

Conservation Collier Brochu Property Interim Management Plan

DRAFT

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1.0 Purpose and Scope of the Interim Management Plan

The Brochu property was purchased by Collier County in August 2006 with funds from the Conservation Collier program. The property will be managed for conservation, protection, enhancement of natural resources and for public outdoor recreation that will be compatible with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the site and the surrounding lands.

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

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. Coordinate parking area creation with Water-Sewer District
- 2b. Create trail system running off of parking area
- 2c. Install picnic table, benches, garbage cans and interpretive signage.
3. Discuss possibility of future fire management partnerships with Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Florida Department of Forestry

2.0 Management Authority and Responsibilities

The Collier County Environmental Services Department (ESD) will be responsible for managing the Brochu property, but will seek to obtain grants for management activities. ESD will coordinate with the Collier County Water-Sewer District on management issues associated with the utility easement on the property.

3.0 Interim Site Plan

3.1 Location and Site Description

The 10.00 acre Brochu property is to the east of Sanctuary Lane, adjacent to Immokalee Road on the south and adjacent to Limpkin Road on the north, in Section 23, Township 47 S, Range 27 E. The western half of the property consists of pine flatwoods, and the eastern half of the property consists of pine flatwoods and freshwater marsh with shrubs, brush and vines.

3.2 Signage

Temporary signs identifying the property as Collier County Conservation Land will be posted at the southern boundary of the site facing Immokalee Road and possibly along the

northern boundary facing Limpkin Road. Temporary No Trespassing / No Dumping signs may also be posted along the northern boundary.

3.3 Easements, Concessions or Leases

A 100' X 150' Collier County Water-Sewer District utility easement exists over the northwest corner of the property. (See Exhibit 2). A test well will be drilled and a path to the well will be cleared on the easement. Per the Collier County Board of County Commissioners, the Water-Sewer District will provide site improvements on the easement commensurate with its own needs and will allow for shared public parking access with the Conservation Collier portion of the property. Exotics, trash, and debris on the easement will be removed in coordination with the removals done on the Conservation Collier portion of the property. Finally, any code required landscaping on the easement will be accomplished with site appropriate native plant species.

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 Brochu property is directly adjacent to Limpkin Road to the north and Immokalee Road to the south. Immediately east and west of the property lie undeveloped agriculturally zoned lands. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is approximately one mile to the west. Scattered single family, developed lots exist in the lands that surround the property.

4.0 Interim Management Objectives

4.1 Natural Resource Protection

Existing Vegetation:

Ground Cover: **Pine flatwoods** – redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), hat pins (*Eriocaulon decangulare*), candyroot (*polygala nana*), rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*), muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), black root (*Pterocaulon pychnostachium*), paw paw (*Asimina* spp.), St. John's wort (*Hypericum* spp.), running oak (*Quercus elliotii*), yellow eyed grass (*Xyris* spp.), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), swamp fern (*Blechnum serrulatum*), bushy broom grass (*Andropogon glomeratus*), southern shield fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*). **Freshwater Marsh with shrubs, brushes and vines** – redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), St. John's wort (*Hypericum* spp.), pepper vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*), white vine (*Sarcostemma clausum*), button-weed (*Diodia virginiana*), water hyssop (*Bacopa* spp.), musky mint (*Hyptis alata*), marsh fleabane (*Pluchea rosea*), water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), hempvine (*Mikania scandens*), smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), arrowhead (*Sagittaria* spp.), chocolate-weed (*Melochia corchorifolia*)

Midstory: **Pine flatwoods** – saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), rusty lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginea*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), myrsine (*Rapanea punctata*), gallberry (*Ilex*

glabra). **Freshwater Marsh with shrubs, brushes and vines** – primrose willow (*Ludwigia* spp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Canopy: **Pine flatwoods** – slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), occasional laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and bay (*Persea* spp.). **Freshwater Marsh with shrubs, brushes and vines** – These trees were along the edges. The marsh had no canopy trees: melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Unique Natural Features:

The pine flatwoods on site are of high quality, containing few invasive, exotic plants.

Listed Plant Species

Listed plant species found on the property include stiff-leaved wild pine (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) and reflexed wild pine (*Tillandsia balbisiana*).

Possible Listed Wildlife Species:

Although no listed wildlife has been observed on site, the property is within the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Wood Stork Core Foraging Area, located approximately 2 miles from a documented wood stork rookery. Other listed wading bird species would most likely utilize the small marsh area as well. The property is within Priority 2 Florida panther (*Felis concolor coryii*) habitat; however, the closest panther telemetry point is over 1 mile away to the northeast.

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

ESD staff will contract out any necessary 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 removal.

Invasive, exotic plants present include Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), java plum (*Syzygium cumini*), earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and tropical almond (*Terminalia catappa*). Because there are only scattered areas of low density exotic plants, the plants will be treated in place with an appropriate herbicide. All melaleuca will be treated by girdling prior to herbicide application.

