

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
for
Freedom Park
(f.k.a. Gordon River Water Quality Park)
FCT Project No. 05-027-FF5
and
Gordon River Greenway Park
FCT Project No. 06-043-FF6



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I. INTRODUCTION

Freedom Park, formerly called the Gordon River Water Quality Park (FCT Project No. 05-027-FF5) and Gordon River Greenway Park (FCT Project No. 06-043-FF6) form the northernmost section of the Gordon River Greenway Corridor, a 2-mile ecological trail corridor centrally located within the Naples-Collier County urban area. The 50-acre Freedom Park, at the northern end of the corridor, is located at 1515 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples, on the north side of Golden Gate Parkway and east of Goodlette-Frank Road within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Naples. The 117-acre Gordon River Greenway Park is located south of Golden Gate Parkway and east of Goodlette Frank Road, within the unincorporated area of Collier County (Exhibit A).

The development of the larger Greenway Corridor, which will extend farther south from County lands into the Naples Bay and City of Naples area, with connecting trails and public access points, is a community project that will unfold over time, and involves numerous community partners. These include the City of Naples, the Naples Airport Authority, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust and the Naples Zoo (Exhibit B).

This Land Management Plan is being revised to amend the boundaries of the Gordon River Greenway Park and to include portions of conservation lands managed by the Conservation Collier Program that are part of the overall Gordon River Greenway Park under the Florida Communities Trust Declaration of Restrictive Covenants. Boundary amendments reflect a 2011 exchange of parcels between the Gordon River Greenway Park and the Naples Zoo consisting of the following: A 6.4-acre parcel belonging to the Gordon River Greenway Park lying along the north side of the Naples Zoo was exchanged to the Naples Zoo in return for a 2.9-acre parcel adjoining the zoo on its south side. This exchange removed the northern access arm on the western side of the Park and increased the size of the southern access arm, also on the western side of the Park. Subsequent discussions to resolve the land exchange with FCT resulted in the agreement to exclude the 4.7-acre shared parking lot on the southern access arm on the west side of the park along Goodlette Road.

Conservation Collier, Collier County's Environmental Land Acquisition and Management Program, was established in 2002 to acquire, preserve, restore, and maintain vital and significant threatened natural lands, forest upland and wetland communities located in Collier County, for the benefit of present and future generations. In 2008, after the County had acquired Freedom Park, the eastern 12.5 acres were transferred to the Conservation Collier Program, remaining under Collier County ownership. Freedom Park, except for the 10.4-acre storm water pond as shown in Exhibits A and A-1, is currently covered under an FCT Declaration of Restrictive Covenants (OR Book 4103 PG 3415) (Exhibit F-1). The only change for Freedom Park is to reflect that the Conservation Collier Program is now the managing entity of the eastern 12.5 acres. An Interdepartmental Agreement identifying management responsibilities for partner County Departments is attached as Exhibit N. The more significant change relating to Conservation Collier is that a 41.3-acre Conservation Collier parcel is being added to the

Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for The Gordon River Greenway Park to resolve FCT concerns about the zoo expansion to include the oversized parking area. The parcel was included as part of the land exchange so that the zoo may expand as requested by the County. The overall agreements between FCT and Collier County, incorporating the land exchange, removal of the parking lot, and addition of Conservation Collier lands, enlarged the total area of the Gordon River Greenway Park subject to the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants by 38 acres - from 79 acres to a new total of 117 acres (See Exhibit A for locations of exchanged, included, and excluded lands).

Further, the goal of the land management plan itself is to ensure that both project sites, except for lands intentionally excluded, will be developed in accordance with the applicable Declaration of Restrictive Covenants and in furtherance of the purpose of the grant applications.

Both parks are located within the Gordon River Basin which has been identified by the South Florida Water Management District as a Tier 2 Priority Water Body. Adjacent land uses are urban residential, conservation, incorporated and mixed use. There are no limitations regarding uses or management of the project site.

Freedom Park was purchased and developed in 2004, as part of a Gordon River Master Plan developed in 2002 by the Collier County Stormwater Management Department, now called Roadway, Stormwater & Bridge Project Management Capital Construction & Maintenance (“Stormwater”). Previously an abandoned citrus grove, with a significant exotic plant infestation (Exhibit C-1), this site was acquired with partial reimbursement by Florida Communities Trust Grant Program in the Florida Forever 2005 cycle. The Collier County Facilities Management Department’s Conservation Collier Program purchased Freedom Park’s 12.5-acre South Florida Water Management District Conservation Easement from Stormwater in 2008, which did not change the ownership of the property, just the department responsible for management. Additional funding sources for Freedom Park were the South Florida Water Management District/ Big Cypress Basin, Transportation Impact Fees and Ad Valorem taxes. The site plan involved development of a system of treatment wetlands, restoration of existing natural wetlands and creation of public amenities.

At the same general time as Freedom Park was being acquired, an opportunity arose for Collier County to acquire lands along the Gordon River, which included the Gordon River Greenway Park (exclusive of the Conservation Collier lands), and Naples Zoo lands. In a public referendum in 2004, 73% of County voters approved taxing themselves to provide the bond funding to acquire the Greenway and Zoo lands. With assistance from the Trust for Public Lands, the County acquired the lands and moved forward with its longstanding community dream for the Greenway Corridor. The lands subsequently leased to the Naples Zoo, though part of the overall transaction, were not part of the FCT grant and they are not part of this land management plan.

The development of the Gordon River Greenway Park, excluding the Conservation Collier portion, was funded through a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant within the

Florida Forever 2006 cycle. The 41.3-acre Conservation Collier parcel on the south side of the Gordon River Greenway Park was acquired by the County in 2006 using ad valorem funds approved for this purpose in a 2002 voter-approved referendum that established the Conservation Collier Program. No other public or grant funding was used for its acquisition.

At the time of acquisition, lands that were to become the Gordon River Greenway Park, including the Conservation Collier lands, were previously undeveloped and relatively undisturbed. They contain 84 acres of Tidal Swamp (72 acres of mangrove forest and 12 acres of mixed wetland hardwoods and palms), 24 acres of Scrubby Flatwoods with a canopy of scattered slash pine and live oak, slightly over 2 acres of disturbed pine flatwoods, over 4 acres of cleared disturbed lands and approximately 2 acres of spoil along the shoreline of the southernmost tip left over from creation of the Golden Gate Canal system in the 1950's. The Scrubby Flatwoods area is inhabited by a large population of gopher tortoises. Both uplands and tidal wetlands are significantly infested with exotic plants. Exhibit C-2 shows existing natural communities for the Gordon River Greenway Park.

Major accomplishments within the update time frame (2007-2012) include construction of Freedom Park treatment wetlands and its public use amenities including a 2,500 square foot educational center, pathways, boardwalks and memorial site. Freedom Park currently hosts numerous educational classes, lectures and events for local school children, groups and the general public. The Gordon River Greenway Park, including the Conservation Collier section, has nearly completed the project planning stage and is finalizing both agency and county permits.

