

Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program

Initial Screening Criteria

*Revised 8-6-21**

Property Owner(s), acreage, and folio: 4 properties owners total = 17.59 acres

- Kenneth Cedenó – 2.81 acres (41504760009)
- Eugene D’angelo – 5 acres (41661840008)
- Charels Bailey – 1.14 acres (41618160003)
- Carol Rudnick – 1.59 acres (41502560007)
- Argay Estate – 7.05 acres (41560360003)*

Property Location: Dr. Robert H. Gore III preserve area – existing preserve 171.2 acres

Nominations to the Conservation Collier Program are based on satisfying at least two of the initial screening criteria below. Qualified sites shall then be further prioritized by secondary evaluative criteria.

1. Are any of the following unique and endangered plant communities found on the property? Order of preference as follows: Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(a)

	Yes	No
a. Hardwood hammocks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Xeric oak scrub	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Coastal strand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Native beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Xeric pine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. High marsh (saline)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Tidal freshwater marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Other native habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wetland hardwoods; 6216-Cypress-Mixed Hardwoods; 6172-Mixed shrubs; 6210- Cypress

2. Does land offer significant human social values, such as equitable geographic distribution, appropriate access for nature-based recreation, and enhancement of the aesthetic setting of Collier County? Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(b)

Yes No

These four parcels would be an expansion of the existing Conservation Collier Dr. Robert H. Gore III preserve. The parcels have access from public roads: Desoto Blvd., 36th Ave. SE, 38th Ave. SE, and 40th Ave. Desoto is paved road, as well as 38th Ave. SE and 40th Ave. SE. These parcels are immediately adjacent to or across the street from the existing preserve. All properties could accommodate seasonal outdoor recreation and expansion of existing and planned trails.

3. Does the property offer opportunities for protection of water resource values, including aquifer recharge, water quality enhancement, protection of wetland dependant species habitat, and flood control? Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(c)

Yes No

The plant communities found on the properties were mostly consistent with mapped soils, and the properties contain wetlands and wetland plant communities. As such, they provide habitat for wetland-dependent species. The properties are not mapped as contributing significantly to the Tamiami Aquifer, but they are mapped as contributing moderately to the Surficial Aquifer. Wetlands can serve as a buffer to filter contaminated water. Since surface water in this area flows towards the I-75 canal, and wetlands on the parcels may help to clean runoff before it enters the I-75 canal. The Rudnick and Cedenó parcels hold water during wet season and can be expected to contribute to flood control in the local area. The presence of hydrologic indicators such as cypress knees, karst and water marks on buttressed cypress trunks provides evidence of seasonal flooding.

4. Does the property offer significant biological values, including biodiversity, listed species habitat, connectivity, restoration potential and ecological quality? Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(d)

Yes No

These parcels are mapped as having above-average biodiversity. Wildlife monitoring cameras within the preserve area indicate high utilization by Florida panther, Florida black bear, white tailed deer, wild turkey, spotted skunk, and nesting birds. The parcels in application (with the exception of D'angelo parcel) would need to have the Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) removed from the properties as was done with the existing preserve parcels. The D'Angelo parcel understory and Brazilian pepper infestation was mechanically removed in 2018, the property is maintained through regular mowing. The 171.2-acre preserve has been entirely treated for exotic vegetation and is now under maintenance. Adding onto the preserve will provide additional acreage that will not be developed and in turn will be available for wildlife utilization.

5. Does the property enhance and/or protect the environmental value of current conservation lands through function as a buffer, ecological link or habitat corridor? Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(e)

Yes No

These properties are within a historic wetland area that connects on the east side with the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (FPNWR) via the vehicle test track, about a mile and a half away. The Gore properties would enhance or protect the FPNWR primarily by acting as a buffer and providing a reasonably large sized wild land addition north of I-75. There are Wildlife underpasses at the FakaUnion and Miller Canal.

Just south of FPNWR and the I-75 corridor, is the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, about 2.5 miles from the properties. Panthers who utilize the existing 2 underpasses under I-75 (the Faka Union and Miller canals) could access the preserve.

A little over 2 miles to the west are the North Belle Meade sending lands. In 2007, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists did not encourage use of the area to corridor panthers farther west into North Belle Meade due to increasing development in that area. At present, FWC would support the acquisition of this property for panther habitat, but cautions about defining a westward corridor because there is no master plan that identifies it as such and there are developed lands west of Everglades Blvd. Potential for a future Everglades access to I-75 is also a noted obstacle in the way of a habitat corridor.

