

Welcome to the



2018 Conservation Lands Workshop:
Thinking BIG with Landscape-level Conservation

Protecting and restoring water resources from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven



THANK YOU TO OUR WORKSHOP SPONSORS!



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Who We Are



- Formed in 1995 and one of only 28 Congressionally designated “national estuaries” in the United States
- Receive special funding and support from USEPA under the Clean Water Act to protect and restore water resources in the CHNEP “study area”

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What We Do

Address 4 Priority Problems:

1. Hydrologic Alterations
2. Water Quality Degradation
3. Fish & Wildlife Habitat Loss
4. Stewardship Gaps



Through:

*Restoration
Research
Education
Advocacy*



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Where We Work

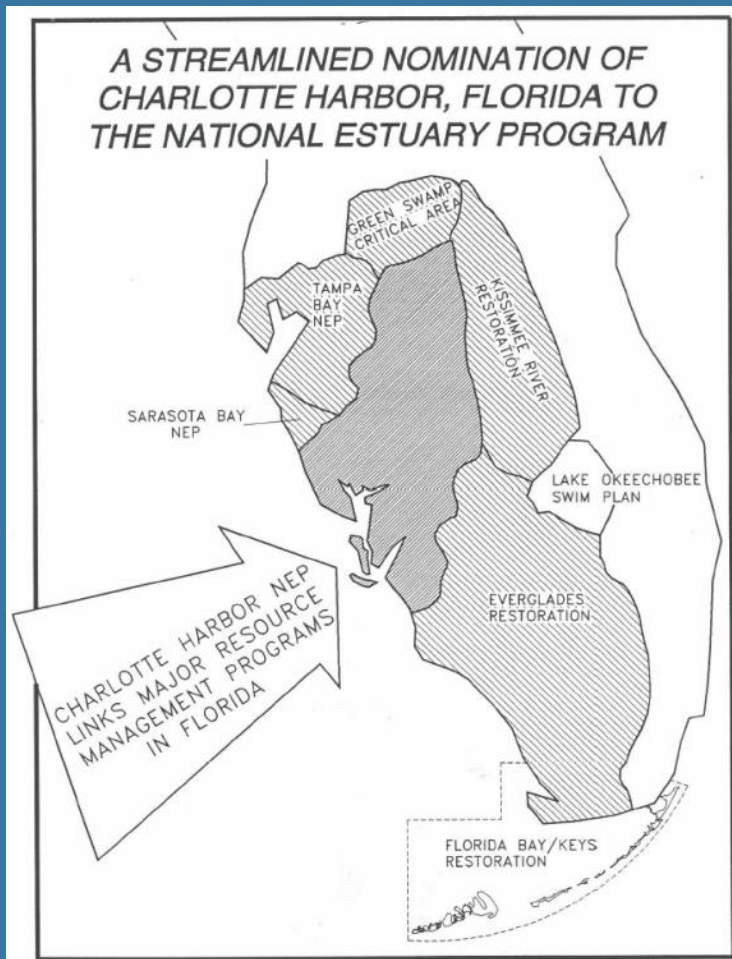
- CHNEP study area encompasses 4,700 sq. mile
- Estuaries include Lemon Bay, Dona & Roberts Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Pine Island Sound, Caloosahatchee, San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay
- Rivers including Myakka, Peace, Caloosahatchee, and Estero
- Inland and coastal Communities including 8+ counties and 10+ cities



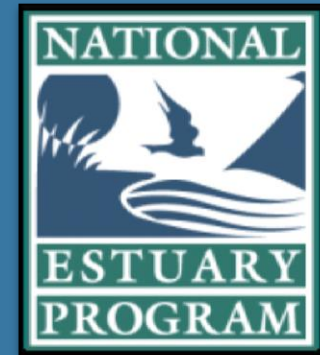
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How We Fit into Big Picture



CHNEP was designed to dovetail with Everglades and other major restoration initiatives back when it was formed in 1995.



