the plan is to provide management direction for the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve (Gore Preserve) by identifying the goals and objectives necessary to eliminate or minimize any threats to the resources and integrity of the preserve. This text is a working document that establishes the foundation of a ten-year plan by identifying the appropriate management techniques necessary to preserve and/or restore the resource.

This plan will balance resource restoration and protection with natural resource-based recreational and educational use while looking at listed species protection and maintenance of the site free of invasive, exotic plant and animal species. This plan is divided into sections that include an introduction, descriptions of the natural and cultural resources, projected uses of the property, and management issues, goals, and objectives.

An Interim Management Plan for the Gore Preserve was approved by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in 2020. This is the Final Management Plan for the Gore Preserve. Updates to this plan will be completed every 5 years following approval by the BCC.

Preserve Location

The Gore Preserve is located adjacent to and directly west of Desoto Blvd in Section 33, Township 49S, and Range 28E within the Northern Golden Gate Estates of Collier County, FL. The properties are accessible by road via 36th, 38th and 40th Ave SE. The total acreage for the preserve is 172.8 acres. The property is composed of Pine Flatwood, Mixed Wetland Hardwoods, Inland Ponds and Sloughs, Cypress, and Mixed Shrub Brush.

Existing parcel folios are as follows:

41500040008
41506600002
41616920009
41506800006
41502560007

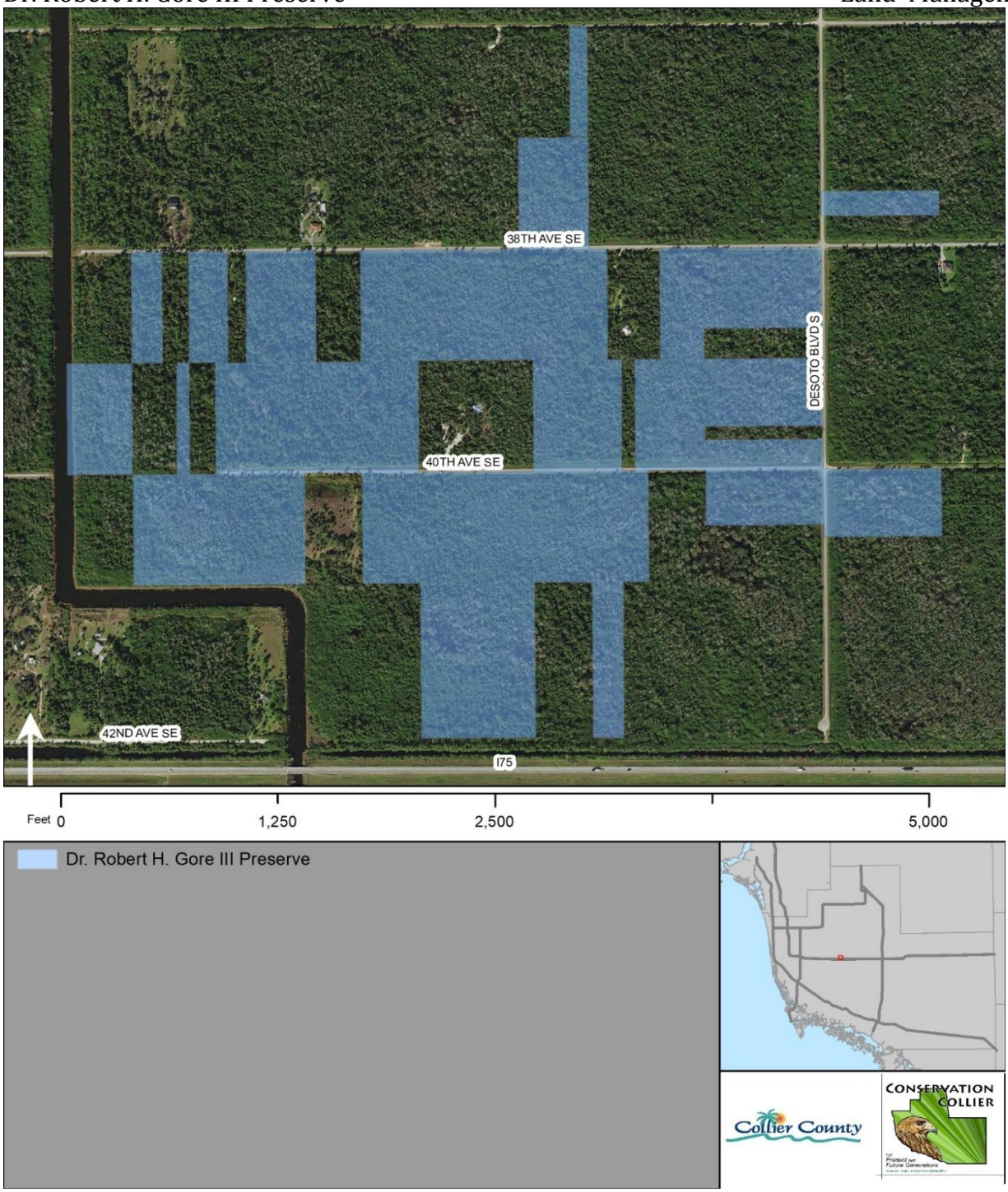

Figure 1. Gore Preserve Location and Boundary

Adjacent Land Use and Regional Significance

The Gore Preserve is located within 1 mile of several integral state and federal conservation lands which provide contiguous protected habitat for a wide diversity of imperiled wildlife species. The federally owned Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge comprises over 26,000 acres of contiguous habitat along the eastern boundary of the Gore Preserve. To the south, the state-owned

lands of Picayune Strand State Forest comprising over 78,000 acres and the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park comprising over 85,000 acres provide opportunities for wildlife utilizing the Gore Preserve to disperse throughout a contiguous network of conservation land via the wildlife underpasses beneath Interstate 75. As a result of this close network of managed wildlife habitat, the Gore Preserve lands record significant and consistent observations of utilization by large, long-ranging wildlife species like the federally endangered Florida panther, the Florida black bear, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey, among others.

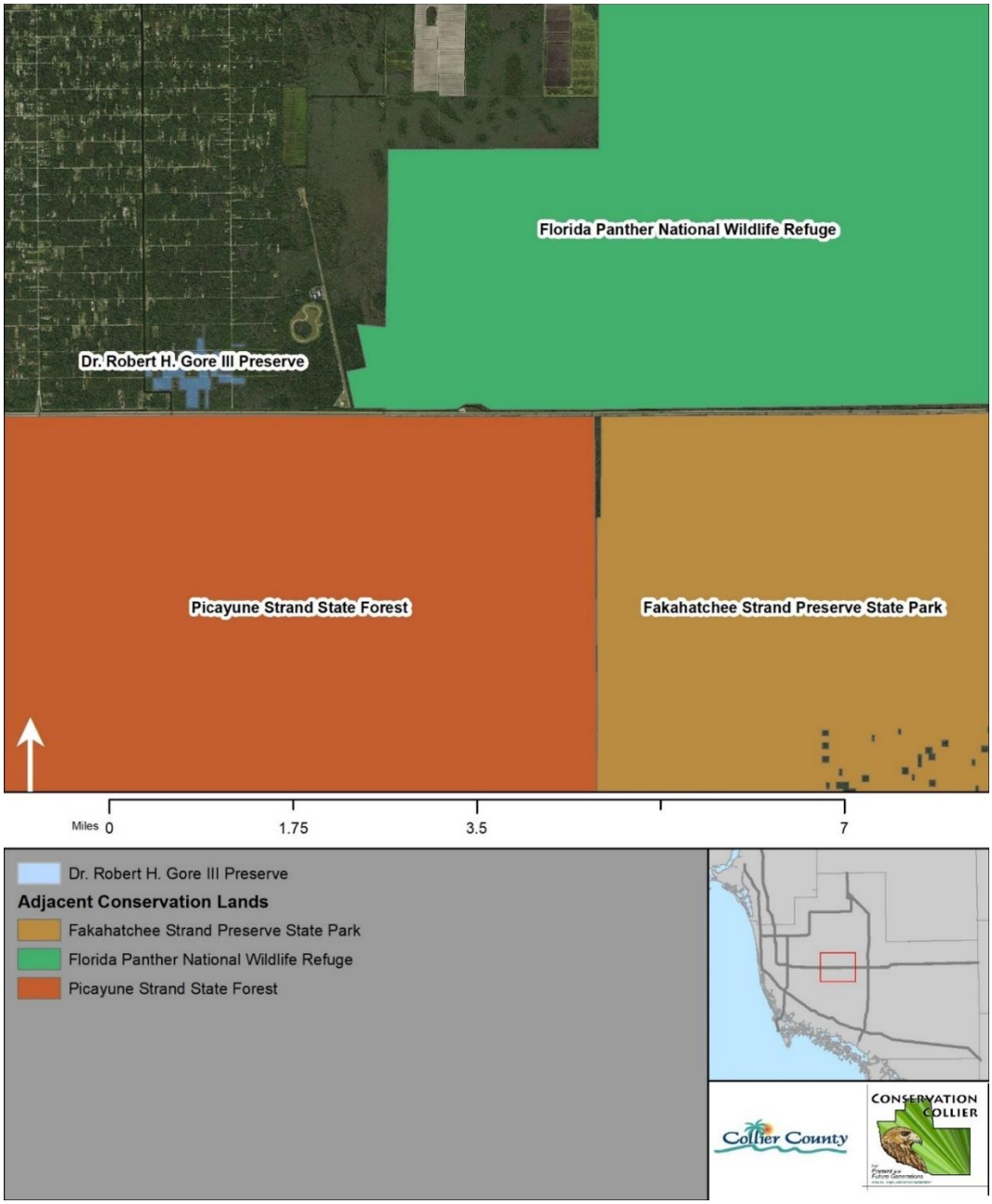

Figure 2. Adjacent Conservation Lands

Partnership Opportunities and Community Involvement

Cypress Cove Landkeepers

The 501c3 nonprofit known as the Cypress Cove Landkeepers (formerly the Cypress Cove Conservancy) was founded in 2015 with a mission to preserve and protect Southwest Florida's ecologically sensitive landscape from the impacts of development. Following the acquisition of the County preserve lands in 2018, the Cypress Cove Landkeepers purchased 10 acres in the center of the County preserve boundary and named the parcel the Gore Nature Education Center. The Gore Nature Education Center features the previous home of Dr. Robert H. Gore III which has been renovated to serve as a nature-learning classroom, demonstration kitchen, and gathering space for programs and meetings. Along with the educational programming available, the property offers a series of short walking trails. Currently the Nature Education Center is open for special programs or by reservation only, except for the first Sunday of each month where it is available for public visitation from 10am-2pm.

Photo 1. View of the Gore Nature Education Center Managed by the Cypress Cove Landkeepers

Members of the Cypress Cove Landkeepers organization were instrumental toward advocating for the purchase and preservation of the Gore Preserve lands owned by the County. As part of the continued partnership planning between the two organizations, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted between Collier County and the Cypress Cove Landkeepers and approved by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners in June of 2021 (Appendix 2). The MOU defines expectations for utilization of County Preserve lands by representatives of the Cypress Cove Landkeepers for education and outreach opportunities and specifies a goal for consistency in educational signage and materials between the two properties.

The conceptual public access plan detailed in section 5.0 PUBLIC ACCESS of this document provides a framework for the desired future connectivity of the County preserve land trails with the existing

Gore Nature Education Center Trails to facilitate the educational opportunities available at the County preserve lands. The plans for this connection point between the two trails include a locking gate feature to prevent public unauthorized access to the Gore Nature Education Center Trails during times when visitation hours differ between the two properties. Additional connection points may be considered in the future as trail building and public access opportunities expand.

