

Conservation Collier Oetting Property Interim Management Plan

DRAFT

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1.0 Purpose and Scope of the Interim Management Plan

The Oetting property was purchased by Collier County in June 2007 with funds from the Conservation Collier Program. The property will be managed for conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources and for passive and compatible public outdoor recreation.

This Interim Management Plan is intended to identify the key management priorities and issues within the site and give direction for management for the next two years. This document is meant to be the precursor to a Final Management Plan, which will outline more specific aspects of site management.

Key Interim Management Objectives

1. Protect, manage and restore (as appropriate) the native habitat on site
2. Take appropriate steps to open the site for public access
3. Explore opportunities for partnerships
4. Meet with community members who have an interest in this property and obtain feedback for Final Management Plan

Action Plan

- 1a. Install temporary conservation land signs and/or no dumping / no trespassing signs along property boundaries
- 1b. Treat, monitor, and manage invasive exotic vegetation
- 2a. Determine possible location of future parking area
- 2b. Determine location of future boardwalk / trail system
- 2c. Evaluate need for a picnic table, benches, garbage receptacles and interpretive signage along trail
- 2d. Send copies of Oetting Interim Management Plan to adjoining property owners
3. Discuss possibility of a partnership with the Estates Elementary School (possible shared parking options)
4. Develop Final Management Plan and hold Public Meeting(s).

2.0 Management Authority and Responsibilities

The Collier County Conservation Collier Staff will be responsible for managing the Oetting property, and may seek to obtain grants to assist in funding management activities.

3.0 Interim Site Plan

3.1 Location and Site Description

The 2.28 acre Oetting property is located west of Everglades Blvd and north of 60th Ave NE. It is located in Golden Gates Estates Section 31, Township 47, Range 28. The entire property is high quality cypress wetland which is part of the Horsepen Strand Slough.

3.2 Signage

Temporary signs identifying the property as a Conservation Collier Preserve will be posted at the southern boundary of the site facing 60th Ave NE. Temporary No Trespassing / No Dumping signs may also be posted along the southern boundary if needed.

3.3 Easements, Concessions or Leases

A 30-foot road easement exists on the south side of both parcels. No other easements, concessions or leases exist on the parcel or are proposed for the future, unless they further conservation objectives, such as a conservation easement.

3.4 Structures

There are no structures on the property.

3.5 Surrounding and Adjacent Land Uses

The Oetting property is directly adjacent to the north of 60th Ave NW. It is surrounded on the three sides by undeveloped estates zoned lots. The Estates Elementary School is located across 60th Ave NW to the southeast. It is located 2.8 miles southeast of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.

4.0 Interim Management Objectives

4.1 Natural Resource Protection

Existing Native Vegetation:

Ground Cover: saw grass (*Cladium jamaicense*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), swamp fern (*Blechnum serrulatum*), chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*), buttonweed (*Diodia virginica*), mermaid-weed (*Proserpinaca spp.*), climbing hempweed (*Mikania scandens*), smartweed (*Polygonum spp.*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), water hyssop (*Bacopa spp.*), water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle spp.*), climbing aster (*Aster carolinianus*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), and coreopsis (*Coreopsis sp.*).

Midstory: wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), and willow (*Salix spp.*)

Canopy: Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), willow (*Salix spp.*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and scattered cabbage palm.

Unique Natural Features:

The cypress wetlands on site are of high quality, containing minimal invasive exotic plants. The property is part of a larger slough system called Horsepen Strand. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) stated that the property contains “wetlands of high quality and function” and are part of “a unique cypress system.”

Listed Plant Species

Listed plant species found on the property include common wild pine (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) and royal fern (*Tillandsia fasciculata*).

