

CONSERVATION AND PARK PROJECT WORK PLAN

Site Name: Bunker Hill Preserve

Area: +/- 156.41 acres

Parcel ID(s): 126610209 & 126612050

Location: Parrish – Taylor Grade Road / Bunker Hill Road

Zoning: **General Agriculture (A)** Future Land Use: **AG-R** Current Development Approvals: **N/A**

Natural Habitat and Features

Bunker Hill Preserve consists of two parcels located in Parrish at 33100 Taylor Grade Road (PID #126610209) and 33070 Taylor Grade Road (PID # 126612050) totaling +/- 156.41 acres. The site is currently zoned General Agriculture (A). While the current land use is grazing through +/- 46.5 acres of improved pasture and +/- 35.5 acres of rural open land on-site, the property also includes a substantive acreage of native mixed hardwoods (+/- 18 acres), and almost 50 acres of mixed wetland hardwoods that are contiguous to the South Fork of the Little Manatee River which flows northwest through the site.

Site Importance

This property is of significant ecological value due to its location within the Little Manatee River Watershed, with the South Fork of the Little Manatee River traversing the site. The Little Manatee River is a waterbody of regional significance, recognized as an Outstanding Florida Water and one of the most pristine blackwater rivers in the state. Extensive restoration efforts have been focused on the Little Manatee River Corridor over the last decade, including a comprehensive restoration feasibility study led by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) involving habitat mapping, conceptual restoration designs, and prioritization of ecosystem restoration projects. Over 40 acres of the property are located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor - Florida Ecological Greenways (FEGN) Network Priority 3 Area, and over 100 acres are located within FEGN Priority 4 Area which identifies significant riparian corridors. Per the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix, on-site habitat likely supports the wood stork, eastern indigo snake and bald eagle. Additionally, there is about 50 acres of moderately suitable / highly suitable acreage for gopher tortoises based on the property's soils.

Bunker Hill Preserve is located less than 1.5 miles from South Fork State Park and less than 2 miles from SWFWMD Little Manatee River (Southfork Tract) and is hydrologically connected to these preserved lands through the river. This property is also located immediately adjacent to and west of the Mosaic Lambe Tract of the Four Corners Mine, which was mined and is actively being reclaimed. Mosaic is actively working on the final stages of reclamation with the Lambe Tract, involving removal of the bordering ditch and berm system and returning natural hydrological flow patterns to the area. The majority of the Lambe Tract will be reclaimed as herbaceous rangeland.

Proposed Site Protection

Fee Simple Acquisition

Proposed Public Access

Public access will be provided from Taylor Grade Road, with recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, nature observation (birding, etc.) over a small network of trails through various habitats.

Resource Management

Prescribed burns, nuisance exotics species management, and trail/facilities maintenance would be ongoing consistent with other county preserves.

VACANT
District 1

AMANDA
BALLARD
District 2

TAL
SIDDIQUE
District 3

MIKE
RAHN
District 4

DR. BOB
McCANN
District 5

JASON
BEARDEN
At Large

GEORGE W.
KRUSE
At Large

Hydrologic Rehabilitation and Habitat Restoration

This project could expand upon the habitat and hydrologic restoration work being done within the Little Manatee River watershed in Manatee County which in turn connects to the larger Little Manatee River Corridor in Hillsborough County by way of the South Fork stream segment. The primary focus will be to restore the on-site South Fork stream segment and the contiguous forested wetlands through removal and treatment of invasive plant species. An assessment of the hydrological condition of the properties will be performed to identify the potential for additional hydrological restoration activities.

