

Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

Mini Stewardship Plan

7630 Stringfellow Road
Saint James City, FL 33956



Prepared by the Land Stewardship Section
Lee County Department of Parks and Recreation

Approved by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners: 2/14/2012

Summary

Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside (PIFP- B) is located in the southern portion of Pine Island in Lee County within Sections 10 & 11, Township 45S, Range 22E (Figure 1). The 190 acre parcel, nomination 389, was purchased in August 2011 through the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program (C20/20) for \$2,000,000 plus closing costs. The Calusa Land Trust and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast (CFGC) each donated \$10,000 toward the purchase of the property. The CFGC provided an additional one time donation of \$200,000 for restoration of the site. The donation is tracked in the quarterly budget report and is to only be used on PIFP-B (Appendix A). The STRAP numbers for PIFP-B are 10-45-22-00-00001.0000 and 11-45-22-00-00001.0000 (Figure 2). PIFP-B is immediately adjacent to the 230 acre Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass, owned by the CFGC.

There are six soil types found on the Preserve. Fifty-two percent (101.0 acres) is Myakka Fine Sand, twenty-one percent (39.3 acres) is Hallandale Fine Sand, Slough, nine percent (16.3 acres) is Hallandale Fine Sand, eight percent (15.4 acres) is Peckish Mucky Fine Sand, seven percent (13 acres) is Pompano Fine Sand and three percent (5 acres) is Isles Fine Sand (Figure 3). The majority of these soils is hydric soils.

Review of a 1944 historical aerial shows a ditch and berm that parallel the southern boundary and a dirt trail north of the southern boundary. No other disturbance is evident. By 1958 agricultural fields and associated ditching had been installed in the western portion of the parcel and the central wetland had been ditched. By 1972 mosquito ditches had been installed in a small portion of the mangroves and additional clearing is evident. By 2002 Jeep trails were noticeable on the eastern portions of the property (Figures 4-8).

The entire Preserve lies within Lee County's South Pine Island Watershed. A drainage ditch runs southeast along the southern property line. The ditch conveys water from Stringfellow to Matlacha Pass. C 20/20 staff will work with Lee County Natural Resources staff to determine its need and maintenance schedule. Two of the three agricultural wells were capped prior to the purchase of the property. No easements currently occur on the property.

Approximately 70 acres of PIFP-B is designated as Archaeological "Sensitivity Level 2" (Figure 9). The Preserve has an existing land use of Coastal Rural and Wetlands and will be changed to Conservation Lands Uplands and Wetlands in the future (Figure 10) and is zoned as agriculture and light commercial (Figure 11). Staff will work to change the Future Land Use Map to Conservation Lands Upland and Wetland and the zoning to Environmentally Critical.

Land Stewardship staff will perform tri-annual site inspections and has posted boundary signs along the Preserve's boundary.

The plant communities present at PIFP-B are disturbed scrubby flatwoods (85.33 acres), improved pasture (69.34 acres), mangrove (21.2 acres), melaleuca monoculture (4.25 acres), and mixed exotics (9.89 acres) (Figure 12). The communities are similar to those found on the other portions of Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve and will not be further described here. Please see the Land Stewardship Operations Manual for complete descriptions of the plant communities (<http://www.conservation2020.org/index.cfm>).

Stewardship of this site will involve mechanical removal of the large exotic plants and follow-up herbicide treatments for the stumps and seedlings, and small exotics. A prescribed fire regime of every 3-5 years is recommended for the pine flatwoods once initial exotic plant removal has been conducted. Over time, C20/20 staff will work on a restoration plan for what is currently pasture. In the interim, cattle will be used in the pasture to control invasive exotic plants (Appendix B).

Permits for the mechanical removal have been submitted to the South Florida Water Management District and United States Army Corps of Engineers for approval. The removal of mature melaleuca and Australian pines is planned for the 2012 dry season. Follow-up contract herbicide work will occur shortly after the mechanical work is complete.

Although not noted at PIFP-B, this preserve, like all C20/20 preserves, does not contain nor will it support feral cat colonies. FWC's Feral and Free Ranging Cats policy is *"To protect native wildlife from predation, disease, and other impacts presented by feral and free-ranging cats"* (FWC 2003). Any feral cats will be trapped and taken to Lee County Animal Services.