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Your Regional Restoration Plan

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

- Plan drafted from input and by consensus of:
 - Citizens
 - Elected officials
 - Resource managers
 - Governmental staff
 - Commercial and recreational resource users
- Last updated in 2013
- Currently being updated




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CCMP Supports Land Conservation

- FW-H Bring environmentally sensitive land under protection through ownership and/or management and expand conservation areas, reserves, preserves, including platted lots.
- FW-I Advocate land acquisition and conservation easement programs.
- FW – J Provide information on the economic, social and environmental benefits of protected land and environmental restoration, including ecosystem services.
- FW – K Acquire as much of Babcock Ranch as possible for public stewardship and promote conservation management of the entire ranch. **Complete!**

Land Feeds Our Souls



Land really is the best art.

Andy Warhol

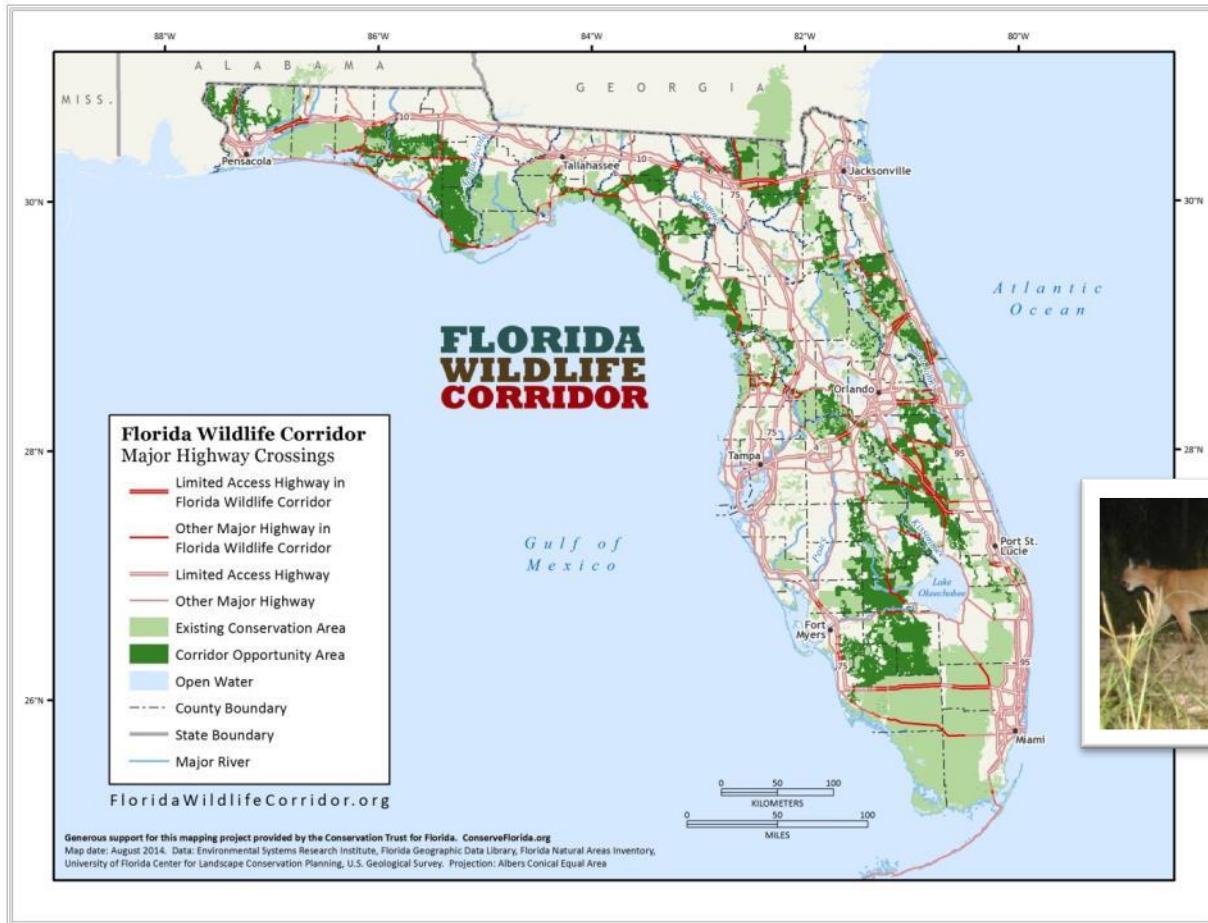
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Protecting Land is Protecting Wildlife