II. PURPOSE

The primary purpose for the acquisition of the Freedom Park was to develop a stormwater management facility that incorporates flood protection, water quality treatment, and passive recreation. The Gordon River Greenway Park was purchased as part of a larger acquisition for the purpose of enhancing water quality, providing passive recreation, protecting natural resources, promoting environmental education and providing a non-motorized transportation alternative.

The design objectives for the Freedom Park addressed a local flooding condition which encompasses nearly 25% of the surrounding watershed, or approximately 2.5 square miles. Storm water treatment occurs as water passes through a series of ponds and marshes, slowing the water sufficiently to allow sedimentation of particulates into the deep lakes and utilizing emergent vegetation in the shallow wetlands to assimilate a portion of the remaining dissolved pollutants. Gordon River Greenway Park will further storm water treatment goals by providing a secondary passive water quality treatment system. The goal of both active and passive treatment is to filter and cleanse waters entering the Gordon River and flowing into the Naples Bay.

The desired future condition and uses of the sites will remain as passive parks and preserve lands for public use, owned and to be operated by Collier County. The Freedom Park has public parking, trails, pathways and a 2,500-square-foot building used for educational programming. The Gordon River Greenway Park will feature public parking, a boardwalk and trail system, a canoe/kayak launch, pavilions, fishing platform, informational kiosks and interpretive signage, children's playground, rest rooms and two pedestrian/bike bridges - over the Gordon River and Golden Gate Canal.

This Management Plan will be the overarching plan for both Freedom and Gordon River Greenway Parks. The Collier County Parks and Recreation Department will manage both Freedom and Gordon River Greenway Parks, excluding Conservation Collier lands, which will be managed by Conservation Collier Program Staff. A separate land management plan was previously developed and approved for the Conservation Collier section of the Gordon River Greenway Park. This plan is called the Gordon River Greenway Preserve Land Management Plan (attached as Appendix A) and it will be used for day to day management of the Conservation Collier portion of the Gordon River Greenway Park. The Conservation Collier plan is consistent with this management plan. The park sites will be managed only for the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources, and for public outdoor recreation that is compatible with the conservation, protection and enhancement of the sites.

Management objectives for Freedom and Gordon River Greenway Parks are prioritized as follows:

1. Alleviate local residential flooding and improve water quality
2. Provide passive recreation opportunities
3. Protect natural resources
4. Remove or control populations of invasive, exotic or problematic flora and fauna
5. Restore and maintain native habitats
6. Provide education opportunities
7. Provide non-vehicular transportation choices

Management of the project sites as proposed is consistent in innumerable ways with the City of Naples and Collier County Growth Management Plans.

The following policies of the City of Naples Growth Management Plan are directly furthered by the management objectives listed above:

Conservation and Coastal Management Element Policy 2-4 directs the City to cooperate with Collier County to enforce the wellfield protection ordinance that provides for the protection of health, life, resources and property through regulation of several things including stormwater management. (Furthered by Management Objective 1.)

Recreation and Open Space Element Policy 1-13 directs the City to coordinate the park and recreation facilities and activities with Collier County, regional, and state plans and

program. (Furthered by Management Objective 2.)

Conservation and Coastal Management Element Policy 2-5 further directs the City to cooperate with Collier County, the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Big Cypress Basin, which is the local arm of the South Florida Water Management District to conserve, manage and protect natural areas and resources within more than one jurisdiction. (Furthered by Management Objective 3.)

Transportation Element Policy 3-3 directs the City to assist the Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust in acquiring necessary easements and funding for the design and construction of a greenway bicycle/pedestrian pathway within the City of Naples including the Gordon River and Goodlette-Frank Road. (Furthered by Management Objective 5.)

The following policies of the Collier County Growth Management Plan are directly furthered by the management objectives listed above:

Collier County Conservation and Coastal Management Element Policy 2.2.2 directs the County to limit the specific and cumulative impacts of stormwater run-off, stormwater systems and to design them in such a way that discharged water does not degrade receiving waters and an attempt is made to enhance the timing, quantity and quality of fresh water to the estuarine system. Non-structural methods such as discharge and storage in wetlands are encouraged. (Furthered by Management Objective 1.)

Conservation and Coastal Management Element Objective 10.2 directs the County to insure that access to beaches, shores and waterways remain available to the public and continue with its program to expand the availability of such access and a method to fund its acquisition and Collier County Recreation and Open Space Element Objective 1.3 directs the County to continue to ensure that all public water bodies are accessible to the general public. (Furthered by Management Objective 2.)

Collier County Conservation and Coastal Management Element Policy 7.1.2(2)(a)1.c. directs the County to incorporate proper management techniques for protecting listed species and their habitat and specifically mentions Gopher Tortoise populations and habitat. Conservation and Coastal Management Element Policy 7.1.2(2)(b) requires that priority be given to protecting the largest most contiguous gopher tortoise habitat with the greatest number of active burrows. (Furthered by Management Objective 3.)

Collier County Recreation and Open Space Element Policy 3.1.6 directs the County to encourage the development of pedestrian pathways and bike lanes from the surrounding residential communities to park sites. Transportation Element Objective 4 directs the County to provide for the safe and convenient movement of pedestrians, and motorized and non-motorized vehicles through the implementation of the Collier County Comprehensive Pathway Plan. Transportation Element Policy 4.3 further directs the County to provide an interconnected and continuous bicycle and pedestrian system by making the improvements identified on the 2020 Pathway Facilities Map series as funds

permit. (Furthered by Management Objective 5.)

The Future Land Use designation for Freedom Park is Public Land Use - Recreation (City of Naples Future Land Use), changed on February 7, 2007. The zoning classification (City of Naples Zoning) was changed to Transitional Conservation District on March 21, 2007. The Future Land Use designation for the Gordon River Greenway Park and Conservation Collier Preserve sites is currently Urban Mixed-Use District, Urban Residential Subdistrict (Collier County future Land Use). A petition to change the designation to a Public Use District is in process and will be completed by the end of 2012. Original zoning on the Greenway and Conservation Collier sites included Rural Agricultural, Conservation, Commercial Intermediate and Residential Multi-family District-6, with a Special Treatment overlay covering a portion of the project along the Gordon River. These lands were rezoned to Public Use on July 26, 2011. The Special Treatment overlay remains, with a permit approved on February 14, 2012 authorizing project construction within this area. There is an existing Airport Overlay Zone that limits the height of obstructions on parts of the Gordon River Greenway Park as described in Collier County, FL Land Development Code, Section 4.02.06- Standards for Development in Airport Zones and as attached as Exhibit P to the Management Plan, which is consistent with State and Federal laws. to; This provides no potential conflict regarding the uses of the project site, but may require removal or reduction of trees deemed as obstructions.

The project sites will be identified in all literature and advertising as acquired with funds from the Florida Communities Trust and operated as natural conservation and outdoor recreation areas.

III. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Natural Communities / Invasive Exotic Plants

The two primary natural communities found on both Freedom and Gordon River Greenway Parks are classified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as Scrubby Flatwoods and Tidal Swamp. There are also smaller areas of Freshwater Tidal Swamp that contain a mix of wetland hardwood tree species and cabbage palms.