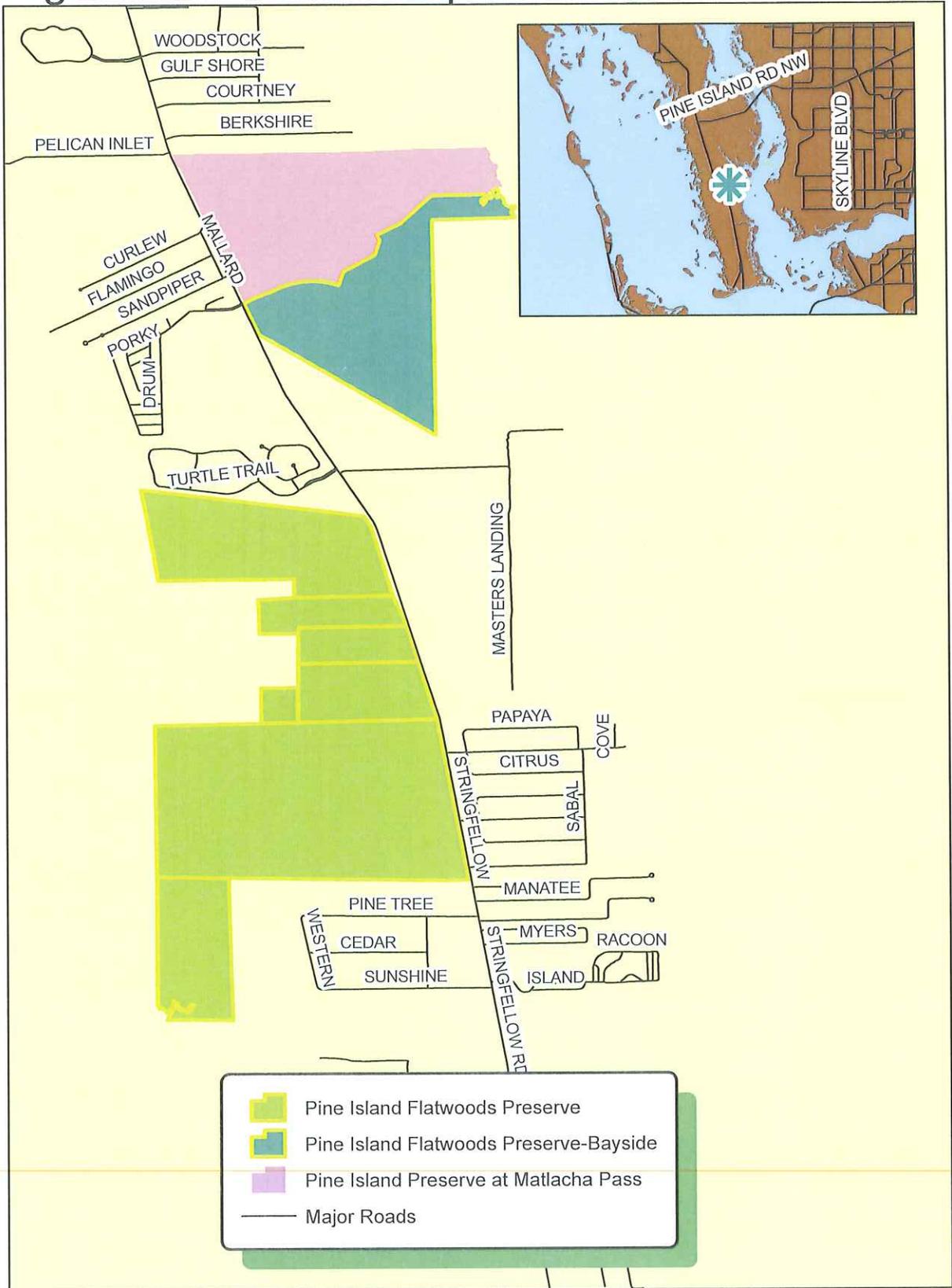
Due to the close proximity of the rest of Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve, Galt Preserve, and the CFGC's Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass recreational offerings will be minimal. Hiking trails, a canoe/kayak launch, picnic areas and associated parking and restrooms are planned on the immediately adjacent Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass. Recreational trails on PIFP-B will be limited to primitive at grade hiking trails which will loop into the adjacent preserve's trails once restoration has been completed. No parking or other facilities are planned since two other Conservation 20/20 preserves within five miles host (or will soon host) public amenities.

