

Conservation Collier McIntosh Property Interim Management Plan

Prepared By:
Collier County Environmental Services Department
2800 North Horseshoe Drive
Naples, FL 34104

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1.0 Purpose and Scope of the Interim Management Plan

The McIntosh property was purchased by Collier County in October 2005 with funds from the Conservation Collier program. The property will be managed only for conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources and for public outdoor recreation that will be compatible with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the site and its surrounding lands.

This Interim Management Plan is intended to identify the key management priorities and issues within the site and give direction for management for the next two years. This document is meant to be the precursor to a Final Management Plan, which will outline more specific aspects of site management.

Key Interim Management Objectives

1. Protect, manage and restore (as appropriate) the native habitat on site
2. Determine what actions will be necessary to open the site for public access
3. Explore opportunities for grant funding and partnerships
4. Meet with community members who have an interest in this property and obtain feedback for Final Management Plan

Action Plan

- 1a. Remove and manage invasive exotic vegetation
- 1b. Assess the need for native vegetation restoration
- 2a. Install temporary Conservation Land signs along the Pine Ridge Road and Logan Blvd boundaries
- 2b. After initial exotic vegetation removal is complete, determine and begin the appropriate actions necessary for developing public access.
- 3a. Explore possible exotic vegetation removal grants from USFWS and FL DEP.
- 4a. Meet with members of the surrounding community for restoration and management plan input

2.0 Management Authority and Responsibilities

The Collier County Environmental Services Department will be solely responsible for managing the McIntosh property, but will seek to obtain grants, and utilize partnerships and volunteers for management activities.

3.0 Interim Site Plan

3.1 Location and Site Description

The McIntosh property is within the urban boundary of Collier County and consists of two (2) parcels located at the NW corner of the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and Logan Blvd. in Section 16 Township 49 Range 26, in Collier County, Florida. The total acreage in these undeveloped parcels is 7.49 acres, out of which the Transportation Department has partnered with Conservation Collier to buy road easements in the amount of 1.80 acres, leaving a total of 5.69 acres for conservation. Very little native plant

community remains on this site, as the entire parcel is heavily infested with the prohibited exotic *Melaleuca* (*Melaleuca quinquinerva*).

3.2 Signage

Temporary signs identifying the property as Collier County conservation land will be posted along Logan Blvd and Pine Ridge Road. Temporary no trespassing signs will also be posted along these boundaries.

3.3 Easements, Concessions or Leases

The Collier County Transportation Department has partnered with the Conservation Collier Program to purchase right-of-way easements along both Pine Ridge Road and Logan Blvd. No other easements, concessions or leases are proposed for the future, unless they further conservation objectives, such as a conservation easement.

3.4 Structures

At one point it was thought a well existed on the property, however, a review of County records shows permit number 2002080720 issued in 2002 for well “test borings.” There is no well or other type of structure on the property.

3.5 Surrounding and Adjacent Land Uses

The McIntosh parcel is surrounded by developed and undeveloped residential property (North Golden Gate Estates and Vineyards), with public roads directly adjacent on the east side (Logan Blvd.) and on the south side (Pine Ridge Road).

4.0 Interim Management Objectives

4.1 Natural Resource Protection

Existing Vegetation:

Ground Cover:

Swamp fern (*Blechnum serulatum*), Giant hatpins (), Yellow-eyed grass (), various wetland grasses and forbs and several species of terrestrial orchids, including pine pink orchid (*Bletia purpurea*), wild coco orchid, (*Eulophia alta*), and cigar orchid (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*).

Midstory: Myrsine (*Myrsine guianensis*), willow (*Salix sp.*), buckthorn (*Bumelia sp.*) and the epiphytic orchids threadroot orchid (*Harrisella filiformis*) and butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*)

Canopy: Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and slash pine (*Pinus elliotti*) heavily invaded by the invasive exotic *Melaleuca* (*Melaleuca quinquinerva*)

Unique Natural Features:

The site contains several listed bromeliad and orchid species.

Possible Listed Species:

No listed species have been observed on the site, however, once cleared of invasive exotic vegetation, the habitat and location may support the presence of listed wading birds.

Exotic Vegetation:

Invasive exotic plant species observed include:, melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), downy rosemyrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosus*, earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), java plum (*Syzygium cumini*), and air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

4.2 Site Security

There is currently no known site security issue associated with the McIntosh property. Once initial exotic vegetation removal has been completed, potential site security issues will be assessed.

4.3 Exotic Vegetation Removal and Maintenance Plan

The Collier County Environmental Services Department will hire contractors to treat the exotic vegetation on the site. Staff will seek assistance from surrounding community for potential volunteers to supplement contracted exotic maintenance.

4.4 Debris Removal

Currently, staff is not aware of any large trash items existing on the property.