4.4 Debris Removal

The Sheriff's Community Service Weekender Crew will remove solid waste and litter from the property. No dumping signs and a fence may need to be installed along the northern property line to deter further dumping. Routine trash removal and trail maintenance can be accomplished using Sheriff Weekender, contracted, and volunteer labor.

4.5 Cultural, Historical and Archeological Resource Protection

The Brochu 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 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).

4.6 Listed Species Protection

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

4.7 Public Access

The creation of a public parking area on the northwest corner utility easement will be coordinated with the Water-Sewer District. The possibility of creating a permeable parking area will be explored. Once the location of a parking area has been established, ESD staff will determine final trail dimensions and placement. A short trail with an American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible portion will be constructed using a combination of contract and volunteer labor. ESD staff will obtain any vegetation clearing permits that may be required for trail creation. If mulch is necessary for the non-ADA portions of the trail, melaleuca mulch will be used.

A picnic table, benches, trash/recycling bins and interpretive and/or plant identification signs will be installed along the trail once it is complete.

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, trail up-keep, and invasive exotic vegetation re-treatment. ESD 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.

4.9 Partnerships

ESD staff will seek out and evaluate potential for partnerships for conservation, protection, and education.

Although fire management will not be addressed during the initial two years of ownership of this property, future fire management (or some form of fire substitute) will be necessary in the near future. ESD staff will contact Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and FL Department of Forestry to seek partnership opportunities for fire management of this property.