A separate plant and wildlife species list was not generated for this tract. A plant list compiled primarily by Dr. George Wilder and a wildlife list compiled by staff and the Bird Patrol volunteers can be found in the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve plant and wildlife lists found at the following link: (http://www.conservation2020.org/preservedetails.cfm?proj_no=247).

To date, the only listed species observed are gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

This mini plan is being drafted so that exotic plant removal and limited restoration may begin. This portion of the preserve will be incorporated with the Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Land Stewardship Plan once the ten year update is written (anticipated in 2016).

Figure 1: Location Map



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

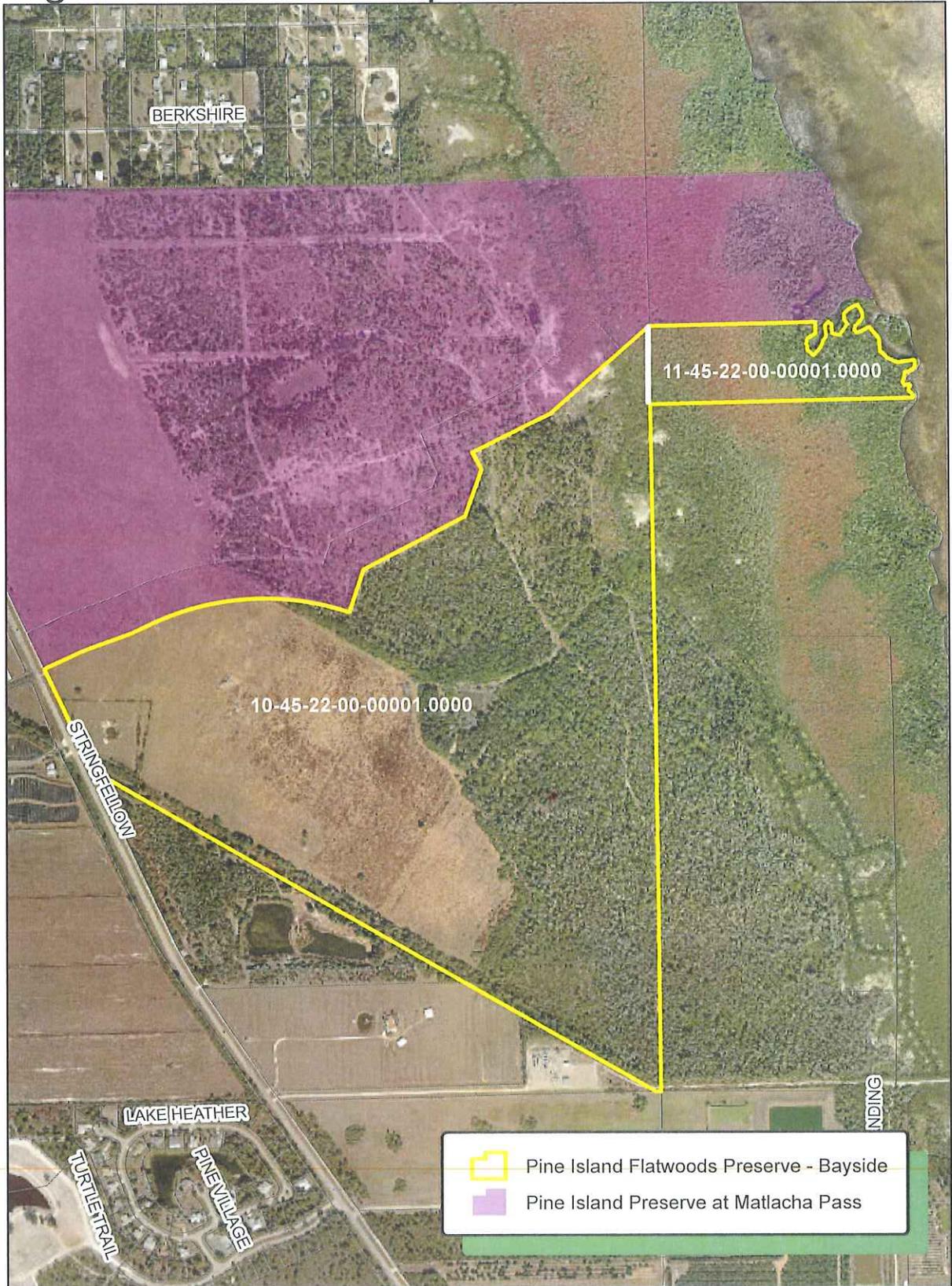


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 PIFP_Bayside_Location_Map.mxd