In November of 2021, Conservation Collier staff took part in the Grand Opening celebrations for the Gore Nature Education Center hosted by the Cypress Cove Landkeepers and provided outreach and information to members of the public regarding public access opportunities at the County preserve and future goals for acquisition. Conservation Collier staff will continue to partner with the Cypress Cove Landkeepers for future outreach and education events that support the conservation and education goals of both organizations.

Photo 2: Conservation Collier staff providing outreach at the Gore Nature Education Center Grand Opening in 2021. Photo by Christy Duff

Fstop Foundation

The 501c3 non-profit Fstop Foundation was founded with a mission to create a positive effect in conservation by creating awareness through the use of photography. In early 2021, Conservation Collier staff partnered with the Fstop Foundation team who installed wildlife monitoring cameras along the public access trails of the Gore Preserve. Fstop Foundation staff maintain these cameras and download the collected images into a shared database which allows Collier County staff to monitor activities along the preserve trails and develop an inventory of the wildlife species observed utilizing the preserve lands. The material collected by the Fstop Foundation has been used during guided educational hikes with the public, on social media to enhance wildlife awareness within the community, in educational brochures for the property and on the preserve website. A sample of photos collected thanks to the wildlife monitoring partnership with the Fstop Foundation are featured in section 2.0 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

1.0 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1.1 Management Goal

Goal: Restore native plant communities to enhance the integrity of the habitat and resiliency to future disturbance

1.2 Site Assessment

1.2.1 Natural Plant Communities

Characterization of Plant Communities present:

FLUCCS	Ground cover	Midstory	Canopy
411 – pine flatwoods	grasses, palmetto, St. John's-wort primrose willow, twinflower, bachelor button, beautyberry, meadow beauty, goldenrod, musky mint, tickseed	wax myrtle, bay, saltbush, myrsine, shining sumac	slash pine
428 – cabbage palm	grasses, ferns and forbs, poison ivy vines, wild coffee, dog fennel	cabbage palm	cabbage palm, slash pine
616 - inland ponds and sloughs	Swamp fern, maidencane, pickerel weed, sagittaria	hog plum, rag weed, salt bush	pond apple, cypress, pop ash
617- mixed wetland hardwoods	Swamp fern, frog-fruit, blue porterweed	Dog fennel, beauty berry, myrsine	Red maple, pop ash, red bay, laurel oak
621- cypress	swamp fern, chain fern, smilax	cabbage palm, salt brush, stiff dogwood	cypress, cabbage palm, red bay

Table 2. FLUCCS Plant Communities

The Florida Land Use Cover Classification for the preserve defines four native plant communities within the preserve. As a result of historic efforts to develop the Golden Gate Estates and habitat alterations that reduced the hydroperiod, a portion of the property has transitioned to pine flatwoods with upland vegetation in the understory.

In general, the condition of the on-site native plant communities upon acquisition varied from moderate to poor as a result of the consistent infestation level throughout each community type by invasive, exotic plant species. The native plant communities found throughout the preserve, while heavily impacted by exotics feature mature native trees and a diverse midstory and understory where native plants species occur. Because of this persistence of a rich diversity of native plant species throughout the impacted communities found within the preserve, restoration forecasts are optimistic following intensive efforts to kill and remove the exotic plant species dominating the landscape.

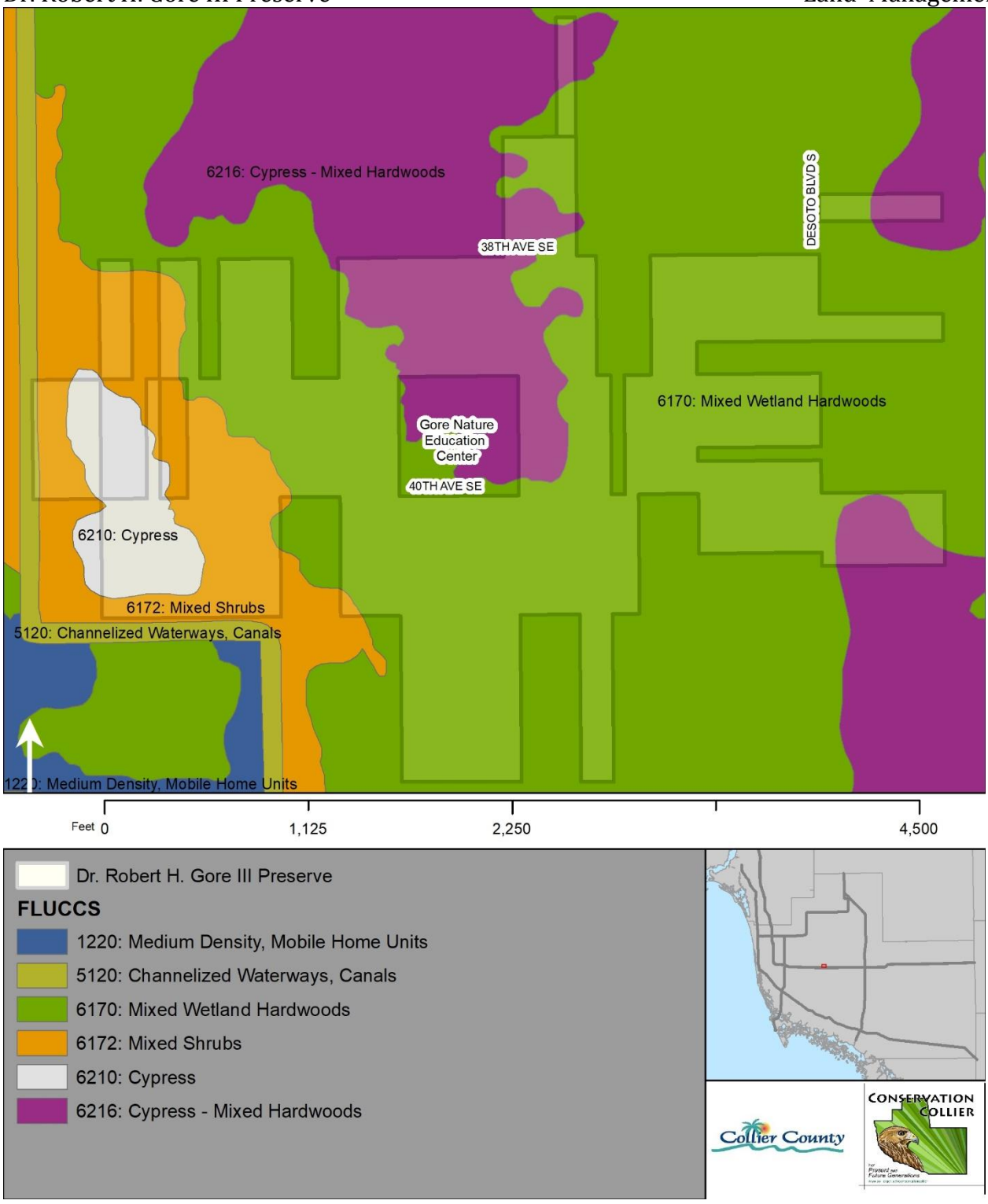

Figure 3. Florida Land Use Cover Classification System (FLUCCS)

Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is a remote sensing method that calculates variable distances from the earth's surface and provides a rendering of the topography of an area.

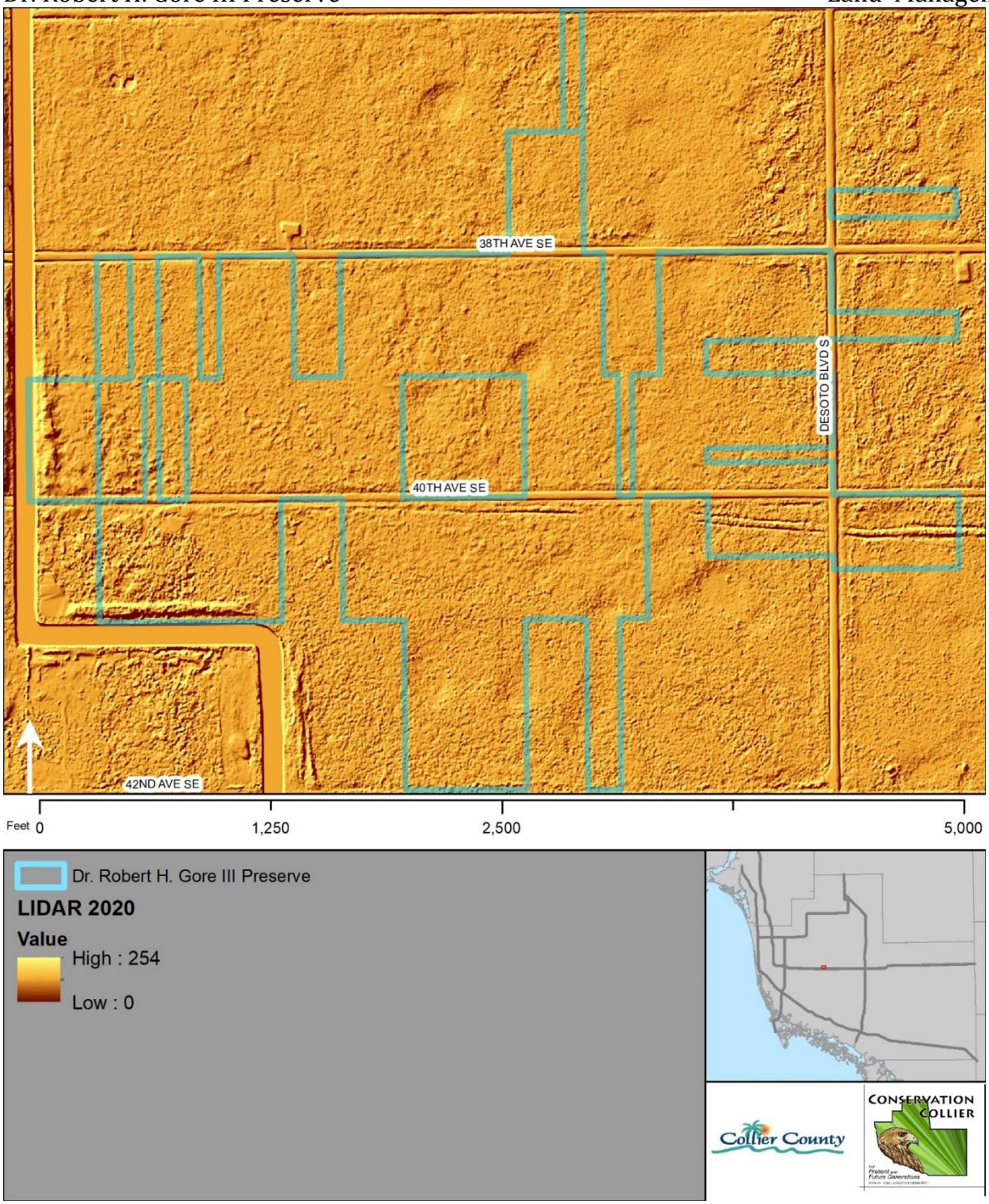

Figure 4. LIDAR Map of the Gore Preserve and Surrounding Area

In the LIDAR Map shown above (Figure 4) variations in elevations throughout the preserve can be seen with lower elevation areas shown in dark orange and often corresponding to wetland sloughs, seasonal ponds, and roadside swales. Areas with higher elevations are shown in degrees of lighter orange, with the lightest shades corresponding to raised spoil piles and areas where upland

vegetation is likely to compose the plant community. A notable feature shown in the map is the depressional cypress slough at the northeast corner of the Cypress Cove Landkeepers parcel that provides wetland habitat for listed wading birds, features shoulder-height cypress knees and is a focal location for many of the educational programs occurring on-site.

