Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program

Initial Screening Criteria

Property Owner: Rookery Bay Business Park, LLC

Parcel(s) acreage: 36.25 as noted in Collier Property Appraiser estimated acreage for this parcel (40 acres submitted in the application)

Property Location: Within 0.5 mile NE of Shell Island Preserve, East of Collier Blvd just north of Diamond Lake North

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	☒	☐
b. Xeric oak scrub	☐	☒
c. Coastal strand	☐	☒
d. Native beach	☐	☒
e. Xeric pine	☐	☒
f. High marsh (saline)	☐	☒
g. Tidal freshwater marsh	☐	☒
h. Other native habitats: pine flatwood, mixed shrub wetland	☒	☐

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

This property is within the Urban Coastal Fringe and visible from a major County Road. It is within 0.5 miles of other Conservation Collier preserve land, adjacent to Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve land and may be accessible from Collier Blvd as a mowed right of way with culvert infrastructure exists along the western boundary of the parcel

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 parcel has a mapped surficial recharge capacity of 43 to 56" annually, considered moderate. The parcel has a mapped Lower Tamiami recharge capacity of -167" to -48" indicating it a discharge area. There is a significant infestation of exotic melaleuca trees that exist in the wetland portions of the preserve. The presence of this non-native indicates that surface water is present throughout the site for a large portion of the year, and once removed could be restored to wet praire/freshwater marsh habitat that would support imperiled wading birds and freshwater fish, amphibian, and reptile species.

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

This parcel enhances connectivity with a Conservation Collier Preserve and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Florida panther telemetry points of a collared panther exist within the parcel boundary indicating that movement of wildlife like large mammals occur between this parcel and the adjacent state conservation lands.

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

The parcel provides connectivity with Conservation Collier Shell Island Preserve and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and would protect a portion of the remaining undeveloped wildlife corridor that exists between the Picayune Strand State Forest and Rookery Bay/ Ten Thousand Islands NWR conservation lands.

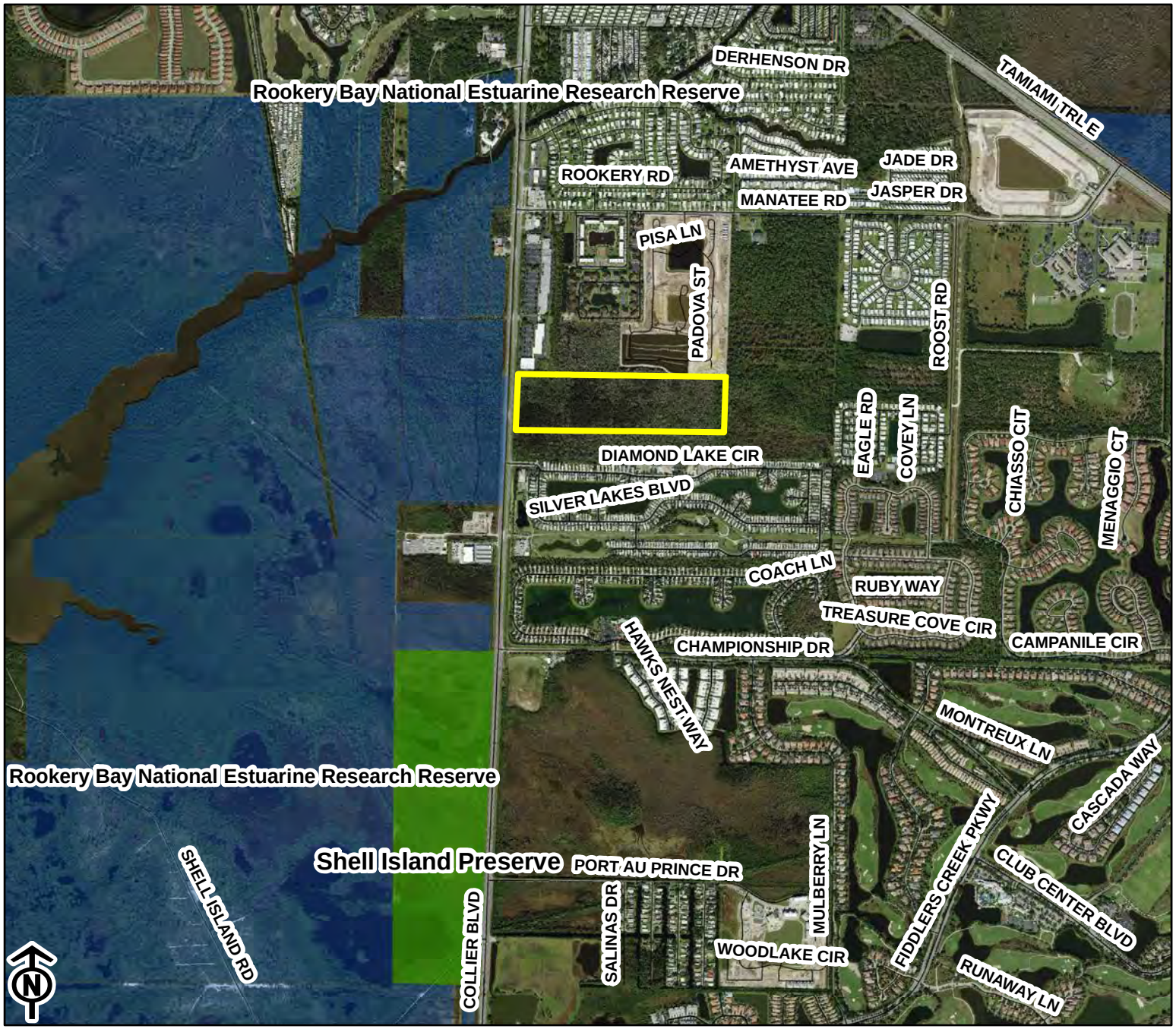
Is the property within the boundary of another agency's acquisition project?
☒**Yes** ☐**No**

