

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners  
Agenda Item Summary**

**Blue Sheet No. 20030234**

**1. REQUESTED MOTION:**

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Formally approve United States Department Agriculture's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Grant and budget Amendment and Resolution for \$ 19,991.00. For Caloosahatchee Regional Park to remove 41.6 acres of exotic vegetation, site prep and establish native trees and shrubs. Follow up pest management treatments for 3 years. Revenue Account 11071815500.331390.9003

**WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY:** Board must formally accept grants

**WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:** To continue replacing native trees and shrubs for exotics throughout our Parks.

**2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:  
COMMISSION DISTRICT #**

**C11A**

**3. MEETING DATE:**

**03-25-2003**

**4. AGENDA:**

- CONSENT
- ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
- PUBLIC WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

**5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:  
(Specify)**

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

**6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:**

- A. COMMISSIONER
- B. DEPARTMENT **Parks and Recreation**
- C. DIVISION

**BY: John Yarbrough**

*d. Yarbrough  
by [signature]*

**7. BACKGROUND:**

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program is a grant program of the Department of Natural Resources from the US Dept. of Agriculture. They have awarded Caloosahatchee Regional Park \$19,991.00 for the removal of 41.6 acres of exotic vegetation, site prep and establishment of native trees and shrubs in the park. Also required is follow up pest management, treatments for 3 years. Match is 25% or \$4,997.75. The match will be staff time, use of the Destructive Vegetation Fund (301) and purchase of additional plants from The National Tree Trust Grant and donations, as well as a minimum of \$2,770.00 in volunteer time.

Revenue account string: 11071815500.331390.9003

**8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:**

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
<i>J4</i>	<i>R/A</i>			<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>CEPAM 2/26/03</i>	OA	OM	Risk	GC
				<i>2/20/03</i>		<i>2/26/03</i>	<i>2/26/03</i>	<i>2/26/03</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

**10. COMMISSION ACTION:**

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER CONTINUED FOR 2 WEEKS (3-25-03)

*ON 3-11-03*

Rec. by CoAtty  
Date: *2/20/03*  
Time: *3:15 pm*  
Forwarded To: *[Signature]*  
*2/26/03*

RECEIVED BY  
CC: *[Signature]*  
*2/20/03*  
*4:10 pm*  
*[Signature]*  
*2/26/03*

# RESOLUTION #

Amending the MSTU Budget, Fund 15500 to incorporate the unanticipated receipts into Estimated Revenues and Appropriations for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with the Florida Statutes 129.06(2), it is the desire of the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida, to amend the MSTU Budget, Fund 15500 for \$ 19,991 of the unanticipated revenue from Grant funding and an appropriation of a like amount for grant expenditures and;

**WHEREAS**, the MSTU Budget, Fund 15500 shall be amended to include the following amounts which were previously not included.

## ESTIMATED REVENUES

Prior Total:		
Additions		\$78,963,895
11071815500.331390.9003	Parks & Rec-21 <sup>st</sup> Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	\$ 19,991
Amended Total Estimated Revenues		\$78,983,886

## APPROPRIATIONS

Prior Total:		\$78,963,895
Additions		
11071815500.501210	Salaries	\$ 19,991
Amended Total Appropriations		\$78,983,886

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida, that the MSTU Budget, Fund 15500 is hereby amended to show the above additions to its Estimated Revenue and Appropriation Accounts.

Duly voted upon and adopted in Chambers at a regular Public Hearing by the Board of County Commissioners on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

ATTEST:  
CHARLIE GREEN, EX-OFFICIO CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

DOC TYPE YA  
LEDGER TYPE BA



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

3434 Hancock  
Bridge Parkway  
Suite 209B  
N. Ft. Myers, FL  
33903  
(239) 995-5678 X3

October 21, 2002

Caloosahatchee Regional Park  
c/o Roger Clark, Lee County Parks & Recreation  
3410 Palm Beach Boulevard  
Ft. Myers, Florida 33916

Dear: Roger, et al.

This letter provides notice that your Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) application meets our State wildlife objectives and funds **have been** approved for your wildlife habitat development project in the amount of \$19,991.00.

Presently, we are waiting for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide informal consultation on Threatened and Endangered Species before the Natural Resources Conservation Service can proceed with the project. Once informal consultation has been completed, you will be asked to schedule a planning session with the NRCS, Ft. Myers Service Center, to identify target dates for the implementation of your conservation practices.

