

Conservation Collier

Initial Criteria Screening Report

Sit



Owner Names: Anita Sit
Folio Number: 41660840106
Size: 3.35 acres
Staff Report Date: November 5, 2025

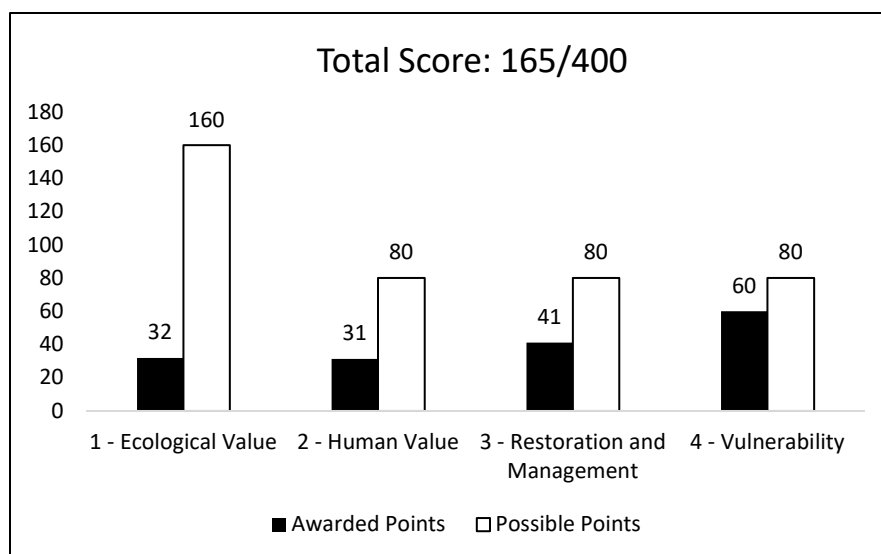


Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
1. Introduction	4
2. Summary of Property	5
Figure 1 - Parcel Location Overview	5
Figure 2 - Parcel Close-up	6
2.1 Summary of Property Information	7
Table 1 – Summary of Property Information	7
Figure 3 - Secondary Criteria Score	8
Table 2 - Secondary Criteria Score Summary	8
2.3 Initial Screening Criteria Satisfaction (Ord. 2002-63, as amended, Sec. 12)	9
3. Initial Screening Criteria	11
3.1 Ecological Values	11
3.1.1 Vegetative Communities	11
Figure 4 - CLIP4 Priority Natural Communities	12
Figure 5 - Florida Cooperative Land Cover Classification System	13
Figure 6 – Cabbage Palm / Oak Hammock understory	14
3.1.2 Wildlife Communities	15
Figure 7 - Wildlife Spatial Data (i.e., telemetry, roosts, etc)	15
Figure 8 - CLIP4 Potential Habitat Richness	16
3.1.3 Water Resources	17
Figure 9 - CLIP Aquifer Recharge Priority and Wellfield Protection Zones	18
Figure 10 - Collier County Soil Survey	19
Figure 11 LIDAR Elevation Map	20
3.1.4 Ecosystem Connectivity	21
Figure 12 - Conservation Lands	21
3.2 Human Values	22
3.2.1 Recreation	22
3.2.2 Accessibility	22
3.2.3 Aesthetic/Cultural Enhancement	23
3.3 Restoration and Management	23
3.3.1 Vegetation Management	23
3.3.1.1 Invasive Vegetation	23

3.3.1.2 Prescribed Fire	23
3.3.2 Remediation and Site Security.....	23
3.3.3 Assistance	23
3.4 Vulnerability.....	23
3.4.1 Zoning and Land Use	23
Figure 13 – Zoning.....	24
Figure 14 – Future Land Use	25
3.4.2 Development Plans	26
4. Acquisition Considerations	26
5. Management Needs and Costs	27
Table 3 - Estimated Costs of Site Remediation, Improvements, and Management	27
6. Potential for Matching Funds.....	27
7. Secondary Criteria Scoring Form.....	28
8. Additional Site Photos	33
APPENDIX 1 – Critical Lands and Water Identification Maps (CLIP) Definitions.....	37

1. Introduction

The Conservation Collier Program (Program) is an environmentally sensitive land acquisition and management program approved by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (Board) in 2002 and by Collier County Voters in 2002 and 2006. The Program was active in acquisition between 2003 and 2011, under the terms of the referendum. Between 2011 and 2016, the Program was in management mode. In 2017, the Collier County Board reauthorized Conservation Collier to seek additional lands (2/14/17, Agenda Item 11B). On November 3, 2020, the Collier County electors approved the Conservation Collier Re-establishment referendum with a 76.5% majority.

This Initial Criteria Screening Report (ICSR) has been prepared for the Conservation Collier Program to meet requirements specified in the Conservation Collier Implementation Ordinance, 2002-63, as amended, and for purposes of the Conservation Collier Program. The sole purpose of this report is to provide objective data to demonstrate how properties meet the criteria defined by the ordinance.

The following sections characterize the property location, elaborate on the initial and secondary screening criteria scoring, and describe potential funding sources, appropriate use, site improvements, and estimated management costs.

2. Summary of Property

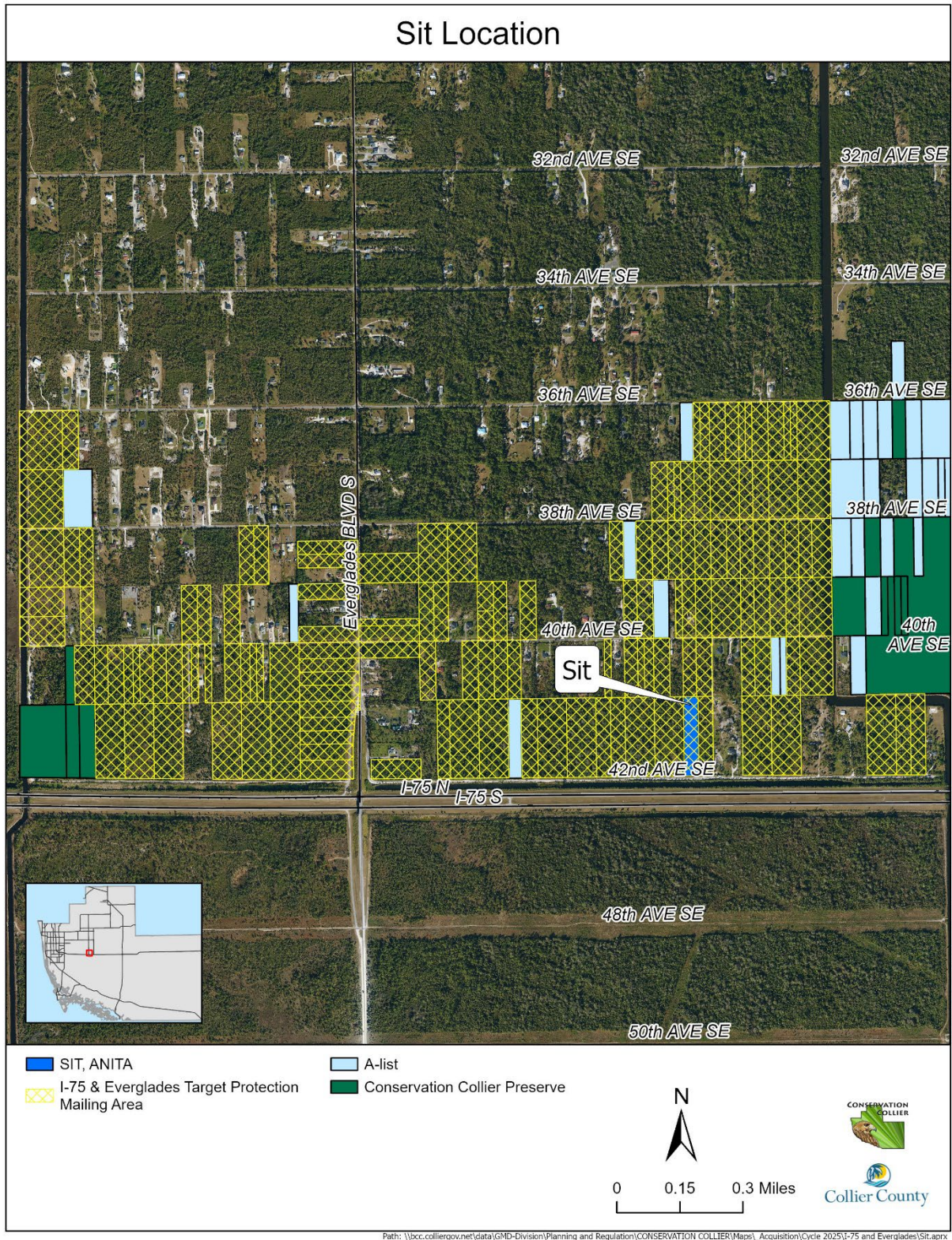


Figure 1 - Parcel Location Overview



Path: \\bcc.colliergov.net\data\GMD-Division\Planning and Regulation\CONSERVATION COLLIER\Maps_Acquisition\Cycle 2025\I-75 and Everglades\Sit.aprx

Figure 2 - Parcel Close-up

2.1 Summary of Property Information

Table 1 – Summary of Property Information

Characteristic	Value	Comments
Name	Sit	Anita Sit
Folio Numbers	41660840106	
Target Protection Area	NGGE	I-75 and Everglades Blvd. Target Protection Mailing Area
Size	3.35 acres	
Section, Township, and Range	S32, T49, R28	
Zoning Category/TDRs	Estates	1 unit per 2.25 acres
FEMA Flood Map Category	AH	1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.
Existing structures	None	
Adjoining properties and their Uses	Undeveloped; road and canal	Bordered by undeveloped lots to the E, W, and N; Southern third of lot adjacent to the east is cleared; Bordered on south side by 42 nd Ave SE., then a canal, then I-75
Development Plans Submitted	None	
Known Property Irregularities	None	
Other County Dept Interest	Transportation	Parcel is in the study area for the I-75 interchange between Everglades and Desoto Blvds.