The Picayune Strand State Forest is directly to the south across I-75. Panthers could move south from the Fakaunion canal, just south of the properties, into the Picayune creating an ecological link and habitat corridor. The Gore properties are located within a Primary Panther Habitat Zone.

Is the property within the boundary of another agency's acquisition project?

Yes No

If yes, will use of Conservation Collier funds leverage a significantly higher rank or funding priority for the parcel?

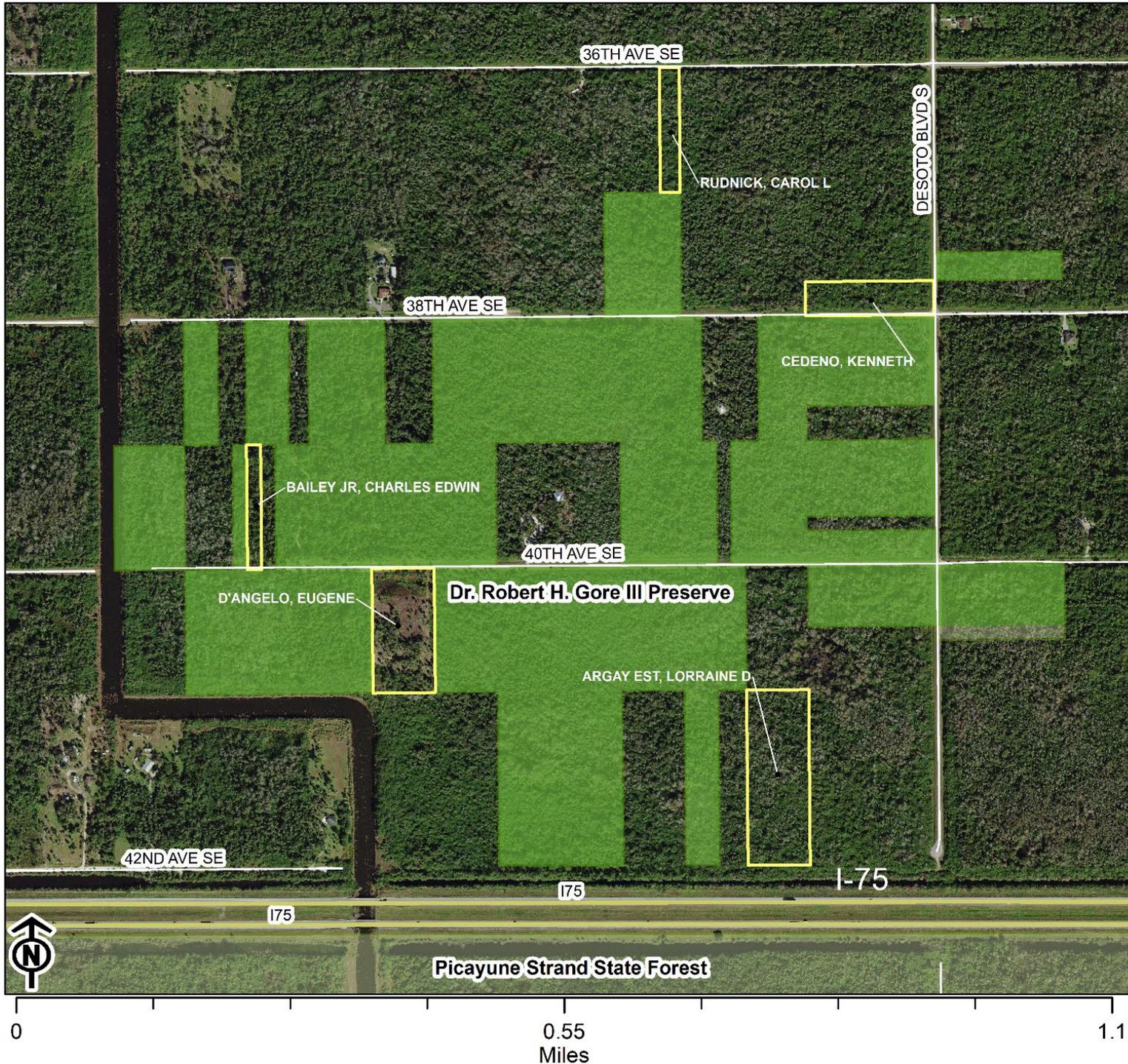
Yes No

Without such funding circumstances, Conservation Collier funds shall not be available for purchase of these lands. Ord. 2002-63, Sec. 10 (1)(f)