Wildlife needs wild lands – large areas connected with corridors to allow for natural movement.



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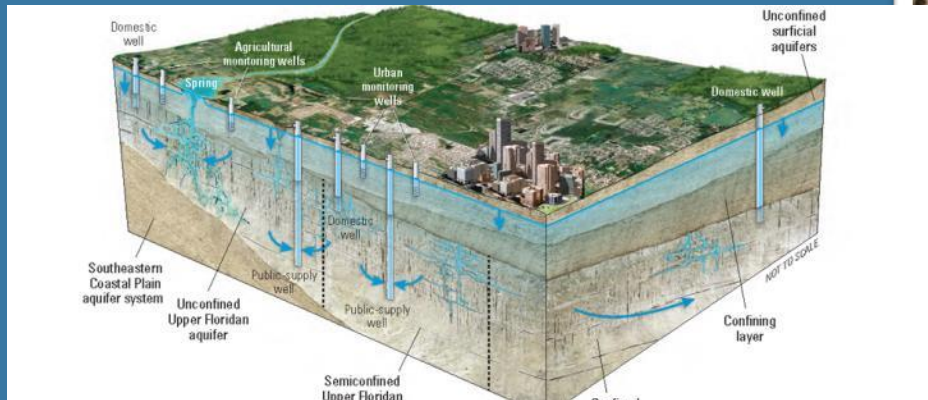
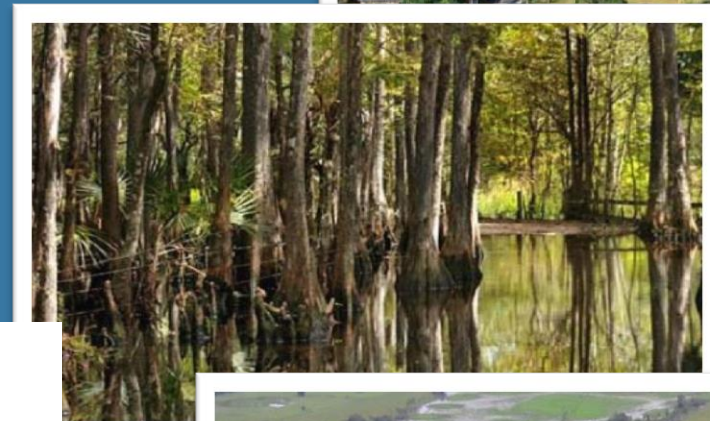
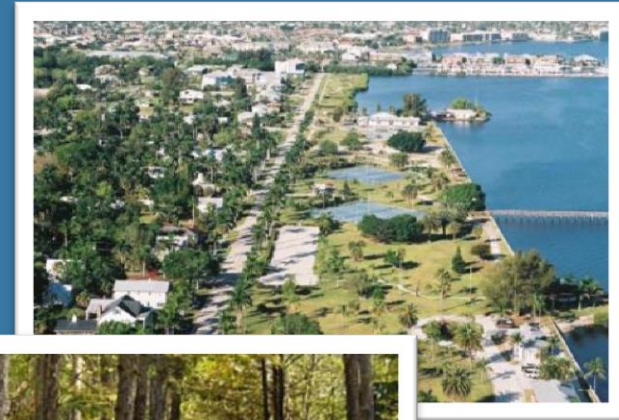


Protecting Land is Protecting Water

...and People!