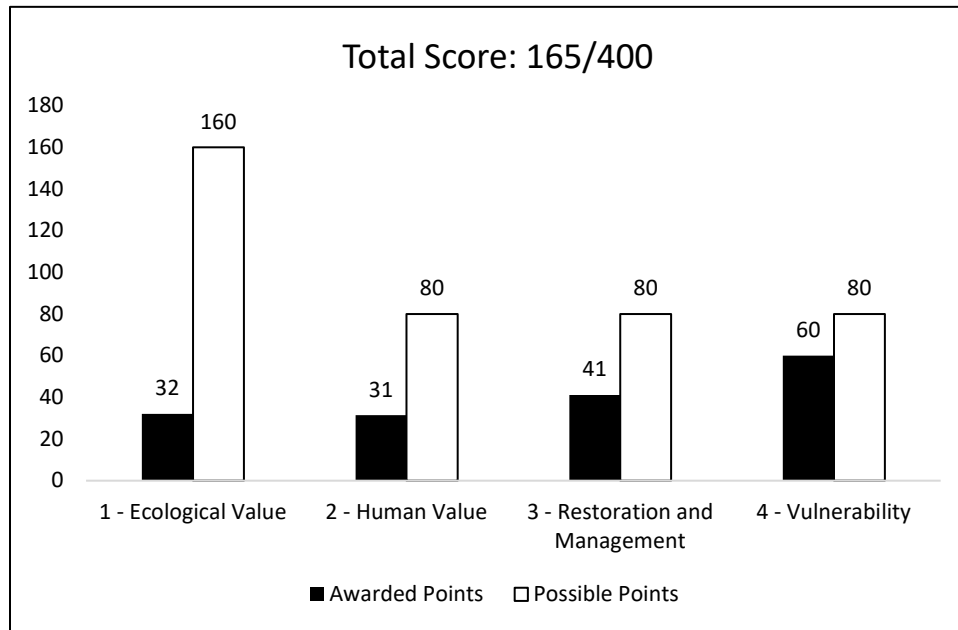


Figure 3 - Secondary Criteria Score

Table 2 - Secondary Criteria Score Summary

Criteria	Awarded Weighted Points	Possible Weighted Points	Awarded/Possible Points
1 - Ecological Value	32	160	20%
1.1 - Vegetative Communities	11	53	20%
1.2 - Wildlife Communities	16	27	60%
1.3 - Water Resources	5	27	20%
1.4 - Ecosystem Connectivity	0	53	0%
2 - Human Values	31	80	39%
2.1 - Recreation	11	34	33%
2.2 - Accessibility	17	34	50%
2.3 - Aesthetics/Cultural Enhancement	3	11	25%
3 - Restoration and Management	41	80	51%
3.1 - Vegetation Management	32	55	58%
3.2 - Remediation and Site Security	9	23	40%
3.3 - Assistance	0	2	0%
4 - Vulnerability	60	80	75%
4.1 - Zoning and Land Use	56	58	96%
4.2 - Development Plans	4	22	20%
Total	165	400	41%

2.3 Initial Screening Criteria Satisfaction (Ord. 2002-63, as amended, Sec. 12)

Criteria 1: CLIP Priority 1 Natural Community

Does the property contain Upland Hardwood Forest, Scrub, Coastal Upland, Dry Prairie, or Upland Pine? **NO**

Criteria 2: CLIP Priority 2 Natural Community

Does the property contain Pine Flatwoods or Coastal Wetlands? **NO**

Criteria 3: Other Native, Natural Communities

Does the property contain other native, natural communities? **YES**

The parcel contains cabbage palm/oak hammock.

Criteria 4: Human Social Values

Does the property offer cultural values, appropriate access for natural resource-based recreation, and the enhancement of the aesthetic setting of Collier County? **YES**

The parcel is visible and readily accessible from a public roadway and can be accessed year-round.

Criteria 5: Water Resources

Does the property offer opportunities for protection of water resource values, including aquifer recharge, water quality enhancement, protection of wetland dependent species habitat, wildfire risk reduction, storm surge protection, and flood control? **NO**

No wetlands appear to exist on site, and the parcel is mapped as containing non-hydric soils.

Criteria 6: Biological and Ecological Value

Does the property offer significant biological values, including biodiversity and listed species habitat? **NO**

Because of its small size, this parcel individually does not offer significant biological values.

Criteria 7: Enhancement of Current Conservation Lands

Does the property enhance and/or protect the environmental value of current conservation lands through function as a buffer, ecological link or habitat corridor? **NO**

The parcel is not adjacent to any conservation lands.

Criteria 8: Target Area

Is the property within a Board-approved target protection mailing area? **YES**

I-75 and Everglades Blvd. TPMA

The Sit parcel met 3 out of the 8 Initial Screening Criteria.

3. Initial Screening Criteria

3.1 Ecological Values

3.1.1 Vegetative Communities

The parcel is mapped as Mixed Shrubs and Mixed Wetland Hardwoods, but the vegetative community present is Cabbage Palm/Oak Hammock.

The Cabbage Palm/Oak Hammock canopy is dominated by cabbage palm (*Sabal Palmetto*) and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*). The midstory consists primarily of Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*), with some wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*), shortleaf wild coffee (*Psychotria tenuifolia*), mysine (*Myrsine cubana*), and cabbage palm. The understory consists of muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*) greenbriers (*Smilax* spp.), and swamp fern (*Telmatoblechnum serrulatum*). An open area consisting primarily of bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) was also observed on the southeastern side of the parcel.

Exotic plants are present at a total estimated density of approximately 50-75%. The primary invasive plant observed was Brazilian pepper. Lantana (*Lantana strigocamara*), guinea grass (*Urochloa maxima*), missiongrass (*Cenchrus polystachios*), and rose natal grass (*Melinis repens*) are also present.

The state endangered cardinal air plant (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) species was observed on the property during the site visit.