The 39.5 acres of uplands at Freedom Park were once cleared and drained for citrus production. The grove is long-abandoned and succession of a Scrubby Flatwood occurred. Much of this area was cleared for the construction of the stormwater filtration ponds. Previously existing canopy vegetation in this area generally included scattered native trees such as slash pine, cabbage palm, and oak. The midstory was made up of saw palmetto, gallberry, and wax myrtle. Groundcover was comprised of coastal scrub, grasses and forbs. Some of this vegetation remains surrounding the stormwater ponds. Between the Scrubby Flatwood and Tidal Swamp area of Freedom Park a transition zone containing red maple and cypress trees remains. Tidal Swamp that was heavily infested with Brazilian pepper makes up the remaining 10.5-acre wetland portion. The transition zone and Tidal Swamp areas have been restored through mitigation, including removal of exotic plants and supplemental plantings of native trees and shrubs. Mitigation areas are

monitored and success criteria are reported annually to the South Florida Water Management District.

Natural communities within the Gordon River Greenway Park, include Tidal Swamp, Scrubby Flatwoods, Freshwater Forested Wetlands, and 2 acres of Pine Flatwoods. The remaining acres are disturbed and spoil lands. Scrubby Flatwoods contain a canopy of slash pine and patches of live oak. Palmettos, rusty lyonia, gallberry and other native species make up the midstory and groundcover. This area is significantly infested with downy rose myrtle and Brazilian pepper, both Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category 1 invasive exotic plants.

Tidal Swamp areas have a canopy of red, white and black mangroves and buttonwood with leather fern and swamp lilly as components of groundcover. In these areas, Australian pine is the major FLEPPC Category 1 exotic. Freshwater Forested Wetlands have a canopy containing white mangrove, stoppers, strangler fig and cabbage palm. Midstory and groundcover here includes white indigo berry, wild lime, myrsine, and Florida privet and leather fern. Hardwoods areas have red maple, bay and cypress with scattered pine in the canopy and myrsine and indigoberry characterizing the midstory and groundcover. Spoil area contains mostly Brazilian pepper but also coinvine, dahoon holly, myrsine, grasses and forbs. All communities except for the interior of the mangrove swamps are significantly impacted by invasive exotic plant species including Brazilian pepper, Melaleuca (concentrated in one location), Australian pine, shoebutton ardesia, oyster plant and rosary pea. The Gordon River corridor, along almost the entire length of the Gordon River Greenway Park site, underwent a thorough exotic removal in the spring of 2002. Exotic re-growth in this area seems to be minimal. Exhibits C-1 and C-2 show the natural communities for all sites pre-development.

Neither Freedom nor Gordon River Greenway Parks contains any imperiled or critically imperiled habitat (as defined by the Florida Natural areas Inventory), nor any particularly unique natural or geological feature. No mineral resources, such as oil, gas or phosphate are known to be present. Soil types at Freedom Park are approximately 80% upland and 20% hydric, including some tidally influenced soils along the Gordon River. At Gordon River Greenway Park, the opposite is true, with 80% of soil types hydric/tidal and 20% upland (Exhibit D).

Development of both project sites will include removal of all exotic species, as identified in The 2011 Exotic Pest Plant Council's list of Florida's Most Invasive Species. This list is periodically updated and the most current list will be used. This can be found at www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm. Exotic removal can be accomplished mechanically in areas heavily infested and slated for restoration with newly created wetlands. Removal will be conducted by hand in areas where native species predominate. Some areas cleared of exotics will be re-vegetated with native species as part of South Florida Water Management District/Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency permit mitigation plans (i.e., littoral species within the new wetland areas, etc.) (Attached as Appendices B and C). Exotic removal and re-vegetation will be incorporated within the

larger development schedules for the projects (See pages Priority Schedule, Section VIII of this plan).

Long-term management of Freedom Park and Gordon River Greenway Park includes an exotic vegetation monitoring and removal program to prevent future recruitment and re-infestation and a program of mechanical reduction as a management tools. At Freedom Park and the Gordon River Greenway, mechanical treatment will be conducted as necessary to remove excess fuel loads and reduce fire hazard. A prescribed fire treatment plan is not possible due to the presence of the Naples Airport along the western side of the Park. The scrubby flatwoods community should be reduced at an interval of 8-25 years. For best results, even though prescribed fire will not be applied, permanent firebreaks should be established to address wildfires and to allow access for mechanical reduction.

Invasive exotic plant species have been removed at Freedom Park and a monitoring plan is currently in place. Monitoring is conducted biannually with maintenance treatments performed as required. The monitoring program includes photo-monitoring selected natural communities on the site using the same schedule. Monitoring Reports are being submitted to the South Florida Water Management District. The Third Annual Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Report (October 2011) for Freedom Park is provided as Appendix I.

An exotic vegetation monitoring and removal plan is in place for the Gordon River Greenway Park. Following initial exotic removal and treatment, with a follow-up of 6 – months, which is planned in 2012, monitoring and maintenance will occur annually.

Methods for removal include the following: Most woody invasive species, with the exception of Australian pine and downy rosemyrtle, will be killed in place with a dye-laced herbicide. Melaleuca and other exotic plants within the Mixed Wetland Hardwoods Disturbed community may be hand cut and removed from the site or mechanically cleared, depending upon density of the exotic vegetation and soil moisture conditions. Downy rosemyrtle will be mowed in place and re-sprouts treated with herbicide if soil moisture conditions allow. Where machinery cannot be used, downy rosemyrtle will be hand cut at base, left on-site, and stumps sprayed with an appropriate herbicide. All Australian pines growing within 20 feet of the Gordon River, boardwalks and walkways will be removed, and all other Australian pines will be killed in place, with those over 20 feet in height being topped to 20 feet and killed in place. All herbaceous invasive exotic vegetation will be treated via foliar application. Invasive vines may be treated via foliar application or cut-stem application.

Exotic plant species in Freedom Park mitigation areas will be removed using methods described in the Freedom Park Mitigation Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, provided as Appendix B. Exotic plant species in The Gordon River Greenway Park and Conservation Collier Preserve mitigation areas will be removed using methods described in the Gordon River Greenway Park Mitigation Area Monitoring Maintenance, and Reporting Plan, provided as Appendix C.

Restoration

Upland Restoration

Restoration has been completed on approximately 15 to 20 acres of the Freedom Park site to augment the succession of abandoned grove to Scrubby Flatwood. Exotics were removed and restoration activities within the upland habitat balanced canopy and groundcover plant species to reflect historical conditions for south Florida.

Vegetation used for the restoration on the Freedom Park site included canopy vegetation such wax myrtle, slash pine, live and laurel oaks. Groundcover vegetation included wire grass, sand cordgrass, fakahatchee grass, bluestem, saw palmetto, and giant leather fern. Natural recruitment of desirable native species has been occurring as the site matures.

In the upland habitat on the Gordon River Greenway Park , natural succession without the aid of restoration is expected to occur following exotic removal. In the event of a natural disaster that damages uplands, restoration may be undertaken. No specific restoration plans exist at present.

Wetland Restoration

Approximately 15 acres of the degraded upland areas of Freedom Park site have been developed with newly constructed wetlands and approximately 15 acres of existing jurisdictional wetlands have been restored. A the request of FCT, 10.4 acres, constituting the portion of the storm water ponds providing required facilities for expansion of Goodlette Road, were excerpted from the project as covered by the FCT Declaration of Restrictive Covenants. This area is shown graphically on Exhibit A and in more detail on Exhibit A-1.