Protecting Land:

- Provides buffers from storm surges
- Provides natural stormwater retention & treatment
- Provides aquifer recharge for public water supply



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Protecting Land Protects Our Economy

Protecting Land:

- Increases property values when homes are adjacent to natural parks / preserves
- Supports a \$ 65B Tourism Economy (2009 values), with 65% of Florida tourists indicating they enjoyed nature-based tourism during their visit (Visit Florida, 2007)
- Provides green infrastructure /ecosystem services of approx. \$5,340/acre for state conservation lands (according to Brown & Shi, 2014 study for FDEP by Duke Univ.)

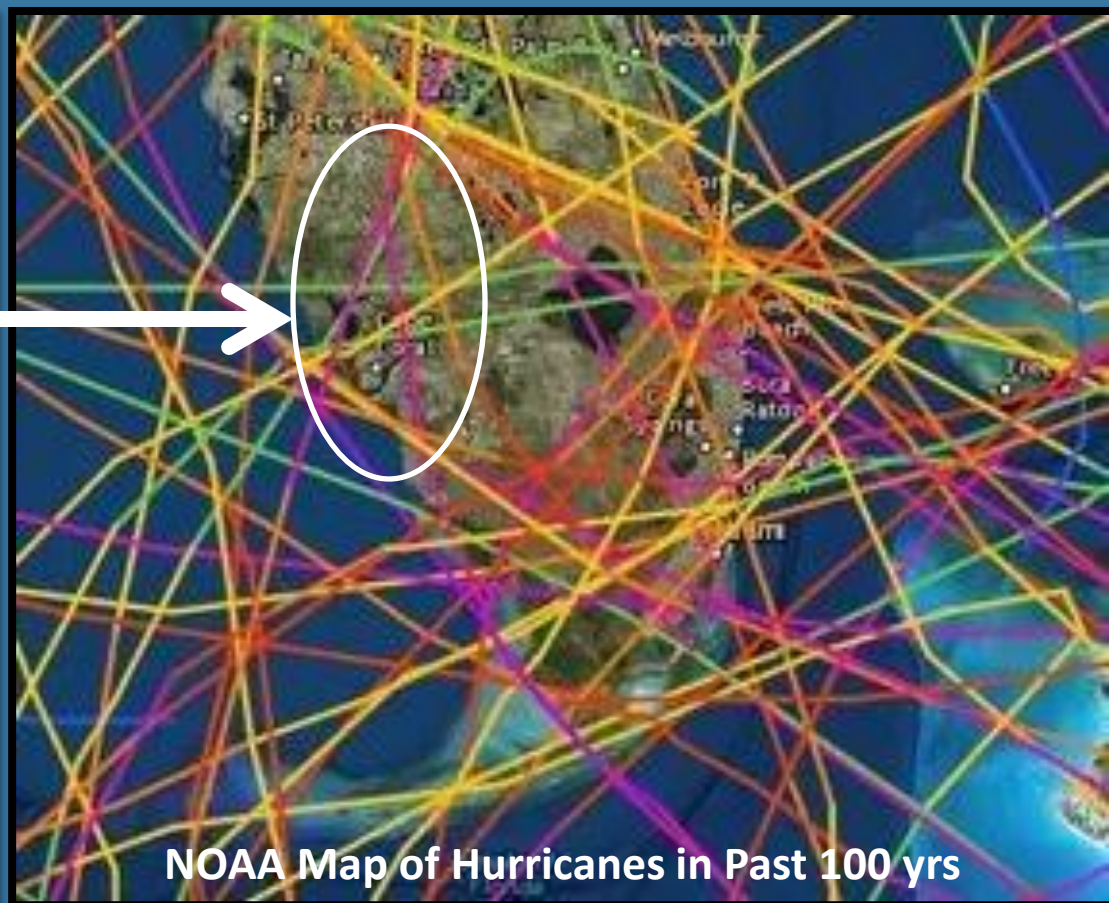
Variations in Proximate Values at Different Distances for Each Open Space Type (1990S)*