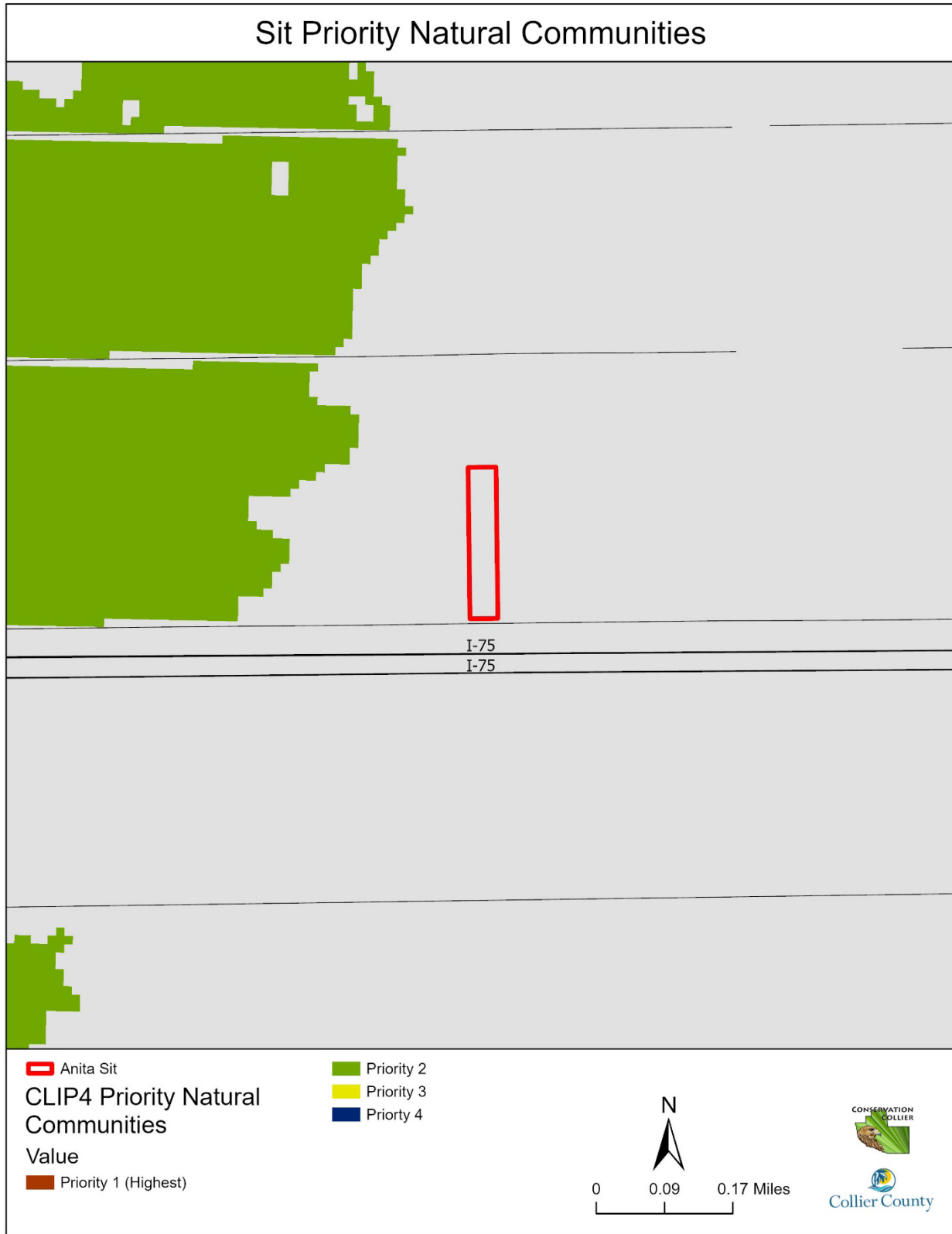


Figure 4 - CLIP4 Priority Natural Communities

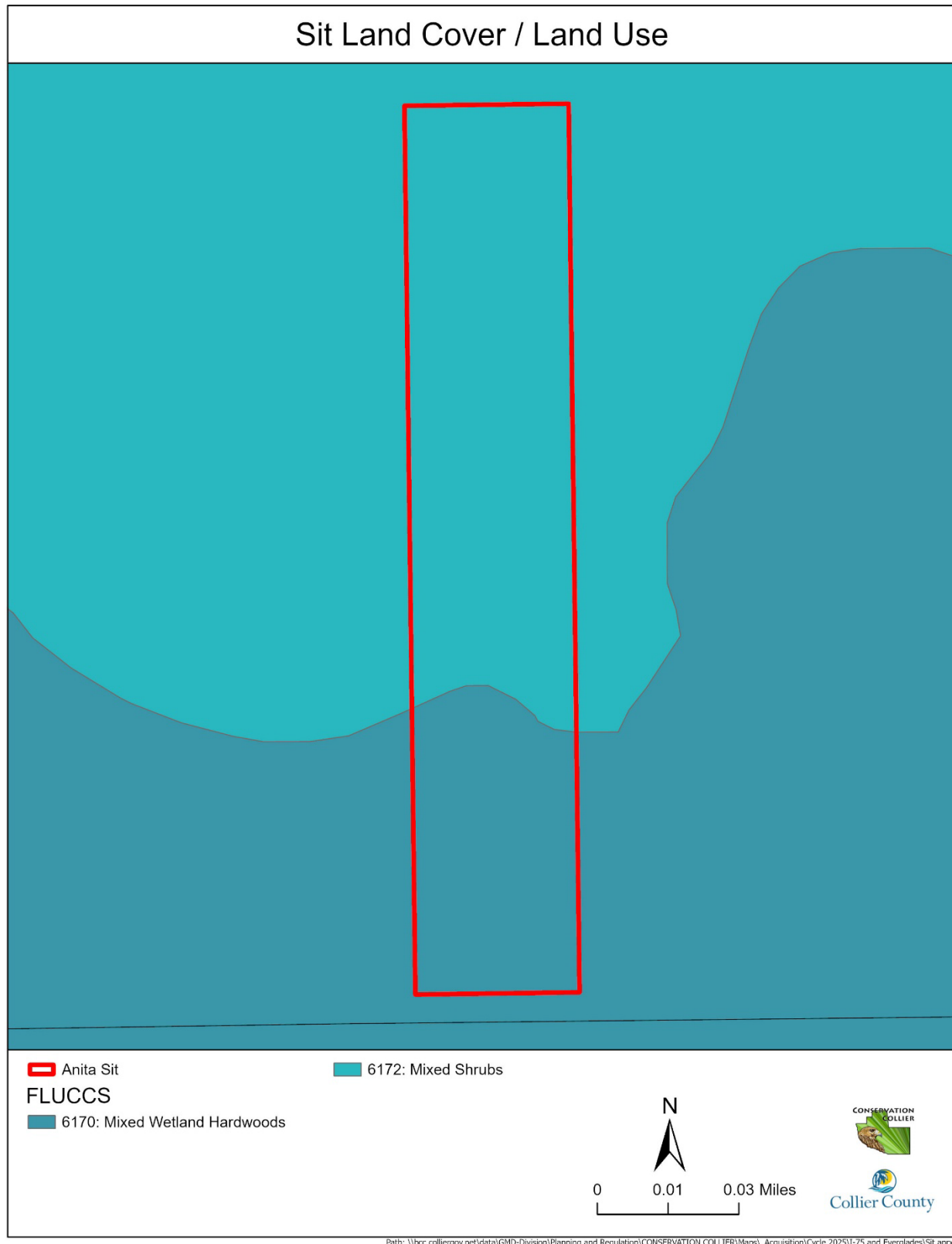


Figure 5 - Florida Cooperative Land Cover Classification System



Figure 6 – Cabbage Palm / Oak Hammock understory

3.1.2 Wildlife Communities

Multiple Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) and Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) telemetry points have been noted around the parcel.

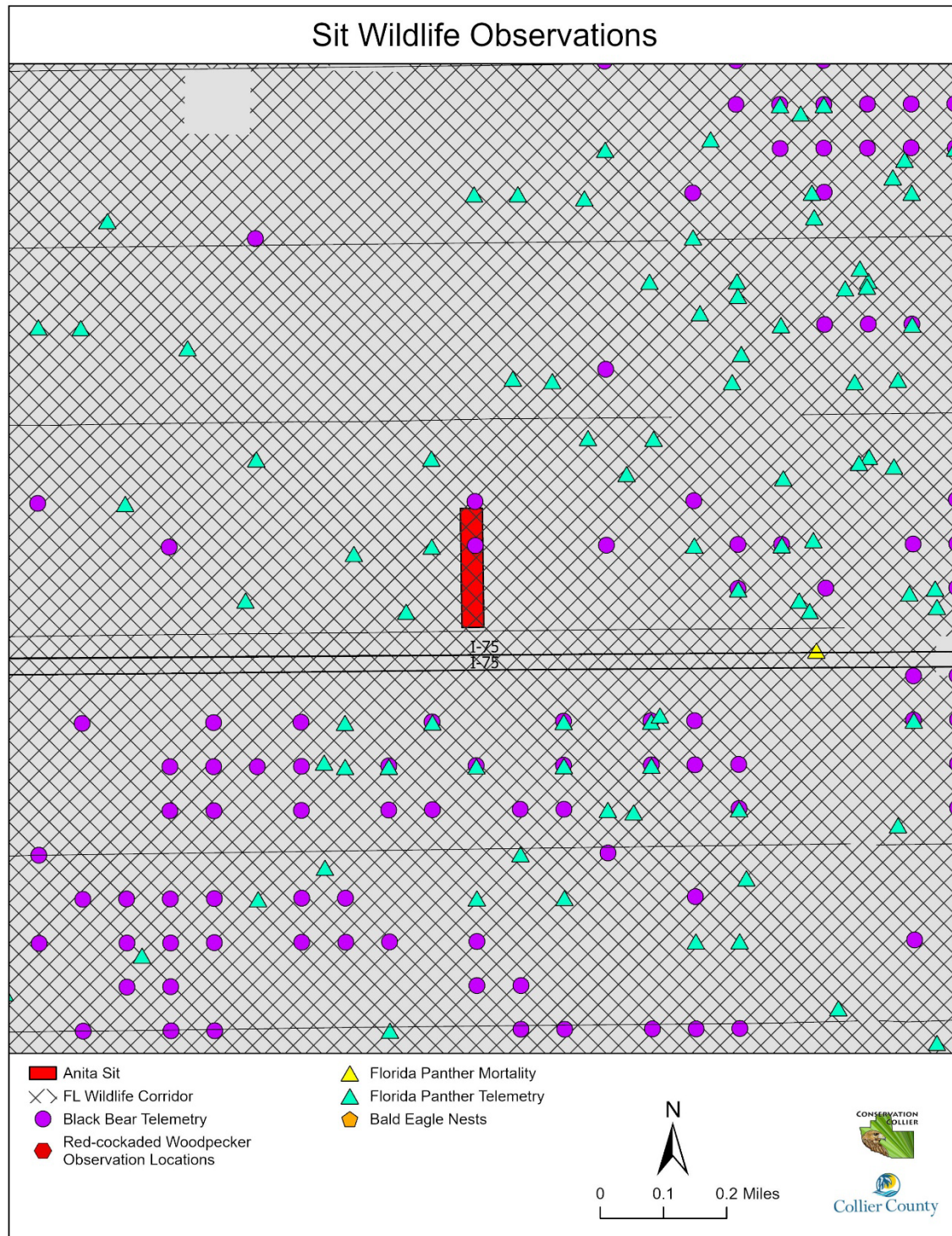


Figure 7 - Wildlife Spatial Data (i.e., telemetry, roosts, etc)

