



The Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

10 Year Land Management Plan Review

Presenter:
Molly DuVall
Preserve Manager
Conservation Collier



The Mission of Conservation Collier

To acquire, preserve, restore and maintain vital and significant threatened natural lands, forest, upland and wetland communities located in Collier County, for the benefit of present and future generations.

[Preserves Map](#)





Following Acquisition

Land Restoration

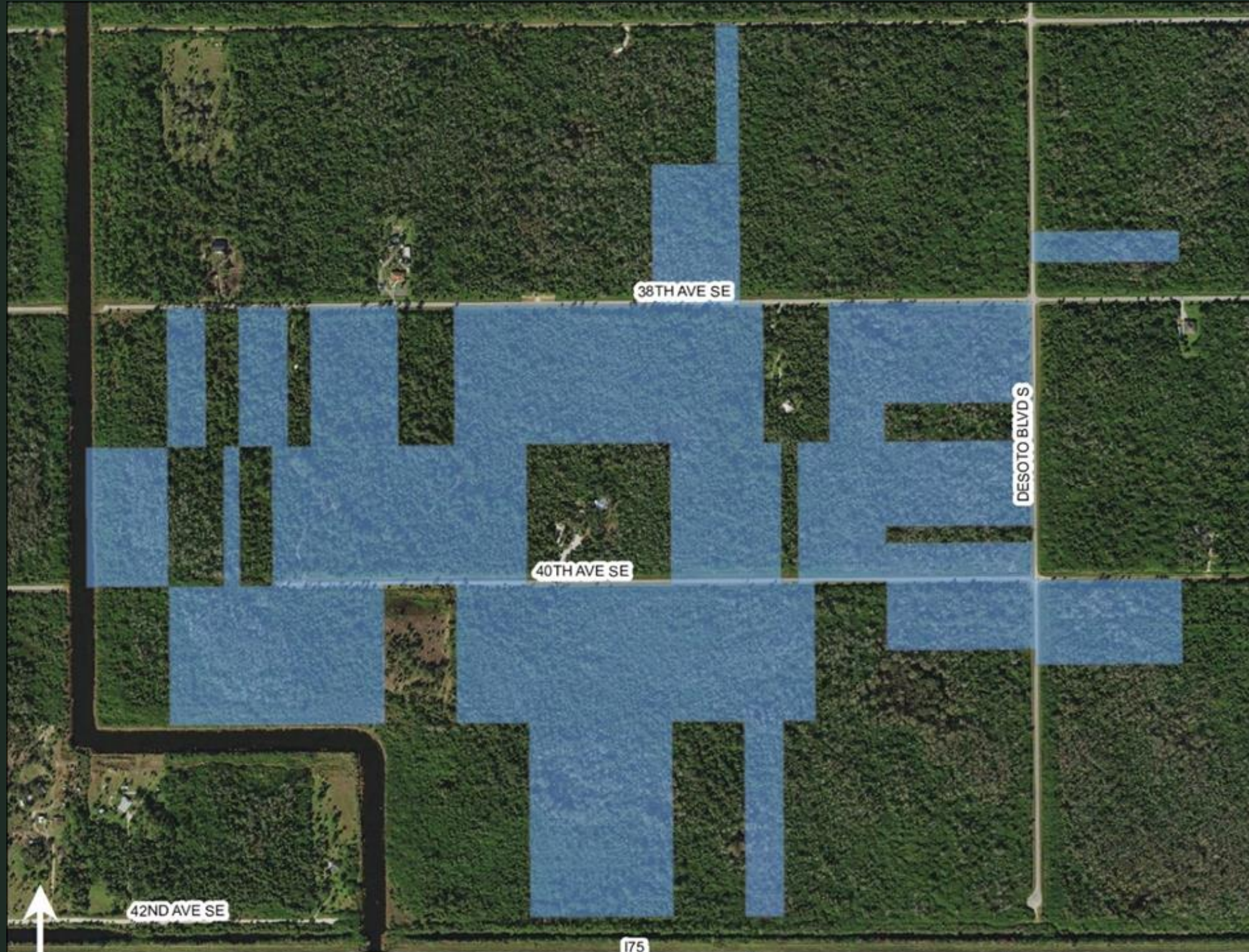