These wetlands are enhancing the quality of the stormwater runoff prior to discharge from Freedom Park into the Gordon River and provide a measure of flood attenuation and protection. The wetlands allow for the sedimentation of solid materials within the stormwater. Dissolved materials are then incorporated into plant materials. Additionally, bacteria and other microbial species known to exist in and on wetland vegetation provide a level of contaminate removal action.

At Freedom Park, stormwater is originating from the drainage canals along Goodlette-Frank Road north of the site, and is run through the ponds and wetlands, with discharge into the natural wetlands. On the Gordon River Greenway Park, water will originate from overland flow and runoff from Golden Gate Parkway and be channeled by a swale structure into natural wetlands for filtering and discharge into the Gordon River. The Conservation Collier site was not acquired for water management purposes but will provide passive buffering for runoff from surrounding developed areas before it flows into the Gordon River.

In wetland mitigation areas on the Gordon River Greenway Park (and Conservation Collier portions), totaling 52 acres, exotics will be removed and some areas enhanced. The Mitigation Area Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting Plan attached as Appendix C identifies these areas on the Monitoring Transects Map and contains specific criteria

and species that may be used for supplemental plantings in mitigation areas. Restoration Areas will be photo-monitored.

Upland and wetland restoration activities will be incorporated within the larger development schedules for the projects and completed on schedules identified within SFWMD-approved Mitigation Area Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting Plans (Appendices B and C).

Feral Animal Program

Currently, no known feral animals exist on either project site. Collier County staff will monitor the sites for feral animals. Should feral animals become an issue in the future, County staff will coordinate efforts with Collier County Domestic Animal Services for their removal.

Listed Plant Species

Plant species surveys have been conducted on the all sites. The following listed plant species were observed:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
		FDA	FWS
Giant sword fern	<i>Nephrolepis biserata</i>	T	NL
Common wild pine	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	E	NL
Inflated wild pine	<i>Tillandsia balbisiana</i>	T	NL
Banded wild pine	<i>Tillandsia flexuosa</i>	T	NL
Whitewood	<i>Drypetes diversifolia</i>	E	NL
Florida Royal Palm	<i>Roystonea regia</i>	E	NL
Stiff-leaved wild-pine,	<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	E	NL
Golden leather fern	<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>	T	NL
Satinleaf	<i>Chrysophyllum oliviforme</i>	T	NL
Pricklypear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	T	NL
Mullein nightshade	<i>Solanum donianum</i>	T	NL
West Indian mahogany	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	T	NL

Listed species found on either project site will be protected from development and construction activities. On the Gordon River Greenway Park, the exact placement for the boardwalk and trail will be determined in the field in advance of clearing activities to avoid impacting listed plant species. Removal of exotic vegetation from the wetland area will enhance the habitat and ensure continued survival and propagation of these species.

Listed Animal Species

Freedom Park contained 3 active gopher tortoise burrows; though no gopher tortoises were observed at the time of survey. In 2008 the Gordon River Greenway Park site was surveyed for gopher tortoises by the consulting firm Kimley-Horn. The resulting map identifies approximately 119 active gopher tortoise burrows. Updated gopher tortoise surveys for the Gordon River Greenway Park and Conservation Collier sites are planned for spring 2012 as part of the site development process.

In addition, and considering surveys done at different times on all three sites, the following listed species have been observed:

Common Name(s)	Scientific Name	State	Federal
Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	T	
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	SSC	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	SSC	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	SSC	
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	SSC	
Big Cypress Fox Squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger avicennia</i>	T	
West Indian Manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>	E	E

Both sites are potential habitat for numerous other listed plant and animal species. Probable listed plant occurrences include: nodding pinweed, Curtiss milkweed, wild coco, simpson stopper, spreading pinweed, sand dune spurge and scrub stylisma. Probable listed wildlife includes: American alligator, mangrove fox squirrel, limpkin, reddish egret, wood stork, white ibis, roseate spoonbill, eastern indigo snake, and American bald eagle.

Freedom Park is located within a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area (SHCA), as identified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the 2009 Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System SHCA map (<http://myfwc.com/research/gis/data-maps/terrestrial/wildlife-habitat-ranking-system/>). Neither the Gordon River Greenway Park nor Conservation Collier site has been identified as within a SHCA.

Within Freedom Park, gopher tortoise habitat has been retained. During construction gopher tortoises were relocated to suitable habitat within the project site. Onsite relocation of the gopher tortoises was closely coordinated with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Improvements made to the gopher tortoise habitat included restoring indigenous plant materials consumed by gopher tortoises and reserving areas for their burrows and free-range habitat for their movement on site.

On Gordon River Greenway Park, development has been directed as much as possible away from the gopher tortoise burrows in order to protect the species, and all the suitable habitat has been protected in a 22.2 acre gopher tortoise preserve. A small number of gopher tortoises located on the Gordon River Greenway Park at the western main parking site will be relocated. All removals and/or relocations will be performed under authorization of a FWC gopher tortoise relocation permit utilizing the services of a FWC-registered gopher tortoise agent. On both sites exotic removal and planned restoration activities will improve native habitat for existing and potential listed species. To the largest extent possible development has been and will be directed away from the highest quality habitat areas and park design will maximize wildlife observation but minimize interaction. Long-term management of these areas will include exotic vegetation monitoring and removal and bio-monitoring, with appropriate corrective actions taken to

protect listed species and their habitats. Exotic removal done in gopher tortoise burrow areas will follow FWC policy guidelines.

Inventory of the Natural Communities

The relatively undisturbed portions of each project site will be surveyed and inventoried to monitor ecological conditions. Inventories are being conducted annually, beginning in 2009 for Freedom Park, and will be conducted annually for the Gordon River Greenway Park beginning in 2012. Restored areas at Freedom Park will be monitored annually for a period of three years, then bi-annually thereafter. The data collected from the resource inventory will be recorded on FNAI data forms and forwarded to FNAI upon completion of the inventory. A copy of the Field Report Form for occurrences of special animals is attached as Exhibit E of this report. The plant Field Report Form can be found online at www.fnai.org/FNAI_data/fieldform-generic-hardcopy.pdf. Restored areas at the Gordon River Greenway Park will be monitored as provided for in the approved Mitigation Area Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting Plan (Appendix C)

Archeological, Cultural, and Historical Resource Protection

In July, 2005, the Archeological and Historical Conservancy Inc. conducted a phase 1 archaeological assessment of the Freedom Park site to locate sites of archaeological and/or historical significance (Appendix D). Based on regional archaeological site models, it was determined that the upland area adjacent to a wetlands area had a moderate potential for archaeological sites being associated with it. Thirty-five shovel tests were dug across the parcel which resulted in the discovery of one archaeological site, the Lucky Lane Site, 8CR925. A Phase II Archeological Assessment of the Lucky Lane site was done in January 2007 by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. resulting in the conclusion that the site is a formative period shell scatter, and is of local significance. Based on available data, the site is not regarded as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix E).