5.0 Exhibits

EXHIBIT 1: Location Map

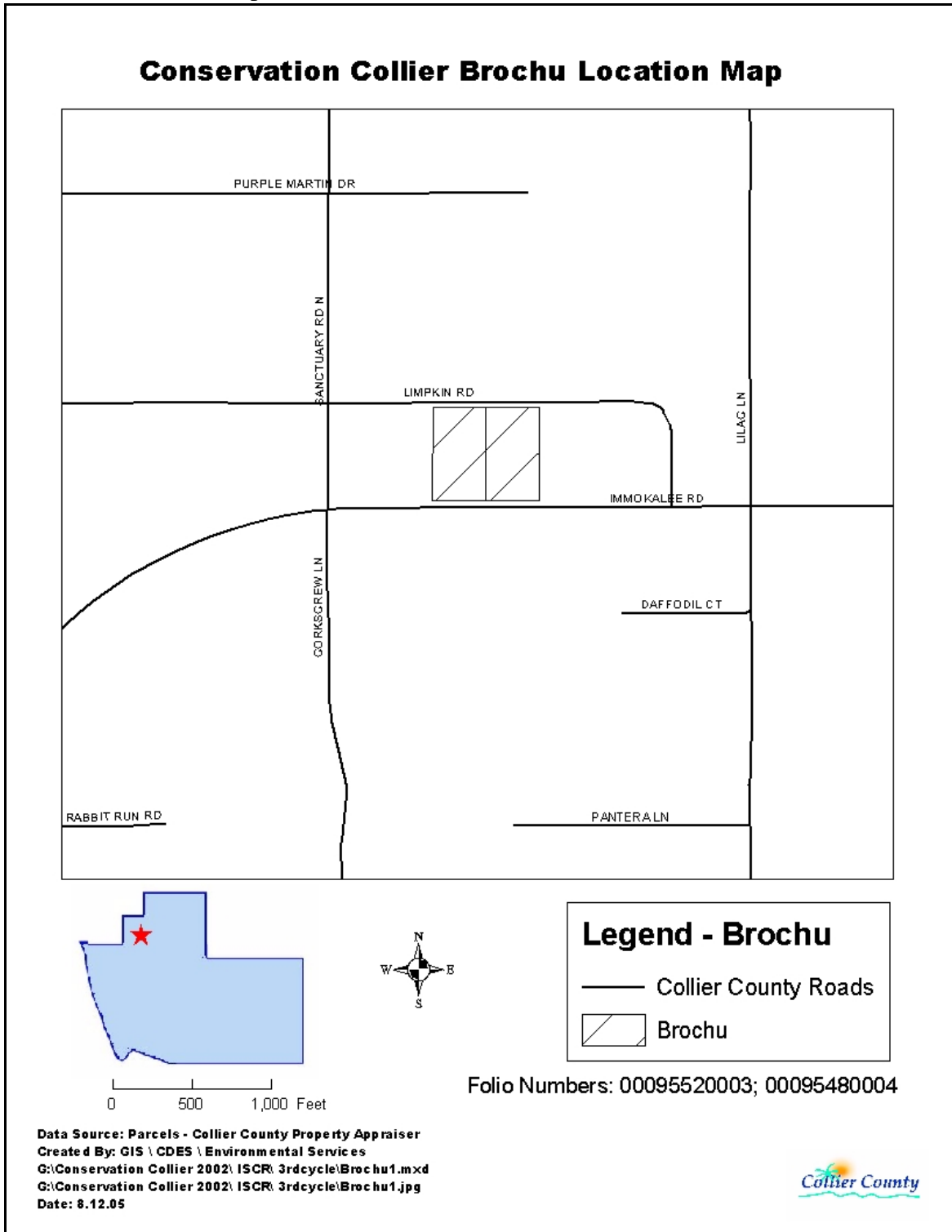


EXHIBIT 2: Aerial Map

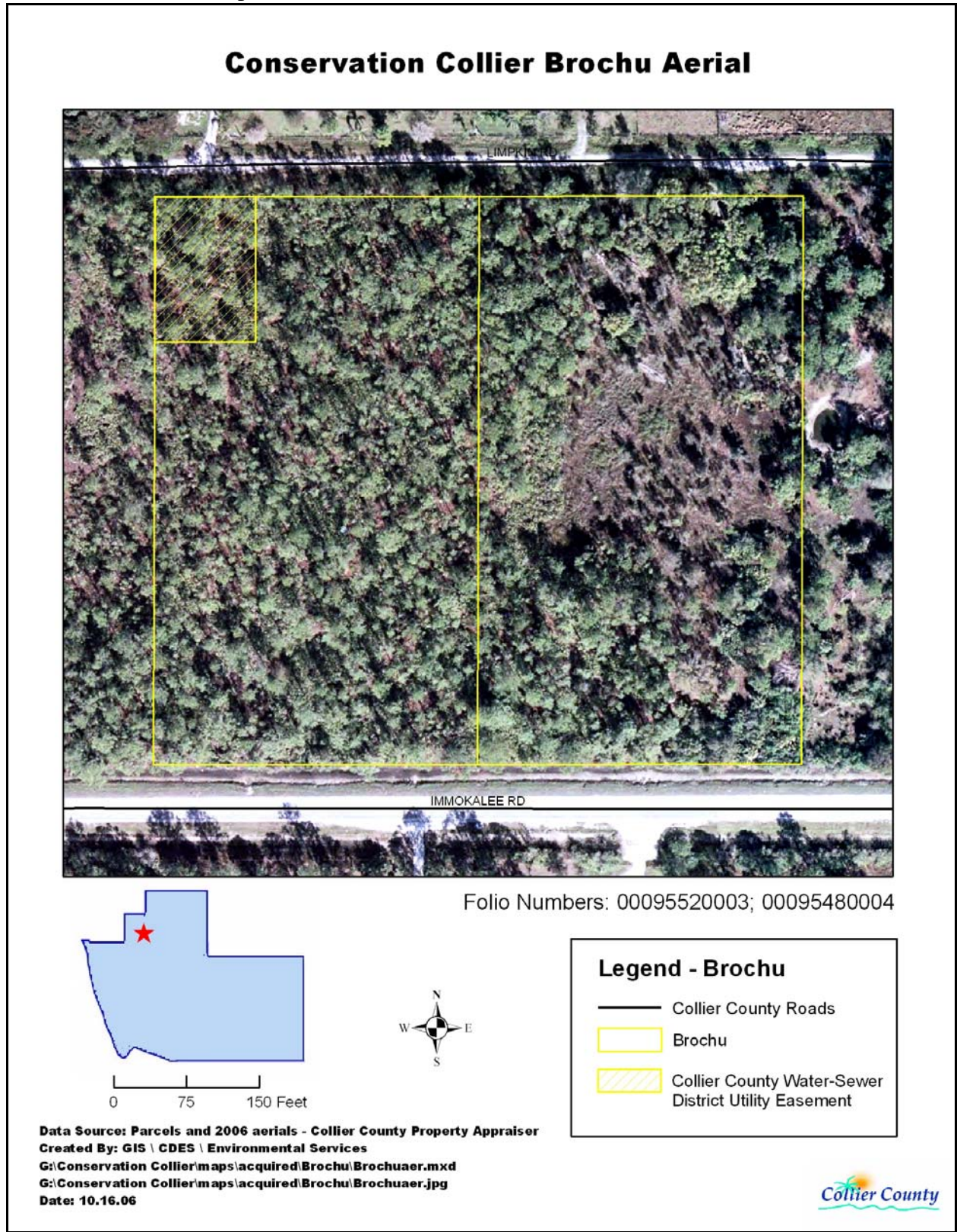


EXHIBIT 3: Estimated Cost Table

Management Element	Initial Cost	Annual Recurring Costs	Comments
Exotics Control	\$ 20,000	\$1,000-\$4,500 annually	Estimated initial removal \$2,000/acre
Parking Facility	\$16,000+	t.b.d	Maintenance costs unknown at this time
Access Trails ADA trail section	\$13,500 \$16,500	t.b.d.	Trail 2,700 feet @ \$5 (estimated) per foot ADA trail section approx. 500 feet @ \$33 (estimated) per foot.
Signs	\$600	n/a	Plant ID, Conservation Land, and no trespassing / dumping signs
Table, benches, trash can	\$3,500	n/a	Recycled plastic
Trash Removal	\$0	t.b.d	t.b.d.
Total	\$70,100	t.b.d	