Congratulations on being selected as a WHIP recipient. We look forward to working closely with you toward your goals of wildlife habitat enhancement.

Sincerely,

Kendal Hicks  
Soil Conservationist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).  
To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Contract Support Document

Caloosahatchee River Reg Park  
 3410 Palm Beach Blvd.  
 Ft. Myers, FL 33916

Contract Number: 72420927101

Tract	Field	Item #	Planned Conservation Treatment	Estimated Amount	Units	Cost / Unit	Program	Cost Share	2003	2004	2005
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1 Land Clearing (460)

Remove trees, stumps and other vegetation from wooded area as required by the conservation plan.

1a	460-Land Clearing/Create Forest Openings	41.6	Acre	\$455.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$14,196			
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2 PEST MANAGEMENT (595A)

Pest populations will be managed with an integrated pest management system using a combination of two or more mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical systems.

2a	595- Pest Management of Noxious Plants	25.0	Acre	\$53.33	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$1,000			
2b	595- Pest Management of Noxious Plants	25.0	Acre	\$53.33	WHIP	50.0% AM		\$667		
2c	595- Pest Management of Noxious Plants	25.0	Acre	\$53.33	WHIP	50.0% AM				\$667

3 Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

This field(s) will be planted to trees and shrubs to establish cover for various wildlife species.

3a	612-Tree Planting / Hand Planted, BR	25.0	Acre	\$67.70	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$1,269			
3b	COMVEG-Other Plants/Dahoon Holly ( 7 gallon)	30.0	Each	\$20.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$450			
3c	COMVEG-Other Plants/Wax Myrtle (3 gallon)	45.0	Each	\$4.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$135			
3d	COMVEG-Shrubs/Beauty Berry, American (3 gallon)	45.0	Each	\$5.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$169			
3e	COMVEG-Shrubs/Buttombush (3 gallon)	50.0	Each	\$5.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$188			
3g	COMVEG-Shrubs/Dogwood (1 gallon)	50.0	Each	\$3.50	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$131			
3h	COMVEG-Trees/Ash (3 gal./Fraxinus spp.)	40.0	Each	\$5.50	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$165			
3i	COMVEG-Trees/Hackberry (3 gallon)	50.0	Each	\$5.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$188			
3j	COMVEG-Trees/Gum, Swamp Tupelo (3 gallon)	45.0	Each	\$6.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$203			
3k	COMVEG-Trees/Red Maple, (1 gallon)	35.0	Each	\$2.50	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$66			
3l	COMVEG-Trees/Willow, Carolina, (3 gallon)	45.0	Each	\$4.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$135			
3m	COMVEG-Trees/Perisimmon, Common (3 gallon)	35.0	Each	\$6.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$158			

3n	COMVEG- Trees/Sweetbay, (3 gallon)	45.0	Each	\$6.00	WHIP	75.0% AM	\$203		
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<b>Total Cost-Share by Calendar Year</b>			\$18,656	\$667	\$667
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<b>Total Contract Cost-Share</b>	\$19,990
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- NOTES:
- A. All items numbered under "Item #" must be carried out as part of this contract to prevent violation.
  - B. When established, the conservation practices listed as "Planned Conservation Treatment" must be maintained by the participant at no cost to the government.
  - C. Enter total cost per unit under "Cost/Unit" unless the method of cost-share is flat rate. When flat rate, enter the amount per unit to be paid to the participant.
  - D. All cost share rates shown under "Cost Share" are based on average cost (AC) with the following exceptions:
    - AA = Actual costs not to exceed average cost
    - FR = Flat rate
    - NC = Non cost-shared
    - AM = Actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum

This information is used in both the development and implementation of a Conservation, Reclamation or Water Quality plan as the basis for technical assistance and/or cost sharing. The authorities for such work are: 16 U.S.C. 590a-f (Soil and Water Conservation); 16 U.S.C. 590h(b) (Agriculture Conservation); 16 U.S.C. 590p(b) (Great Plains); 30 U.S.C. 1236 et seq. (Rural Abandoned Mine Reclamation); 43 U.S.C. 1592(c) (Colorado River Basin Salinity Control); The Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198; Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127 and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Furnishing information is voluntary and will be confidential; however, it is necessary in order to receive assistance.