Phase 1 and, subsequently, Phase II archaeological assessments were conducted by the Archeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. on the Gordon River Greenway Park and Conservation Collier sites in August and December, 2007 respectively (Appendices F and G). The Gordon River Greenway Park and Conservation Collier sites were permitted together to achieve economies of scale, and the survey was done prior to the 2011 land exchange. The Phase I assessment resulted in identifying two previously unrecorded sites, 8CR978 and 8CR1063.

The first site (8CR978), located on Conservation Collier lands, was determined to be a spoil pile likely resulting from clearing activity on the adjacent Naples Airport during the early years of World War II (circa 1942). This site does not qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The second site (8CR1063), was located on lands subsequently exchanged with the Naples Zoo in 2011, and no longer subject to this management plan. For reference: The site contained historic refuse dating from the 1920s through the 1940s and was thought to result from off-road dumping or to have been associated with the Henry Nehrling (1853-

1929) occupation of the site between 1917 and 1929. Henry Nehrling was an ornithologist and horticulturalist who maintained research gardens on the adjoining Naples Zoo site. Phase II testing was recommended to determine its significance. The Phase II Archeological assessment determined that the site was a redeposit of historic refuse and of minimal significance. This site was determined not to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lands received into the Gordon River Greenway Park in the 2011 land exchange totaling 2.9 acres (Exhibit A – GRG Lands Received FROM Zoo – purple crosshatch), were surveyed for archeological and historical resources in May 2012. The resulting Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment identified one unrecorded historical site, a vacant structure built in 1956-57, of unknown individual historic significance, called the Triangle House (8CR1263), and one redeposited prehistoric site containing 2 small pottery sherds and four faunal bones. Several plants likely associated with the historic use of the parcel, were identified and recommended to be documented and relocated. The report stated that the Triangle House may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to a potential resource group associated with the Caribbean Gardens era (1954-1977). The recommendation was that prior to any proposed relocation or demolition of the structure, additional documentation (i.e. interior documentation and further informant interviews) should be completed. In regard to the redeposit site, the report recommended that proposed ground disturbances be monitored by an archeologist when they occur (Appendix H). Collier County will review the results of this survey with the Collier County Historical Archeological Preservation Board to determine appropriate preservation actions.

Coordination will occur immediately with the Division of Historical Resources on the protection and management of any archeological and historical resources that are discovered on the project site.

The collection of artifacts or the disturbance of archaeological and historic sites on either site will be prohibited unless prior authorization has been obtained from the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

The management of the archaeological and historical resources on both sites will comply with the provisions of Chapter 267, Florida Statutes specifically Sections 267.2(a) and (b).

IV. SITE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Acknowledgment Sign

Each site will feature an acknowledgement sign at its entrance identifying it as being purchased with funds from Florida Communities Trust using Florida Forever Funds and identify the recipient. The signs shall be at least 3' x 4' in size and include the FCT and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) logos and the year the sites were acquired.

Existing Physical Improvements

Freedom Park included minimal existing physical improvements prior to its development as Freedom Park. A dirt trail meandered along the north side of the property adjacent to a shallow stormwater ditch which was regularly maintained for drainage purposes. To the south, an abandoned paved road ran east to west along the south side of the property along the historical alignment of Golden Gate Parkway. Also, three abandoned irrigation wells were found in the central and western portions of the site. These wells were assumed to be remnants of historic citrus production and were abandoned in place to prevent direct conduits between the surface and the surficial aquifer.

Public amenities at Freedom Park include an 2,500 square-foot education center, boardwalk and trail system to provide a setting for passive recreation opportunities such as environmental studies, bird watching, hiking, nature photography and environmental education. Construction began in 2007 and Freedom Park was completed and officially opened to the public in October 2009. The project received the Team Project of the Year Award for 2009 from the Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents, which was awarded in July 2010.

Freedom Park now features Collier County's Freedom Memorial. The memorial is constructed of granite, with a structure approximately 13' tall at the highest point and 50' wide. The structure is placed within a pentagon shaped platform with a diameter of approximately 80' across. The memorial does not disturb any wetland areas and fits into the passive park theme. The Freedom Memorial will pay tribute to the members of our Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom and to honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and civilians who perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The location of the memorial within the Water Quality Park is indicated on Exhibit G-1. The design of the memorial is included as Exhibit G-2.

The Gordon River Greenway Park is minimally impacted by existing improvements.. A small home built in the 1950's for the zoo exists adjacent to the river where the kayak launch is planned. A Phase I historical and archeological site assessment is currently being performed and will provide recommendations regarding this structure. The Conservation Collier site has no existing improvements.

Proposed Physical Improvements

Resource-based passive recreation facilities at Gordon River Greenway Park will include boardwalks, nature trails, and fishing and observation platforms. Trailhead areas will include parking, drinking fountains, rest rooms, benches, trash receptacles and bike racks. Visitor amenities feature a children's playground, canoe/kayak launch, fishing platform, pavilions and 2 pedestrian bridges. Pathways and boardwalks will have lighting for safety purposes. Lighting will include consideration for on/offsite lumens and wildlife. Elevated boardwalks through wetland areas will be 10 feet wide. Asphalt pathways will be 12 feet wide and include numerous bump-out areas and benches to serve as rest stops for walkers and bikers. Pavilions and lookout points will be located to minimize impact

on habitat and gopher tortoise burrows but maximize opportunities for wildlife viewing. Prior to initial clearing for pathways and boardwalks, staff will inspect the land and vegetation to coordinate protection of plant and animal species. The total length of the trail network on the Gordon River Greenway Park, including Conservation Collier portions, will be approximately 2 miles.

Several adjacent parcels feature user-oriented recreation facilities such as ball fields, racquetball courts and a skateboard complex. For this reason, no user-oriented recreation facilities, other than a children's play area and kayak launch are proposed for Gordon River Greenway Park.

Both Freedom Park and Gordon River Greenway Park are accessible via existing sidewalks. Once developed, the sites will become part of the Gordon River Greenway pathway network.

Site Development Plans for each park have been forwarded to FCT and have received approval. Further, FCT review and approval will be sought prior to any proposed modification of the Management Plan and/or the undertaking any site alterations or physical improvements not addressed in this Management Plan.

Utility lines will be buried wherever feasible.

Landscaping

Freedom Park features a 2,500-square-foot educational building. Outside of it, a terraced and landscaped area leads walkers to the network of trails winding around the park. Selected indigenous plant species of interest fill the terraces, providing habitat, visual interest, and public educational opportunities as representative ecosystems of south Florida.

On both sites, landscaping in the traditional sense will be limited to those areas surrounding the park entrances and support facility areas such as parking lots and rest rooms. Total area to be landscaped among both parks is approximately 10 to 12 acres. Native species such as live oak, green buttonwood, gumbo-limbo, pidgeon plum, sabal palm, and seagrape are being used. To the extent permitted by the Land Development Code, landscape design will favor a natural appearance. Shade trees will be planted in the parking and playground areas.

Landscaping activities will be incorporated within the larger development schedules for the projects (see Priority Schedules, Section VIII). The areas to be landscaped are limited to parking areas and entry roads indicated on the Master Site Plans (Exhibit G-1 and G-4).

