

## **2.20 Environmental Resource and Habitat Protection – Environmental Management Programs**

**Environmental Management Programs:** The County will assess whether its environmental management programs have been successful in protecting environmental resources and habitat areas.

**A. Introduction and Background.** In June 2002, the GMP was amended in response to the Governor and Cabinet’s Final Order addressing the Rural Agricultural Area Assessment. These amendments adopted more specific preservation and retention requirements for the Rural Fringe and Eastern Lands areas and for other areas of the County as well. These amendments created various mechanisms for environmental protection. A listing of these mechanisms is as follows:

- Adoption of Vegetation Retention, Wetland Preservation and Listed Species standards applied at the project review level,
- Adoption of NRPAs and Sending Lands land use restrictions in the Rural Fringe
- Adoption of Flowway and Habitat Stewardship Areas in the Eastern Lands

In November 2002, the County voters passed a referendum authorizing an environmental lands acquisition program. The program, Conservation Collier, is authorized to bond up to \$75,000,000 to purchase environmentally sensitive properties. The Target Protection Areas include properties in the Urban Lands and North Golden Gate Estates having predominantly native vegetative cover, NRPAs, Sending Lands, Flow-way Stewardship Areas, and Habitat Stewardship Areas that are shown on the Future Land Use Map. As of November 2003, approximately 500 acres are under review by the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (Map 2.20-1.).

**B. Identification of Specific Objectives and Implementation Activities.** The above listed protection mechanisms are implemented during the County’s land petition and site development review process. The County is currently in the process of adopting the LDRs to implement these protection mechanisms and, therefore, has not had sufficient time to fully implement the Final Order directed amendments. The Conservation Collier land acquisition program is also in its beginning stage, where the County has begun to purchase environmentally sensitive properties.

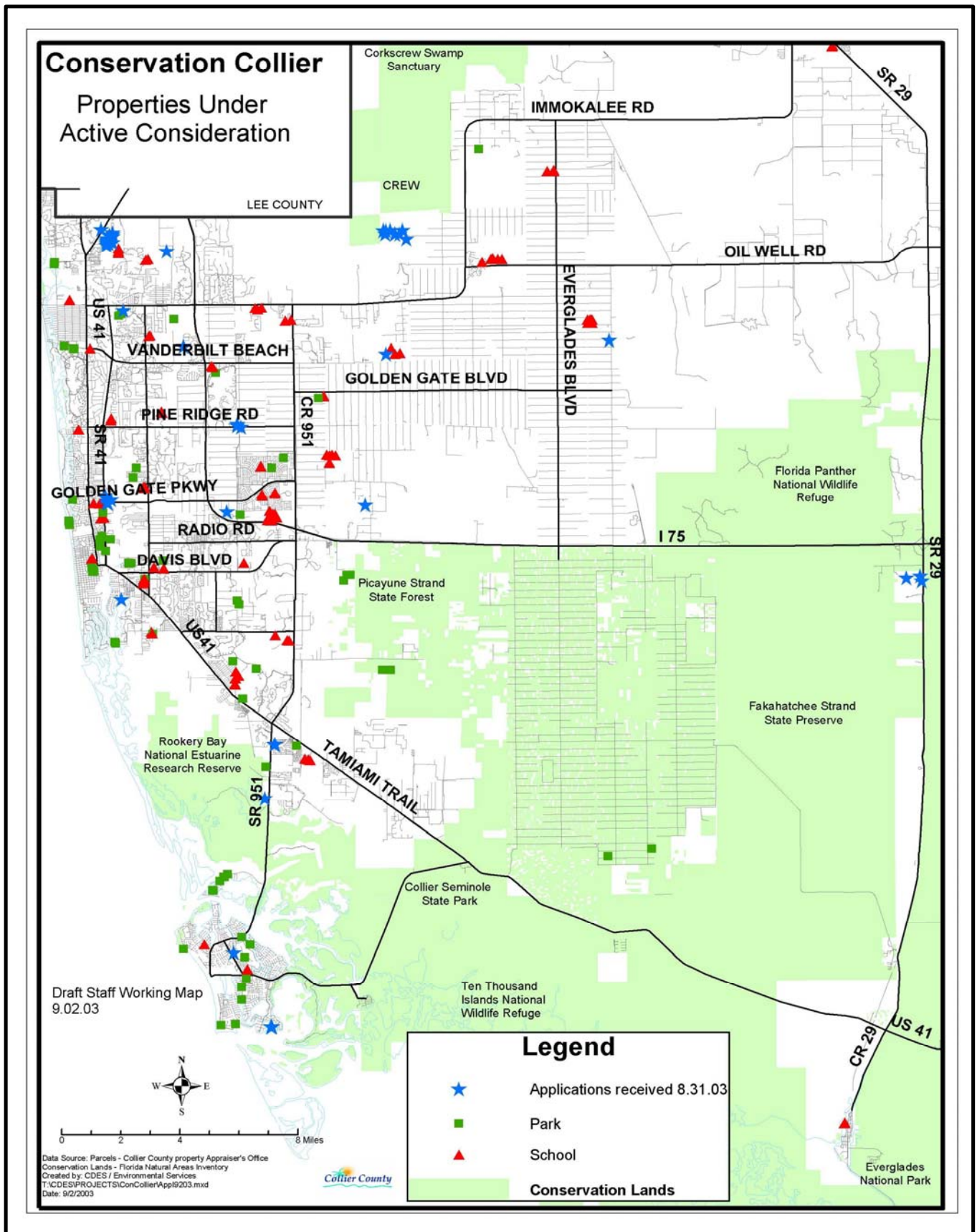
**C. Data Assessment.** Although the Final Order amendments have yet to be implemented, the County has been able to retain 31% of habitats through the development review process. (See 2.19 - Environmental Resource and Habitat Protection – Habitat Restoration, Habitat Restoration) The locations of properties currently under consideration for purchase by Conservation Collier are shown in Map 2.20-1.