The modifications to this area as shown in the LIDAR map are one of the driving forces for the condition of the preserve upon acquisition. Changes to the regional hydrology through the installation of roadways, swales, and the Faka Union canal have facilitated a significant infestation of the native plant communities by exotic, invasive plant species. When first acquired, it was estimated that more than 65% of the plant community composition on-site was comprised of exotic, invasive species. This is a considerable infestation compared to other parcels acquired through the Conservation Collier program and project benchmarks for restoration success may need to factor in a longer timeframe and more intensive approach to reach the goals defined in this management plan.

1.2.2 Invasive Plant Species

The invasive, exotic plant species identified as having a significant impact on the native plant communities within the Gore Preserve include Brazilian pepper (Schinus terebinthifolia), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), lantana (*Lantana spp*.), cogan grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*).

Photo 3. Seasonal air potato infestation occurring within the Gore Preserve

The preserve will be inspected throughout each year with aims of providing early detection of new exotic, invasive species of concern. Collier County staff will continue to communicate with contractors hired for exotic plant removal in order to extend monitoring efforts for new species observations. Following two sweeps of the entire property in 2020 and 2021, there have been no

observations of sizeable infestations by climbing fern (*Lygodium spp.*) which is often one of the most costly and intensive species to eradicate within a preserve. Conservation Collier staff will continue to monitor for the presence of this exotic species in order to respond when infestation levels are low and manageable.

1.2.3 Listed Plant Species

A diversity of plant species that are listed as endangered or threatened have been observed within the preserve. A property wide inventory of all plant species found within the preserve will be completed in the Spring and Fall of 2022 and provided as an Appendix item to this management plan. The listed species recorded to date are listed in the Table below.

Common Names	**Scientific Names**	**FDACS (State)**
Hand fern	*Ophioglossum palmatum*	Endangered
Reflexed wild pine	*Tillandsia balbisiana*	Threatened
Stiff-leaved wild pine	*Tillandsia fasciculata*	Endangered
Giant wild pine	*Tillandsia utricula*	Endangered
Saw palmetto	*Serenoa repens*	Commercially Exploited
Twisted air-plant	*Tillandsia flexuosa*	Threatened
Butterfly orchid	*Encyclia tampensis*	Commercially Exploited

Table 3. Listed Plant Species Observed at the Gore Preserve

1.3 Management Methods

1.3.1 Invasive Plant Treatment and Removal

When the Gore Preserve was acquired in 2018, one of the initial management and planning concerns noted was the reduced access to the interior portions of the preserve due to a dense infestation of exotic Brazilian pepper along the right of ways of the roadways. This reduction of access was anticipated to significantly increase the quoted price for annual exotic removal treatments during both the initial and maintenance phase of restoration. As the dense stands of Brazilian pepper were the primary vegetation type visible along the road edge through the majority of the preserve, there was also a concern regarding the long-term appearance of the restoration areas of the preserve if the typical kill-in-place method was used for exotics control as the dominant view for public visitors would be deteriorating and defoliated pepper shrubs. In order to reduce management costs overtime, facilitate management access to the interior portions of the preserve, and improve the aesthetics and visitor experience to the preserve, a project was undertaken in 2019 to mechanically remove the Brazilian pepper infesting the right of way along 40th Ave SE, 38th Ave SE, and Desoto Blvd (Figure 5). This mechanical reduction was followed up by subsequent herbicide treatments of

regrowth to control resprouting. The photos below show the status of the right of way prior to treatment as well as after. Follow-up reduction of the treated pepper may be considered for future projects in areas where a dense infestation existed beyond the limit of the precious right of way project.

Photo 4. Initial Condition of the Preserve Roadways with Dense Stands of Brazilian Pepper

Photo 5. Condition of the Right of Way Following Mechanical Reduction of Brazilian Pepper

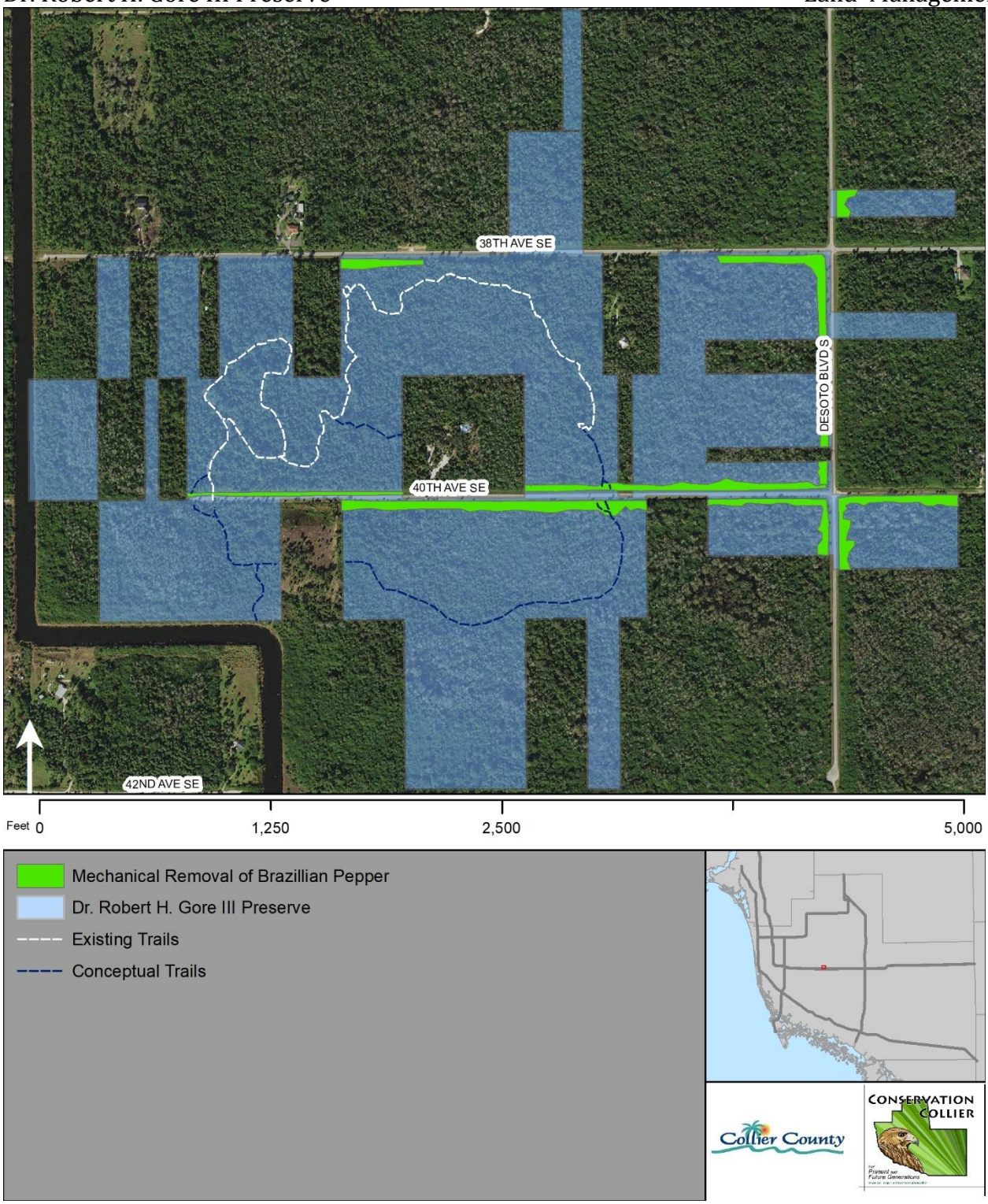

Figure 5. Map of Project Area to Reduce Brazilian Pepper Infestation Along the Right-of-Ways

In 2019, Conservation Collier staff applied for and were awarded funding assistance through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Upland Invasive Plant Management Section (IPMS) to carry out an initial exotics treatment in 2020 of 101.5 acres of the Gore Preserve which equated to the parcels to the North of 40th Ave SE (Figure 6) in the amount of $32,480. Collier County matched the treatment funds and completed a treatment of the remaining 70 acres for $37,769.47 utilizing management funds allocated for the Gore Preserve.

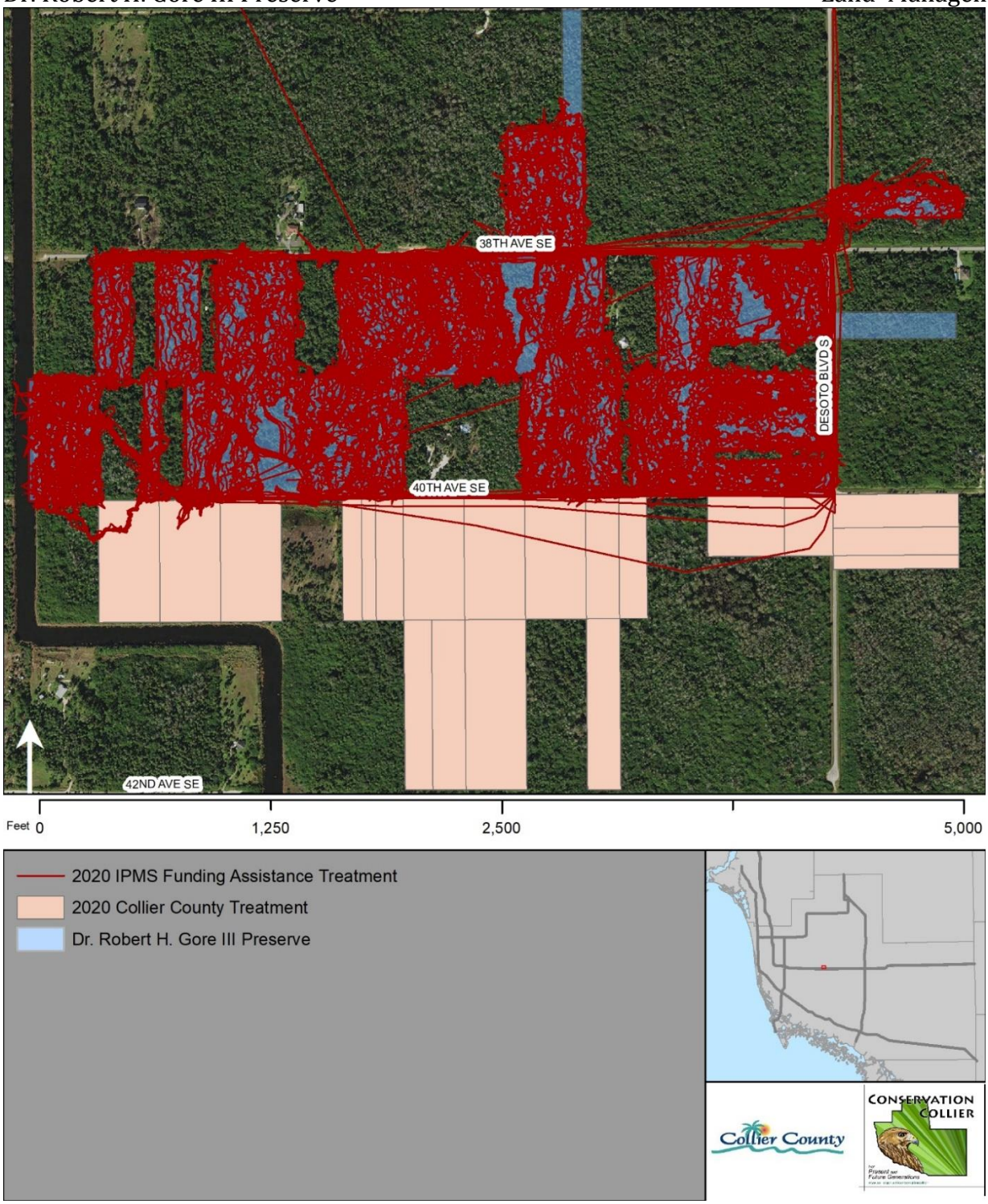

Figure 6. 2020 Initial Exotics Treatments at the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

In 2020, Conservation Collier staff again applied for funding assistance through the FWC IPMS program to carry out a maintenance exotic treatment on the entire 171.2 acres of the preserve. Staff were awarded $28,132.50 of funding assistance to complete the treatment. Also in 2020, Conservation Collier staff completed a maintenance treatment of the vegetation surrounding

4,000ft of the public hiking trail for $3,995 targeting species not included in the IPMS funding assistance scope of work.