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

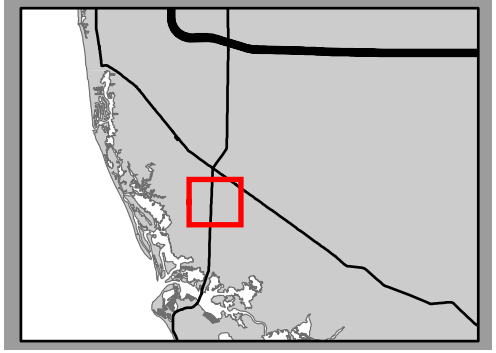
Initial Screening Criteria- Rookery Bay Business Park



Rookery Bay Business Park Boundary

Conservation Collier Preserves

Adjacent Conservation Land



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Collier County

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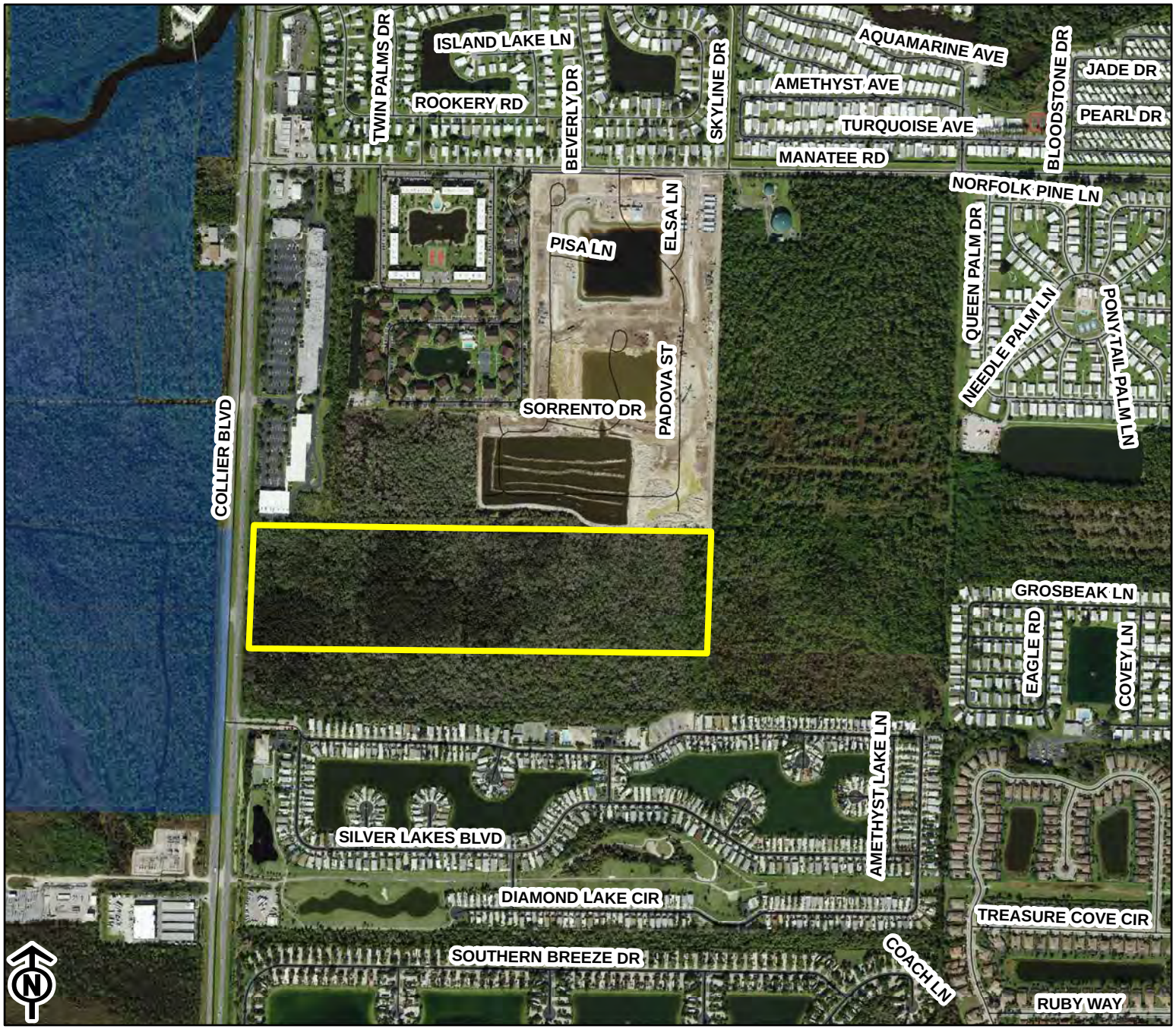

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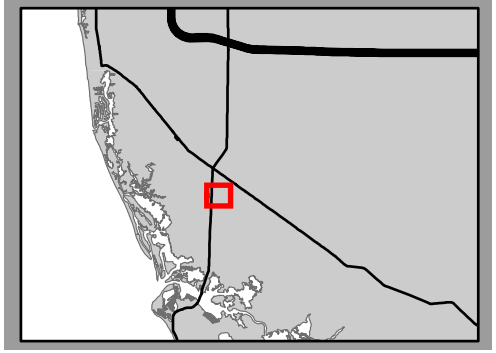

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