Distance Variable	Urban Park	Natural Park	Specialty Park/Facility
≤200 ft.	\$1,926	\$11,210	\$7,396
201-400 ft.	\$2,061	\$10,216	\$5,744
401-600 ft.	\$1,193	\$12,621	\$10,283
601-800 ft.	\$817	\$11,269	\$5,661
801-1,000 ft.	\$943	\$8,981	\$4,972
1,001-1,200 ft.	\$1,691	\$8,126	\$4,561
1,201-1,400 ft.	\$342	\$9,980	\$3,839

*Number of observations: 16,747; average home sale price: \$66,198

Source: Lutzenhiser & Netusil (2001)

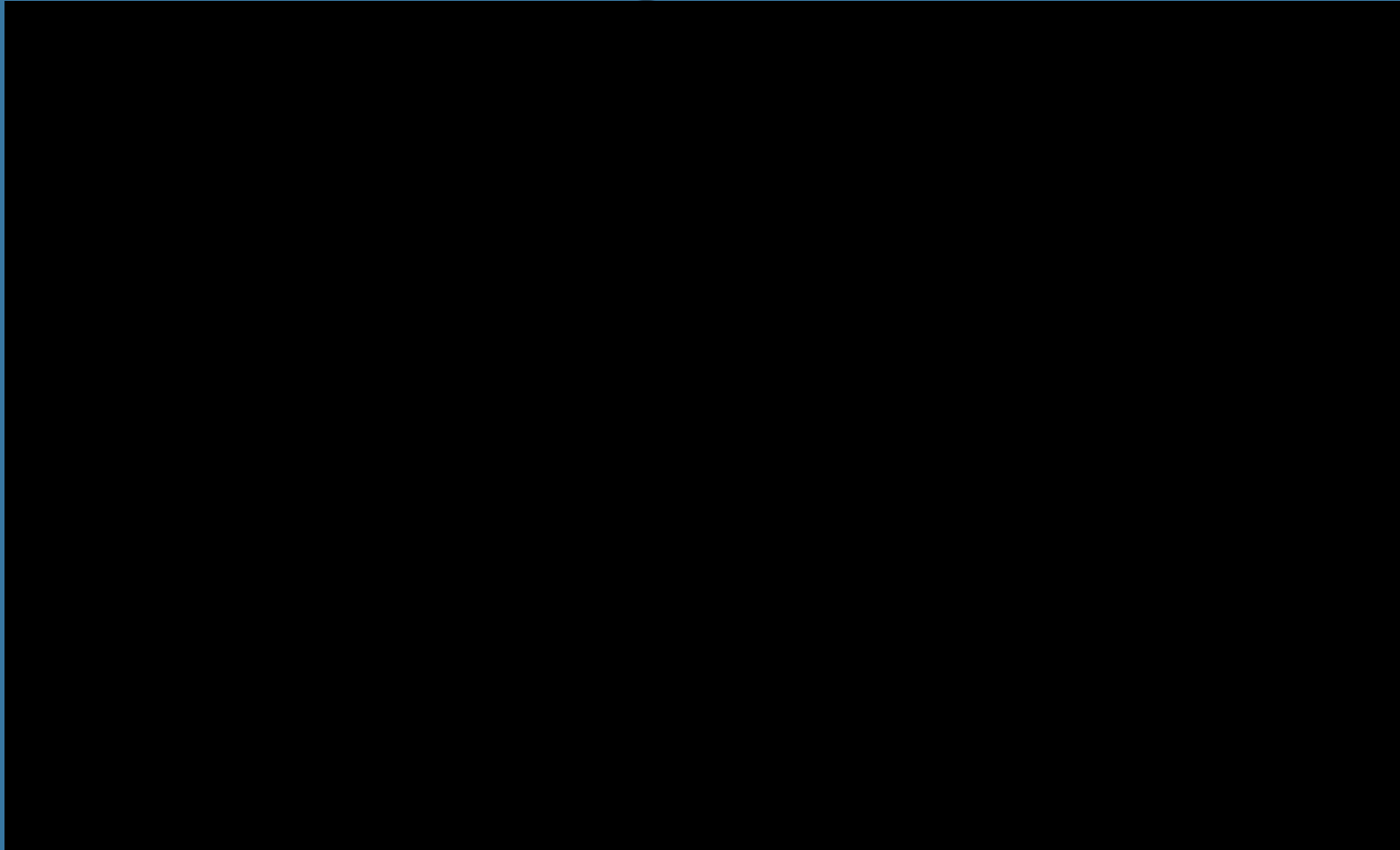
We are in Hurricane-prone Area – Now with unprecedented back to back storms