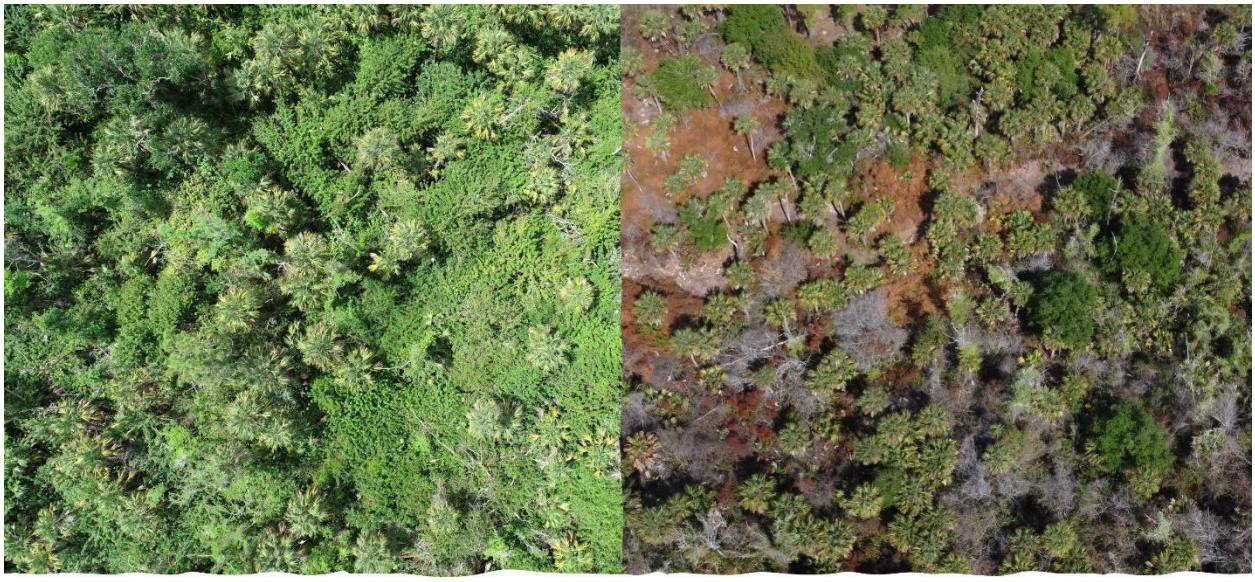

Photo 6. Aerial Comparison of the Exotics Coverage in an Area in 2019 (left) vs 2022 (right)

Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) is listed as a Category 1 exotic by the Florida Exotic Plant Pest Council and is prolific in localized areas of the preserve from Spring-Fall. As the growth stage for this vine occurs outside of the typical timeline for annual exotic herbicide treatments, additional targeted treatments will be factored into the annual exotic maintenance plan for the preserve, either through contracted services or in-house spot treatments as needed. It is recommended to carry out subsequent treatments in late spring and early summer in order to target vines when they are small, actively growing, and have not yet produced the aerial tubers that feed subsequent invasions.

Mission grass (Pennisetum polystachion) and cogan grass (Imperata cylindrica) are two invasive, exotic species that are impacting localized areas of the preserve boundary, likely brought in from routine mowing of the road right of way by large equipment, and may require multiple treatments each year to eradicate and prevent from spreading. Annual treatments and inspections will be required until adjacent parcels with significant seed source are acquired and treated, or the private owners eradicate the grasses from the parcels adjacent to the preserve boundary.

1.3.2 Native Plant Restoration

With any management activity that results in habitat modifications, such as exotic plant removal or installation of public use infrastructure, the preferred and most cost-effective method for revegetation of the native plant community is through natural recruitment via the existing seedbank.

In some cases, the level of infestation is so high and has been impacting the property for such a length of time that the native seed bank is depleted and not a reliable source for natural recruitment and regrowth of a treatment area. On a case-by-case basis, these areas will be considered for native

plant restoration projects where native trees and shrubs are sourced from a native plant nursery and planted within a project site to facilitate and expedite restoration of the plant community. Where possible, efforts should be made to utilize sources for plantings that preserve local or on-site plant genetics.

1.3.3 Prescribed Fire and Mechanical Reduction

Plant communities within the Dr. Robert Gore III Preserve are fire dependent and would benefit substantially from activities geared toward fuel reduction and the use of controlled burning if it was deemed feasible. Historic alterations to the hydrology of the region through the installation of roadways and canal systems that have shortened the hydroperiod as well as long-term suppression of natural fires to protect homes throughout the Golden Gate Estates has led to significant fuel loading within the preserve lands and surrounding areas. The infestation of these fire suppressed parcels by exotic plant species is an additional contributing factor to the high fuel levels and fire risk of the region. The impacts of uncontrolled wildfires are an annual concern for community members living within and visiting the Estates Area and are an important concern for land managers to consider when working to safeguard the natural resources of the preserve and surrounding community.

Given present conditions of fuel levels of parcels adjacent to the preserve, lack of sufficient firebreaks protecting homesteads, and a history of significant property loss within the Estates due to wildfires, controlled burning is not a recommended management action at this time. The feasibility of controlled burning to manage the Gore Preserve lands should be re-assessed at each 5-year update to the plan. As controlled burning is not currently a recommended method for management, activities that aim to simulate some of the benefits of controlled burning for fuel reduction such as projects that incorporate mechanical mulching and mowing of herbaceous ground cover may be considered.

2022 Frost Event

From Thursday, January 27th-Monday, January 31st, 2022, a region-wide frost advisory was in effect and areas surrounding the Gore Preserve recorded overnight temperatures as low as 28° F. Freezing temperatures to this extent in this region had not been recorded since 2010. Following the freeze event, Conservation Collier staff carried out a site visit to observe the effects of the low temperatures on the native and exotic vegetation species at the preserve. In comparison to all other Conservation Collier preserves visited during this timeframe, the Gore Preserve showed the greatest short-term die-off of plant species diversity and extent, speculated to be as a result of inland temperatures dropping lower than coastal areas throughout the frost event. In February of 2022, Collier County staff collected aerial images of the preserve to document the frost damage using a drone (Appendix 4). Staff have been monitoring the recovery of the vegetation within the preserve following the frost event and have noted that a regrowth of the native plant species that initially appeared to be a permanent die-off was first observed in late March and it is anticipated that the upcoming rainy season will contribute to the natural regrowth of the preserve's native understory vegetation. It is unknown what the long-term impacts will be on the cold-sensitive epiphytes within

the preserve such as existing orchid species, but efforts will be made to monitor this where possible. It is important to note that anecdotal observations were made that there were limited impacts from the frost on mature Brazilian pepper trees in the region, but plants that were previously treated or young plants not yet established were observed to be impacted by frost in the short term.

Photo 7. Aerial Drone Imagery of the Understory Vegetation Impacted by the January 2022 Freeze Event

The aerial image above showing the extent of the frost damage to the understory herbaceous plant cover provides a good visual representation of the areas of the preserve that may benefit from consideration for future mechanical reduction of the understory by mowing or mulching to simulate the effects of controlled fire and reduce overloaded fuels. With these types of activities, dense overgrown vegetation is reduced in height to allow for regrowth of native species that have a higher nutrient load to support herbivorous wildlife and increases resources like light and space for native plants to regrow from the seedbank and ultimately increase species diversity.

2.0 WILDIFE MANAGEMENT

2.1 Management Goal

Goal 2: Manage habitat and public use to promote utilization of the preserve by focal wildlife species.

2.2 Site Assessment

The Gore Preserve is an ecologically valuable acquisition for the region, not only due to the preservation of the native plant communities in this rapidly developing portion of Collier County, but also for the preservation of a highly utilized wildlife dispersal corridor. Situated North of the

Picayune Strand State Forest, northwest of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, and west of the Florida Panther Refuge, the lands that comprise the Gore Preserve are highly utilized by far-ranging species like the endangered Florida panther, the Florida black bear, as well as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, Eastern diamondback rattlesnake, grey fox, and spotted skunk among others.

Adjacent to the preserve lands along the Faka-Union Canal, a wildlife underpass crossing constructed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provides wildlife with an opportunity to cross from the Picayune Strand State Forest, under Interstate 75, and into the protected lands of the Gore Preserve before dispersing throughout the rest of the Golden Gate Estates. These wildlife underpasses are monitored using game cameras and record consistent utilization from a wide range of species from American alligator to Florida panther. Currently the lands directly adjacent to the Gore Preserve side of the underpass are in private ownership and heavily impacted by Brazilian pepper. If future opportunities become available to acquire these parcels and restore the habitat to facilitate access for wildlife, the dispersal corridor between state and county conservation lands could be enhanced significantly.

2.2.1 Documented Wildlife Species

The Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve provides habitat for a wide diversity of wildlife species. Table 4 provides a list of wildlife species observed on-site to date. As additional observations are made, this list will be updated and republished at subsequent management plan updates.