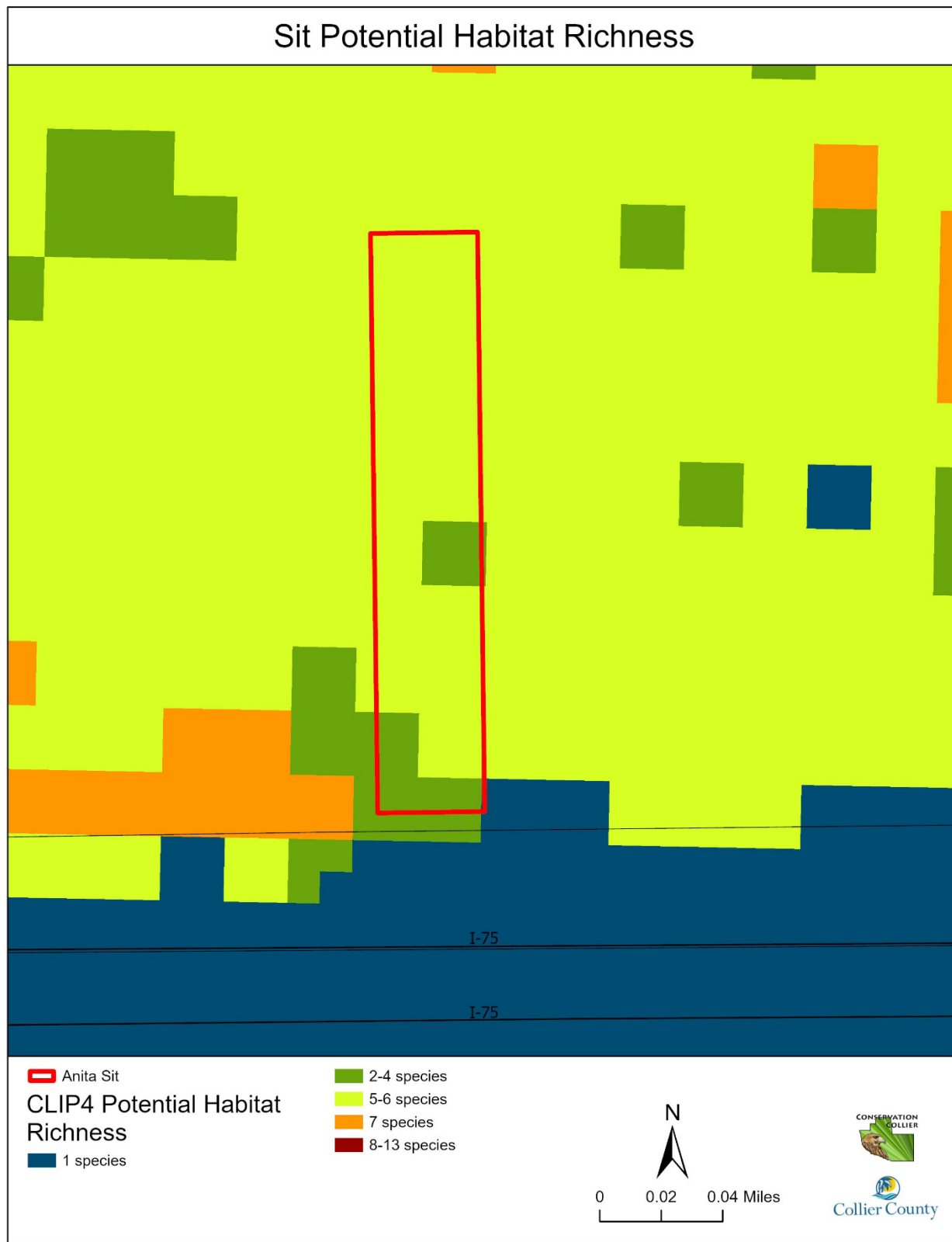


Figure 8 - CLIP4 Potential Habitat Richness

3.1.3 Water Resources

The parcel does little to protect water resources. It is mapped as containing non-hydric soils and does not appear to contain wetlands. Aquifer recharge mapping indicates very little contribution to recharge; however, the parcel does provide some buffering to the I-75 canal to the south.

Soils data is based on the Soil Survey of Collier County Area, Florida (USDA/NRCS, 1990). Soils mapped on the parcel are non-hydric. Mapped soil is "Hallandale Fine Sand" (nearly level, poorly drained soil associated with flatwoods).

