

A large, stylized graphic in the background features a yellow sun with rays on the left, partially overlapping a large green leaf on the right. Below these elements is a light blue, curved shape that resembles a wave or a path.

# Conservation Charlotte

Community Services  
Parks and Natural Resources Division  
June 23, 2026



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

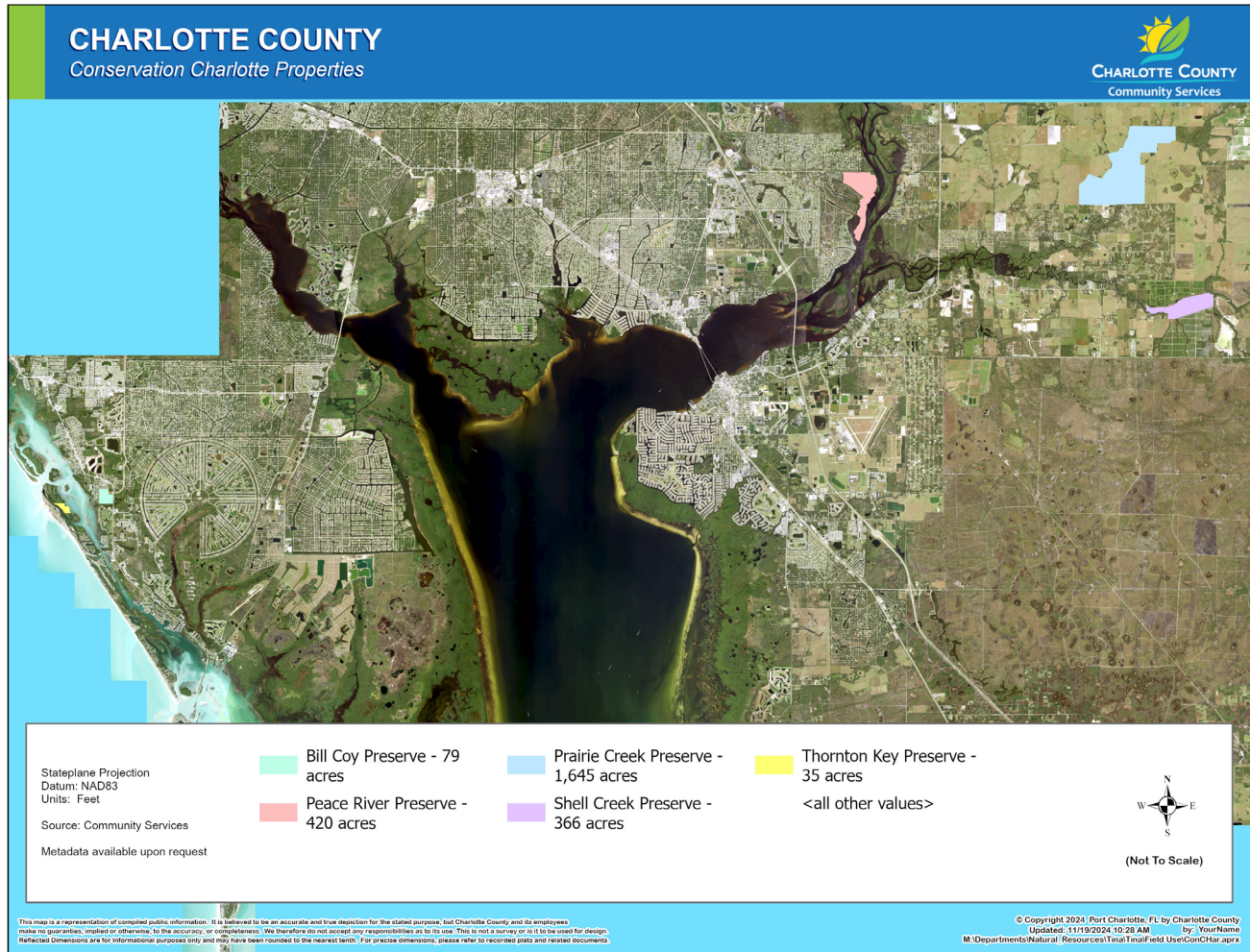
# Conservation Charlotte - History

- 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
  - Expires in 2027
- Twenty-six (26) sites were nominated and vetted
- Five (5) properties totaling over 2,500 acres were acquired
- Remaining acquisition funding (2026-2027)
  - Fifty (50) sites nominated since Dec. 2025
  - Site assessment, ranking and presentations to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee are ongoing



# Acquisitions

- 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
  - Cleaning our air
  - Flood control
    - Increases resiliency to extreme weather events
  - Filtering our water resources
  - Wetland protection and restoration
    - Increases natural stormwater runoff capacity
  - Recharging our aquifer
  - Land management and control of exotics on acquired lands contributes to increased resilience
    - Increased pollinator habitat
- Provides open space and recreational opportunities

# Conservation Charlotte 2.0

- Expanded program that provides flexibility to preserve, protect and enhance the community
  - 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

# Conservation Charlotte 2.0

- Next Steps: Current Status

- ☑ – Promotion of existing land acquisition program
- ☑ – Technical Assistance with the Trust for Public Land (TPL)
  - ☑ • Feasibility research
  - ☑ • Public opinion survey
  - ☑ • Ballot Language
- Formal approval for referendum
- BCC approval of ballot language
- Develop referendum communications plan

# Charlotte County, Florida



Voter Approved Funding for Land Conservation,  
Water Protection and Related Uses

June 23, 2026

Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E.  
National Associate Director of Conservation Finance

Casey Bauer, Florida Director of Conservation  
Finance



**TRUST** FOR  
**PUBLIC**  
**LAND**™

TPL's Conservation Finance Program works to help communities protect the places they love and improve access for people to enjoy them through approval of funding both legislatively and at the ballot box.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

# OUR IMPACT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**5,504**

Public outdoor spaces  
created or protected

We've created

**311**

Community Schoolyards in

**2**

states.