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Protection Status
BIRDS	mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*	
	turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*	
	red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	
	black vulture	*Coragyps atratus*	
	wild turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*	
	common ground-dove	*Columbina passerina*	
	red-bellied woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*	
	red-headed woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	
	downy woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	
	blue jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*	

	white-eyed vireo	*Vireo griseus*	
	Northern cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	
	great-crested flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*	
	blue-grey gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	
	swallow-tailed kite	*Elanoides forficatus*	
	pileated woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	
	house wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	
	Caroline wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*	
	little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*	State-Threatened
	great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*	
	great egret	*Ardea alba*	
	great horned owl	*Bubo virginianus*	
MAMMALS	white-tailed deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*	
	Florida black bear	*Ursus americanus*	
	Florida panther	*Puma concolor coryi*	Federally Endangered
	Eastern spotted skunk	*Spilogale putorius*	
	raccoon	*Procyon lotor*	
	Virginia opossum	*Didelphis virginiana*	
	nine-banded armadillo	*Dasypus novemcinctus*	
	hispid cotton rat	*Sigmodon hispidus*	
	grey squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*	
REPTILES	Cottonmouth/ Water Moccasin	*Agkistrodon piscivorous conanti*	
	Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	*Crotalus adamenteus*	
	brown anole	*Anolis sagrei*	*Exotic

	green anole	*Anolis carolinensis*	
INSECTS	queen butterfly	*Danaus gilippus*	
	zebra longwing	*Heliconius charithonia*	
	monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	
	gulf fritillary	*Agraulis vanillae*	
	green darner	*Anax junius*	
	Eastern pondhawk	*Erythemis simplicicollis*	

Table 4. Documented Wildlife Species at the Gore Preserve

The nonprofit Fstop Foundation maintains a network of trail cameras throughout the preserve. A highlight of the wildlife observations collected on their camera located throughout the Gore Preserve is below:

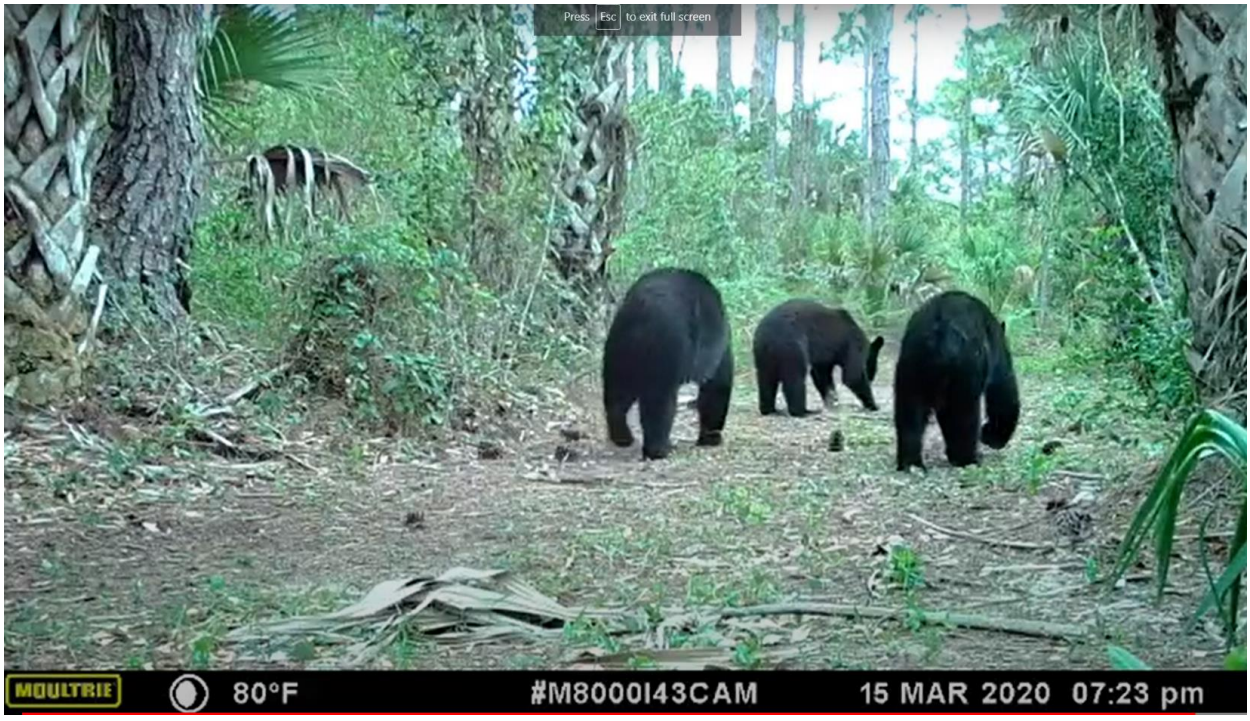

Photo 8. Florida black bear and cubs

Photo 9. A great horned owl pair was recorded nesting within the preserve in 2021

Photo 10. White tailed deer and fawn are a frequent capture along the trails

Photo 11. A Florida panther at the Gore Preserve

Photo 12. Bobcat resting by the FStop Foundation wildlife monitoring camera

2.2.2 Potential Wildlife Utilization

Table 5 provides a list of state and federally imperiled wildlife species that may be observed utilizing the Gore preserve lands and immediately surrounding area.

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Protection Status
Reptiles	American Alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	Federally threatened for similar appearance
	Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*	Federally threatened
	Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	State threatened
Birds	Audubon's crested caracara	*Polyborus plancus audubonii*	Federally threatened
	Everglade's snail kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*	Federally endangered
	Florida sandhill crane	*Antigone canadensis pratensis*	State threatened
	Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*	State threatened
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	Federally endangered
	Roseate spoonbill	*Platalea ajaja*	State threatened
	Tricolored heron	*Egretta tricolor*	State threatened
	Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*	Federally threatened
Mammals	Big Cypress fox squirrel	*Sciurus niger avicennia*	State threatened
	Everglades mink	*Neovison vison evergladensis*	State threatened
	Florida bonneted bat	*Eumops floridanus*	Federally endangered
	Florida panther	*Puma concolor coryi*	Federally endangered
	West Indian manatee	*Trichechus manatus latirostris*	Federally threatened

Table 5. Imperiled Species That May Utilize the Gore Preserve

2.2.3 Imperiled Species Management

Currently, the list of observed imperiled wildlife species at the Gore Preserve include the Federally endangered Florida panther, and state threatened bird species like the little blue heron. Management activities previously undertaken and conceptually planned such as the restoration of native plant communities through exotic vegetation removal are compatible with management activities that will enhance habitat for these listed species. Other management activities that may be of benefit are the preservation of vegetation conditions that promote denning and nesting of these listed species and continuing and enhancing efforts to monitor for and inventory utilization of the preserve by these focal wildlife species.

Conservation Collier will coordinate with the appropriate agency officials tasked with imperiled species management to facilitate wildlife management activities and research that enhance the goals of imperiled species recovery where possible. Management activities on the preserve should align with the best management practices outlined in the Florida's Imperiled Species Management Plan 2016-2026 published by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

2.4 Management Methods

2.4.1 Habitat Modifications

Habitat modifications that aim to aim to improve conditions for a particular species should consider potential negative impacts to other wildlife species that utilize the preserve.

2.4.2 Hunting/ Fishing Opportunities

The Gore Preserve is currently under 200 acres in size with a patchwork of private parcels adjacent to the current preserve boundary. At this time, hunting is not deemed to be a compatible public use of the property due to a lack of contiguous acreage and property size large enough to sustain an ongoing hunting program. Hunting opportunities are available at the neighboring conservation areas of Picayune Strand State Forest and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge through limited quota hunts managed by the FWC.

Conservation Collier staff will research the compatibility of fishing as a consumptive recreational usage of the property and if it is deemed compatible, determine methods to provide fishing opportunities to the community. The adjacent Faka Union Canal could be a suitable site for fishing with access provided via a trail through the preserve leading to the canal. Public visitors undertaking fishing activities at the Gore Preserve would be required to follow all applicable state laws administered through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

3.0 Hydrology/Water Management/Soils

3.1 Management Goal

Goal 3: Seek opportunities and partnerships for improvements to site hydrology and water management that are compatible with surrounding land uses.

3.2 Site Assessment

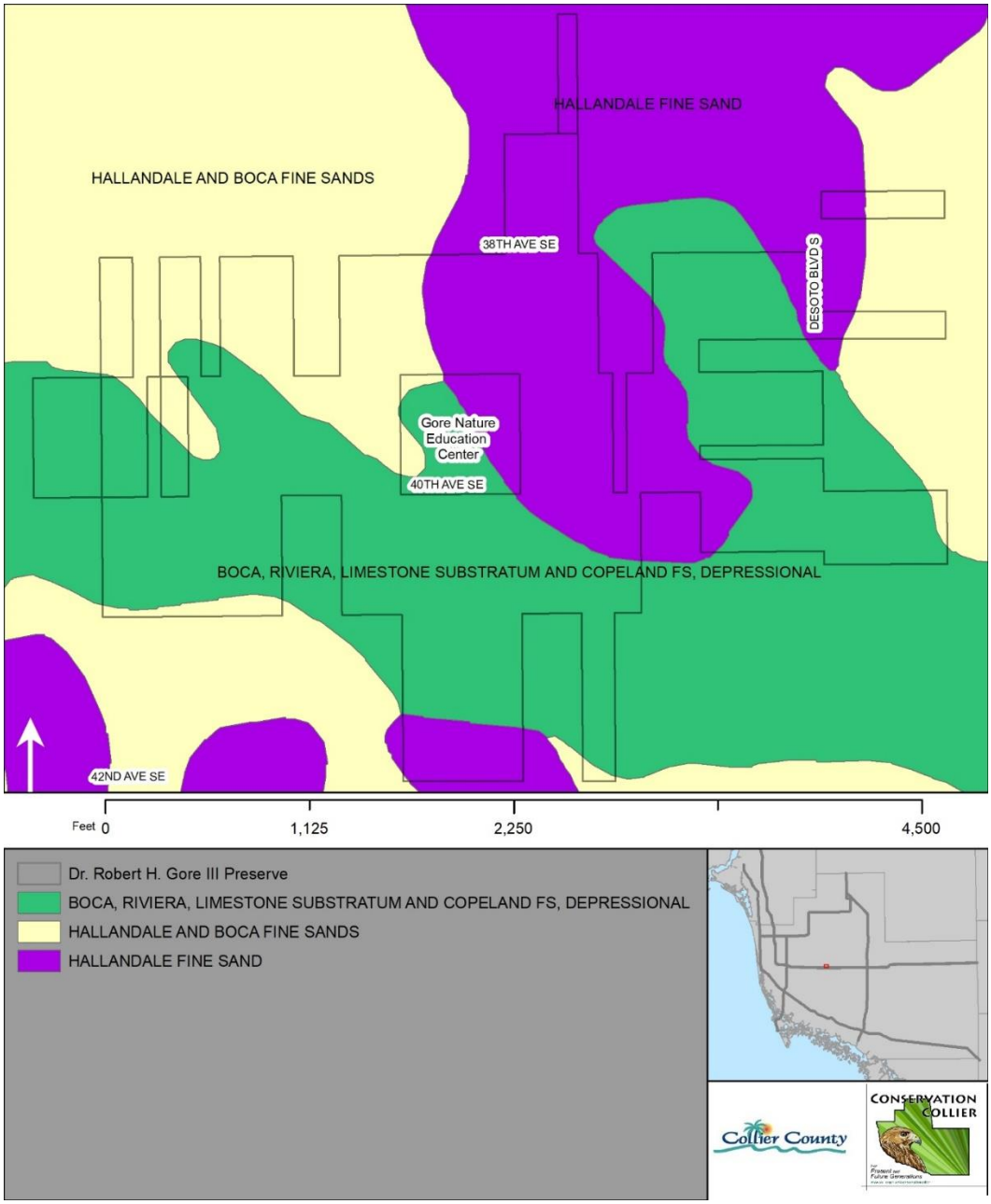

Figure 7. Soils Map of the Gore Preserve

Approximately one-half of the properties are mapped as consisting of depressional Boca, Riviera, limestone substratum, and Copeland fine sands. These soils are hydric, very poorly drained and found in depressions, swamps, and marshes. Typical vegetation includes cypress, pickerel weed, and alligator flag. Another approximate one-quarter is mapped as Hallandale and Boca fine sands, a slough soil. This soil type is nearly level, poorly drained and found in sloughs and drainageways. The natural vegetation consists of scrub cypress, sand cordgrass, wax myrtle and maidencane. The

remaining one-quarter is mapped as containing Hallandale fine sand. This soil type is poorly drained and typical of flatwoods. Slash pine, saw palmetto, and creeping bluestem are often found in this soil type.

A notable feature to the geology of portions of the preserve is the existence of a formation of limestone known as Karst. Karst terrain is a land surface feature caused by the dissolution of soluble bedrock to create sinkholes.