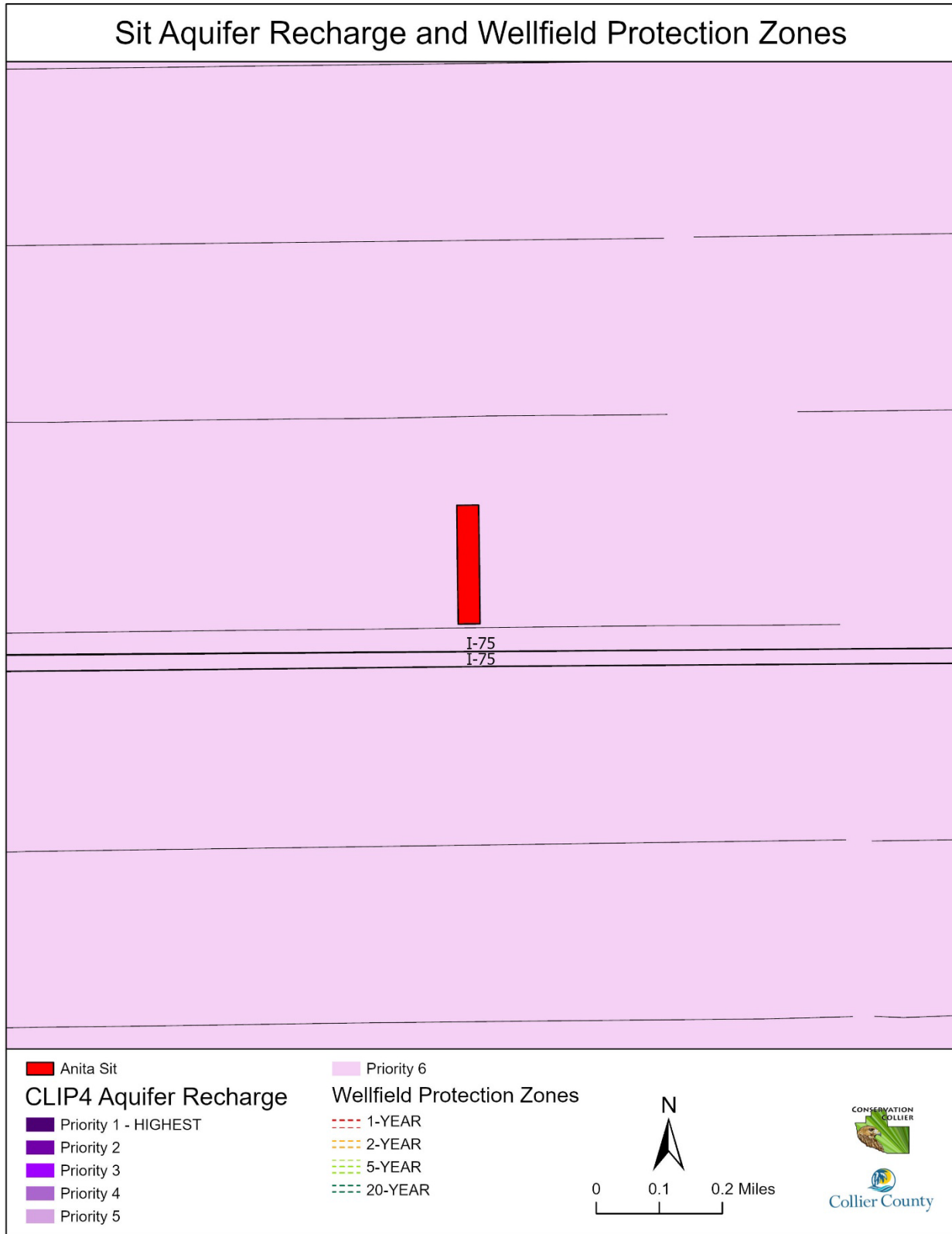


Figure 9 - CLIP Aquifer Recharge Priority and Wellfield Protection Zones

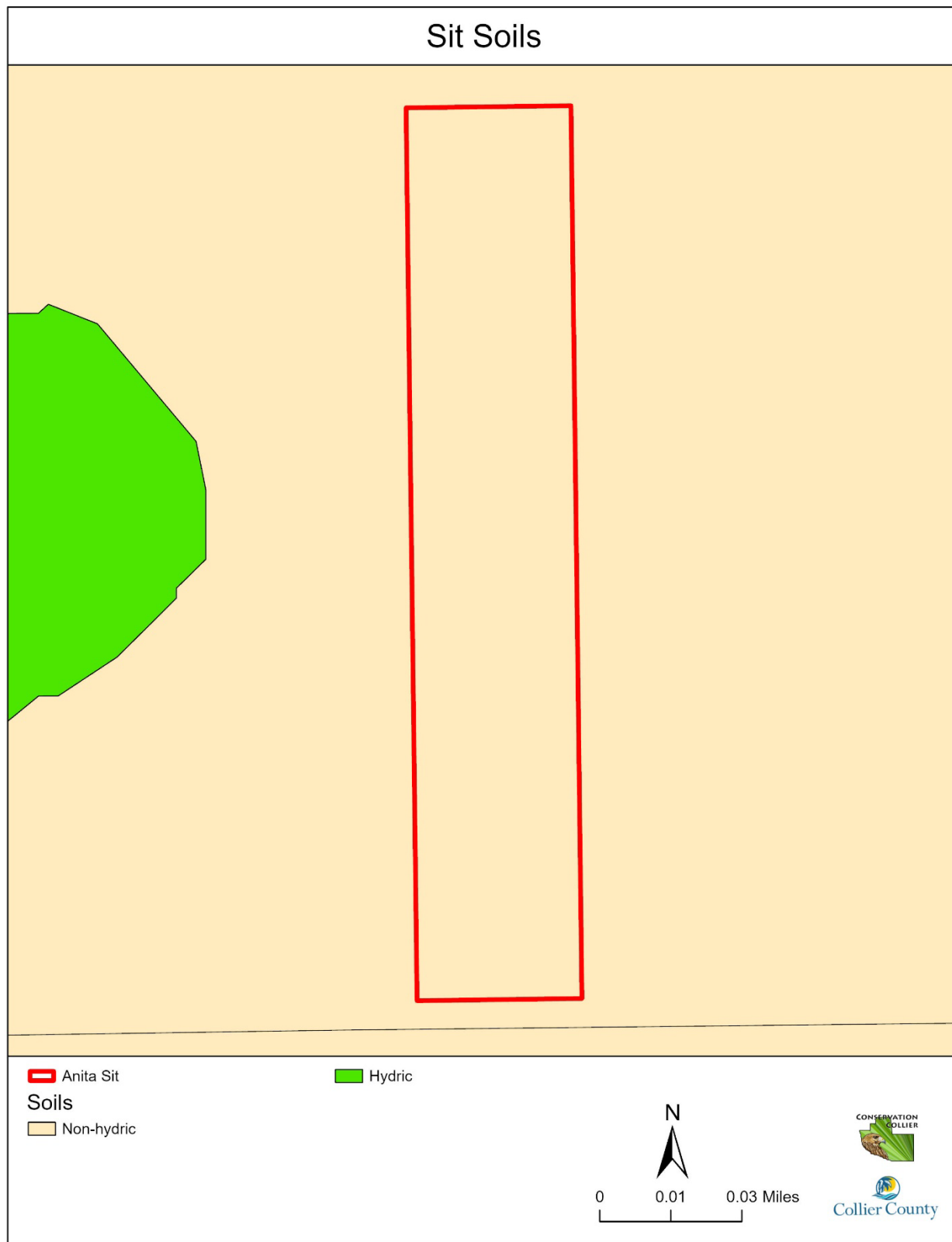


Figure 10 - Collier County Soil Survey

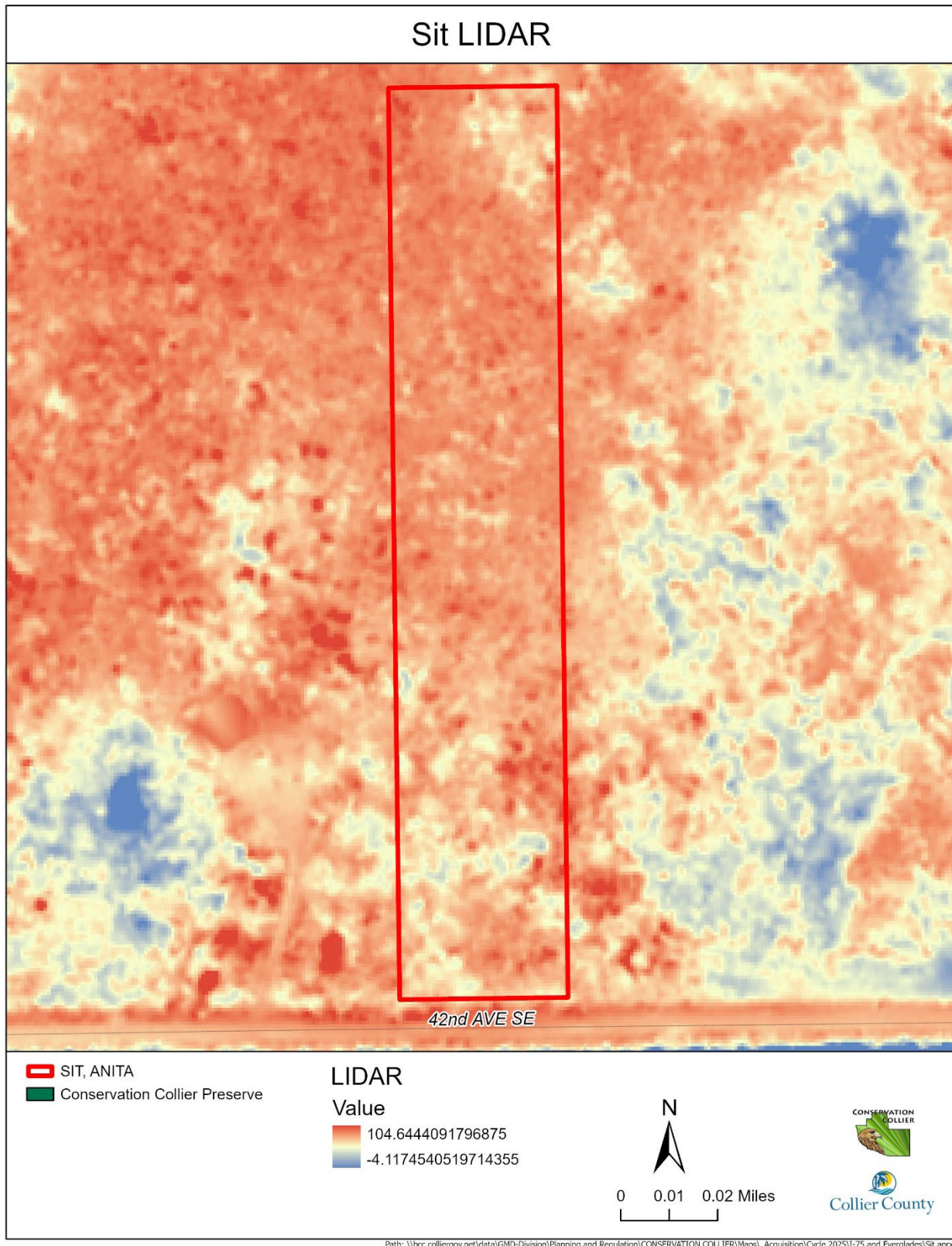


Figure 11 LIDAR Elevation Map

3.1.4 Ecosystem Connectivity

This parcel is not directly adjacent to conservation lands; however, the low-density nature of development in this area allows wildlife to move relatively unimpeded across the landscape. Picayune Strand State Forest is to the south across I-75 with a wildlife underpass west of the parcel, along the eastern side of the Miller Canal.