By signing, the participant acknowledges receipt of this practice schedule and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions hereof.

CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS

 Caloosahatchee State Reg Park	2/13/03 Date
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CERTIFICATION OF:

Soil Conservationist	
Kendal Hicks	Date

CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Lee County SWCD	Date

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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Line: 001  
 Fund: 0275F12  
 BOC: 4114  
 Program: LONG TERM AGREEMENT  
 Report Category: \_\_\_\_\_

OMB NO. 0578-0013

\$19,990.98

A. To be completed by NRCS; check appropriate box: 19990.98  
 This transaction is for CCC  
 This transaction is for NRCS  
 Date Entered: 10/23/02  
 B. Agreement NO.: 72420927101  
 C. Program: WTRP  
 D. State: Florida  
 E. County: Lee

- The undersigned participants enter into this agreement with the (1 a.) Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement and or maintain specific conservation practices, as set forth in the Attachment B: Schedule of Operations on the property identified on the location map (Attachment D). In consideration for the implementation and or maintenance of the practices, NRCS will make payments to the participant(s) in the amount (\$) described in the Schedule of Operations. This agreement is effective on the date signed by (1 b.) Roger Clark and extends through (1 c.) 9/20/08.
- This agreement is comprised of this form AD-1154 and the following attachments. The terms of the Attachment A: General Provision; B: Plan or Schedule of Operations, C: Special Provision, D: Property Location Map are fully incorporated by reference into this document and are binding upon the participant(s).
- The participant(s) agree; a) to implement and or maintain conservation practices for the life of this agreement on the above described land in compliance with the plan or schedule of operations and in accordance with the standards, specifications and other special program criteria obtained from the local field office of the NRCS; b) to forfeit further payments under this agreement and refund the United States, in amounts determined by (3 a.) NRCS payments received hereunder upon NRCS' determination that participant(s) have violated the material terms of this agreement or accept such payment adjustments as NRCS may deem appropriate if NRCS decides that the participant's violation does not warrant termination of the agreement; and (c) to forfeit all rights to further payments under the agreement and refund to the United States, in amounts determined by NRCS, payments received hereunder if the subject land is transferred to a non-participant during the term of this agreement, unless the third party agrees to assume this agreement, and (3 b.) NRCS consents to the modification.

By signing below, the parties agree to comply with the terms of this agreement, and further agree that form AD-1154 and the following attachments: A: General Provisions, B: Plan or Schedule of Operations, C: Special Provisions, D: Property Location Map constitute the entire agreement of the parties, inclusive.

1. Name and Address: Caloosahatchee Regional Park c/o Lee County Parks & Rec./BOCC 1210 Palm Beach Blvd. Ft. Myers, FL 33916	4 b. Social Security # or tax ID # if applicable: <u>59-6000702 A</u>
	4 c. Signature for tax purposes: <u>[Signature]</u>
2. Telephone Number: (239) 461-7453	4 d. Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> 4 e. Date: <u>9/13/02</u>
3. Name and Address:	5 b. Social Security # or tax ID # if applicable:
	5 c. Signature for tax purposes:
4. Telephone Number:	5 d. Signature: _____ 5 e. Date: _____

(i) For: \_\_\_\_\_ (see page 3, continuation sheet for more participants, if applicable)  
 (a) By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature Authorizing Official) (b) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The signature by the NRCS representative signifies a CCC-NRCS transaction as indicated above.



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

## ***WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PLAN***

**CLIENT:** Lee County Parks & Recreation

**SITE:** Section 18, T43S, R27E

**COUNTY:** Lee

**PLAN DATE:** 2/6/03

**ASSISTED BY:** Kendal Hicks

### ❖ Introduction

This proposed habitat restoration encompasses approximately 41.6 acres within a 472 acre tract of land referred to as the Caloosahatchee Regional Park. The park is located a few miles west of Alva in Lee County, Florida. The park is owned by the State of Florida, but is leased to Lee County Parks and Recreation for management and public use. Extending north from the northern property line is land largely maintained as wildlife habitat with approximately 25-50% cropland. The native habitat in this northern segment varies between 30-50% fresh water marshes and sloughs, 10-30% developed farm land, and 30-50% south Florida mesic and hydric flatwoods. Very little to no urban development has affected the northern neighboring property. Directly to the south of the site is a two lane, paved county road that divides the park from additional park that extends about one-half mile to the Caloosahatchee River. Extending from the east and west property lines are improved agriculture lands containing about a 50-50 mixture of groves and pasture lands with homesites.