Wetland Buffer

A 100-foot buffer will be provided between parking lots, major facilities, and wetlands and as specified on approved plans sets. .

Parking

The one parking lot at the Freedom Park is centrally located on the south side of the park and contains approximately 46 spaces with 2 handicap spaces. Additional space has been designated to accommodate school buses. After entering the park, buses or cars can drive in and around an oval drive to the educational building where individuals can be dropped off in a pedestrian-friendly zone. Within the drive's infield, there is a small treatment swale or shallow marsh wetland to treat stormwater runoff from the parking facility prior to discharge.

The Gordon River Greenway Park will offer two parking areas:

- A 52-space (includes 2 handicapped spaces) parking area is located at the northeast side of the Gordon River Greenway Park along Golden Gate Parkway. This parking area will have 44 stabilized grass parking spaces. Runoff will be managed through a box culvert storm sewer into to a dry detention area for ground infiltration. All proposed storm water facilities will be designed to current and applicable codes. This parking area is adjacent to a boardwalk and trail system trailhead.
- A 48-space (includes 4 handicapped spaces) parking area will be provided adjacent to the kayak launch. This parking area will have 10 stabilized grass parking spaces. Runoff will be managed by box culverts leading to two dry detention areas for ground infiltration. All proposed storm water facilities will be designed to current and applicable codes. This parking area is adjacent to a children's' playground, rest rooms, pavilion and a boardwalk and trail system trailhead.

Additional shared parking with the Naples Zoo will be available on the west side of the Gordon River Greenway Park adjacent to Goodlette-Frank Road. This parking area is not included in lands covered by this Land Management Plan and is not described herein.

A combination of curb and gutter, wheel stops, and raised islands with landscaped beds will be utilized in all parking lot facilities to keep vehicles confined to designated parking areas.

Stormwater Facilities

A description of the proposed stormwater facilities at Freedom Park is addressed in the Wetland Restoration portion of the Restoration section, above. These stormwater facilities were designed to provide recreational wildlife habitat in a park-like setting. Where present, they are designed with shallow slopes and without fences.

Hazard Mitigation

The 100-year flood plain covers approximately 80% of the Freedom Park and the entire Gordon River Greenway Park (Exhibit I). To protect structures built within this zone, the design has placed these structures on elevated building pads on appropriate foundations

(e.g., stilts or piers). Other site improvements that are not endangered by flood waters (parking lots, boardwalks, and trails) will be designed where the appropriate at-grade elevations allow..

Educational Signs

A permanent recognition sign, a minimum size of 3' x 4', shall be maintained at the main entrance for both park areas. These signs shall acknowledge that the project site was purchased with funds from the Florida Communities Trust. Additionally, interpretive signage shall be located throughout the boardwalk and trail areas. Content for signage at Freedom Park includes information about the value and function of wetlands, wetland plants and their medicinal uses, information about local and exotic species and a history of the site. Content for signage at the Gordon River Greenway Park/Conservation Collier site will include information about gopher tortoises and their role as a keystone and indicator species, the importance of preserving wetlands, birds in wetlands, both common and protected local wildlife, information regarding Dr. Henry Nehrling, a pioneering botanist whose 1920s garden was adjacent to the Gordon River Greenway Park site, information about early pioneer families and identification of pertinent habitats and species. Additional signage may be placed, including, but not limited to regulatory, code and/or directional signage.

Education Program

At least 12 regularly scheduled environmental educational programs are currently being conducted annually at Freedom Park. These programs will include and may be conducted at Gordon River Greenway Park when it is open to the public.

The on-site education building at Freedom Park is currently hosting educational programs about the water quality function of Freedom Park as well as protection of the habitat and species at the park. Educational programs are targeted at youth, primarily students from local elementary, middle and high schools. Programs are taught by resource professionals from partnership organizations such as the Big Cypress Basin/South Florida Water Management District, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Collier County Environmental Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Stormwater Department and Conservation Collier.

Collier County Parks and Recreation Park Ranger and Naturalist staff will present natural history programs at the Gordon River Greenway Park. Staff presenting the programs has completed the National Association of Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide Course. All educational programs will be developed by the Senior Park Naturalist/Program Supervisor. Programs will include: A Closer Look at the Gopher Tortoise, The Importance of Preserving Wetlands, Wetland Plants and their Medicinal Uses, Birding in the Wetlands, Dr. Nehrling and Exotic Species. Programs are advertised in the Collier County Parks and Recreation Program Guide and the Park Ranger To Go Menu of Programs that is distributed to Collier County Public Schools each August. The target audience includes: general public, professionals, tourists, and elementary and secondary school children

Museum and Nature Center

Freedom Park features a 2,500-square-foot educational building, designed to be the focal point for the public who visit the site. The facility has a 1,350-square-foot conference room where the public can learn more about the surrounding wetlands, treatment facility operations, and the wildlife attracted to the site. The facility houses a reception area, an office, and standard mechanical and electrical rooms. Restroom facilities are located near the main entrance to the park with access on the outside of the building so they are available to the public when the facility is closed.

Permits

Each project will require a South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permit, Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide permit and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) gopher tortoise relocation permit. The Freedom Park is located within the City of Naples, and so required a City of Naples Zoning and Land Development building permit and City of Naples Fire Department fire compliance and utility permits. The Gordon River Greenway Park is located within Collier County, and will additionally require Collier County Zoning and Land Development building permit and a City of Naples Utility permit. Pedestrian bridges onsite required US Coast Guard permits. Due to its location next to the Naples Airport, the southernmost of the pedestrian bridges required approval from the Naples Airport Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Easements, Concessions, and Leases

Freedom Park:

- Conservation Easement, executed in 2008, in favor of the South Florida Water Management District over the eastern 12.5 acres of the Freedom Park.(Exhibit K),
- Three existing recorded utility easements (Exhibit M-1)

Gordon River Greenway Park

- A Conservation Easement, dedicated in favor of the South Florida Water Management District, subject to FCT Grant conditions and incorporating this land management plan, with 3rd party rights of enforcement granted to the Army Corps of Engineers, is in the finalization stages.(Exhibit L – Placeholder Draft)
- Two Existing recorded utility easements, (Exhibit M-1)

Additional easements for electric, water, wastewater, phone and cable are currently being described at the Kayak launch and north parking nodes. All utility easements to be placed will include FCT-required language as shown in sample utility and FPL easement documents (Exhibit M-2). A full listing of these easements will be provided to FCT when finalized, approved by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners and recorded.

Should any lease or any interest, the operation of any concession, any sale or option, the granting of any management contracts, or any use by any person other than in such person's capacity as a member of the general public arise or be proposed, FCT will be provided with 60-day prior written notice. No document will be executed without the prior written approval of FCT. All fees collected will be placed in a segregated account solely for the upkeep and maintenance of the project sites.

V. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Coordinated Management

Freedom Park is located across Goodlette-Frank Road from Naples High School. Little coordinated management is necessary with Collier County Public Schools for these sites, but where the park can be an educational resource for the school such partnership will be pursued.