3.3 Management Methods

3.3.1 Berm Degradation and Topographical Alterations

A LIDAR map of the preserve and surrounding area (Figure 4) provides a guide for the historic topographical alterations that have been made to the preserve lands prior to acquisition. Raised roadways with swales bisect the preserve parcels at 36th Ave, 38th Ave, 40th Ave SE and Desoto Blvd. Land scars from an historic tram road South of 40th Ave SE are evidenced by the map and have since been re-vegetated and are an area of low elevation that holds water in the wet season. Parcels adjacent to the Faka-Union Canal on the West and Southwest portion of the preserve show raised berms along the canal edge where material was dredged during construction and stacked and later vegetated with invasive Brazilian pepper. It is unlikely that restoration of these topographical alterations can be achieved as the roadways and canals are integral to the current infrastructure of the region. These higher elevation areas likely lead to a higher density of exotic plant infestation especially by Brazilian pepper and can be targeted for restoration of plant community coverage.

3.3.2 Rehydration Opportunities

Currently there are limited opportunities to restore the historic natural sheet flow to the preserve and surrounding areas that has been reduced as a result of the construction of roads, the adjacent Faka-Union Canal, housing, and vegetation changes from fire suppression and exotic vegetation infestation. Conservation Collier staff will research opportunities to facilitate the restoration of water movement across the landscape in localized areas through the installation of culverts and other features within the remaining wetlands on the preserve.

4.0 Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Resource Management

4.1 Management Goal

Goal 4: Preserve the archeological, historical, and cultural resources of the preserve.

4.2 Site Assessment

The Gore Preserve is not within an area of historical and archaeological probability, and no historical or archaeological sites appear to be present on the property beyond remnants of the signage posted at various locations by Dr. Gore prior to acquisition. While conducting pre-acquisition site visits, staff were made aware of the presence of several “pointer trees” throughout the property that may have indigenous cultural origins. Efforts will be made to locate these trees to preserve them.

History of the Property

Dr. Robert H. Gore III was a noted research scientist, environmentalist, educator, consultant, and author. He earned his PhD in Marine Invertebrate Zoology from the University of Miami and spent ten years conducting research in marine biology and ecology with the Smithsonian Institute. He later worked for the Collier County Natural Resources Department specializing in Coastal Zone Management.

In the 1980s, Dr. Gore set out to preserve natural lands in the eastern portion of Collier County known as the Golden Gate Estates. Over the course of 20 years, he purchased and protected 71 parcels at risk for future development and built an Old Florida Cracker-style home on the 10-acre parcel in the center of his preserve. He opened his sanctuary to the community, providing guided walks and nature-based events to school children and adults alike. In 2008, Dr. Gore applied to have his parcels considered for acquisition and long-term preservation through the Conservation Collier Program. At that time, the parcels were recommended for acquisition at a later date or when additional funds became available through the passing of a subsequent voter approved referendum.

Following his passing in 2017, Dr. Gore's family sought to continue his mission to preserve this land and provide environmental education to the community and sold 171 acres to the County through the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program. The ten acres in the center of this newly created County Nature Preserve, were purchased by the non-profit Cypress Cove Landkeepers and Dr. Gore's house renovated to become the Gore Nature Education Center. Dr. Gore's mission to protect wild Florida and build community connections with nature continues to this day and into the future.

4.4 Management Methods

4.4.1 Archaeological Site Assessment and Protection

The County will notify the Division of Historical Resources immediately if evidence is found to suggest any archaeological or historic resources are discovered. If such resources are identified on-site, staff shall cordon off the area, and a professional survey and assessment shall be instituted. The archaeologist shall prepare a report outlining results of the assessments and issue recommendations to County staff about management of any sites discovered, per provisions of the Land Development Code Section 2.2.25. This report shall be sent to the Division of Historical Resources. The County shall cooperate fully with direction from the Division of Historical Resources on the protection and management of archaeological and historical resources. The management of these resources will comply with the provisions of Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, specifically Sections 267.061 2 (a) and (b).

4.4.2 Preservation of Property History Through Educational Materials

Conservation Collier staff aim to preserve not only the unique natural resources within the preserve but also the legacy of Dr. Robert H. Gore III and his goals for conservation of these parcels.

Conservation Collier staff intend to incorporate the history of the land and Dr. Robert H. Gore III's education and preservation goals for the area into future interpretive signage, educational materials, and management planning.

5.0 PUBLIC ACCESS

5.1 Management Goal

Goal 5: Provide opportunities for compatible, nature-based recreation to the community.

5.2 Site Assessment

Photo 13: Public access trails at the Gore Preserve

Passive, nature-based recreational opportunities are available at the Gore Preserve in the form of hiking, biking, wildlife photography, guided hikes, birdwatching, and leashed dog walking. Currently, the preserve provides a 2-mile trail for visitors that is one way in, one way out. A conceptual design of the future additions to the public access trail at the preserve is shown in Figure 8 with an aim to provide a trail loop that brings visitors back to a conceptual parking area. The existing trails appear in white while the conceptual trail enhancements appear in blue.

Included in these conceptual trail enhancements are additional mileage for visitors to explore both the northern portion of the preserve as well as the south. Future enhancements also include a connection point of the County trails to the Gore Nature Education Center Trails with a gate between the two access points. It may be desirable to add a second trail connection to the Gore Nature Education Center along the eastern portion of the property to greater facilitate a loop path for educational events and guided hikes. Also included in the conceptual plans is a parking area for visitors to the preserve. At this time there are conceptual and alternate parking lot locations which

will be finalized depending on future acquisitions. Future goals would be to install a 5-10 space parking area with access across the road right of way. The parking area would be surrounded by wildlife friendly fencing with trail access points and bollards. If a buffer is required, native vegetation will be planted that does not require additional irrigation. Currently, visitors to the preserve park along 40th Ave SE to access the trail with no official parking lot yet established.

Also included in the conceptual trail enhancements are separate trail entrances for land management and emergency response vehicles that will be locked and gated and will allow for the construction of trailhead entrances for public visitors that facilitate access via hiking and biking but prevent access by off-road vehicles. Currently the one entrance to the trailhead is multiuse with access required for both pedestrians and land management equipment and the capabilities to limit off-road vehicle access to the trails are reduced.

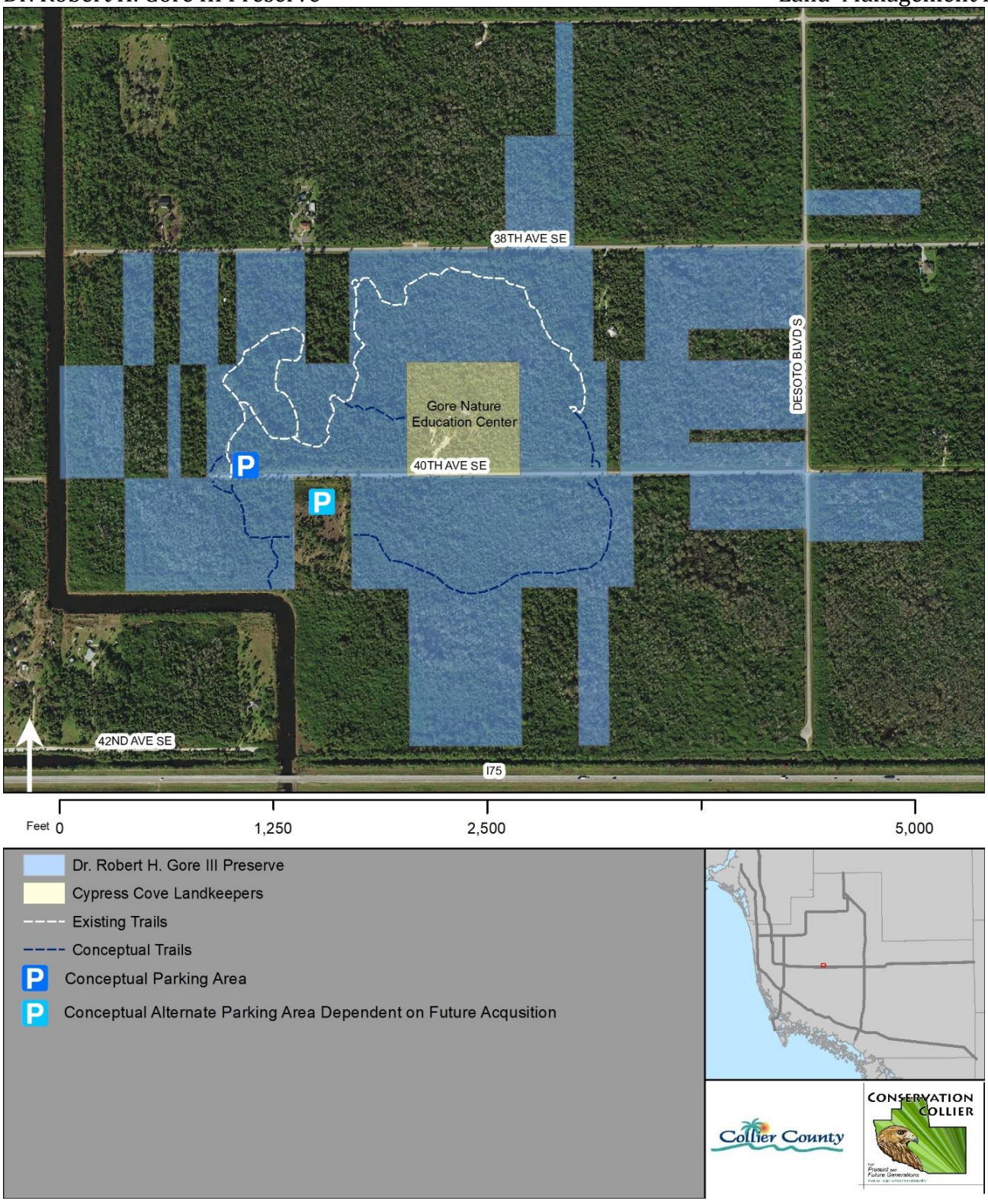

Figure 8. Existing and Conceptual Public Access Plan

5.4 Management Methods

5.4.1 Access Improvements

In 2019 the Collier County Road and Bridge Department set to complete the resurfacing and paving of 40th Ave SE which is the access road for current and conceptual public access to the preserve. Upon learning that the planned road improvements to the preserve only covered to the driveway of the Gore Nature Education Center and that the remaining road access point to the County Preserve hiking trails would remain unpaved and mowed grass, Conservation Collier staff worked with the Road Maintenance Department of Collier County to develop a plan to extend the paving of the access road to the preserve trailhead. A contractor was hired to ensure the right of way vegetation requirements were met to facilitate the project and paving was completed to the preserve trailhead. This partnership with the Road and Bridge Department will greatly enhance public access to the preserve by providing infrastructure for members of the community to locate and access the designated entrance to the preserve.

Photo 14. View of the access to 40th Ave SE prior to paving the road and current conditions.

5.4.2 Education and Outreach

5.4.3 Signage

Signage will be utilized to provide information regarding locations, regulations, and educational outreach to public visitors of the preserve. Prior to installation, a sign draft will be provided to the Cypress Cover Landkeepers per the MOU.

In June of 2020, a preserve entrance sign was developed and installed at the hiking trailhead for the preserve. Additional signage has been developed and installed along the trails to provide directional information with additional signage planned. Educational and interpretive signage is planned for

Photo 15. An entrance sign was designed and installed at the current preserve trailhead.

Photo 16. Directional signage provided throughout the public access trails

Photo 17. Educational signage available to public users of the access trails.

Photo 18. Additional signage was added in response to unleashed dogs at the preserve.

5.4.4 Eagle Scout Projects/Amenities

In the winter of 2022, Tristan Robbins with Troop 2 Alligator District completed a preserve improvement project at the Gore Preserve which featured an enhancement to the public access trailhead with native landscaping plants and overgrown vegetation removal as well as the installation of three benches made of recycled materials to provide resting locations for community visitors along the trail.

