



MEMORANDUM
from the
Department of Parks & Recreation

Date: 12-17-2024

To: Christine Brady
Assistant County Manager

From: Mack Young
Director, Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT: Conservation 20/20 FY2023-2024 Annual Report

Please find attached a report documenting land acquisitions, large projects and overall land management during Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program.

cc: Kathy Loomis, Deputy Director, Parks & Recreation
Lisa Weaver, Strategic Operation Manager, Parks & Recreation

CONSERVATION 20/20 ANNUAL REPORT

FY2023-2024 (October 2023-September 2024)

OVERVIEW

Total acreage to date	31,508.47
Total acquisitions to date	163
Total preserves to date	52
Total price of purchases to date	\$387,027,285.16

I. ACQUISITIONS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Nomination</i>	<i>Date acquired</i>
CREW	2.5	625	11/15/2023
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Deep Lagoon/Cow Slough Preserve	7.69	630	6/26/2024
CREW	5	633	8/15/2024
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve	38.24	423-2	8/28/2024
Smokehouse Bay Preserve	20.46	627	8/30/2024
Total	76.39		
Total Cost	\$4,872,500.00		

II. FINANCIALS (as of end of fiscal year)

Current acquisition fund balance	\$37,756,654.19
Cost of property purchased during FY2023-2024	\$4,872,500.00
Management fund balance	\$1,916,968

III. LAND MANAGEMENT

A. Large projects initiated or completed- Exotic control projects

<i>Location</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Initiated</i>	<i>Completed/expiration</i>
Alva Equestrian Property	84 acres	6/1/2023	10/29/2023
Alva Scrub Preserve	380 acres	3/13/2023	1/2/2024
Bob Janes Preserve	706 acres	3/1/2024	5/15/2024
Bowditch Point Park	24 acres	5/1/2024	5/27/2024
Buckingham Park	88 -acre Exotic Vegetation Treatment. Permit Compliance	6/1/2024	9/30/2024
Buckingham Trails Preserve	572 -acre Exotic Vegetation Treatment	4/1/2024	9/1/2024
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve	Exotic Plant Treatment MU 2, 3, 6, and 7, 290 acres	5/13/2024	10/10/2024
Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	98.2 acres	10/3/2023	11/2/2023
Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	117 acre Exotic Plant Treatment	7/1/2024	8/31/2024
Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	Last treatment for 98.2 acres	8/14/2024	8/21/2024

Columbus G. McLeod Preserve	Cat I and II FLEPPC species plus non-native palms on entire 9.2 acre island	4/15/2024	7/31/2024
Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek	245 -acre Exotic Treatment	5/13/2024	10/13/2024
Deep Lagoon Preserve	108 acres MU 2, 4, 5, 6, Canal C6	2/26/2024	8/25/2024
Flag Pond Preserve	67 acres	3/27/2023	10/31/2023
Four Mile Cove	52 acres	4/3/2023	9/30/2023
Four Mile Cove Preserve	180 acres	6/17/2024	9/30/2024
Galt Preserve	265 acre full site exotic treatment	5/15/2024	7/15/2024
Hickeys Creek Mitigation Park	88 acres	4/1/2024	9/30/2024
Hidden Cypress Preserve	426 acre exotic treatment	5/6/2024	12/31/2024
Imperial Marsh Preserve	447 acres - double treatment	5/10/2024	12/10/2024
Imperial River Boat Ramp	Exotics treatment of site (8 ac)	6/24/2024	10/25/2024
Koreshan Preserve	38 acres	5/6/2024	12/31/2024
Matanzas Pass Preserve	59 acres	3/18/2024	3/24/2024
Persimmon Ridge Preserve	40 acres	3/4/2024	11/4/2024
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	182 acre exotic treatment	5/15/2024	9/12/2024
Pine Lake Preserve	162 acre exotic treatment	5/6/2024	9/6/2024
Pinewood Trails Park	19 acres	8/14/2023	9/28/2023
Pop Ash Creek Preserve	307 acres	7/10/2023	10/30/2023
Pop Ash Creek Preserve	2 Cat I and II treatments of entire site, 307 acres	6/15/2024	10/15/2024
Powell Creek Preserve	56 acres	7/20/2023	10/9/2023
Prairie Pines Preserve	240 acres	3/16/2023	12/10/2023
Prairie Pines Preserve	Arm MUs 15, 16, 17 342 Acres Cat 1 and 2 plus scalaria and willow treatment	4/1/2024	7/15/2024
St James Creek Preserve	62 acre exotic treatment	5/15/2024	7/15/2024
Telegraph Creek Preserve	297 acres	4/1/2024	9/30/2024
Yellow Fever Creek Preserve	3 acres	6/1/2023	5/31/2024
Total Acres Treated	6,466.6 acres		