Map Prepared On: 12/12/2011
 by jlowery@leegov.com

This is not a survey. Land Stewardship Staff has prepared this map for informational and planning purposes.

Figure 2: STRAP Map



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

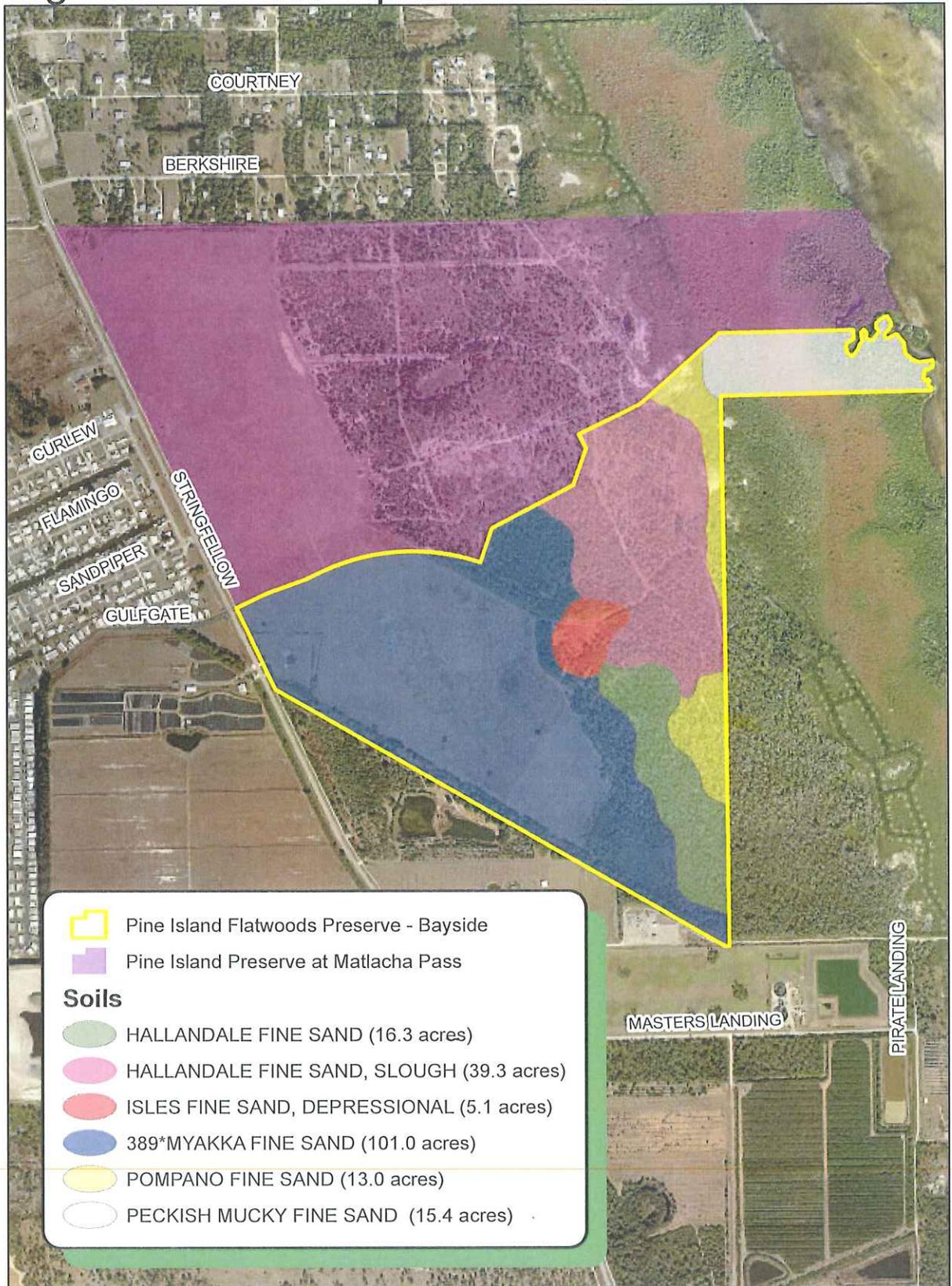
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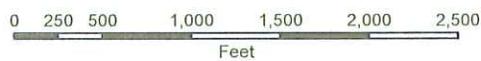
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Figure 3: Soils Map