Possible Listed Wildlife Species:

No listed wildlife species were observed at the time of the site visit. The observed habitat and location would support the presence of the following listed species: snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*), limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). Prey and appropriate habitat for these listed species was observed. Other listed wading bird species would most likely utilize the property as well. Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) and Big Cypress fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*), may also be present, forage in, or move through this area as it is near known populations (Closing the Gaps, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, 1994). The property is also within Priority 2 Florida panther (*Felis concolor coryii*) habitat; however, the closest panther telemetry point is over 2 miles away to the northwest.

4.2 Site Security

Security shall be provided by the Collier County Sheriff's Office via routine patrols in the area. A sign will be posted at the trail entrance denoting the times the property will be open for public access.

4.3 Exotic Vegetation Removal and Maintenance Plan

Conservation Collier staff will contract out the exotic vegetation removal and maintenance using Conservation Collier management funds. The low exotic plant density on site does not warrant applying for grant funding to aid in the cost of removal.

Invasive, exotic plants present primarily include Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*). Because there are only scattered areas of low density exotic plants, the plants in the ROW will be cut treated and physically removed from the site and the remainder will be treated in place with an appropriate herbicide. Follow up maintenance will occur after the water levels subside each subsequent year.

4.4 Debris Removal

There was no significant debris found on the property. If deemed necessary, "No Dumping" signs and a fence may need to be installed along the southern property line to deter further dumping. Routine trash removal and trail maintenance can be accomplished by staff, the Sheriff's office weekender crews, contracted, or volunteer labor.

4.5 Cultural, Historical and Archeological Resource Protection

The Oetting property is not within an area of historical and archaeological probability, and no historical or archaeological sites appear to be present on the property. The County will notify the Division of Historical Resources immediately if evidence is found to suggest that any archaeological or historic resources exist on site. 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).

4.6 Listed Species Protection

Conservation Collier staff will evaluate needs for protection if any listed species are found on the property.

4.7 Public Access

The public may access the property from 60th Ave NE. The possibility of creating an agreement for shared parking with the Elementary School exists. The creation of a permeable parking area will be explored especially if adjacent parcels are able to be purchased.

Staff may work with the Transportation Department to create a crosswalk across 60th Ave NE from the Estates Elementary School to our site to make crossing the road safer.

Grant funding will be sought to fund the creation of a raised boardwalk. Conservation Collier staff will obtain any vegetation clearing permits that may be required for boardwalk creation.

Until standards can be specifically designed for conservation lands, public access for Conservation Collier properties will be managed by the same standards as set forth within Collier County Ordinance # 76-48, as amended, which regulates the use of County parks.