**D. Conclusion.** Overall, the majority of the enabling policies continue to be relevant to the all of the objectives listed in Table 2.20-1 and will be retained in the updated comprehensive plan.

Collier County has adopted various site-specific standards and planning areas to protect vegetative communities, habitats, and large, environmentally significant areas as part of its GMP amendments satisfying the Governor and Cabinet's Final Order (addressing the Rural Agricultural Area Assessment). Additionally, Collier County has implemented a land acquisition program that will support the overall Environmental Management Program.

It will take some additional time before the County can evaluate the impacts of these recently adopted amendments. Therefore, no changes are recommended in this EAR for the set of objectives listed in Table 2.20-1.

Map 2.20-1.



**Table 2.20-1 Analysis of Objectives relating to the Conservation and Coastal Management Element**

<b>CCME Objectives Linked to Issue</b>	<b>Extent to which Objectives have been achieved</b>	<b>Unanticipated Changes Resulting in Problems or Opportunities</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1.1</b>            By August 1, 1994 the County will complete the development and implementation of a comprehensive environmental management and conservation program that will ensure that the natural resources, including species of special status, of Collier County are properly, appropriately, and effectively identified, managed, and protected. Species of special status are defined as species listed in the current "Official Lists of Endangered and Potentially Endangered Fauna and Flora in Florida", published by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.</p>	<p>The Final Order amendments adopted various habitat protection criteria and land use designations that function to protect large natural systems. These designations include NRPA's and Sending Lands (Rural Fringe Amendments) and Flowway and Habitat Stewardship (Eastern Lands Amendments).</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Maintain current Objective and attendant policies.             Reevaluate at the next EAR.</p>

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<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1.2:</b> Maintain the framework for an integrated, computer-based environmental resources data storage, analysis, and graphics system and annually update the databases based on previous year's analytical data in order to monitor the status of the County's natural resources and propose potential protection measures when appropriate.</p>	<p>Complete. The County maintains a GIS database of various layers depicting various natural resource data and information.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Maintain current Objective and attendant policies.</p> <p>Reevaluate at the next EAR.</p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1.3:</b> Pursuant to Administration Commission Final Order AC-99-002 dated June 22, 1999, the County has completed the phased delineation, data gathering, management guidelines and implementation of the Natural Resource Protection Area (NRPA) program as part of the required Collier County Rural and Agricultural Assessment. Through this Assessment, the County has determined that the NRPA program is not the only mechanism to protect</p>	<p>LDRs are currently being adopted.</p> <p>Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program has begun evaluating properties for potential acquisition.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Maintain current Objective and attendant policies.</p> <p>Reevaluate at the next EAR.</p>

<b>CCME Objectives Linked to Issue</b>	<b>Extent to which Objectives have been achieved</b>	<b>Unanticipated Changes Resulting in Problems or Opportunities</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<p>significant environmental systems. Accordingly, within the Rural Lands Stewardship Area Overlay in the Future Land Use Element, the County has delineated Stewardship Sending Areas that will function to protect large environmental systems. Pursuant to the following policies, the County shall protect identified environmental systems through the NRPA and Rural Lands Stewardship programs.</p>			