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

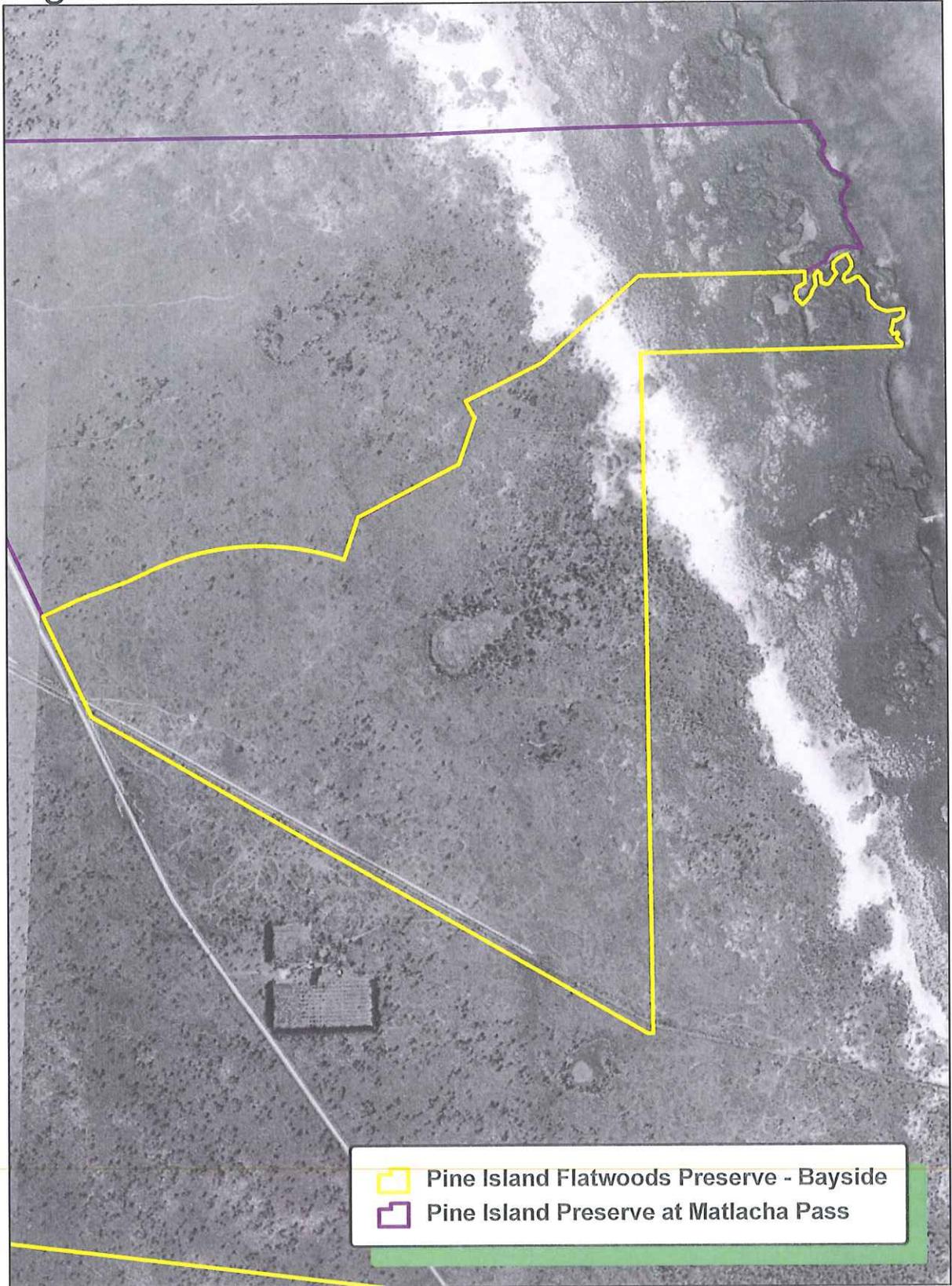


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Figure 4: 1944 Aerial



 Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside
 Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass

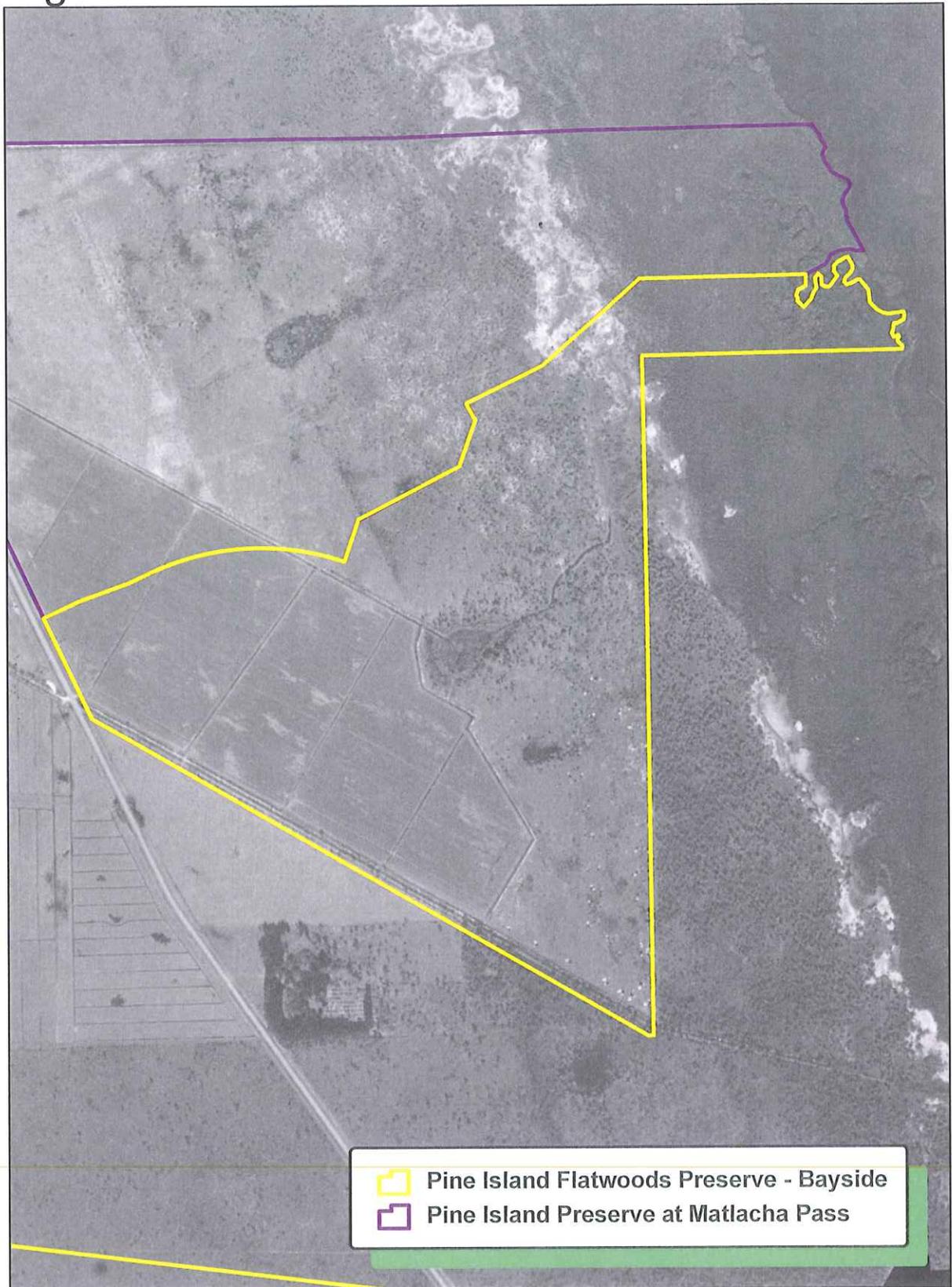


Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside



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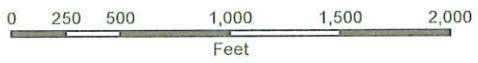
Figure 5: 1958 Aerial