**3**

**\$112+ Billion**

Secured in public funding

**4 Million Acres**

protected

# We Work with Cities, Counties and States to Fund Conservation and Recreation Priorities, and Often Other Needs as Well.

Early voting is October 24 to November 5. Visit [berkeleycountysc.gov/dept/elections](http://berkeleycountysc.gov/dept/elections) for more information.

**EYES**

**ON LOCAL QUESTIONS 1 & 2**  
**Help fix roads & protect land & water quality before it's too late**

## On November 8th, Vote FOR Alachua County's WILD SPACES & PUBLIC PLACES

**Wild Spaces Public Places, Road Repair, Fire Stations, and Affordable Housing One Percent Sales Tax**

Shall Alachua County, Acquire and improve lands for conservation, wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreation; operate and maintain parks and recreation facilities, repair roads and improve road safety; construct and renovate fire stations and other public facilities; acquire lands for affordable housing fund economic development projects pursuant to Florida Statute 212.35(2)(9)(c); provide citizen oversight and independent audit, by levying a one percent sales tax for ten years starting January 1, 2027?

FOR the one-cent sales tax

AGAINST the one-cent sales tax

**VOTE FOR ALACHUA COUNTY**

**WILD SPACES & PUBLIC PLACES**

**TO PROTECT LAND AND WATER, IMPROVE PARKS, REPAIR ROADS AND FIRE STATIONS, AND BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

In Florida we've assisted Alachua, Brevard, Collier, Flagler, Hillsborough, Indian River, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Lee, Nassau, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Volusia and in 2024 we assisted Clay, Lake and Osceola Counties. We are currently working with seven Florida counties and one city toward 2026 referenda. Two more are considering 2028.

# 84% of All Florida Conservation Ballot Measures Have Passed



Protecting our Natural Beauty  
in Martin County

## Local Conservation Finance Mechanisms in Florida

Summary of local ballot measures from 1996-2024

Mechanism	# Passed	# Failed	Total	% Passed
Bond	56	8	64	88%
Sales Tax	19	7	26	73%
Property Tax	15	2	17	88%
Other*	2	0	2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>84%</b>

\*Budget allocations

Source: TPL LandVote Database - measures that include \$ for land conservaton.

**Around 90% of Florida Measures TPL  
has worked on have passed.**

# Bond Plus Millage Options

Charlotte County Property Tax and Bond Financing Estimates								
Millage	Total Taxable Value*	Annual Revenue	Annual Cost per \$100K Tax Value**	Bond Issue	Interest Rate	Maturation (Years)	Annual Debt Service	Remaining Annual Revenue
0.2	\$34,507,060,089	\$6,901,412	\$20	\$30,000,000	4%	20	\$2,207,453	\$4,693,959
				\$50,000,000	4%	20	\$3,679,088	\$3,222,324
				\$60,000,000	4%	20	\$4,414,905	\$2,486,507
				\$80,000,000	4%	20	\$5,886,540	\$1,014,872
*Charlotte County Property Appraiser Tax Roll; Florida Association of Counties.								
**Median homestead home taxable value = \$154,794 with \$50,000 exemption.								

# Conservation Charlotte 2.0 Proposed Ballot Language

## WATER QUALITY PROTECTION, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT PRESERVATION, AND PARKS AD VALOREM TAX AND BONDS

To finance the acquisition, improvement, and management of environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources and water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and provide parks, shall Charlotte County levy an additional 0.20 mill ad valorem tax and issue general obligation bonds in a total principal amount not exceeding \$70,000, 000 maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from such ad valorem taxes, with annual public audits?

# Fifth Step – Campaign, Must be Privately Funded

**VOTE YES TO RENEW**  
**OSCEOLA**  
LAND & WATER

# VOTE YES

**PRESERVE OUR NATURAL LANDS!**

County Referendum

**Bonds To Renew Environmental Lands Conservation Program And To Improve And Protect Water Quality**

To renew Osceola County's environmentally sensitive lands program, for purposes of preserving lands from development by acquiring, managing, restoring and improving natural areas for protection of water quality, wildlife habitat, and providing passive recreation, shall Osceola County issue bonds up to \$70 million, maturing within twenty years, bearing interest not exceeding the maximum legal rate, payable from a renewed levy of the current 0.25 mill ad valorem tax, with full public disclosure of all spending?

**Yes, For Bonds**

No, For Bonds

Paid political advertisement paid for by Renew Osceola's Land and Water, 1103 Hays Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

**SUPPORT CHARLESTON'S PARKS**  
**VOTE TOMORROW**

**VOTE YES** for  
charleston parks

As with candidate campaigns, elected officials and staff should NOT expend any county resources to advocate for or against passage. Unlike candidate campaigns, non-profits may legally do so. Funds for advocacy are publicly disclosed through a PC.

# Questions