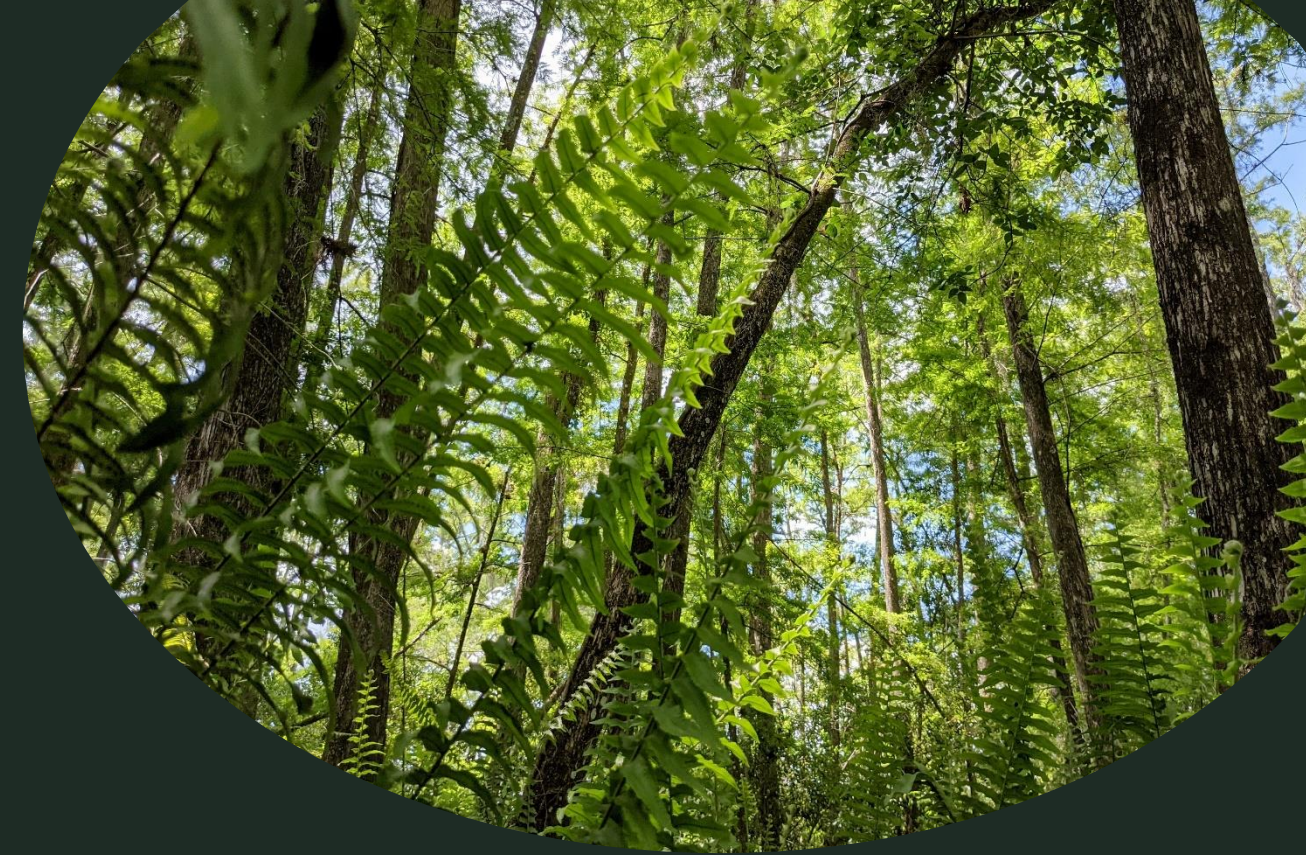
Recreation & Education

Wildlife Monitoring

1. Properties managed in perpetuity as nature preserves
2. Habitat and plant communities restored to native ecosystems
3. Compatible public access opportunities sought- hiking, birdwatching, etc.
4. Wildlife Monitoring- management activities enhance habitat to support healthy wildlife populations
5. Where possible we work with willing sellers adjacent to the preserve to expand the land protected and managed for conservation in perpetuity



Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve





Gore Preserve Community Partners

The Collier County Conservation Collier Program works in collaboration with local community partners to achieve the conservation and education goals detailed in the Land Management Plan for the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve



**Gore Family &
Adjacent Property Owners**

**Acquisition participants
& Willing Sellers**



**Cypress Cove
Landkeepers**

**501c3 non-profit
Education and Conservation**



**Fstop
Foundation**

**501c3 non-profit
Wildlife Conservation**



Cypress Cove Landkeepers

Members of the Cypress Cove Landkeepers non-profit organization were instrumental toward advocating for the purchase and preservation of the Gore Preserve lands owned by the County.

In 2021 an MOU was developed between the Collier County Conservation Collier Program and the Cypress Cove Landkeepers to facilitate educational utilization of the Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve lands.

We look forward to partnering on future restoration projects and educational opportunities for the community



Land Management Plan

Interim Management Plan- Approved by BCC 2020

An Interim Management Plan for the preserve was developed by staff in 2019 and approved by the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (CLAAC) and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in 2020. Per Conservation Collier Ordinance, the Interim Management Plan is approved for 2 years to be replaced by a Final Management Plan

Final Management Plan- Pending Approval by BCC

Conservation Collier staff developed a draft of the 10 Year Final Management Plan in 2022 to be brought to the public, the CLAAC, and the BCC in 2023. If approved, the plan would be in place for 10 years, with an update every 5 years scheduled for 2028.





Sections

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.0 | Vegetation
Management | 2.0 | Wildlife
Management |
| 3.0 | Hydrology
& Soils | 4.0 | Cultural
Resources |
| 5.0 | Public
Access | 6.0 | Site
Security |
| 7.0 | Preserve
Expansion | | Projected
Budget |





1.0 Vegetation Management

Plant Communities: pine flatwoods, cabbage palm, inland ponds and sloughs, mixed wetland hardwoods, cypress

Heavy infestation by exotic, invasive species- 50-75% at acquisition

Higher management costs, longer restoration

Seed bank and existing native plant diversity- high!

Species of greatest concern: Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), lantana (*Lantana spp.*), cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*).





Exotic Plant Removal and Restoration

- **2019- \$ 21,400**

Conservation Collier funded treatment to remove Brazilian Pepper within the road right of ways along preserve boundary

- **2020- \$ 32,480**

Awarded FWC IPMS Funding Assistance to treat 101.5 acres of preserve in Initial Treatment

- **2020- \$ 37,769.47**

Conservation Collier funding to treat of 69.27 acres of preserve in Initial Treatment

- **2021-\$ 28,132.50**

Awarded FWC IPMS Funding Assistance to treat 171.53 acre 2nd Maintenance Treatment

- **2023 up to -\$50,000**

Awarded FWC IPMS Funding Assistance to treat 172 acres in 3rd Maintenance Treatment. Bid in Process

- **2023- up to \$8,000**

Conservation Collier funded project to replant areas previously infested with Brazilian Pepper with native tree and understory species





1.0 Vegetation Management

Initial and Maintenance treatments covering each acre of the preserve from 2020-2023

Maintenance continues in perpetuity

Overtime, cost decreases, impact decreases, and treatments go from major restoration to spot treatments and prevention.

Goal: Over the next 8-10 years, preserve lands in maintenance rotation are between 0-25% non-native woody cover





1.0 Vegetation Management





1.0 Wildlife Management

When you restore the plant communities and the habitat, wildlife utilization will increase

Management Activities that will benefit wildlife:

- wildfire fuel reduction
- exotic plant removal and native restoration
- additional land acquisition
- promoting growth of native forage species
- wildlife surveys to monitor change and impacts
- protecting old growth trees
- protecting dead tree snags where possible
- improving access by reducing heavy vegetation levels
- simulating the positive effects of prescribed fire using
- preventing ATV/off-road vehicle access and/or poaching





1.0 Wildlife Management

Habitat Connectivity and Restoration of Quality
Habitat Key!