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Our Natural System are Adapted for It, Our Human Systems are Not.



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Land Conservation to Date

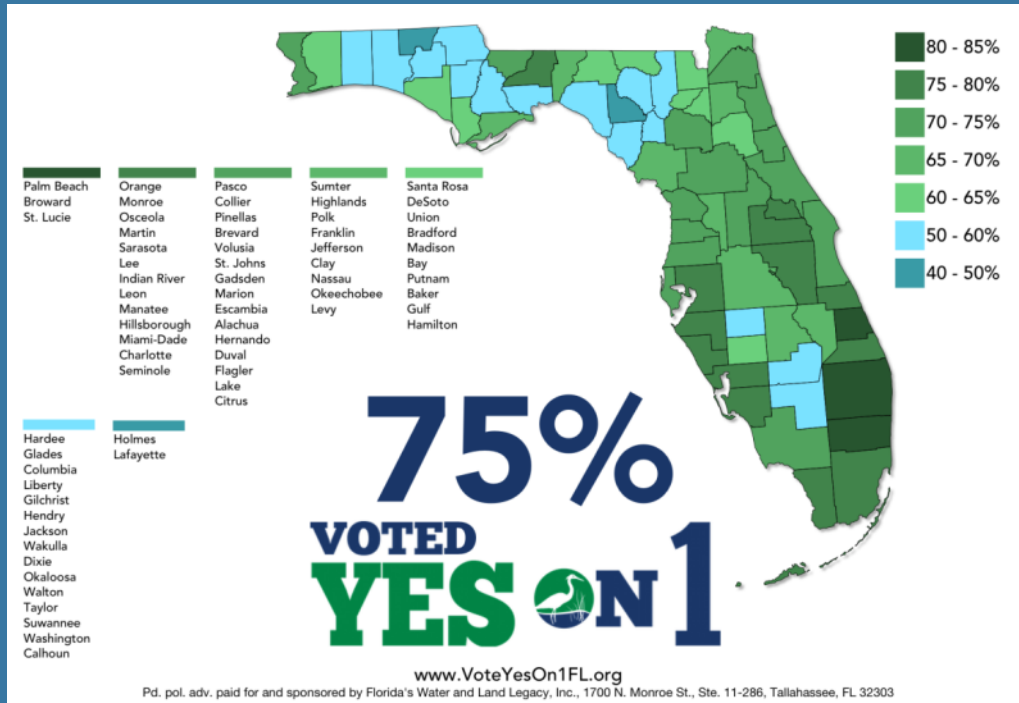
Total Acreage of Conservation Land By County* as of March 2017:

County	Acreage	% of County
Sarasota	109,060 acres	30%
Charlotte	177,560 acres	40%
Lee	98,290 acres	19%
Collier	880,980 acres	68%
Desoto	49,700 acres	12%
Polk	289,680 acres	24%
Hardee	4,840 acres	1%
Manatee	474,240 acres	13%
Highlands	182,940 acres	28%

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Some Progress towards Restoring Land Conservation Funding