4.5 Cultural, Historical and Archeological Resource Protection

The McIntosh property is not within an area of historical and archaeological probability, and no historical or archaeological sites appear to be present on the property. The County will notify the Division of Historical Resources immediately if evidence is found to suggest any archaeological or historic resources are discovered. If such resources are identified on-site, staff shall cordon off the area, and a professional survey and assessment shall be instituted. The archaeologist shall prepare a report outlining results of the assessments and issue recommendations to County staff about management of any sites discovered, per provisions of the Land Development Code Section 2.2.25. This report shall be sent to the Division of Historical Resources. The County shall cooperate fully with direction from the Division of Historical Resources on the protection and management of archaeological and historical resources. The management of these resources will comply with the provisions of Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, specifically Sections 267.061 2 (a) and (b).

4.6 Listed Species Protection

Staff will evaluate needs for protection

4.7 Public Access

Public access will be restricted until a trail can be established; however, staff shall work with the surrounding neighbors to develop appropriate public access.

4.8 Site Monitoring and Long Term Management Plan

Monitoring of the site shall consist of invasive exotic vegetation re-treatment and listed species population surveying. The Environmental Services Department shall be responsible for property maintenance with tasks contracted out as necessary and management partnership sought with the surrounding community. The site will be monitored for exotic vegetation re-growth semi-annually for two years following initial treatment. After two years, exotic vegetation will be monitored on a yearly basis. Staff will work with the Logan Woods/Santa Barbara Community Association to coordinate any volunteer efforts in this regard.

4.9 Partnerships

Staff will seek out and evaluate potential for other types of partnerships for conservation, protection, educational, and funding opportunities. Staff will explore possible grants for invasive exotic vegetation removal including: USFWS South Florida Coastal Ecosystems Program, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Conservation Collier Cooperative Agreement Modification would be required) and FLDEP Bureau of Invasive Plant Management Working Group Program.