### ❖ Threatened, endangered and species of special concern

Management efforts have targeted the following state and federally listed species to potentially benefit from the habitat restoration:

East Indigo Snake, Gopher Tortoise, Wood Stork, Florida Panther, Red-Cockaded Wood Pecker

### ❖ Ecological systems

The ecological systems associated with this site, according to the Cowardin classification system, include Palustrine Forested broad-leaved and needle-leaved deciduous with seasonal flooding and man-made uplands that were created from fill (spoil) dug from the adjacent Caloosahatchee River. This site is host to Gopher tortoises, Eastern Indigo Snakes, Wood stork, Florida panther, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, songbirds, and possibly woodpeckers.

### ❖ Plan objective

The objective of this Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP) is to remove invasive species in infested areas and re-plant with native species to largely "create" a natural and native south Florida ecosystem. The word create is used because the soils on site have been tremendously impacted (re-created) by placing several feet of spoil depth obtained from the Caloosahatchee River dredging operations 60-70 years ago.

In addition to the habitat management, the managers wish to provide for educational awareness, public use for eco-walks, and to cooperate with research entities interested in studying the local ecology.

### ❖ Management activities

Management activities will continue to support conditions and habitat management practices necessary to promote the above listed species. Activities to date include mowing in selected areas, some spot hand removal of exotics with axes, saws, and other hand tools. Attempts to introduce more native species has occurred on a limited basis. Trails have been created for public use. A pavilion and parking area was built

at the park entrance. One of the primary goals of the site managers is to create a native south Florida plant community to support these species. Invasive plants (most notably Brazilian pepper) will be removed and/or controlled and native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be planted. Lee Parks and Recreation will be providing matching funds for the purchase and planting of native plant species. They have also secured volunteer workers to provide manual labor for brush and weed removal and to re-plant selected vegetation. WHIP funds will be used for exotics removal, brush management, repeated herbicidal spot treatments, and to purchase native vegetation. WHIP funding also provides for land preparation and soil amendments prior to and including planting. Technical assistance will be provided to facilitate nutrient management, upland wildlife habitat and wetland wildlife habitat.

❖ Specific essential practices

Mechanical land clearing (NRCS Practice Code 460)

Please refer to the Land Clearing Planning Considerations provided in the client's 6-part folder. Brazilian pepper and other invasive woody species will be mechanically removed with heavy duty land clearing machinery. Debris will be piled in stacks to burn, burned where shredded, or removed from the site in trucks to allow for open canopy for planting with native stock.

Nutrient Management (NRCS Practice Code 590)

Soil tests are recommended with soil amendments to follow based upon IFAS recommendations. Client should also refer to materials provided in the Nutrient Management section of the 6-part folder.

Pest Management (NRCS Practice Code 595)

Re-sprouts and new emergent seedlings will need to receive systematic and planned spot treatments over the next several years. Garlon 3A, Garlon 4 Velpar L, Remedy, Roundup, Poast, and Fusilade are the common names of some herbicides that are recommended for this site. Herbicides should be mixed with an oil-based carrier (surfactant) when used to treat woody species. Applications should always follow labeled instructions.

Tree and Shrub Establishment (NRCS Practice Code 612)

Once the infested areas have been cleared, native species that are well adapted to this site, shall be planted to provide habitat for a variety of species, including those mentioned above. A species list shall be developed with consultation between NRCS (the approved WHIP cost-share list) and Lee County P&R. The soils shall be tested for pH and nutrient levels and amended according to IFAS recommendations prior to planting the new stock. All vulnerable stock shall be irrigated, as needed, until they are firmly rooted and established. Deep irrigation, every 7-10 days, is preferred over more frequent, shallow irrigation to encourage deep root growth and development.