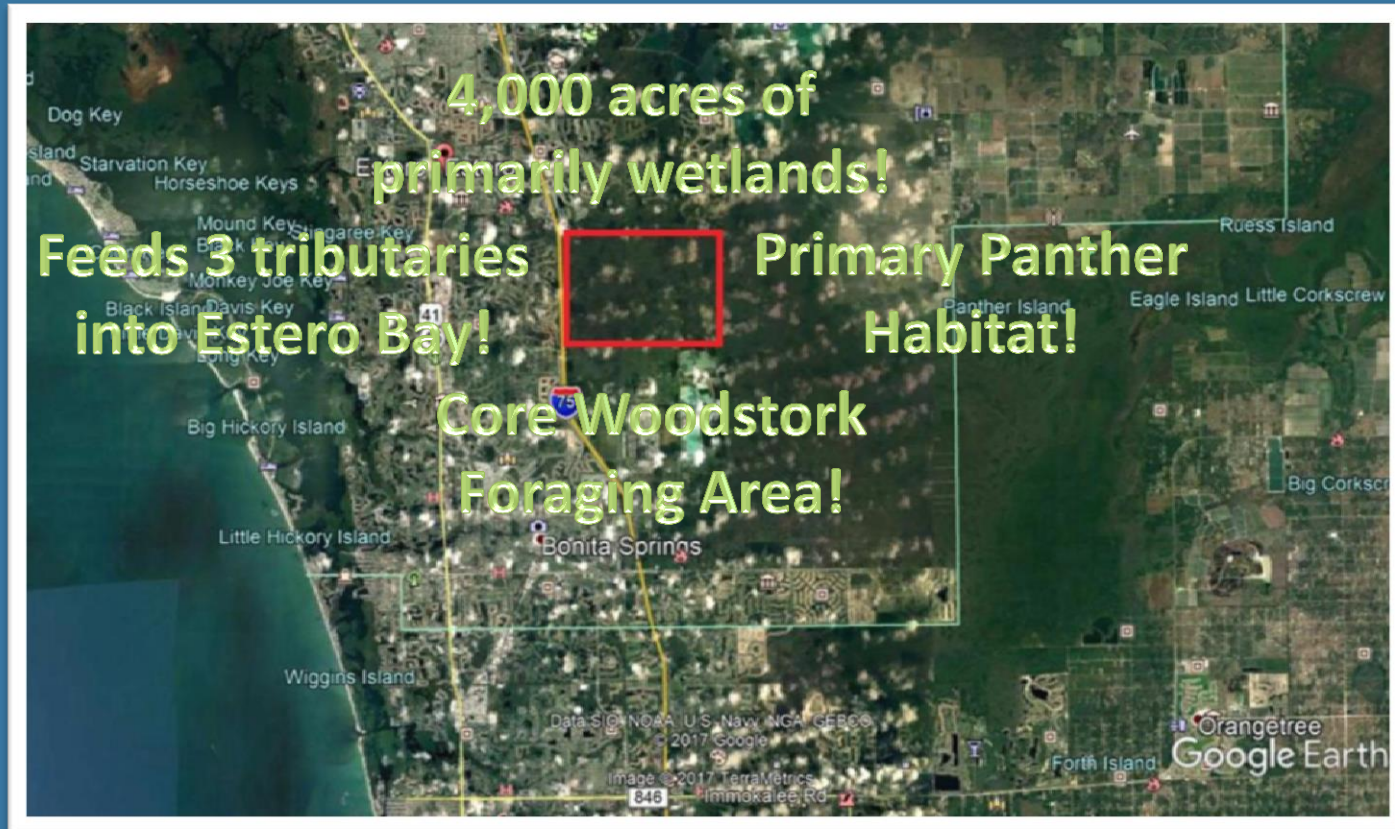
- Amendment 1 provides approx. \$700M+/yr to water and land protection
- Bills have been introduced this session to dedicate \$100 million annually to Florida Forever.

