

Year 2008 Projects

Project Name	Activity	Project Description	Habitat Type	Acreage	Linear Miles
Alva Cypress Preserve	Protection/Maintenance	This is a Lee County Conservation 2020 acquisition. Alva Cypress Preserve (ACP) is a 675 acre preserve of five parcels acquired from 1999 through 2008. The Preserve is located on the boundary between the Alva community and Lehigh Acres, with Joel Boulevard delineating the east boundary. The Preserve contains a diversity of plant communities including flatwoods, oak hammock, unimproved pasture and the 45 acre cypress head and pond for which the Preserve was named. This wetland area provides feeding and roosting areas for numerous listed wading bird species, as well as many other animals. At this time, the Preserve has an active cattle lease in the pasture area, so there is currently no designated trailhead or marked trails.	Forested Wetland	284	0
Billy Creek Preserve	Reestablishment	Located within the City of Fort Myers, this property is located on the north bank of Billy's Creek canal directly west of Billy Bow Legs Park. The filter marsh is possible through a three-way partnership of government agencies. Lee County is buying the land; the South Florida Water Management District will help pay for the construction of the filter marsh with an \$839,000 grant; and the City of Fort Myers will pay the remainder of the construction costs, do the construction work and maintain the filter marsh. The property's two native plant communities, cypress slough and oak hammock, will remain untouched by the filter marsh. The City will also provide hiking trails and a kayak launch. The site will eventually be listed on the Great Calusa Blue Way Trail.	Freshwater Marsh	51	0
Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve	Protection/Maintenance	Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve is located north central Lee County in North Fort Myers on the northern shoreline of the Caloosahatchee river. The preserve consists of a total of 1290 acres. This acquisition was one acre.	Riparian	1	0
Converting Medians to Native Habitat - Sarasota County	Reestablishment	Sarasota County is converting monoculture grass medians to native vegetation. The project occurred in phases and increased habitat and foraging for insects and birds. The project introduces residents to the appearance and care of native plants.	Grassland	5	3
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed	Reestablishment	4,000 acres of exotics will be treated and 100 acres will be burned. Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed – is a 60,000-acre watershed spanning Lee and Collier Counties. CREW's majestic 5,000 acre marsh is the headwater for the entire watershed which includes the famous Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary directly to the south.	Freshwater Marsh	5,000	0
Hickey's Creek Greenbriar Connector Preserve	Protection/Maintenance	The project consists of a purchase of a variety of habitats including palmetto-oak scrub, pine flatwoods and seasonal wetlands. Views of scenic Hickey's Creek can be enjoyed from trail and overlook areas. The ecosystem presently supports the threatened Florida scrub jay and gopher tortoises. The Conservation 20/20 parcels within the Hickey's Creek Greenbriar Connector were purchased to provide connectivity for future hydrological restoration projects.	Forested Wetland	1	0
Mabry Carlton Ranch	Protection/Maintenance	The state acquired 4,756 acres, which contribute to the area's water supply and are considered environmentally sensitive and which the water district had already purchased development rights for. The deal also included development rights to prevent houses from being built on another 7,630 acres.	Agricultural Land	12,386	0
Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway	Protection/Maintenance	The Myakkahatchee Creek (also known as Big Slough) drainage basin forms in Southeast Manatee County at the convergence of Bud Slough and Wild Cat Slough traversing Southwest through Sarasota County roughly 22 miles where it eventually flows into the Myakka River. This 38 acre	Riparian	37.87	0