B. Large projects initiated or completed- Restoration/fencing/other projects (includes partnership projects)

<i>Location</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Partner (if any)</i>	<i>Initiated</i>	<i>Completed/expiration</i>
Alva Scrub Preserve	Fence and fireline installation		3/5/2024	TBD
Bob Janes Preserve	Lee County Community Development to develop a long-term gopher tortoise recipient site. Permitting phase.	Community Development	2023	TBD
Bob Janes Preserve	Hydrologic improvements to divert flows via addition of diversion structures, berms, ditches, and ditch blocks to provide passive and native means to reduce pollutants. Permitting Phase.	Natural Resources	2018	TBD

Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve (west)	Fence and gate replacement		7/28/2024	8/22/2024
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve East	Replace portion of the trails with board walks and accessible walkways. Construction Phase.		2021	TBD
Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	Survey for fencing		3/25/2024	5/24/2024
Four Mile Cove Preserve	Fence staking		10/2/2023	12/1/2023
Hancock Creek Preserve	Survey for fencing		3/25/2024	5/24/2024
Hancock Creek Preserve	Fence installation and row clearing		Extended to FY24/25	
Larry Kiker Preserve	Stormwater management design phase.	Natural Resources	2022	TBD
Oak Creek Preserve	Fencing installation and walkthrough gate		Extended to FY24/25	
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	Environmental work and CEI, Shrimp pond restoration project		3/4/2024	TBD
Powell Creek	Fence repairs		7/1/2024	7/28/2024
Powell Creek Preserve	Fence replacement		5/6/2024	6/6/2024
Prairie Pines Preserve	Fence replacement and clearing		2025	2025
San Carlos Bay- Bunche Beach Preserve	Fenceline clearing		8/2/2024	8/7/2024
Six Mile Cypress Preserve North	Fence and gate installation		3/11/2024	4/26/2024
Six Mile Cypress Slough North	Electric gate installation		TBD	TBD
Telegraph Creek Preserve	Well installation. Permitting phase.	Utilities	2021	TBD
Various Preserves	Hurricane damaged fencing repairs and replacements.		5/6/2024	10/3/2024
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve	Replace portion of the trails with board walks and accessible walkways. Permitting phase.		2021	TBD
Yellow Fever Creek Preserve	Fence replacement		5/1/2024	5/22/2024
Yucca Pens Preserve	Fence replacement		Extended to FY24/25	

Total Spent from Management Fund (Sections A and B): \$2,154,694.00

C. Funding received

<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>FY</i>
Buttonwood Preserve	\$20,000	Beautiful pawpaw management	USFWS	Completed	20/21
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	\$113,450	Shrimp Pond Restoration	CHNEP	Implementation	23/24

D. Prescribed burns

<i>Location</i>	<i>Acres burned</i>	<i>Date</i>
Bob Janes Preserve	26	10/31/23
Orange River Preserve	25	11/29/23
Alva Scrub Preserve	5	12/20/23
Alva Scrub Preserve	4	1/30/24
Alva Scrub Preserve	17	2/1/24
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park	56	2/8/24
Alva Scrub Preserve	34	2/27/24
Imperial Marsh Preserve	56	3/13/24
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park	27	6/26/24
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park	20	7/25/24
TOTAL	270 acres	

E. Feral hog removal

<i>Location</i>	<i>Hogs removed</i>
Alva Scrub Preserve	21
Bob Janes Preserve	396
Buckingham Trails Preserve	53
Buckingham Park	0
Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve	0
Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek	16
Pop Ash Creek Preserve	0
Six Mile Cypress Preserve North	89
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve	8
Smokehouse Bay Preserve	0
Telegraph Creek Preserve	238
Yellow Fever Creek Preserve	0
Yucca Pens Preserve	0
Wa-Ke-Hatchee Park	5
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve	5
Caloosahatchee Regional Park	7
Hickey Creek Mitigation Park	33
Prairie Pines Preserve	57
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	18
Imperial Marsh Preserve	0
Oak Hammock Preserve	9
Powell Creek Preserve	4
TOTAL	951

IV. PUBLIC ACCESS

Amenities maintained

Marked hiking trails	132.4 miles
Fire line trails	56.95 miles
Equestrian trails	58 miles
Bicycling trails	23.5 miles
Paddle craft launches/landings	4
Paved/gravel parking entrances	17

V. UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR (FY2024-2025 and beyond)

Large projects (upcoming and ongoing) include:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Project</i>
Larry Kiker Preserve	Design of preserve amenities.
Frank Mann Preserve	Hydrologic restoration project conducted by LAMSID, parking lot and paddle craft launch.
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve	Trail improvement project
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	Shrimp Pond Restoration project
Multiple Locations	Trail expansion project in conjunction with the National Park Service- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. Design recreational concept plans for four preserves; Oak Hammock Preserve, West Marsh Preserve, Four Mile Cove Preserve, and Pine Lak Preserve.
Land Management Plans	New preserve land management plans to be completed, various preserves.

Acronyms:

FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service