Gordon River Greenway Park is located across Goodlette-Frank Road from Fleischmann Community Park. Again the sites are complimentary and little coordinated management is necessary with the City of Naples. Where Gordon River Greenway Park can be a resource for the community such partnership will be pursued. The Gordon River Greenway Park is also located adjacent to the Naples Zoo, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and the Naples Airport Authority. Management will be coordinated with these entities in the following ways:

1. Exotic removal and monitoring programs will be coordinated where possible to take advantage of economies of scale.
2. Information obtained from monitoring habitat quality and listed species will be shared with the above-listed and other Gordon River Greenway partners, and management for preservation will be coordinated appropriately.
3. Parks hours, access, and patrol will be coordinated among the above-listed and other Gordon River Greenway partners to avoid conflict and duplication, and to present seamless management to the public.

The locations of park sites and adjacent publicly owned and/or conservation lands are illustrated in Exhibit B.

Comments on this Revised Land Management Plan will be solicited from Naples Zoo, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Naples Airport Authority and incorporated into the 2011 Annual Stewardship Report.

Trail Network and Greenway

Both park sites are accessible via existing sidewalks along the arterial roadways (Goodlette-Frank Road and Golden Gate Parkway), with the Conservation Collier site also accessible from North Road, a public road running along the south and west sides of the Naples Airport connecting the site with the Airport-Pulling Road, a major arterial road to the east of the Greenway system. Full crosswalks are available at the intersection of Golden Gate Parkway, Goodlette-Frank Road and Airport Road at North Road.

The projects together form the northernmost section of the Gordon River Greenway. The Gordon River Greenway will create a 2-mile ecological and trail corridor centrally located within the Naples-Collier urban area, with future plans to connect off-road

pathways and preserved land from the Freedom Park to US 41 South along the Gordon River in downtown Naples. Partners in the Greenway project include the City of Naples, Naples Airport Authority, Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and South Florida Water Management District. A portion of the Greenway on Airport Authority property is already complete.

Combined, the two sites will provide three (3) vehicular access points with parking and rest rooms, serving as important trailhead facilities for the Greenway. Only two of those vehicular access points are covered by this plan; one at Freedom and two at Gordon River Greenway Park.

The Gordon River Greenway is identified in the Collier County Comprehensive Pathways Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization on January 12, 2006. An updated conceptual map of the Gordon River Greenway Park showing the trail network is included as Exhibit H.

Coordinated Management – Neighborhoods and Private Lands

Both Freedom and Gordon River Gordon River Greenway Parks are surrounded by commercial and residential properties, with the Gordon River Greenway Park also bordered by the Naples Airport. This presents the need to coordinate management of the site with adjacent neighborhoods and development. Coordination has initially been accomplished through stakeholder and public meetings held during the planning process and by incorporating comments received into project plans. For example, one neighborhood adjoining the Gordon River Greenway Park next to the Northeast node parking area expressed concern about the visitors wandering into its adjoining golf course. As a result, a wall was added to shield the parking area from the adjoining property. Another neighborhood east of the Gordon River Greenway Park expressed concern about the trail being located too close to homes. As a result, the trail was moved more to the west. The Naples Airport Authority expressed concern about lighting on a bridge just adjacent to a runway. As a result, a type of lighting was chosen for the bridge that will only shine downward, at foot level.

The presence of residential and commercial development surrounding the Park will also affect management options available. While prescribed fire may benefit some of the habitat on the Park, it is not planned to be utilized since smoke could cause significant difficulties for Airport operations and surrounding residential areas. Surrounding areas are fully developed, except for one parcel adjoining the Park on the south side, so any constraints on management are already present and will not change. The one vacant parcel is proposed for public acquisition at this time and has a willing seller. There is a strong potential for it to be added to Park lands in the future. If not, its development as a residential property will not alter the character of adjoining lands to any appreciable extent. A map of surrounding Future Land Uses is attached as Exhibit J.

Maintenance

Collier County Parks and Recreation Department personnel are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance activities such as clean-up, waste removal, and general landscape

maintenance for most of Freedom and will also be responsible for most of Gordon River Greenway Park. Conservation Collier staff will be responsible for maintenance on the Conservation Collier portions. A maintenance company contracted with Collier County is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance activities such as cleaning rest rooms, offices, and public buildings. Collier County Facilities Management will be responsible for minor repairs and general building maintenance on the project site.

Security

Collier County Parks and Recreation personnel have the primary responsibility for the security of the entire project site. Park Rangers will provide routine but irregularly timed patrol of the sites. Patrol is conducted in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Department Security and Protection Plan, with assistance from the Collier County Sheriff's Office and City of Naples Police Department as appropriate and when deemed necessary.

All County sites will be outfitted with security systems as necessary. Design will incorporate signage and other features such as driveway gates will establish boundaries. Park hours and rules will be posted and enforced.

Staffing

When both parks are fully open to the public the following minimum staffing will be required:

At Freedom Park: 1 FTE is assigned to the Learning Center and 1 FTE is assigned for Maintenance Staff

At Gordon River Greenway Park: 1 PTE will be assigned as Maintenance Staff
Park Rangers will not be assigned full time to either Park but will periodically patrol public use areas.

Conservation Collier will have a Land Manager who will periodically be onsite.

VI. Goals, Objectives and Measures

Goals:

1. Alleviate local residential flooding and improve water quality
2. Provide passive recreation opportunities
3. Protect natural resources
4. Remove or control populations of invasive, exotic or problematic flora and fauna
5. Restore and maintain native habitats
6. Provide education opportunities
7. Provide non-vehicular transportation choices

Objectives and Measures:

1. Objective: Improve Water quality in the Gordon River watershed; Measures: Provide storm water attenuation and cleansing before release into the Gordon

River. Monitor water quality and report to the South Florida Water Management District.

2. Objective: Provided for hiking, biking, rollerblading, etc. opportunities; Measures: Usage of the Parks.
3. Objective: Protect Natural Resources; Measures: Annual Stewardship and Monitoring reports showing habitat improvement.
4. Objective: Restore natural plant communities; Measures: Annual Stewardship and Monitoring reports showing habitat improvement.
5. Objective: Teach residents and visitors about the unique cultural and natural resources and history of the area; Measures: Evaluate participation in offered programs.
6. Objective: Provide alternate transportation options to reduce greenhouse gasses; Measures: Usage of the Parks

VII. Cost Estimates and Funding Sources

The following development costs are estimated for **Freedom Park**:

Preconstruction Activities	
Rezoning	\$ 50,000
Site Development Plan	\$ 820,000
Permitting (including ASR)	\$ 60,000
Impact Fees	\$ 220,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,150,000
Construction	
Utilities	\$ 250,000
Burying Electric Lines	\$ 150,000
Site Work	\$ 900,000
Building	\$ 2,500,000
Parking	\$ 450,000
Ponds	\$ 1,500,000
Boardwalks	\$ 950,000
Docks	\$ 150,000
Observation Areas	\$ 100,000
ASR Facility	\$ 500,000
Landscaping	\$ 950,000
Signage	\$ 50,000
Rest Rooms	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	\$ 8,500,000

The funding source for preconstruction activities and Phase I construction of Freedom Park is the Transportation Services Division, Stormwater Management Department budget. The South Florida Water Management District funded \$750,000 for design and construction. Additional grant funding will be sought to supplement County monies.