-  Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside
-  Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

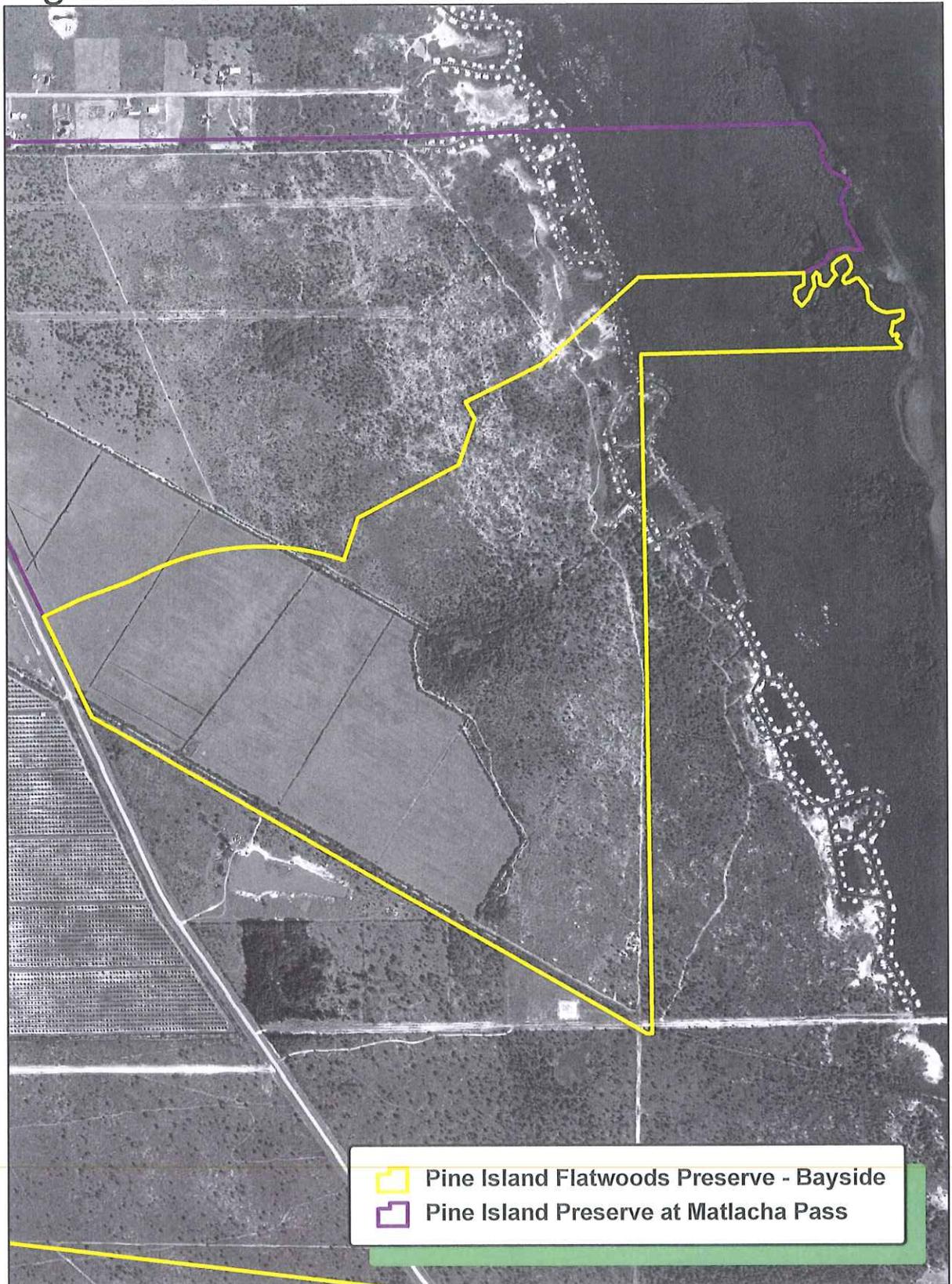


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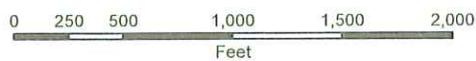
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Figure 6: 1972 Aerial