MEETS INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA

Yes No

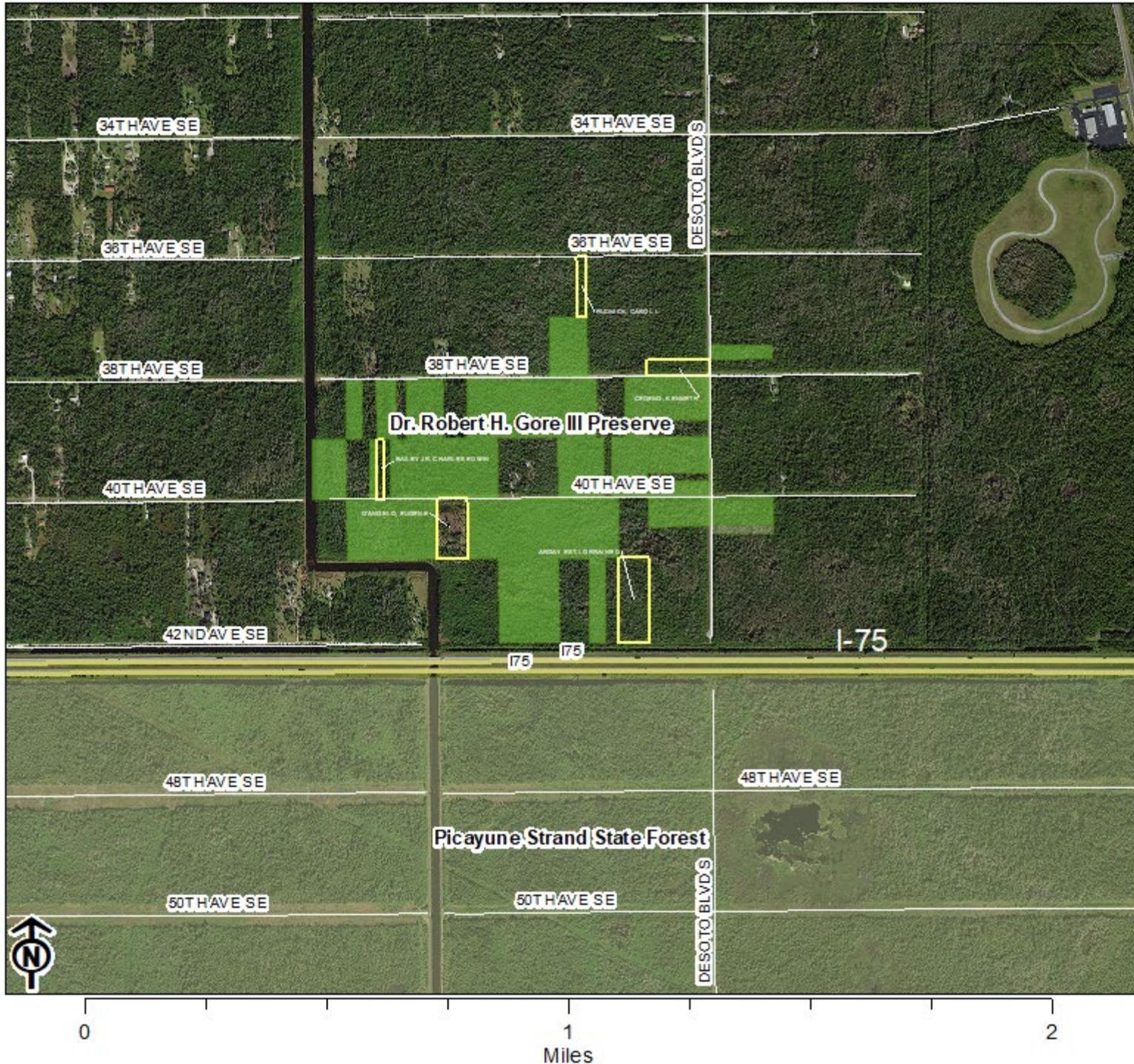
Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve - Adjacent parcels



Legend

-  Gore ISC Parcels
-  Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve

Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve - Surrounding Lands



Legend

- Gore ISC Parcels
- Dr. Robert H. Gore III Preserve