Future acquisitions will include restoration of native habitat within newly purchased parcels to support enhanced wildlife and plant species diversity

Wildlife Surveys: Volunteer Opportunities!
Assist our team with collecting vital wildlife data



Photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

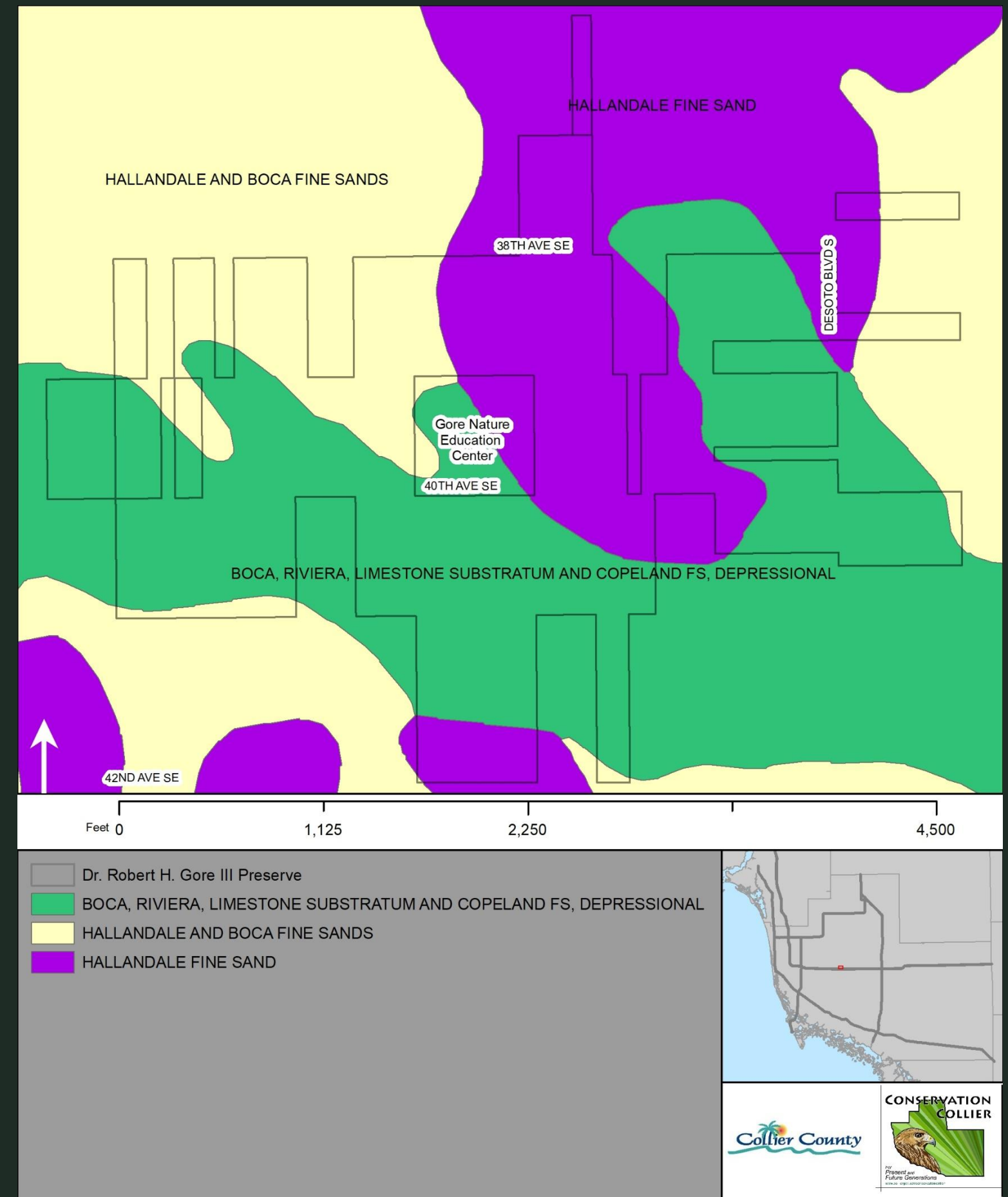


3.0 Hydrology/Soils

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.