4.8 Site Monitoring and Long Term Management Plan

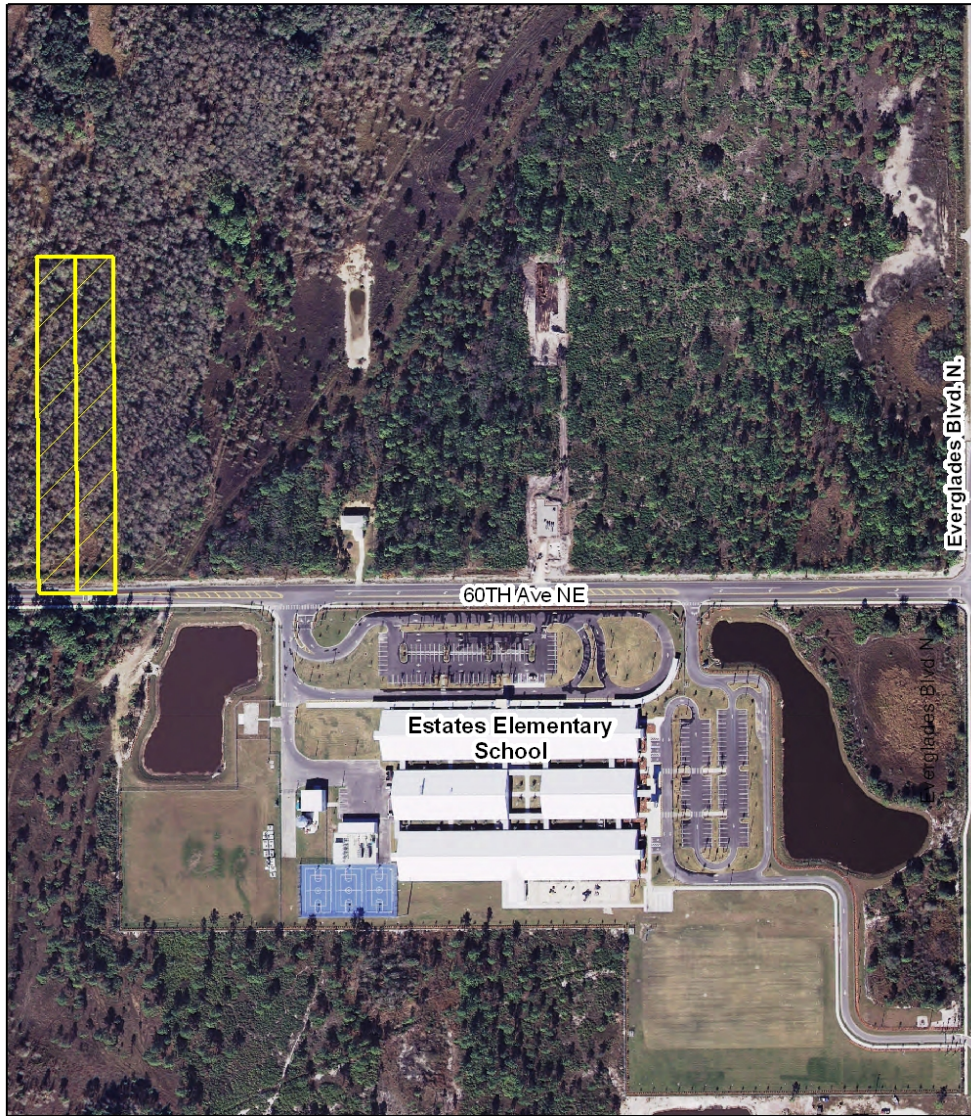
Monitoring of the site will consist of trash removal, boardwalk up-keep, and invasive exotic vegetation re-treatment. Conservation Collier staff shall be responsible for property maintenance with tasks contracted out as necessary and management partnerships sought with neighboring agencies. The site will be monitored for exotic vegetation re-growth semi-annually for two years following initial treatment. After two years, exotic vegetation will be monitored on a yearly basis.

4.8 Partnerships


Conservation Collier staff will seek out and evaluate potential for partnerships for conservation, protection, and education. We will work with the Estates Elementary School to set up opportunities for environmental and science based educational programs and use.

EXHIBIT 1:
Location Map

Conservation Collier Oetting Properties Location Map



Legend

 Oetting Parcels

Folio Numbers: 38847040004, 38847080006

Data Source: 2005 Aerials & Parcels-Collier County Property Appraiser
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Date: 1-26-08 CS

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EXHIBIT 2: Aerial Map

Conservation Collier Oetting Properties Aerial Map



Legend

 Oetting Parcels

Folio Numbers: 38847040004, 38847080006

Data Source: 2005 Aerials & Parcels-Collier County Property Appraiser
Created by: CDES / Environmental Services
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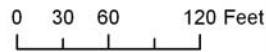


EXHIBIT 3: Estimated Cost Table

Management Element	Initial Cost	Annual Recurring Costs	Comments
Exotics Control	\$8,000	\$500-1000 annually	Remove along ROW Treat in place the remainder
Boardwalk / Trails	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	Will seek grant funding
Signs	\$1,600	n/a	Plant ID, Conservation Land, and no trespassing / dumping signs educational signs-will seek grant funding for educational signage
Trash Removal	\$0	t.b.d	t.b.d.
Total	\$9,600	t.b.d	