Photo 19: Trailhead Improvements by Tristan Robbins, Eagle Scout Troop 2 Alligator District

Photo 20: Eagle Scout Tristan Robbins exhibiting the native planting area project

Future Eagle Scout Projects that could benefit the preserve include the installation of an informational kiosk, wildlife nesting/roosting boxes, and projects to improve ADA accessibility to areas of the preserve.

5.4.5 Easements, Concessions, Leases

No easements exist currently over the Gore Preserve parcels. There are no concessions or leases on the preserve parcels or proposed for the future, unless they further conservation objectives, such as a conservation easement.

6.0 Unauthorized Activity Prevention and Response

6.1 Management Goal

Goal 6: Incorporate methods to prevent unauthorized activities within the preserve and develop a response procedure to incidents

6.2 Site Assessment

The land that now comprises the Gore Preserve has a history of unauthorized uses in the form of off-road vehicle trespass, pedestrian trespass, and illegal dumping.

6.4 Management Methods

6.4.1 Site Security

One of the most significant concerns regarding the long-term protection of the natural resources within the preserve involves disturbance from unauthorized off-road vehicle (ORV) trespass.

6.4.2 Prevention of Off-Road Vehicle Trespass

Methods to prevent off-road vehicle trespass that are currently utilized or conceptually planned include the use of bollards or public trail access obstructions that promote the regulated use of the property via foot and bicycle traffic but limit the access capabilities to ORVs. Consideration must be made to provide alternative, gated, and locked access points to the trail for permissible vehicle use such as land management equipment for trail maintenance, contractor access, and emergency vehicle access points. The conceptual trail plan includes gated access points to each section of the future trail system to facilitate the use of bollards and ORV restrictive access features.

Neighbors to the preserve have reported increased ORV activity along the roadway boundaries of the Gore Preserve in 2022. Staff have observed the results of ORV riders creating trails through the buffer vegetation along the roadways of the preserve and causing damage to the vegetation. Methods to reduce these activities will be investigated and implemented, including the addition of barriers or wildlife friendly fencing to prevent access to the most sensitive portions of the preserve edges such as wetlands and restoration planting areas.

Conservation Collier staff will work in close coordination with the Collier County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement to report and respond to incidents of property trespass and damage.

6.4.3 Debris Removal

Illegal Dumping has been a historic problem in this area of the County, largely as a result of the surrounding neighborhood streets and parcels being sparsely developed. Occurrences of illegal dumping along the streets adjacent to the preserve area have declined significantly since public visitation to the preserve began.

Conservation Collier staff will continue to monitor and address any instances of illegal dumping and report them to the appropriate agency representatives at Collier County Code Enforcement. Conservation Collier staff will also continue to partner with community neighbors of the preserve to enhance the monitoring efforts of the daily activities around the boundary of the preserve.

To date, no significant instances of debris piles have been located within the preserve boundary. In the event that historic debris is located within the preserve, Collier County staff will utilize volunteers or debris removal specialist contractors to address the issue on a case-by-case basis.

6.4.4 Contaminant Remediation

At this time, Conservation Collier staff have no record of any historic contamination or contamination concerns occurring within the Gore Preserve or surrounding area. If a concern of contamination is encountered, Collier County staff will address the concern with the appropriate enforcement agency.

7.0 Acquisition/Preserve Expansion

7.1 Management Goal:

Goal 7: Pursue the acquisition of parcels adjacent to or nearby the existing preserve boundary.

7.2 Site Assessment

Collier County Conservation Collier is a land acquisition program that purchases ecologically sensitive lands from willing sellers. Priorities for acquisition are based on the criteria in the Conservation Collier Implementation Ordinance and include factors such as protection of Collier County's surface and drinking water resources, protection of wildlife habitat, flood protection to the surrounding community, and opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

History of the Conservation Collier Program

A series of community planning initiatives, begun in the late 1980s, culminated in 2001 with the Community Character and Design visioning process. This process identified the need for a greenspace acquisition program. The resulting initiative, "Vote Conservation 2002" placed a referendum question on the November 2002 ballot, asking voters whether they would be willing to tax themselves one quarter mill for 10 years to buy conservation lands and greenspace and to approve a $75 million limited tax general obligation bond. Nearly sixty percent of Collier County voters responded with a resounding YES! As a result, the Conservation Collier Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2002-63, as amended) was developed, with citizen input and County Commission approval, to make conservation and protection of environmental resources into a real plan for the future. In 2003, the Conservation Collier Program was initiated.

In November 2006 Voters were again asked in a referendum "straw vote" question whether they understood and approved that the Conservation Collier Program would be funded by a quarter mill ad valorem property tax for a period of ten (10) years, until 2013. Eighty-two percent (82%) of voters approved! Active acquisition proceeded through 2010. At that point, reduced revenues resulting from economic conditions created uncertainty about future revenues. The initial acquisition phase was closed in January 2011 and available

funds were appropriated in a maintenance trust fund. At that time, the program moved into a preserve management phase, including opening the preserves for public access and managing and hosting visitors.

The Program remained in a management phase until 2017 when the Board authorized the use of management funds for the acquisition of more land. In 2018 and 2019, three (3) projects totaling 237 acres were purchased for $3 million, including the purchase of the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve Parcels. In 2020, a voter referendum passed with 77% voter approval to restart the acquisition program for up to 10 years. Following this vote, the Board of County Commissioners authorized the start of the Cycle 10 acquisition cycle in 2021, followed by Cycle 11 in 2022. With the start of these acquisition cycles, Conservation Collier began accepting applications from willing sellers for parcels to acquire

Cycle 10 and Cycle 11 Acquisition Strategy

Following the start of Cycle 10 in 2021, Conservation Collier staff, land acquisition committee members, public stakeholders, and authorizing members of the board of county commissioners contributed to the development of Cycle 10 Target Protection Mailing Areas (TPMAs). These TPMAs defined parcels of greatest interest for acquisition. Through the Cycle 10 TPMA process, 68 property owners were identified surrounding the Gore Preserve and received letters inviting the owners to apply to this willing seller program. The 68 property owners represented a total of 165.7 acres of land potentially suitable for acquisition and directly adjacent to the Gore Preserve boundary. Of the 68 property owners contacted, 5 property owners submitted applications to be considered for acquisition in Cycle 10. One property, the Rudnick parcel totaling 1.59 acres, was offered as a donation to the Conservation Collier program and was incorporated into the Gore Preserve boundary in 2022. The remaining 4 parcels in the Cycle 10 Gore TPMA were ranked as A-list acquisitions and are pending offers.

In 2021, in response to stakeholder feedback from the Florida Wildlife Federation, the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Committee and later the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve a request to develop Priority Preserve Expansion Areas which would designate parcels directly adjacent to two Conservation Collier preserves, the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve and Panther Walk Preserve, as priority expansion areas to be ranked for acquisition as part of Cycle 10 and as funds became available, authorize that offers could be made to property owners within these designated zones should they be interested in selling. 66 Parcels were identified within the Gore Priority Expansion Area totaling 157 acres. Gore Priority Expansion Area parcels were approved for ranking on the A-List for acquisition and offers will be made to property owners as Cycle 10 funding allows.

7.4 Management Methods

7.4.1 Priority Parcels for Acquisition

Cycle 10 and Cycle 11 Acquisition Strategy

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Cycle 11 was authorized to begin in January of 2022. The Conservation Collier Program is accepting applications from willing sellers through June of 2022. As part of acquisition planning, parcels were identified surrounding the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve for a Cycle 11 TPMA. Following approval from the BCC, property owners within the Cycle 11 Gore TPMA will receive letters inviting them to apply to have their property considered for acquisition.

The undeveloped lands surrounding the existing Gore Preserve boundary provide an opportunity to expand protection to the east and west of the preserve and enhance the habitat available to wildlife utilizing this important dispersal corridor.

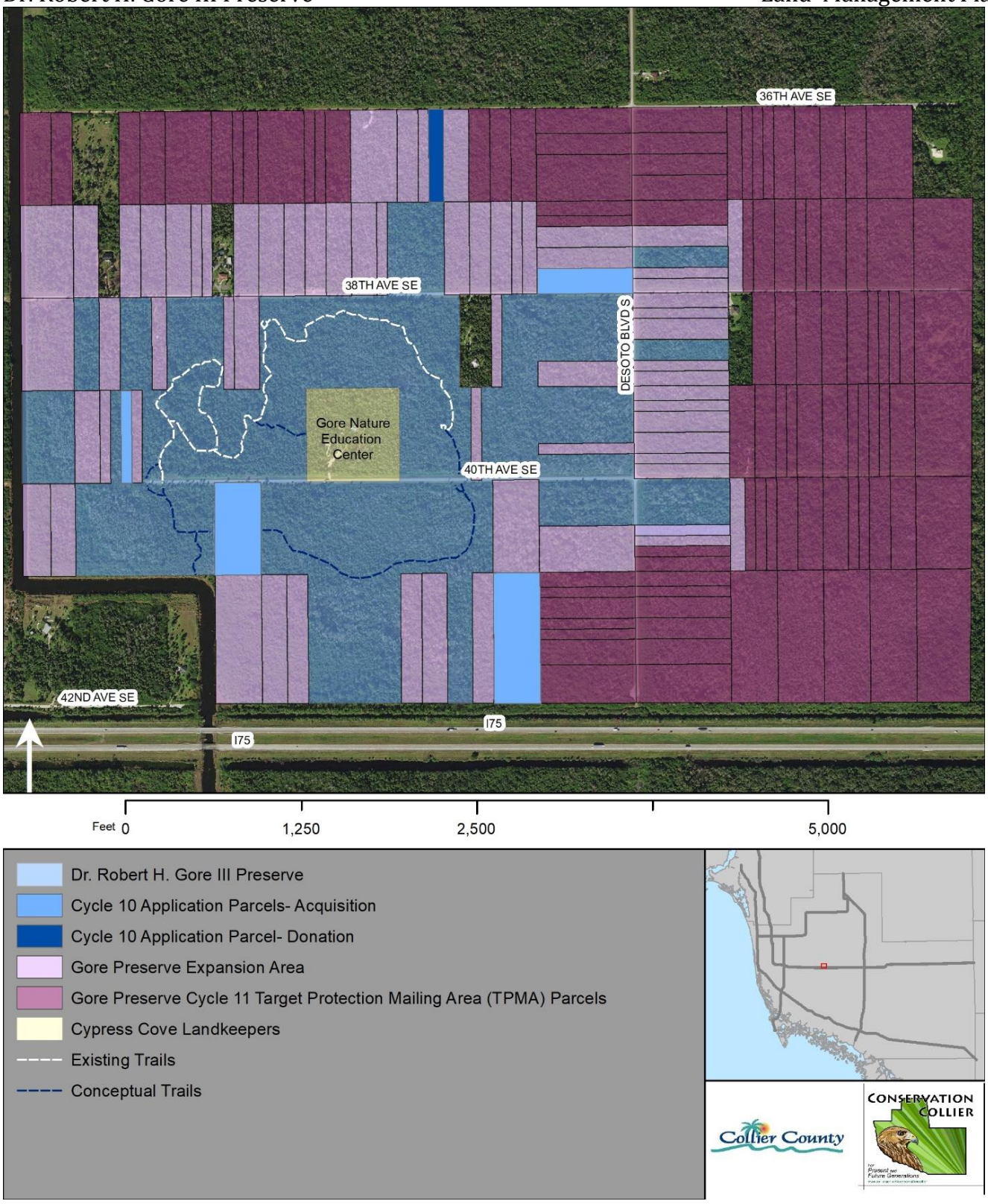

Figure 9. Acquisition Strategy Map for the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

7.4.2 Partnership Opportunities

Staff will seek out partnership opportunities for conservation, protection, education, and funding opportunities. Staff will explore possible land management funding assistance programs for the preserve. These may include but are not limited to grants offered by the USFWS South Florida Coastal Ecosystems Program, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Conservation Collier Cooperative Agreement Modification would be required), the U.S. Department of Agriculture and/or FWC Upland Weed Management Working Group Funding.