3.0 Hydrology/Soils

Hydrology Alterations: Roads, Canals, and Berms

Hydrology of Gore Preserve: Altered!

Canals: lower water table, impacted sheet flow, succession of vegetation cover from wetland to upland

Berms: high elevation areas of disturbance- favor exotics

Roadways: fragment ecosystems, prevent sheet flow, can create pooling effect, pose risks for wildlife movement, improve access and likelihood of site security issues

Limited Options to improve:
potential for culvert install in specific locations





4.0 Cultural Resource Management

Preserve- Rich History thanks to the mission of Dr. Robert H. Gore III

Began purchasing parcels piece by piece in the 1980s

Built over 171 acres of his natural sanctuary and provided education tours to the community

Gore family sold 171 acres of his land to the Conservation Collier in 2018

Conservation Collier contracts out an archaeologist to survey and assess for impacts and works with the Division of Historical Resources should artifacts be found.





5.0 Public Access

Conservation Collier Goal: Compatible, nature- based recreation

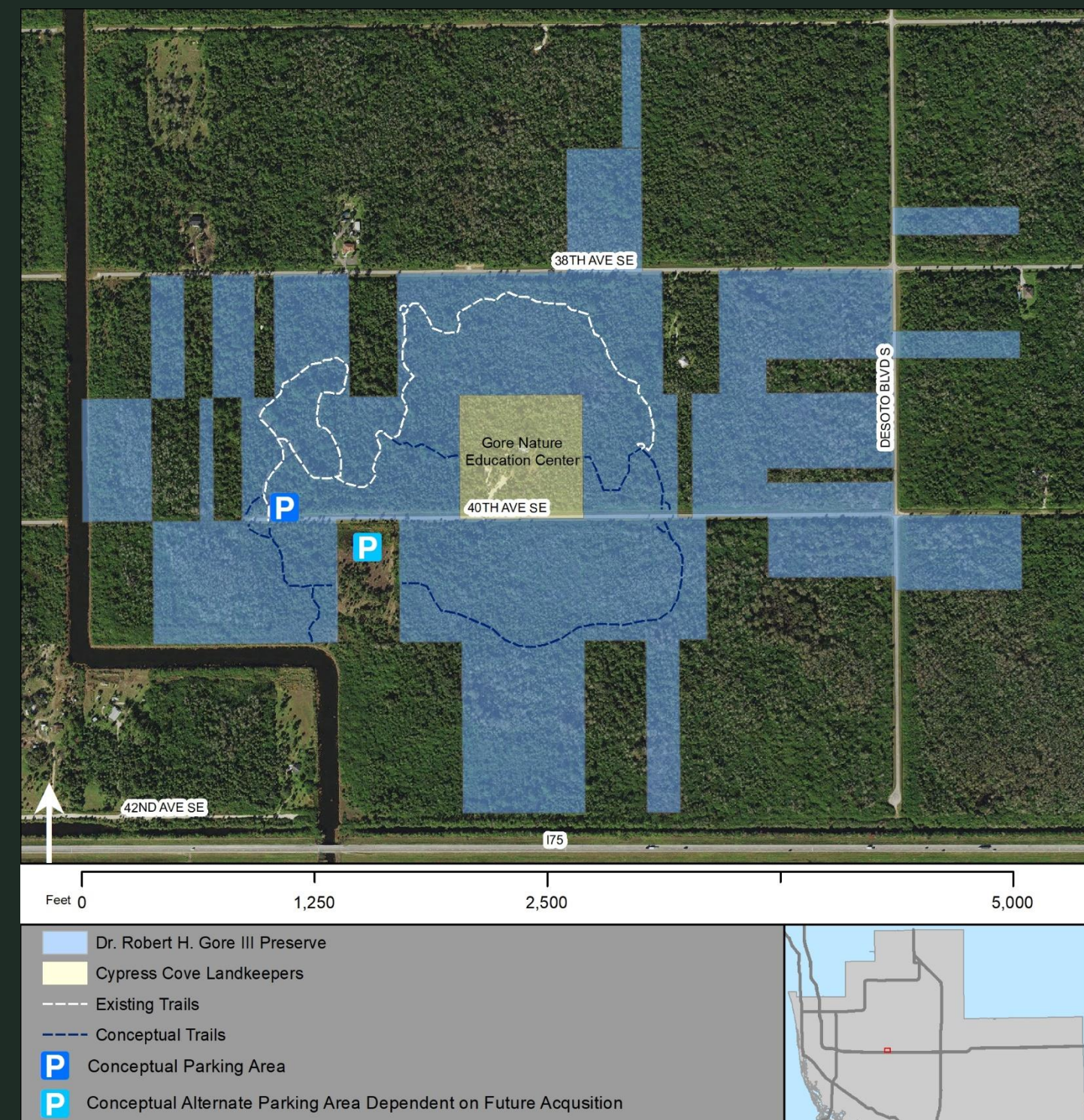
Hiking, biking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, plant id, guided hikes, etc.