5.0 Exhibits

EXHIBIT 1: Location Map

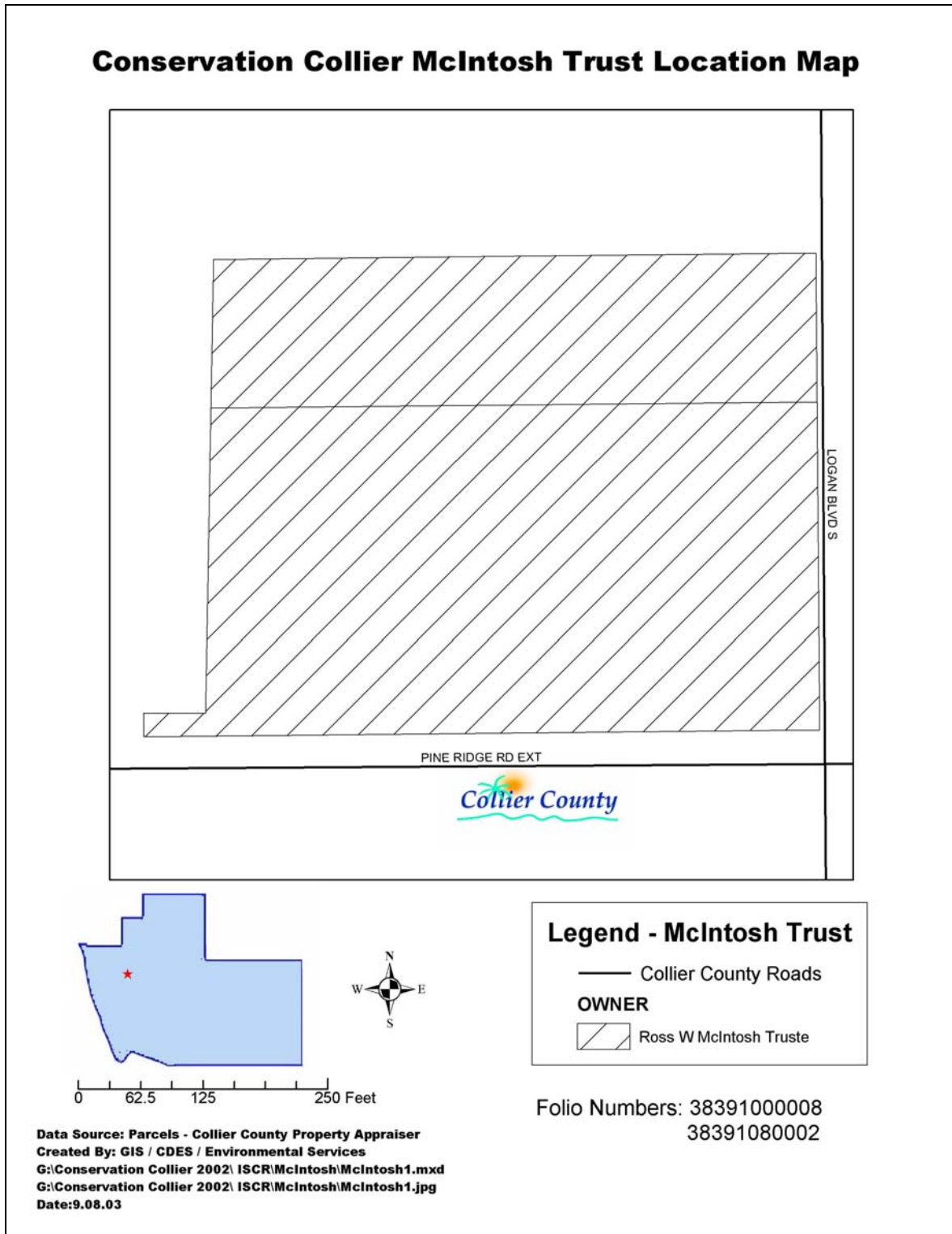


EXHIBIT 2: Aerial Map

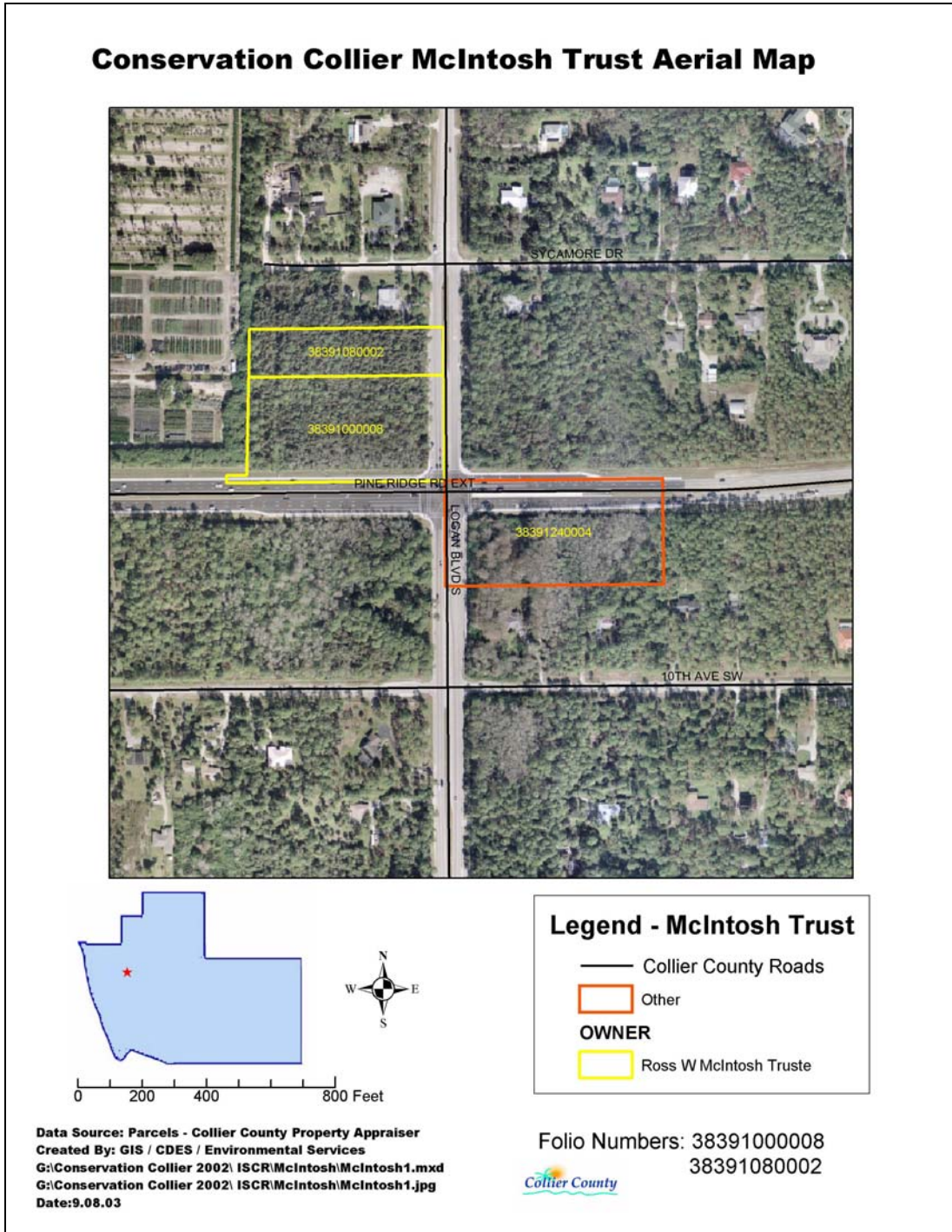


EXHIBIT 3: Estimated Cost Table

Management Element	Initial Cost	Annual Recurring Costs	Comments
Exotics Control	\$35,000	\$630 to \$2,800	Exotic removal done with machinery (at the lower end of the cost range) would severely damage remaining native plants.
Parking Facility	\$15,000	t.b.d	Maintenance costs unknown at this time
Access Trails	\$13,000	t.b.d.	Includes cost of ADA compliant section
Fencing	\$7,500	t.b.d.	1,000 feet - Split rail – if desired
Signs	\$1,200	n/a	2 signs with installation done by county staff- \$600 each
Table, benches, trash can	\$3,500	n/a	Recycled plastic
Trash Removal	t.b.d.	t.b.d	t.b.d.
Total	\$75,200	t.b.d	