		acquisition project is one phase of a proposed multi-phase project.			
Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Polk County Utilities Building	Enhancement	When Polk County residents pay their utility bills, they'll be treated with a native plant demonstration garden. The demonstration garden will promote the nine principles of Florida-friendly landscaping and serve as a high-profile example to the residents of the county who will learn that using native plants, pervious surfaces, recycled products and appropriate drainage solutions can be beautiful and benefit the environment at the same time.	Field/Meadow	0.25	0
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve	Protection/Maintenance	Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve totals 719.4 acres and is made up of 6 separate acquisitions purchased in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2008. The 2008 purchases encompassed an additional 34 acres. The Preserve is bordered by Stringfellow Road to the east, mangrove swamp and mudflats to the west, a future residential development to the north, and residential homes to the south. The northern portion of the Preserve has recently been connected the southern portion through the acquisition of an outparcel with an active palm nursery.	Agricultural Land	34	0
Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Park	Protection/Maintenance	Acquisition of 230 acres adjacent to the Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve for preservation and restoration of native habitat. The property, once restoration is completed, will provide stormwater storage and filtering, habitat for eagles, and wading birds and public access to natural areas	Agricultural Land	280	0
Restoration of Native Ground Cover on Sanibel Island	Enhancement	As a result of invasive non-native invasions and development, native upland herbaceous plant communities on Sanibel are all but lost. During the past ten years, hundreds of acres of conservation and private lands on Sanibel Island have been cleared of invasive non-native vegetation as part of an effort to restore native plant communities. Restoration of upland herbaceous communities seems unlikely without specific additional efforts at reestablishment because the disturbance generated from large scale exotic removal results in the establishment of ruderal species, plants that are first to colonize disturbed land. Further, most of the desirable upland, herbaceous species are now absent or rare so natural recruitment is not likely. This project seeks to test methods of reestablishment of native ground cover following a restoration project. CHNEP is providing \$4,000 toward this \$9,633 project.	Grassland	4	0
Rocky Ford Protection Priority Site acquisition	Protection/Maintenance	This acquisition adds to the 1,391-acre site on the west side of the Myakka River has three miles of river frontage. Bald eagles, wood storks and various wading birds inhabit this area. Florida panther have been documented on this site	Forested Wetland	8	0
Shell Creek - Charlotte County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program	Protection/Maintenance	Charlotte County purchased 380-acres straddling Shell Creek for preservation and water quality. Shell Creek flows into the Peace River. This acquisition will assist in improving water quality and hydrology in the Peace River	Riparian	380	0
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve addition 360	Protection/Maintenance	The project adds an additional 2.5 acres to The Six Mile Cypress Slough (pronounced "slew"). The "Slough" is a 2,500 acre wetland in Fort Myers, Florida, that measures approximately 9 miles long and 1/3 mile wide. This linear ecosystem is home to a diverse population of plants and animals, including a few considered to be endangered. The Slough also serves as a corridor for wildlife by providing a safe route of travel. The Slough is a natural drainage-way, collecting runoff water from a 33-square-mile watershed area during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall. During the wet season (June through October), a depth of 2 to 3 feet of water makes the Slough comparable to a wide, shallow stream. This fresh water flows southwest through the Slough and empties into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.	Forested Wetland	2.5	0
Venetian	Enhancement	The Venetian Waterway Park is a 10-mile-long multi-purpose	Forest/Woodland	4,800	10

Waterway Park (VWP) Exotic Removal from Segment 8		bicycle/pedestrian trail that includes the Shamrock Park and Nature Center, downtown Venice, picnic shelters, a canoe launch and access to Caspersen Park and Beach. The VWP connects to The Legacy Trail at the Historic Railroad Station and this exotic removal project begins just south of there. This project will allow eradication of exotic species along a section of the 10 miles of the greenway. Problem species include carrotwood ( <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> ), Brazilian pepper ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> ), lead tree ( <i>Leucaena</i> ), Australian pine ( <i>Casurina equisetifolia</i> ), Chinese tallow ( <i>Sapium sebiferum</i> ), rosary pea ( <i>Abrus precatorius</i> ), catclaw mimosa ( <i>Mimosa pigra</i> ), camphor tree ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> ), air potato ( <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> ), Melaleuca ( <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> ) and castor bean ( <i>Ricinus communis</i> ). CHNEP is providing \$5,000 toward this \$10,000 project.			
Wild Turkey Strand addition 345	Protection/Maintenance	Acquisition of 508 acres for preservation and conservation. Property provides a bear and panther corridor. At least five distinct native plant communities are found on the property: pine flatwoods, mesic (wet) pine flatwoods, wet prairie, cypress domes, and depressional marshes. The large diversity of native plant communities can sustain a wide diversity of plant and animal species including many listed species. Very little of the natural landscape has been cleared and is mostly free of invasive, exotic pest plants. The wetlands filter impurities from surface waters. The land provides floodplain protection. The property has good access for public use, which may include hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, and nature study.	Forested Wetland	508	0
Wild Turkey Strand Preserve Restoration	Enhancement	Wild Turkey Strand Preserve is a 2,629 acre environmental preserve in the Estero Bay watershed purchased by Lee County Conservation 20/20 program in 2003 for its environmental qualities. The land is dominated by cypress, wet and mesic flatwoods, and freshwater marshes. This project will allow treatment of non-indigenous invasive plants from approximately 80 acres and restore emergency fire lines created by the Florida Division of Forestry during a 2007 fire. The plants include melaleuca ( <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> ), Brazilian pepper ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> ), wetland nightshade ( <i>Solanum tampicense</i> ), Caesar's weed ( <i>Urena lobata</i> ), West Indian marsh grass ( <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> ) and torpedo grass ( <i>Panicum repens</i> ). This restoration will prevent the invasive plants from spreading into the healthy, intact native plant communities. CHNEP is providing \$20,000 toward this \$41,617 project.	Forested Wetland	80	0
Yucca Pens Preserve	Protection/Maintenance	The Preserve consists of twelve plant communities; one-third which are highly impacted from past uses. Historically, portions of the Preserve were used for agriculture and illegally as a site for outdoor recreation (camping, shooting/hunting and off-road activities). Ditches, berms, furrows, borrow and spoil areas, off-road vehicles (ORV), as well as invasive exotic plants have disturbed many portions of the wetland and upland plant communities at YPP. The dominant plant communities found on the Preserve are mixed mesic (flatwoods and hammock), mesic flatwoods and wet flatwoods. YPP contains a combination of wetland and upland communities that serve as important habitat for a variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.	Forest/Woodland	31	0
Total				23893.62	13