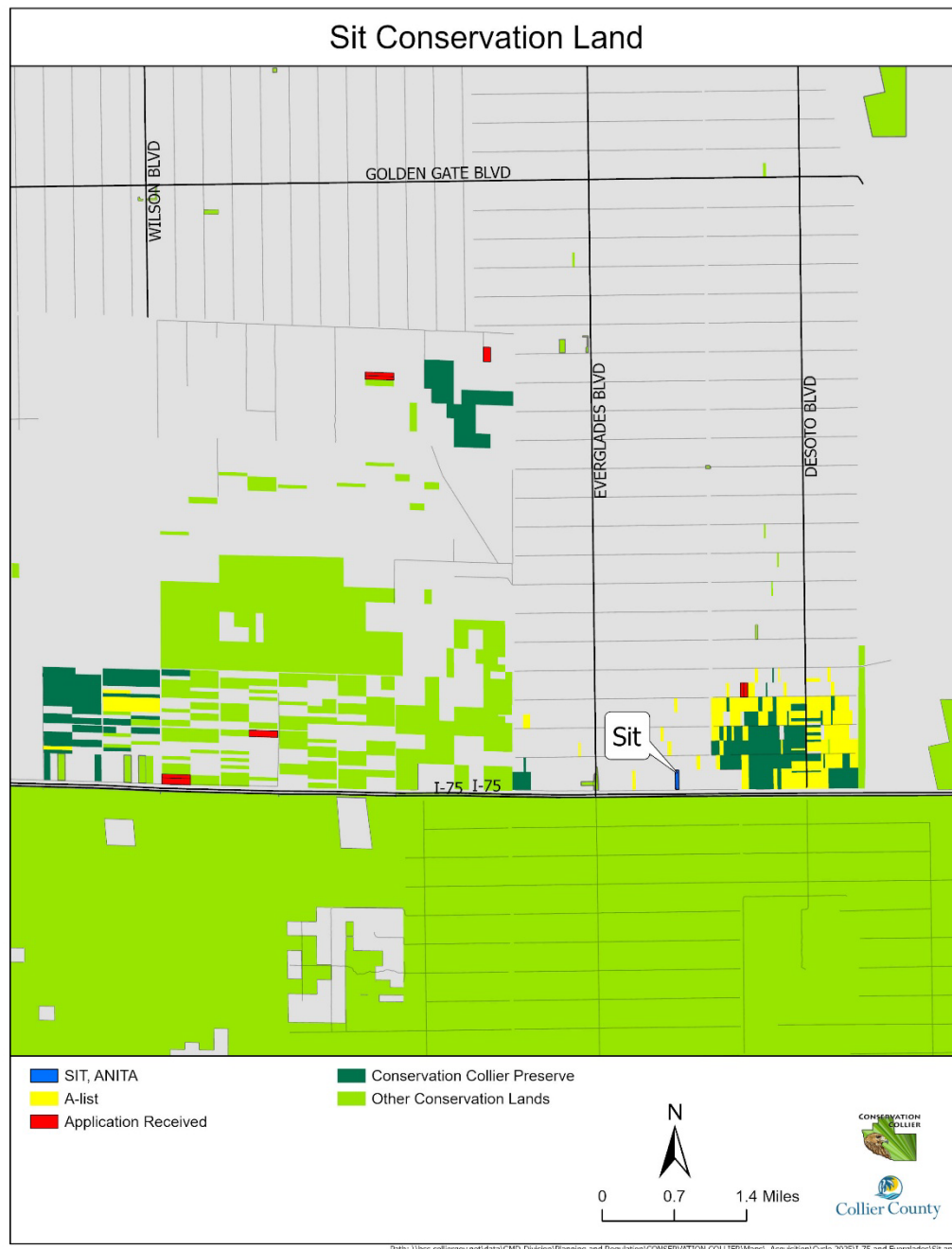


Figure 12 - Conservation Lands

3.2 Human Values

3.2.1 Recreation

This parcel could provide year-round access for passive, recreational activities including equestrian, and hiking.

3.2.2 Accessibility

The parcel is accessible via an unpaved road. Parking is available along 42nd Ave. SE.

3.2.3 Aesthetic/Cultural Enhancement

The parcel is visible from a public road.

3.3 Restoration and Management

3.3.1 Vegetation Management

3.3.1.1 Invasive Vegetation

Exotic plants are present at a total estimated density of approximately 70%. The primary invasive plant observed was Brazilian pepper throughout the property. Other invasive plants observed include Lantana, guinea grass, missiongrass, and rose natal grass.

3.3.1.2 Prescribed Fire

The natural community would benefit from fire; however, due to the parcel's small size and location, prescribed fire is not likely.

3.3.2 Remediation and Site Security

No site security issues appear to exist within the parcel. ATV trespass could become an issue if the parcel is opened up for public access.

3.3.3 Assistance

No management assistance is anticipated.

3.4 Vulnerability

3.4.1 Zoning and Land Use

The parcel is zoned Estates and have an allowable density of 1 unit per 2.25 acres.