Conservation Collier Program staff will continue to build a strong partnership with members of the non-profit Cypress Cover Landkeepers to enhance environmental education program offerings and awareness of this up-and-coming resource for the residents and visitors of Collier County. Staff will continue to collaborate with the non-profit FStop Foundation to enhance the wildlife utilization monitoring throughout the preserve.

Staff will also coordinate with the Collier County Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts of the USA for possible trail enhancement projects.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018	Preserve Acquired and Named
2019	Completed Brazilian pepper removal project along preserve boundary
2019	Installed access trail for land management and future public access
2019	Awarded $32,480 in funding assistance for exotic treatment by FWC IPMS
2020	Awarded $28,132.50 in funding assistance for exotic treatment by FWC IPMS
2020	Interim Management Plan approved by the BCC
2020	Installed entrance sign and public use amenities
2021	Participated in the grand opening of the Gore Nature Education Center
2022	Developed the Final Management Plan

Table 6. Major Accomplishments Since Acquisition

PROJECTED COSTS/OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Operational Costs	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Exotics Removal	$30,000	$45,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000	$15,000
Trail Installation & Maintenance	$2500	$12,000	$3000	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500
Fencing & Gates	$800	$10,000	$10,000	$250	$250	$250	$0	$5000	$0	$250	$0
Educational Material: Signage and Brochures	$500	$1000	$1000	$200	$0	$200	$0	$200	$0	$200	$0
Restoration/ Planting	$300	$0	$800	$0	$0	$200	$0	$0	$200	$0	$0
Parking Lot Amenities	$0	$30,000	$70,000	$1000	$1000	$1000	$1000	$1000	$1000	$1000	$1000
Equipment/ Supplies	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500	$500
Total Anticipated Costs	**$34,600**	**$98,500**	**$100,300**	**$17,450**	**$17,250**	**$17,650**	**$17,000**	**$22,200**	**$17,200**	**$17,450**	**$17,000**

Table 6. Projected Operating Budget through 2032

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Legal Descriptions

EXHIBIT "A"

COUNTY'S PROPERTY – DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE

Physical Address: 4055 40th Ave SE, Naples, FL 34117

1. PORTION OF GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 91, GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 91A, GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92, AND GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92A AS DESC IN OR 5573 PG 688, AND GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 91 N 150FT OF TR 76, LESS GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92 TR 84, LESS GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92 W 180FT OF TR 86, LESS GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 91, N 150FT OF TR 74 GOLDEN GATE ESTATES, PLAT BOOK 5, PAGES 30-31 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA.
   TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 41500040008 (160.46 acres)

2. GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 91 N 150FT OF TR 74. GOLDEN GATE ESTATES, PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 30 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA.
   TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 41506600002 (2.34 acres)

3. GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92 TR 84. GOLDEN GATE ESTATES, PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 31 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA. TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 41616920009 (5.68 acres)

4. GOLDEN GATE EST UNIT 92 W 180FT OF TR 86 OR 1836 PG 276. GOLDEN GATE ESTATES, PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 30 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA. TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 41617120002 (2.73 acres)

APPROXIMATELY 171.2 ACRES COMBINED

Appendix 2. Memorandum of Understanding Between Collier County and Cypress Cove Landkeepers

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN COLLIER COUNTY

AND

CYPRESS COVE LANDKEEPERS, INC.

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into this _____ day of _____, 2020 between **COLLIER COUNTY,** a political subdivision of the State of Florida ("COUNTY") and **CYPRESS COVE LANDKEEPERS, INC.** ("CYPRESS COVE").

Recitals

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2018 COUNTY acquired the properties identified on Exhibit "A" from The Robert H. Gore III Inter Vivos Trust, dated July 25, 1986, for public use in COUNTY's Conservation Collier Program (COUNTY's PROPERTY or DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE); and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020the County approved the Interim Management Plan for the DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE; and

WHEREAS, June 7, 2019 CYPRESS COVE acquired the properties identified on Exhibit "B" from The Robert H. Gore III Inter Vivos Trust, dated July 25, 1986 for public use as nature center ("CYPRESS COVE's PROPERTY" OR "NATURE CENTER"); and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY and the CYPRESS COVE wish to provide for coordination and cooperation of environmental, educational, and historical outreach information and signage on the properties for the benefit of the citizens of Collier County and others that may visit the properties.

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. Authority.

This MOU is entered into pursuant to Conservation Collier Ordinance No. 07-65, as amended (Section 4, Paragraph 12) and the Action Plan set forth in COUNTY's Interim Management Plan.

2. Duration.

This MOU shall remain in effect until it is terminated in writing by either party upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

3. Effect of Recitals.

The recitals set forth above are adopted as findings of fact and incorporated into this MOU.

4. COUNTY PROPERTY – DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE.

A. The County agrees to use the DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE in accordance with the Interim Management Plan, as it may be amended or become a Final Management Plan, as amended ("Management Plan").
B. As with all Conservation Collier Property, the Preserve Management Ordinance No. 11-38, as it may be amended or otherwise modified or replaced applies at the DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE.
C. No pets will be permitted in on the COUNTY's Property unless the Management Plan indicates that pets are allowed.
D. COUNTY will install a lime-rock parking area on COUNTY's Property. The need for parking spaces and the number of spaces will be determined by COUNTY and is initially expected to be 5-6 parking spaces.
E. Events that are to occur at the DR. ROBERT H. GORE III PRESERVE after dusk will be coordinated with CYPRESS COVE.
F. CYPRESS COVE employees and volunteers providing services on COUNTY's Property pursuant to this MOU are not considered agents or employees of COUNTY.
G. The Interim Management Plan does not allow hunting on COUNTY's property due to the limited acreage and proximity of adjacent homesites. "No hunting" signs will be installed on COUNTY's Property. Signs prohibiting trespass, litter, firearms, all-terrain vehicles and poaching will also be installed on COUNTY's Property,
H. Signs on COUNTY's Property will be coordinated with CYPRESS COVE such that signs on COUNTY's Property and signs on CYPRESS COVE's Property are consistent in content. CYPRESS COVE and COUNTY will send each other signage for review that includes mention of each other. Use of each party's logo on signage shall be approved in advance.

5. CYPRESS COVE's PROPERTY – NATURE CENTER

A. In the event the NATURE CENTER and/or CYPRESS COVE property is open after dusk, CYPRESS COVE will notify the COUNTY. The intent is for evening events to be limited to reduce traffic for safety of wildlife after dusk.
B. Gate located to 40th Avenue SE will be locked when the NATURE CENTER is not open.
C. CYPRESS COVE will cooperate with COUNTY regarding any well installation COUNTY decides to pursue.
D. Signs on CYPRESS COVE's Property will be coordinated with COUNTY such that signs on CYPRESS COVE's Property and signs on COUNTY's Property are consistent in content and appearance.
E. CYPRESS COVE will coordinate its grand opening celebration with COUNTY.
F. CYPRESS COVE's use of the COUNTY's trails is limited to open hours.

6. Indemnification.

Each party to this MOU agrees to be responsible for the liabilities arising out of their own conduct and the conduct of their officers, employees and agents with COUNTY's indemnification subject to Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

7. Notice.

Any notice sent pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be sufficient if sent by regular U.S. Mail to the following addresses:

A. COLLIER COUNTY:

CONSERVATION COLLIER COORDINATOR
Golden Gate Community Park
3300 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Naples, FL 34116
ConservationCollier@colliercountyfl.gov
239-252-2961

B. CYPRESS COVE:

CYPRESS COVE LANDKEEPERS, INC.
Attention: Current President

Mailing Address:
PO Box 110308
NAPLES, FL 34108
(239)-308-0281
info@wildnaples.com

8. Amendment.

Any amendment to this MOU or its exhibits shall be in writing and shall not be effective until executed by both parties.

9. Assignment.

In light of the scope and rationale for this MOU, neither party may assign, transfer, or sell any of the rights set forth in this MOU, or associated with this MOU, without the express written consent of the other party.

10. Relationship of the Parties.

No employee of either party shall be deemed an employee of the other party. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to create an agency relationship, partnership, association, or joint venture between the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this MOU as of the date set forth above.

ATTEST:
CRYSTAL K. KINZEL, CLERK

By: _____
, DEPUTY CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
BURT L. SAUNDERS, CHAIRMAN

Approved as to form and legality:

_____
Jennifer A. Belpedio
Assistant County Attorney

CYPRESS COVE LANDKEEPERS, INC.

By: _____
Shane Duff
PRESIDENT

Appendix 3. Letter Recommending Acquisition by the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior
US Fish & Wildlife Service
FL Panther National Wildlife Refuge
12085 SR 29 South
Immokalee, FL 34142
239-657-8001

March 27, 2017

Chairman Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
Parks and Recreation Department
Golden Gate Community Park
3300 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Naples, FL 34106

Dear Mr. Poteet,

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has a rich history of conservation through many different programs in Collier County, including managing over 63,000 acres of land in Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuges. We are also an active partner in the Picayune Strand Restoration Project and work with the Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Golden Gate Fire Department to assist with prescribed burning and wildfire management in Southwest Florida.

While the National Wildlife Refuges we manage are part of a network of public lands and private lands that provide habitat for many vulnerable species, additional land conservation efforts to secure vital linkages that connect this network of lands is necessary. One such linkage is the Gore property in the Golden Gate Estates along I-75 connecting the Florida Panther NWR with Collier County's Belle Meade Natural Resource Protection Area (NRPA) and the proposed Collier County Belle Meade Flowway project to the west of the Gore property

Currently, the area is sparsely populated by humans, and serves as a natural corridor for many species including the Florida Panther. The purchase of the Gore property by Conservation Collier, Cypress Cove Conservancy or other conservation organization would facilitate the linkage identified above by connecting the North Belle Meade NRPA east to the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and south to the Picayune Strand State Forest and Restoration Project; thereby protecting the regional conservation investments made to date.

Additionally, the Gore property is located adjacent to the Faka Union Canal, and the Florida Department of Transportation recently constructed Florida panther (wildlife crossings) at the Miller and Faka Union canals on I-75. Protection of these wildlife crossing areas north and south of I-75 is important to facilitating the safe wildlife passage across the interstate highway. Fencing along I-75 is currently being constructed to the west of the Gore property to reduce panther mortality on that stretch of the interstate.

Protecting these lands is a proactive approach to reduce the inevitability of wildlife human interactions should these lands be developed, would protect regional wildlife corridors and would continue the environmental education opportunities that have been provided by the property for some 25 years or more. The Gore property represents one of the most dedicated local private efforts to secure fish and wildlife resources for the enjoyment of future generations of Collier County citizens.

Please consider our recommendation to purchase this significant addition to Collier County's Conservation program.

Sincerely,

Kevin Godsea,
Project Leader
Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

Cc: Alex Sulecki (Conservation Collier)
Bobbie Lee Gruninger (Cypress Cove Conservancy)

Appendix 4. Images Documenting the Impacts of the January 2022 Frost Event