Existing trail system: 2 miles, conceptual expansion shown

Parking lot- we would like to provide a parking area for visitors

Connectivity to the Cypress Cove Landkeeper trails to facilitate community nature-education programs

Possible: fishing as a recreational use in the future





5.0 Public Access

Plans for the future:

- Interpretive signage along the trails
- Improved location and directional signage from Desoto and throughout trails
- Interactive educational experiences: scavenger hunts, community science
- Loop system for trails
- Enhanced access for management equipment and emergency responders
- Improved site security





6.0 Site Security



40th Ave SE Prior to Road Paving Extension



40th Ave SE After Road Paving Extension

Existing Plans: Bollards to prevent vehicle access to trails

Future Plans: Improved trailhead entrances that facilitate hiker/biker access but exclude ATV/Vehicle access

Improved camera monitoring

Partnership with Collier County Sheriffs Office

Natural barriers to prevent access to areas outside of the trails

Regular monitoring to prevent dumping or clearing within preserve boundary





7.0 Acquisition

www.ConservationCollier.com to Apply!

Collier County PUBLIC SERVICES

Acquisition News:
PROPERTY OWNERS or REPRESENTATIVES- Submit an application for acquisition

Property Owners: Apply Here

Conservation Collier is currently accepting applications from willing sellers for Acquisition Cycle 12. To submit an application electronically, click this link to: [SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC APPLICATION](#). To download a paper copy of the application to submit by mail, click here for a [Downloadable Application to Submit via Mail](#)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - Nominate a property for acquisition

Nominate A Property Here

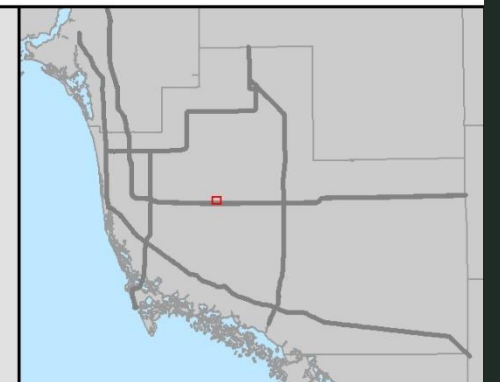
Conservation Collier is currently accepting nominations. To nominate a property: [SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC NOMINATION](#) or email your nomination to ConservationCollier@colliercountyfl.gov. Please include the property id (folio #) for the parcel and owner's name which can be found on the [Collier County Property Appraiser Website](#).

During an active acquisition cycle, members of the public can nominate a property if they are not the land owner. Once a nomination is received, the owners of the property will be contacted by Conservation Collier staff to determine if they are a willing seller and interested in applying.