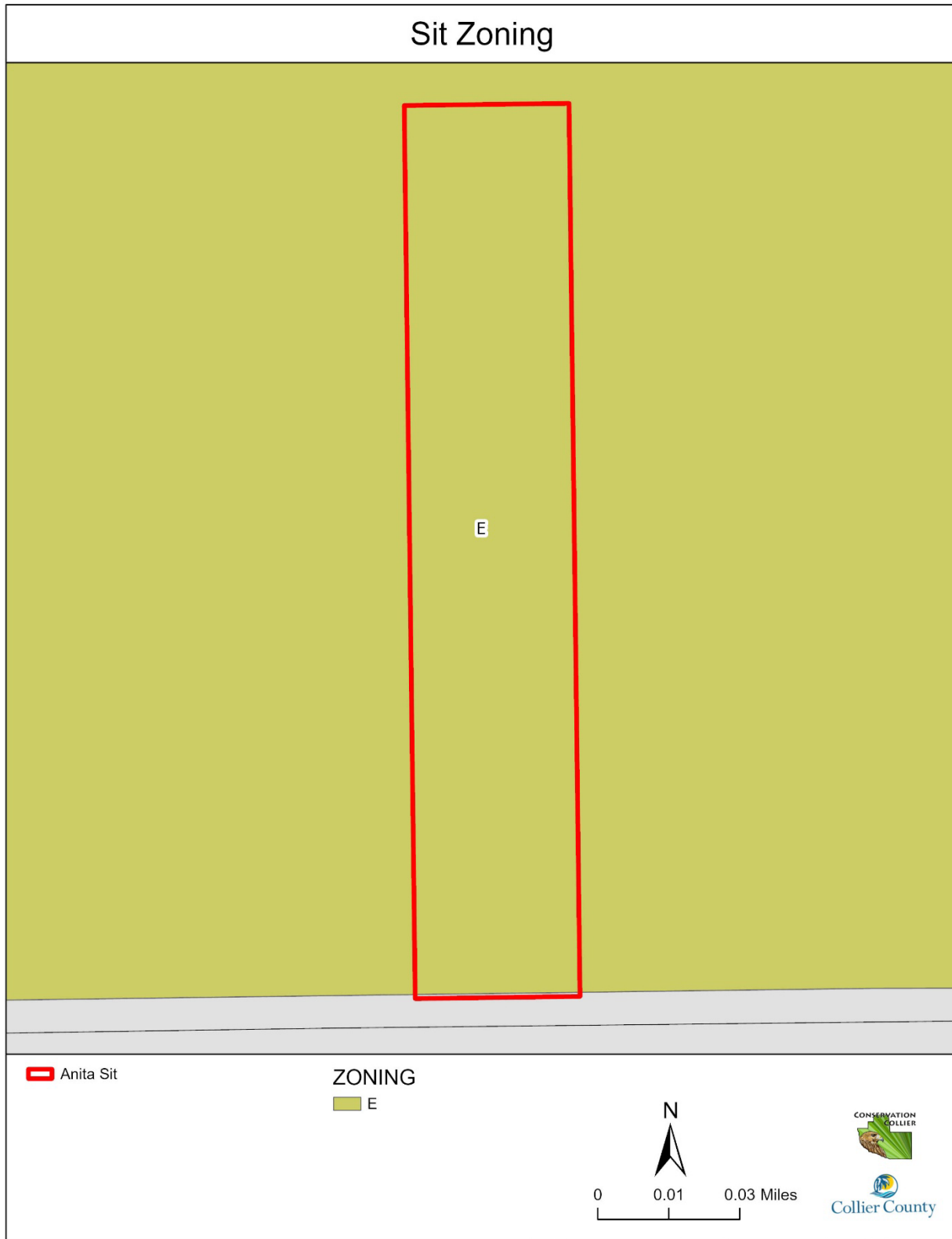


Figure 13 – Zoning

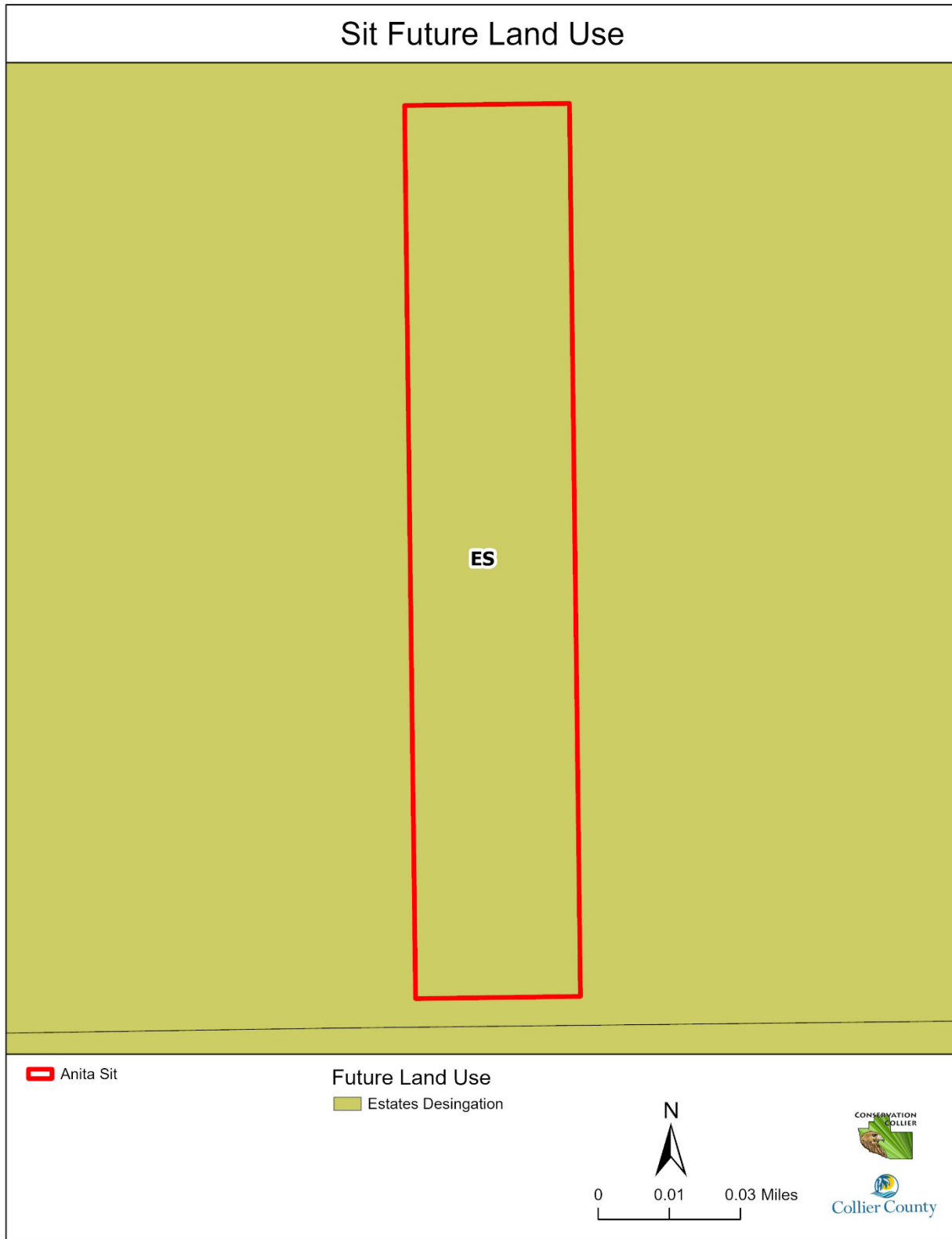


Figure 14 – Future Land Use

3.4.2 Development Plans

The parcel is not currently planned for development.

4. Acquisition Considerations

Staff would like to bring the following items to the attention of the Advisory Committee during the review of this property. The following items may not have significantly affected the scoring but are worth noting.

This parcel is within the study area for the I-75 interchange. The properties in this location could be impacted by future right-of-way needs or for stormwater ponds to support the right-of-way. If this property is approved for the A-List, staff will take this information into consideration when planning amenities and public access on the site. Additionally, when applicable, language will be memorialized in the Purchase Agreement and related closing documents to ensure Collier County Transportation will be able to purchase a portion of the property from Conservation Collier for future right-of-way, if and when needed, at the original per-acre acquisition cost.

5. Management Needs and Costs

Table 3 - Estimated Costs of Site Remediation, Improvements, and Management

Management Element	Initial Cost	Annual Recurring Cost	Comments
Invasive Vegetation Removal	\$2,010	\$500	Initial assumes \$600/acre; recurring assumes \$150/acre
Cabbage Palm reduction	\$1,340	N/A	Assumes \$400/acre
TOTAL	\$3,350	\$500	

6. Potential for Matching Funds

The primary partnering agencies for conservation acquisitions, and those identified in the ordinance are the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) and The Florida Forever Program. The following highlights potential for partnering funds, as communicated by agency staff.

Florida Communities Trust - Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program: The FCT Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program provides grant funds to local governments and nonprofit organizations to acquire conservation lands, urban open spaces, parks and greenways. Application for this program is typically made for pre-acquired sites up to two years from the time of acquisition. The Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program assists the Department of Environmental Protection in helping communities meet the challenges of growth, supporting viable community development and protecting natural resources and open space. The program receives 21 percent Florida Forever appropriation.

Florida Forever Program: The Conservation Collier Program has not been successful in partnering with the Florida Forever Program due to conflicting acquisition policies and issues regarding joint title between the programs.

Additional Funding Sources: There are no additional funding sources known at this time.

7. Secondary Criteria Scoring Form

Property Name: Sit			
Target Protection Mailing Area: I-75 and Everglades Blvd.			
Folio(s): 41660840106			
Secondary Criteria Scoring	Possible Points	Awarded Points	Percentage
1 - Ecological Value	160	32	20
2 - Human Value	80	31	39
3 - Restoration and Management	80	41	51
4 - Vulnerability	80	60	75
TOTAL SCORE	400	165	41
1 - ECOLOGICAL VALUES (40% of total)	Possible Points	Awarded Points	Comments
1.1 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES	200	40	
1.1.1 - Priority natural communities (Select highest score)			
a. Parcel contains CLIP4 Priority 1 communities (1130 - Rockland Hammock, 1210 - Scrub, 1213 - Sand Pine Scrub, 1214 - Coastal Scrub, 1312 - Scrubby Flatwoods, 1610 - Beach Dune, 1620 - Coastal Berm, 1630 - Coastal Grasslands, 1640 - Coastal Strand, or 1650 - Maritime Hammock)	100		
b. Parcel contains CLIP4 Priority 2 communities (22211 - Hydric Pine Flatwoods, 2221 - Wet Flatwoods, or 1311 - Mesic Flatwoods)	60		
c. Parcel contains CLIP4 Priority 3 communities (5250 - Mangrove Swamp, or 5240 - Salt Marsh)	50		
d. Parcel contains CLIP4 Priority 4 communities (5250 - Mangrove Swamp)	25		
1.1.2 - Plant community diversity (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel has ≥ 3 CLC native plant communities (Florida Cooperative Land Cover Classification System native plant communities)	20		
b. Parcel has ≤ 2 CLC native plant communities	10	10	Cabbage Palm/Oak Hammock
c. Parcel has 0 CLC native plant communities	0		
1.1.3 - Listed plant species (excluding commercially exploited species) (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel has ≥ 5 CLC listed plant species	30		
b. Parcel has 3-4 CLC listed plant species	20		
c. Parcel has ≤ 2 CLC listed plant species	10	10	tillandsia fasciculata
d. Parcel has 0 CLC listed plant species	0		
1.1.4 - Invasive Plant Infestation (Select highest score)			
a. 0 - 10% infestation	50		
b. 10 - 25% infestation	40		

c. 25 - 50% infestation	30		
d. 50 - 75% infestation	20	20	
e. ≥75% infestation	10		
1.2 - WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES	100	60	
1.2.1 - Listed wildlife species (Select the highest score)			
a. Listed wildlife species documented on the parcel	80		
b. Listed wildlife species documented on adjacent property	60	60	FL panther
c. CLIP Potential Habitat Richness ≥5 species	40		
d. No listed wildlife documented near parcel	0		
1.2.2 - Significant wildlife habitat (Rookeries, roosts, denning sites, nesting grounds, high population densities, etc) (Select highest score)			
a. Parcel protects significant wildlife habitat (Please describe)	20		
b. Parcel enhances adjacent to significant wildlife habitat (Please describe)	10		
c. Parcel does not enhance significant wildlife habitat	0	0	
1.3 - WATER RESOURCES	100	20	
1.3.1 - Aquifer recharge (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel is located within a wellfield protection zone or within a CLIP4 Aquifer Recharge Priority 1 area	40		
b. Parcel is located within a CLIP4 Aquifer Recharge Priority 2 or 3 area	30		
c. Parcel is located within a CLIP4 Aquifer Recharge Priority 4 or 5 area	20		
d. Parcel is located within a CLIP4 Aquifer Recharge Priority 6 area	0	0	
1.3.2 - Surface Water Protection (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel is contiguous with and provides buffering for an Outstanding Florida Waterbody	30		
b. Parcel is contiguous with and provides buffering for a creek, river, lake, canal or other surface water body	20	20	
c. Parcel is contiguous with and provides buffering for an identified flowway	15		
d. Wetlands exist on site	10		
e. Parcel does not provide opportunities for surface water quality enhancement	0		
1.3.3 - Floodplain Management (Select all that apply)			
a. Parcel has depressional or slough soils	10		
b. Parcel has known history of flooding and is likely to provide onsite water attenuation	10		
c. Parcel provides storm surge buffering	10		
d. Parcel does not provide floodplain management benefits	0	0	
1.4 - ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIVITY	200	0	
1.4.1 - Acreage (Select Highest Score)			
a. Parcel is ≥ 300 acres	150		
b. Parcel is ≥ 100 acres	100		
b. Parcel is ≥ 50 acres	75		

