Conservation
Mid-1990’s Increased Awareness of Growth Impacts

Cherished open spaces began to disappear
In 1996, Lee County had an estimated 8% of its land area preserved for conservation purposes.
DI STRI BUTI ON OF CONSERVATI ON LAND BY MANAGING AGENCY
FNAI, 2009

STATE OF FLORIDA

LEE COUNTY

- Local
- State
- Federal
- Private

43%
51%
1%
5%

27%
57%
6%
10%
WHERE ARE POTENTIAL CONSERVATION LANDS?

The white areas show where land is available for conservation.

Most of Lee County is platted or otherwise committed for development.

Source: SWFRPC
Are you willing to increase property taxes by 0.5 mil ($0.50/$1,000) to buy, restore and maintain Conservation Land in Lee County?

1996 OFFICIAL BALLOT ITEM

Audubon Conservation 20/20 Committee

In Favor

PASSED
Enabling Ordinance Requirements

– Program to be run by 15-member citizen advisory committee

– There will be no power of eminent domain used

– Land acquired must be eligible for mitigation

– Defines Conservation Lands
  • Large enough size for effective management
  • Wildlife Habitat or rare/unique plant communities
  • Water resource Benefits
  • Appropriate public use
CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND STEWARDSHIP

Advisory Committee to the Board of County Commissioners
(15 members)

- Establish program criteria and a two-step review process
- Create a willing seller nomination form for staff to distribute
- Conduct Initial Review to eliminate less desirable nominations
- After secondary review, recommend nominations to be pursued for acquisition
- Oversee management of preserves
Expenses/ Revenues

Ad Valorem Taxes, Millions
Land Purchases, Millions

FY 98 FY 00 FY02 FY04 FY06 FY08 FY10
17% Conservation Lands
99 purchases
22,500 acres acquired
Another 4,350 acres under negotiation

(Revised Sept. 21, 2009)
Bob Janes Preserve

Bob Janes Preserve
Access Undetermined
Alva, Florida 33920

Total Acres: 5620.37
Number of Parcels: 1
Total Cost: $41,538,620.00
Date Acquired: Monday, July 31, 2006*
*Date first parcel was acquired.

Additional Acquisition Information
Land Stewardship Plan

Coordinator: Cathy Olson
Telephone: (239) 533-7455

Lee County and the State of Florida partnered to purchase a portion of the former Babcock Ranch, now a 73,236 acre preserve in Lee and Charlotte Counties. Lee County purchased and holds title to all of the Babcock Ranch Preserve within Lee County. On June 30, 2009 the Lee County portion of the preserve was renamed Bob Janes Preserve by the Board of County Commissioners in order to honor and recognize all of the hard work Commissioner Janes put into the acquisition of this preserve. Although owned by different entities, the entire preserve will be managed holistically as one preserve. The stewardship of the preserve is guided by the Conceptual Management Plan. Unlike typical Conservation 20/20 preserves, a certain amount of intensive agriculture (cow...
Pretty flowers found on C20/20 Preserves
Bird watching on C20/20 Preserves