Feet 0 1,250 2,500 5,000

- Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve (171.7 ac)
- A-list (58 parcels; 139.1 ac)
- Donation (1 parcel; 1.59 ac)
- Expansion (100 parcels; 267.1 ac)
- Offer Accepted (8 parcels; 16.4 ac)
- Cycle 11B parcels (5 parcels; 23.28 ac)
- Cycle 11A parcels (4 parcels; 5.7 ac)





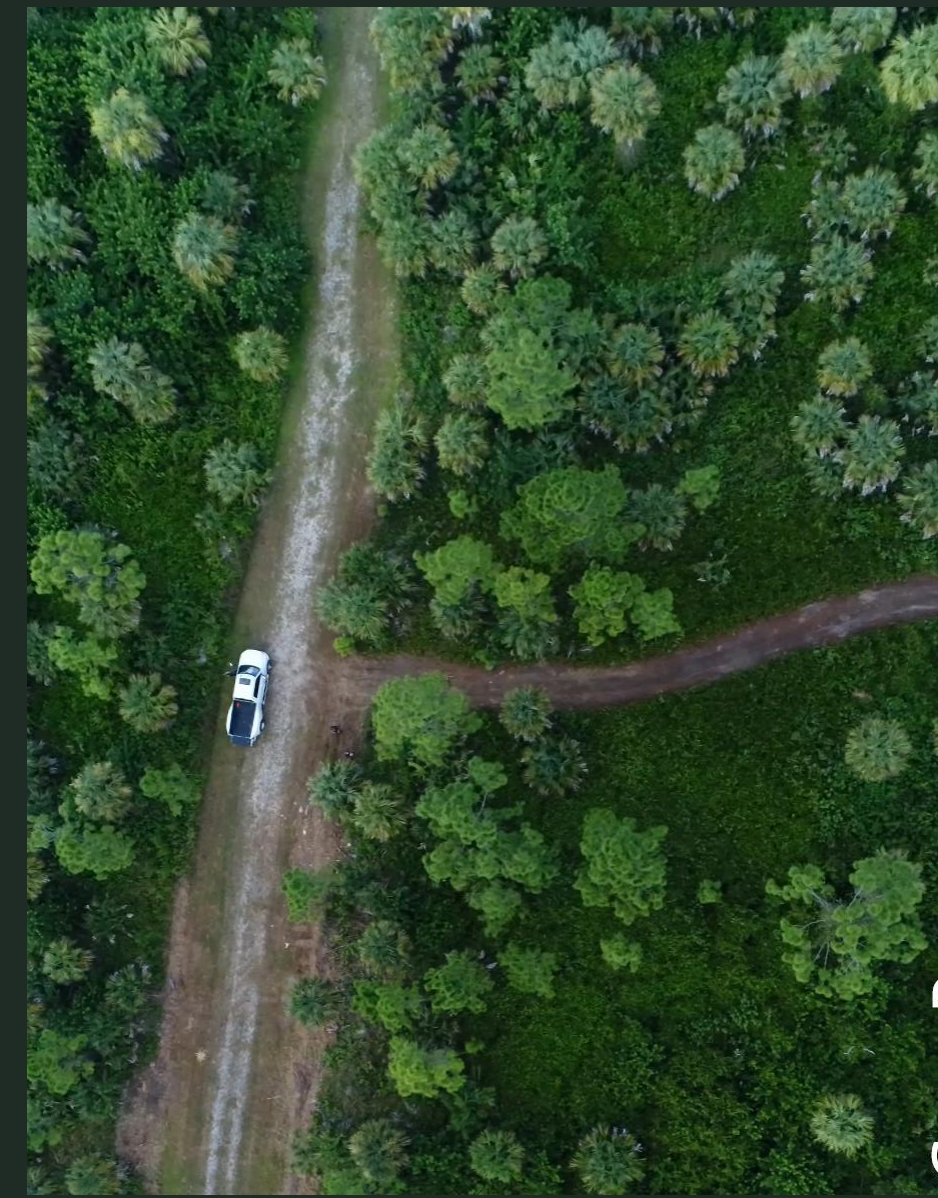
Projected Budget

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





Frost Effects- Interesting Occurrence



2020- Pre Exotics Treatment



2022- Post Exotics Treatment, Post Frost Event





**The best community preserves are built
with feedback and participation from our
neighbors and stakeholders**

**I welcome your
questions, ideas, and
concerns!**





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

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