



Conservation Charlotte

Community Services
Parks and Natural Resources Division
November 13, 2025



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Overview

- History
- Benefits
- Current Status
- Future Options

Conservation Charlotte - History

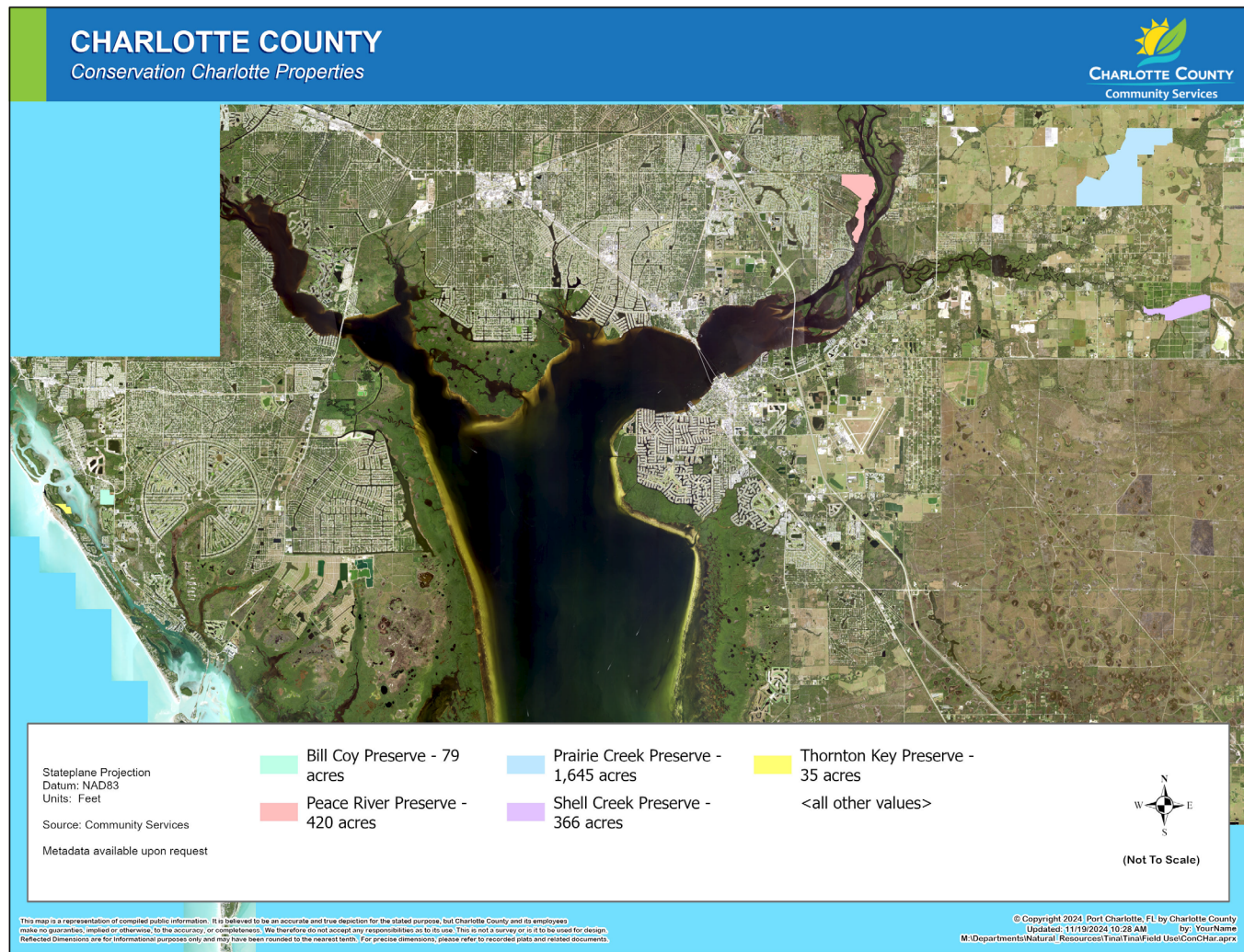
- A County survey in spring 2006 through Kitchens Group determined a majority response of those surveyed would support an environmentally sensitive land acquisition program
- At the time 25 counties had voter approved land acquisition programs
- Conservation Charlotte was approved by voter referendum in 2006
 - Funded through general obligation bonds payable from 20-year ad valorem tax of 0.20 mil

Conservation Charlotte - History

- Program Process
 - Citizen nominated lands followed by confirmation of a willing-seller
 - The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee (ESLOC) reviewed, ranked and recommended properties to BCC for acquisitions
- Twenty-six (26) sites were nominated and vetted
- Five (5) properties totaling over 2,500 acres were acquired

Benefits

- Geographically distributed throughout the county
- Provided cornerstones for the HCP Reserve
- Provides passive recreational opportunities



Conservation Charlotte Benefits

- Provides resiliency and ecosystem services
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Flood control
 - Filtering our water resources
 - Wetland protection and restoration
 - Recharging our aquifer
 - Cleaning our air
 - Land management and control of exotics on acquired lands contributes to increased resilience
- Provides open space and recreational opportunities

Conservation Charlotte - Status

- Status of program
 - No new acquisitions since 2009
 - Collections have gone to bond repayment
 - Set to expire in 2027
 - A surplus is anticipated at the end of the program
 - Kick-off to solicit nominations for land acquisition started in October
 - Staff has identified some parcels that would likely meet the eligibility

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- Hybrid program that provides flexibility to preserve, protect and enhance the community
- The three (3) bucket approach
 - Bucket 1: Classic Conservation Charlotte
 - Acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands evaluated under the same criteria as the original program
 - Bucket 2: Degraded Lands for Restoration
 - Acquisition of degraded natural lands for restoration evaluated under new criteria
 - Bucket 3: Floodplain Conservation
 - Acquisition of lands that focus on floodplain mitigation and resiliency evaluated under new criteria

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- Request for Technical Assistance with the Trust for Public Land (TPL)
 - Feasibility research
 - Public opinion survey
 - Program recommendations
 - Ballot Language
 - Campaign

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- Next Steps
 - Promotion of existing land acquisition program
 - TPL feasibility research and public opinion survey
 - Develop referendum communications plan
 - Formal approval for referendum
 - Authorization to advertise
 - Public hearing
 - BCC approval of ballot language
 - Continued implementation of communications

Questions