Prescribed Burn (NRCS Practice Code 338)

Although not in the NRCS Conservation Plan of Operations, prescribed burning is recommended to commence in about 3-5 years. It should become one of the primary maintenance tools, since this site is naturally subject to a fire dependent ecosystem. Burning should occur on a 3-5 year rotation and is recommended during May through July to mirror lightening induced fires. This timing will also reduce impacts to spring and early summer nesting species. It has been demonstrated that more effective woody plant control is obtained from a spring to early summer burn rather than a fall or winter burn. You should consider rotating the burn frequency and also consider an occasional fall or winter burn to accentuate plant species diversity. A prescribed burn prescription and permit from the Florida Division of Forestry will be required prior to conducting any burns on this site. A sample NRCS prescribed burn jobsheet will be included in the 6-part folder.

#### Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (NRCS Practice Code 644)

Once land clearing has been completed, the riparian area that runs through the northwest corner of this site shall be replanted with wetland adapted species. Due to potential heavy equipment damage and/or alteration of the natural hydrology in the riparian zone, woody debris should not be pushed, dragged or root-raked across the soil surface. Equipment should only be used when **minimal or no** tracking, rutting (i.e. occasional areas with 1-2 inches maximum) or other damage to the soil surface is anticipated. A species list shall be developed with consultation between NRCS (the approved WHIP cost-share list) and Lee County P&R. Natural re-seeding of native wetland species is expected to occur in this area as well. Follow-up spot herbicide treatments will be utilized to suppress and/or eliminate undesirable plants. This riparian zone will provide multiple benefits for indigenous wildlife species. Wading birds, in particular, will also utilize this area as feeding and/or roosting grounds.

#### Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (NRCS Practice Code 645)

The upland ecosystem will be managed with the above mentioned practices to provide suitable habitat for upland wildlife species including mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, woodpeckers, avian fauna, and neotropical migrant song birds. This site will be managed to support a diversity of tropical and semi-tropical hardwoods, S. Florida slash pine, shrubs and associated native herbaceous and grass species. Follow-up spot herbicide treatments will be utilized to suppress and/or eliminate undesirable plants. Prescribed burns will be used in the future to sustain a fire-dependent ecosystem. 2-3 nest boxes per acre are recommended to be placed in a random fashion to encourage songbird, bats and/or owl populations. Nest box construction designs will be provided in the 6-part folder. Target species for the nest boxes include the screech owl, red-bellied woodpecker, great crested flycatcher, and songbirds. A 10' x 10' brush pile every 1-3 acres can be maintained to provide habitat for small mammals, rodents and reptiles. Encroachment from Guinea grass will need to be controlled with a combination of mowing, tillage, burning and herbicidal treatments.



USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Ft. Myers Service Center  
 3434 Hancock Bridge Parkway Suite 209B  
 North Ft. Myers, FL 33903  
 941-995-5678 Ext.3

Kendal Hicks  
 Soil Conservationist

## Conservation Plan

**Caloosahatchee River Reg Park**  
**3410 Palm Beach Blvd.**  
**Ft. Myers, FL 33916**

### Land Clearing

Remove trees, stumps and other vegetation from wooded area as required by the conservation plan.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
	1	41.6 AC.	4	2003		
	Total:	41.6 AC.				

### Tree/Shrub Establishment

This field(s) will be planted to trees and shrubs to establish cover for various wildlife species.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
	1	25.0 AC.	6	2003		
	Total:	25.0 AC.				

### Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for water fowl, fur bearers, or other wildlife.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
	1	4.0 AC.	5	2003-2008		
	Total:	4.0 AC.				

### Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Create, maintain or enhance area(s) to provide upland wildlife flood and cover.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
	1	37.6 AC.	5	2003-2008		
	Total:	37.6 AC.				

**PEST MANAGEMENT**

Pest populations will be managed with an integrated pest management system using a combination of two or more mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical systems.

Tract	Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
	1	25.0 ac.	5	2003		
	1	25.0 ac.	5	2004		
	1	25.0 ac.	5	2005		
	Total:	75.0 ac.				

**CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

*Charles MacPhee*  
 Caloosahatchee River Reg Park 9/12/02  
 Date

**CERTIFICATION OF:**

Soil Conservationist  
*Kendal Hicks*  
 Kendal Hicks 9/12/02  
 Date

CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lee County SWCD Date

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# Preliminary Plan Map

Caloosahatchee River Reg Park  
Lee County Parks & Recreation  
Lee County SWCD

Ft. Myers, Florida  
USDA/NRCS  
Kendal Hicks  
(239) 995-5678 X3



Date: 09/12/2002