Anticipated Costs, Funding Partnership(s) and Revenue

Acquisition: \$2,050,000

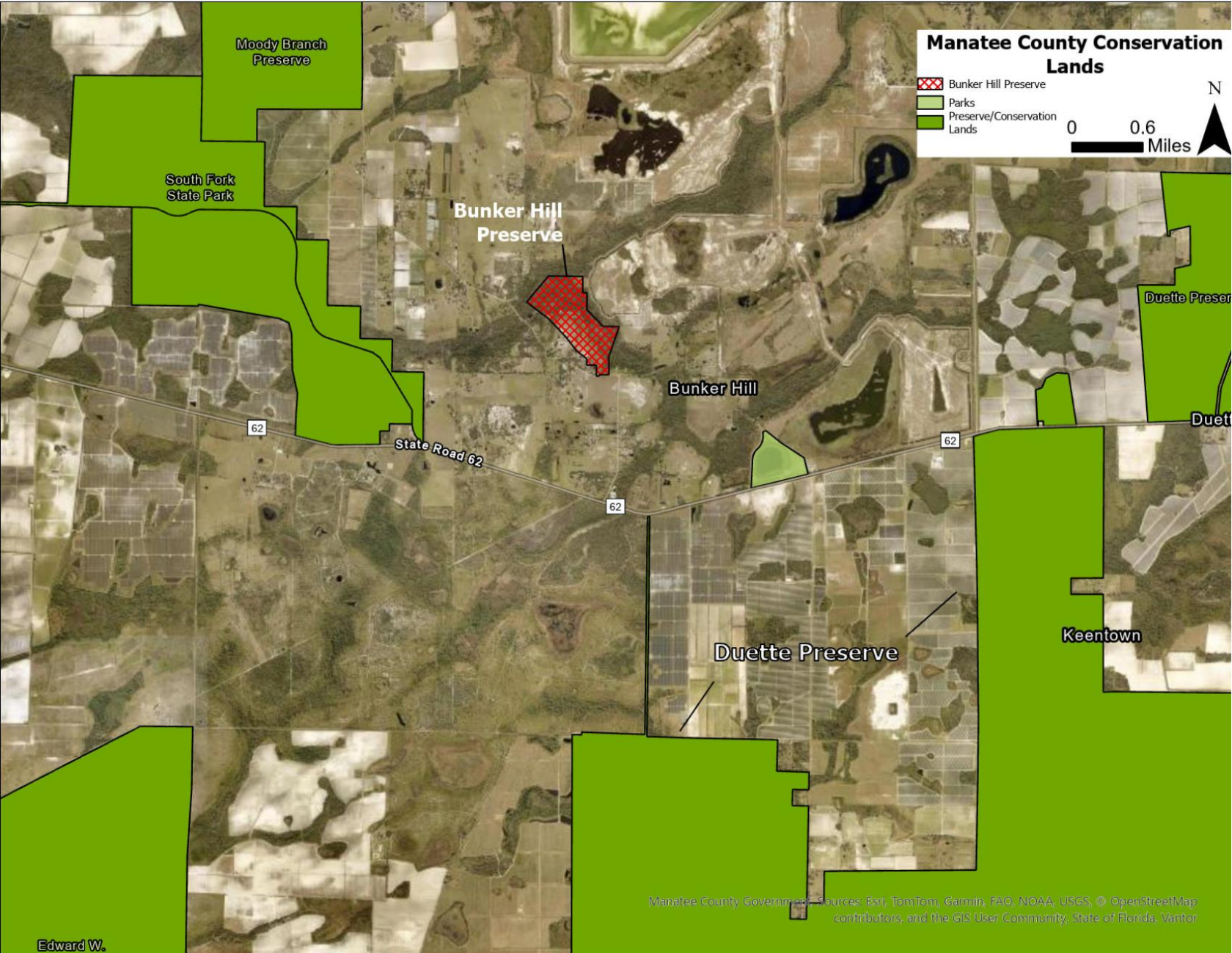
Capital Improvements and Equipment: Survey, Fencing, Parking, Trails, Equipment +/- \$225,000 non-recurring.

Restoration: +/- \$36,400 - Initial invasive species control for cogon grass and lygodium

Annual maintenance: \$12,000 (recurring)

Grants: Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund – potential for habitat restoration and water quality funding tied to Little Manatee River. FDEP's Recreational Trails Program – potential for trail funding; site near Florida Greenways and Trails System Land Trail priorities

Location Map



Land Use Land Cover Map

