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**Lee Commissioners accept federal grant to restore native grasses in Pine Island preserve**

Fort Myers, FL, Nov. 2, 2021 – The Lee Board of County Commissioners voted Tuesday to accept \$25,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services for restoration and improvement of former pasture land inside Pine Island Flatwoods Bayside Preserve.

This project focuses on removing exotic plant species and planting native grasses to reestablish the native vegetation and enhance the habitat for the native species in the preserve.

The preserve totals 945 acres and consists of multiple habitat types. This proposed restoration project is focused on specifically a 24-acre parcel that will improve the marsh and prairie habitats.

There are currently more than 31,000 acres within Conservation 20/20, Lee County's land acquisition and management program. Conservation lands help the county protect drinking water, enhance water quality, provide nature-based recreational opportunities, protect areas from flooding and provide wildlife habitat. For more information, visit [www.Conservation2020.org](http://www.Conservation2020.org).

To receive Lee County Government updates about Pine Island Flatwoods Bayside Preserve, Conservation 20/20 lands and other Lee County topics, sign up for the newsletter at <https://www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters>.