The following development costs are estimated for **Gordon River Greenway Park**:

Gordon River Greenway Park	
Preconstruction Activities	
Exotic Removal	\$300,000
Archaeological Assessment	45,000
Rezoning	50,000
Design	800,000
Permitting	35,000
Impact Fees	200,000
TOTAL	\$1,430,000
Construction	
Utilities	175,000
Site Work	622,000
Pathways	135,000
Boardwalks	2,621,000
Bridges	660,000
Pavilions and shade structures	300,000
Rest Rooms	150,000
Maintenance Facility	65,000
Canoe/Kayak Launch	135,000
Parking Facilities	900,000
Access Drives	300,000
Landscaping	350,000
Signage	30,000
Site Furnishings	275,000
TOTAL	\$6,718,000

Funding sources for Gordon River Greenway Park include FCT reimbursement, the rent paid by the Naples Zoo on the adjacent property, and a contribution from the Big Cypress Basin. Parks impact fees will supplement these funding sources if necessary. The Conservation Collier portion of the project was acquired, will be constructed and managed using separate funding from an ad valorem tax levy approved by Collier County voters in 2002 and again in 2006. Funds have been set aside from this levy for perpetual maintenance of lands acquired under the Conservation Collier Program. An estimated budget for maintenance for the Conservation Collier section is included Table 10 of the Gordon River Greenway Preserve Land Management Plan, Appendix A, page 52.

The following operating costs are provided for Freedom Park, and estimated for Gordon River Greenway Park. The Conservation Collier proposed operating budget can be found in the Gordon River Greenway Preserve Land Management Plan, Appendix A, page 51.

Freedom Park Annual Operating Budget	
Maintenance Operating	
• Sprinkler System	3500.00
• Landscaping (sod, trees)	15,000.00
• Pine-straw Mulch x 2 annually	15,000.00
• Landscape Materials (replacement native plants)	
• Fertilizer, Herbicides, and Chemicals	5,000.00
• Household/Institutional Supplies	4,000.00
• Exotic Monitoring and Treatment	500.00
• Facility Maintenance & Repairs	20,000.00
	10,00.00
Utilities	
• Electricity	15,000.00
• Water and Sewer	30,000.00
Education Programs	
• Outside Instructor Cost	200.00
• Ethical Angler Fishing Camp Supplies	700.00
• Instructional Materials	1,500.00
Interpretive and Directional Signage	
• Upgrade, replacement of damaged signage	1,500.00
Information Technology	
• IT CLASS Support	5,000.00
• Telephone System Support (DSL & Long Distance)	6,100.00
Personnel Costs	
• 1 FTE (salary & benefits) Learning Center	61,600.00
• 1 FTE Maintenance Staff (salary & benefits)	47,060.00
TOTAL	241,660.00

Gordon River Greenway Park Estimated Annual Budget	
Maintenance Operating	
• Sprinkler System	1,500.00
• Landscaping (sod parking lots)	3,000.00
• Fertilizer, Herbicides, and Chemicals	1,000.00
• Household/Institutional Supplies	250.00
• Exotic Monitoring and Treatment	20,000.00
• Facility Maintenance & Repairs (boardwalks, pathways)	3,000.00
Utilities	
• Electricity	5,000.00
• Water and Sewer	10,000.00
Education Programs	
• Outside Instructor Cost	200.00
• Instructional Materials	750.00
Interpretive and Directional Signage	
• Upgrade, replacement of damaged signage	1,500.00
Personnel Costs	
• 1 PTE Maintenance Staff (salary & benefits)	23,530.00
TOTAL	69,730.00

Funding source for ongoing operating expenses for Parks and Recreation Operations at Freedom and Gordon River Greenway Parks will be Collier County ad valorem taxes. The Funding source for ongoing operating expenses for the Conservation Collier section will be The Conservation Collier Acquisition Trust Fund (Fund 174).

VIII. Priority Schedule

Priority Timeline										
Project Number: 05-027-FF5										
Project Name: Freedom Park										
Grant recipient: Collier County										
Instructions: Write in the month that each task will be completed.										
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Design			Mar							
Permitting			July							
Public meetings/comment		July								
Interagency coordination/comment			July							
Amend Future Land Use Designation			Feb							
Amend Zoning Designation			Feb							
Structures and Improvements:										
Entrance sign with FCT recognition (required)				Sept						
Parking				July						
Restrooms				July						
Trash cans				July						
Drinking fountains				July						
Bike rack				July						
Benches				Dec						
Interpretive kiosk				Dec						
Interpretive signs				Dec						
Stormwater facilities				Sept						
Utilities				July						
Education Building					Dec					
Stormwater Ponds				Dec						
Boardwalks				Dec						
ASR					Dec					
Freedom Memorial						Dec				
Resource-based facilities:										
Observation pier				Sept						
Observation deck				Sept						
Nature trail				Sept						
Wildlife observation platform				Sept						
Key Management Activities:										
Archeological survey			April							
Archeological protection measures			April							
Landscaping				Sept						
Upland restoration				Sept						

Wetland restoration					Sept						
Plant survey/monitoring						Dec	Dec	Dec		Dec	
Wildlife survey/monitoring						Dec	Dec	Dec		Dec	
Photo-monitoring						Dec	Dec	Dec		Dec	
Exotic plant removal						Dec	Dec	Dec		Dec	
Feral animal removal program					Jan						
Educational programs						Jan					
Water quality or hydrological improvements					Sept						
Annual Stewardship Report (Required)											
				Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan			

Priority Timeline											
Project Number: 06-043-FF6											
Project Name: Gordon River Gordon River Greenway Park											
Grant recipient: Collier County											
Instructions: Write in the month that each task will be completed.											
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Design		Start	-	-	-	Complete					
Permitting						April					
Public meetings/comment		Sept			March October						
Interagency coordination/comment	Oct										
Amend Future Land Use Designation						April					
Amend Zoning Designation						Feb					
Structures and Improvements: (add or delete improvements as needed)											
Utilities						Sept					
Site Work						Sept					
Rest Rooms						Sept					
Parking Facilities						Sept					
Access Drives						Sept					
FCT sign (required)						Sept					
Interpretive signs						Sept					
Site Signage						Sept					
Trash cans						Sept					
Bike racks						Sept					
Benches						Sept					
Resource-based facilities:											
Canoe launch						Sept					
Picnicking pavilion						Sept					
Pathways, boardwalks, and bridges						Sept					
Dock						Sept					
Key Management Activities:											
Archeological survey	August										

	Dec									
Landscaping						Sept				
Plant survey/monitoring						May			Dec	
Wildlife survey/monitoring						May			Dec	
Photo-monitoring						May			Dec	
Exotic plant removal						June			Dec	
Feral animal removal program	as necessary									
Educational programs	ongoing beginning April 2010									
Annual Stewardship Report (Required)				Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan		

IX. Monitoring and Reporting

Collier County staff will prepare an Annual Stewardship Report, due to FCT on January 30 of each year. The report will evaluate the implementation of the Management Plan.

Any proposed modification of the Management Plan and/or undertaking any project site alterations or physical improvements that are not addressed herein will require prior FCT review and approval.