c. Parcel is ≥ 25 acres	25		
d. Parcel is ≥ 10 acres	15		
e. Parcel is < 10 acres	0	0	
1.4.2 - Connectivity (Select highest score)			
a. Parcel is immediately contiguous with conservation lands	50		
b. Parcel is not immediately contiguous, but parcels between it and nearby conservation lands are undeveloped	25		
c. Parcel is isolated from conservation land	0	0	
ECOLOGICAL VALUES TOTAL POINTS	600	120	
ECOLOGICAL VALUES WEIGHTED SCORE (Awarded Points/Possible Points*160)	160	32	
2 - HUMAN VALUES (20%)	Possible Points	Awarded Points	Comments
2.1 - RECREATION	120	40	
2.1.1 - Compatible recreation activities (Select all that apply)			
a. Hunting	20		
b. Fishing	20		
c. Water-based recreation (paddling, swimming, etc)	20		
d. Biking	20		
e. Equestrian	20	20	
f. Passive natural-resource based recreation (Hiking, photography, wildlife watching, environmental education, etc)	20	20	
g. Parcel is incompatible with nature-based recreation	0		
2.2 - ACCESSIBILITY	120	60	
2.2.1 - Seasonality (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel accessible for land-based recreation year round	20	20	
b. Parcel accessible for land-based recreation seasonally	10		
c. Parcel is inaccessible for land-based recreation	0		
2.2.2 - Vehicle access (Select the highest score)			
a. Public access via paved road	50		
b. Public access via unpaved road	30	30	
c. Public access via private road	20		
d. No public access	0		
2.2.3 - Parking Availability (Select the highest score)			
a. Minor improvements necessary to provide on-site parking	40		
b. Major improvements necessary to provide on-site parking (Requires site development plan)	25		
b. Public parking available nearby or on adjacent preserve	20		
c. Street parking available	10	10	
d. No public parking available	0		
2.2.4 - Pedestrian access (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel is easily accessible to pedestrians (within walking distance of housing development)	10		

b. Parcel is not easily accessible to pedestrians	0	0	
2.3 - AESTHETICS/CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT	40	10	
2.3.1 - Aesthetic/cultural value (Choose all that apply)			
a. Mature/outstanding native vegetation	5		
b. Scenic vistas	5		
c. Frontage enhances aesthetics of public thoroughfare	10	10	
d. Archaeological/historical structures present	15		
e. Other (Please describe)	5		
f. None	0		
HUMAN VALUES TOTAL SCORE	280	110	
HUMAN VALUES WEIGHTED SCORE (Awarded Points/Possible Points*80)	80	31	
3 - RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT (20%)	Possible Points	Awarded Points	Comments
3.1 - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	120	70	
3.1.1 - Invasive plant management needs (Select the highest score)			
a. Minimal invasive/nuisance plant management necessary to restore and maintain native plant communities (<30%)	100		
b. Moderate invasive/nuisance plant management necessary to restore and maintain native plant communities (30-65%)	75		
c. Major invasive/nuisance plant management necessary to restore and maintain native plant communities (>65%)	50	50	Exotics and Cabbage Palm reduction
d. Major invasive/nuisance plant management and replanting necessary to restore and maintain native plant communities (>65%)	25		
e. Restoration of native plant community not feasible	0		
3.1.2 - Prescribed fire necessity and compatibility (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel contains fire dependent plant communities and is compatible with prescribed fire or parcel does not contain fire dependent plant communities	20	20	
b. Parcel contains fire dependent plant communities and is incompatible with prescribed fire	0		
3.2 - REMEDIATION AND SITE SECURITY	50	20	
3.2.1 - Site remediation and human conflict potential (Dumping, contamination, trespassing, vandalism, other) (Select the highest score)			
a. Minimal site remediation or human conflict issues predicted	50		
b. Moderate site remediation or human conflict issues predicted (Please describe)	20	20	Potential ATV trespass

c. Major site remediation or human conflict issues predicted (Please describe)	5		
d. Resolving site remediation or human conflict issues not feasible	0		
3.3 - ASSISTANCE	5	0	
3.4.1 - Management assistance by other entity			
a. Management assistance by other entity likely	5		
b. Management assistance by other entity unlikely	0	0	
RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT TOTAL SCORE	175	90	
RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT WEIGHTED SCORE (Awarded Points/Possible Points*80)	80	41	
4 - VULNERABILITY (20%)	Possible Points	Awarded Points	Comments
4.1 - ZONING AND LAND USE	130	125	
4.1.1 - Zoning and land use designation (Select the highest score)			
a. Zoning allows for Single Family, Multifamily, industrial or commercial	100	100	
b. Zoning allows for density of no greater than 1 unit per 5 acres	75		
c. Zoning allows for agricultural use /density of no greater than 1 unit per 40 acres	50		
d. Zoning favors stewardship or conservation	0		
4.1.2 - Future Land Use Type (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel designated Urban	30		
b. Parcel designated Estates, Rural Fringe Receiving and Neutral, Agriculture	25	25	
c. Parcel designated Rural Fringe Sending, Rural Lands Stewardship Area	5		
d. Parcel is designated Conservation	0		
4.2 - DEVELOPMENT PLANS	50	10	
4.2.1 - Development plans (Select the highest score)			
a. Parcel has been approved for development	20		
b. SFWMD and/or USACOE permit has been applied for or SDP application has been submitted	15		
c. Parcel has no current development plans	0	0	
4.2.2 - Site characteristics amenable to development (Select all that apply)			
a. Parcel is primarily upland	10	10	
b. Parcel is along a major roadway	10		
c. Parcel is >10 acres	5		
d. Parcel is within 1 mile of a current or planned commercial or multi-unit residential development	5		
VULNERABILITY TOTAL SCORE	180	135	
VULNERABILITY WEIGHTED SCORE (Awarded Points/Possible Points*80)	80	60	

8. Additional Site Photos



View from 42nd Ave. SE



Understory



Cabbage palms and oaks with Brazilian pepper in foreground



View from east side of parcel looking west



Drone photo looking south



Drone photo looking down into middle of property



Drone photo looking south



Drone photo looking north

APPENDIX 1 – Critical Lands and Water Identification Maps (CLIP) Definitions

This report makes use of data layers from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and University of Florida Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP4). CLIP4 is a collection of spatial data that identify statewide priorities for a broad range of natural resources in Florida. It was developed through a collaborative effort between the Florida Areas Natural Inventory (FNAI), the University of Florida GeoPlan Center and Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). It is used in the Florida Forever Program to evaluate properties for acquisition. CLIP4 is organized into a set of core natural resource data layers which are representative of 5 resource categories: biodiversity, landscapes, surface water, groundwater and marine. The first 3 categories have also been combined into the Aggregated layer, which identifies 5 priority levels for natural resource conservation.

Below is a description of each of the three CLIP4 data layers used in this report.

Figure 4 - CLIP4 Priority Natural Communities

Consists of 12 priority natural community types: upland glades, pine rocklands, seepage slopes, scrub, sandhill, sandhill upland lakes, rockland hammock, coastal uplands, imperiled coastal lakes, dry prairie, upland pine, pine flatwoods, upland hardwood forest, or coastal wetlands. These natural communities are prioritized by a combination of their heritage global status rank (G-rank) and landscape context, based on the Land Use Intensity Index (subset of CLIP Landscape Integrity Index) and FNAI Potential Natural Areas. Priority 1 includes G1-G3 communities with Very High or High landscape context. Priority 2 includes G1-G3 Medium and G4 Very High/High. Priority 3 includes G4 Medium and G5 Very High/High. Priority 5 is G5 Medium.

This data layer was created by FNAI originally to inform the Florida Forever environmental land acquisition program. The natural communities were mapped primarily based on the FNAI/FWC Cooperative Land Cover (CLC) data layer, which is a compilation of best-available land cover data for the entire state. The CLC is based on both remote-sensed (from aerial photography, primarily from water management district FLUCCS data) and ground-truthed (from field surveys on many conservation lands) data.

Figure 8 - Potential Habitat Richness CLIP4 Map

This CLIP version 4.0 data layer is unchanged from CLIP v3.0. FWC Potential Habitat Richness. Because SHCAs do not address species richness, FWC also developed the potential habitat richness layer to identify areas of overlapping vertebrate species habitat. FWC created a statewide potential habitat model for each species included in their analysis. In some cases, only a portion of the potential habitat was ultimately designated as SHCA for each species. The Potential Habitat Richness layer includes the entire potential habitat model for each species and provides a count of the number of species habitat models occurring at each location. The highest number of focal species co-occurring at any location in the model is 13.

Figure 9 - CLIP4 Aquifer Recharge Priority and Wellfield Protection Zones

High priorities indicate high potential for recharge to an underlying aquifer system (typically the Floridan aquifer but could be intermediate or surficial aquifers in some portions of the state). The highest priorities indicate high potential for recharge to springs or public water supplies. This figure also includes Wellfield Protection Zones. Collier County Wellfield Protection Zones are referenced in the Land Development Code and updated in 2010 by Pollution Control and Prevention Department Staff. The public water supply wellfields, identified in section 3.06.06 and permitted by the SFWMD for potable water to withdraw a minimum of 100,000 average gallons per day (GPD), are identified as protected wellfields, around which specific land use and activity (regulated development) shall be regulated under this section.