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2017 Land Conservation Successes

Edison Farms Finally Conserved!

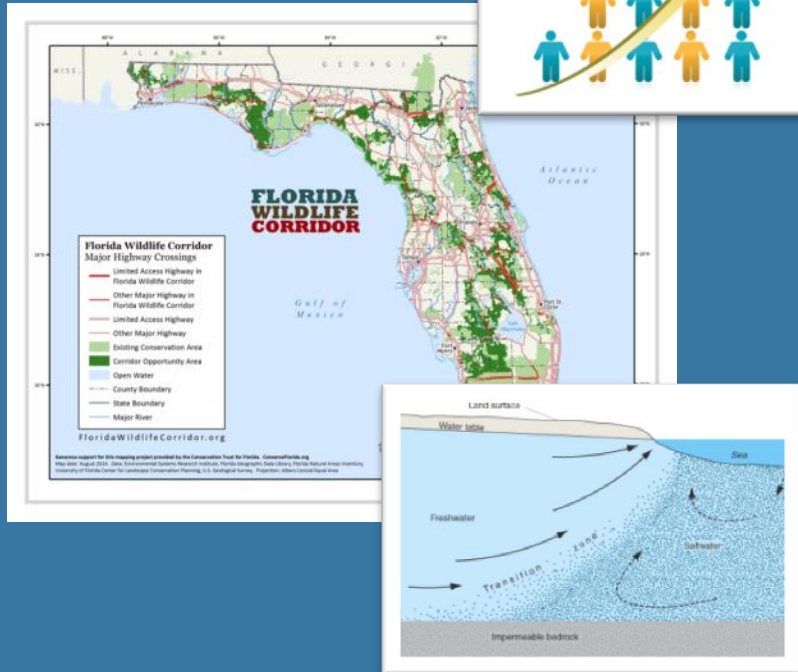


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Our Job to Protect Land is Not Over

- More people equal the need for more land conservation to provide more flood protection & more aquifer recharge for water supply
- Wildlife still need much of their core habitat area and corridors they already use to be protected
- Land will be needed for habitat and wildlife migration, & more storage and flow of freshwater outward to push the sea back

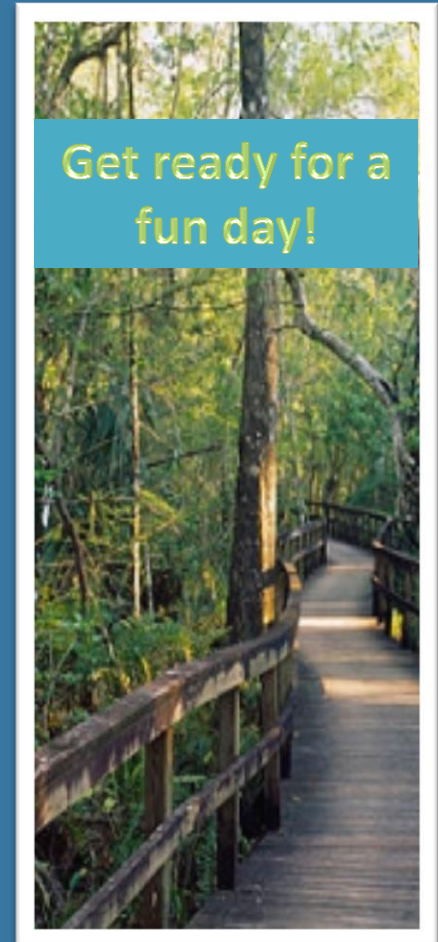


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Overview of Today's Topics

- **Restoration Funding Opportunities**
- **Private Land Conservation (from multiple perspectives)**
- **Interactive Exercise on Hydrological Restoration & Climate Change Risks to Restoration**
- **Western Everglades and Lake Hancock Area Restoration**
- **Local Land Conservation Program Initiatives**
- **Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Protection**
- **How to stay engaged**



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