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

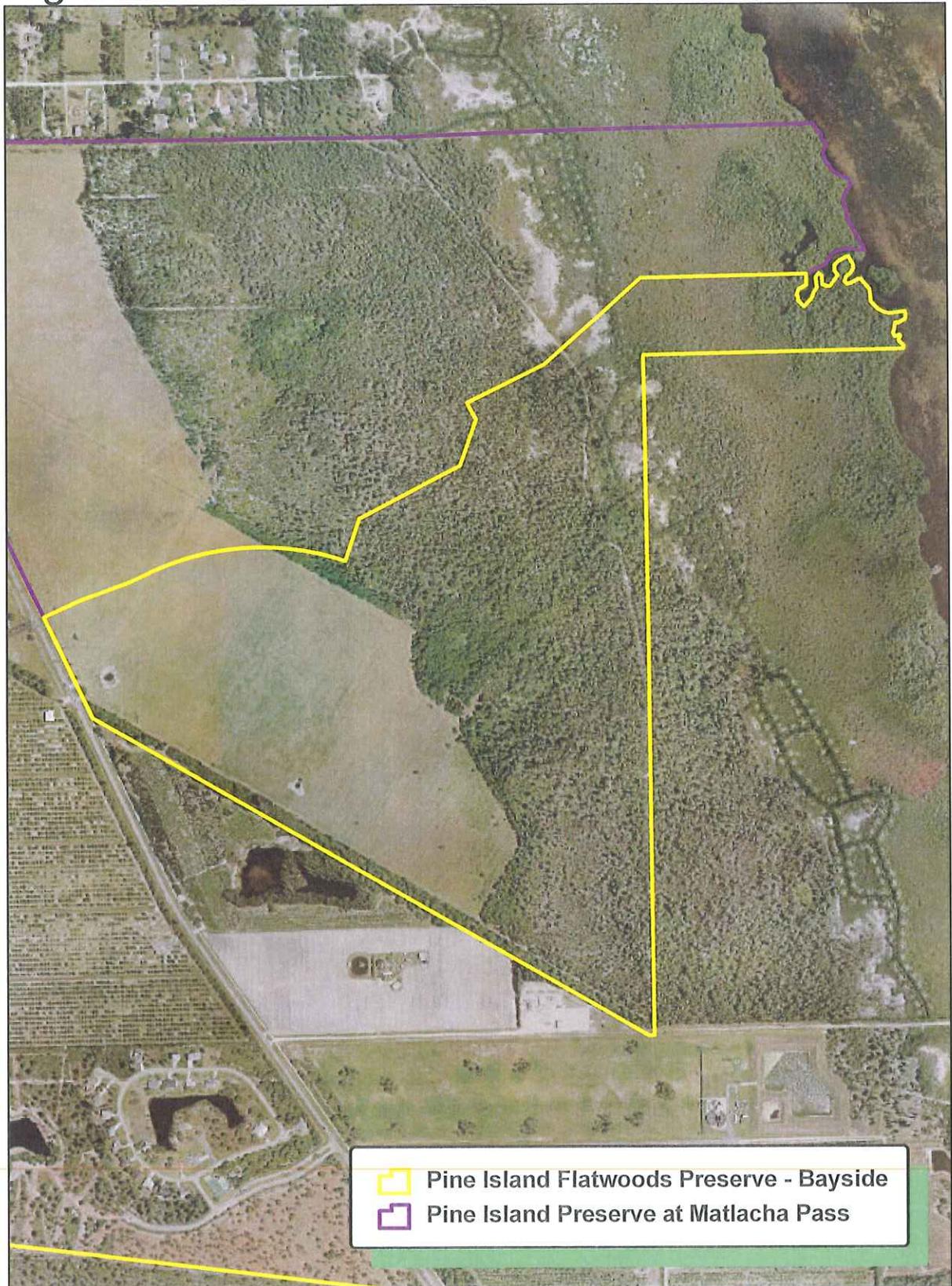


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Figure 7: 2002 Aerial



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

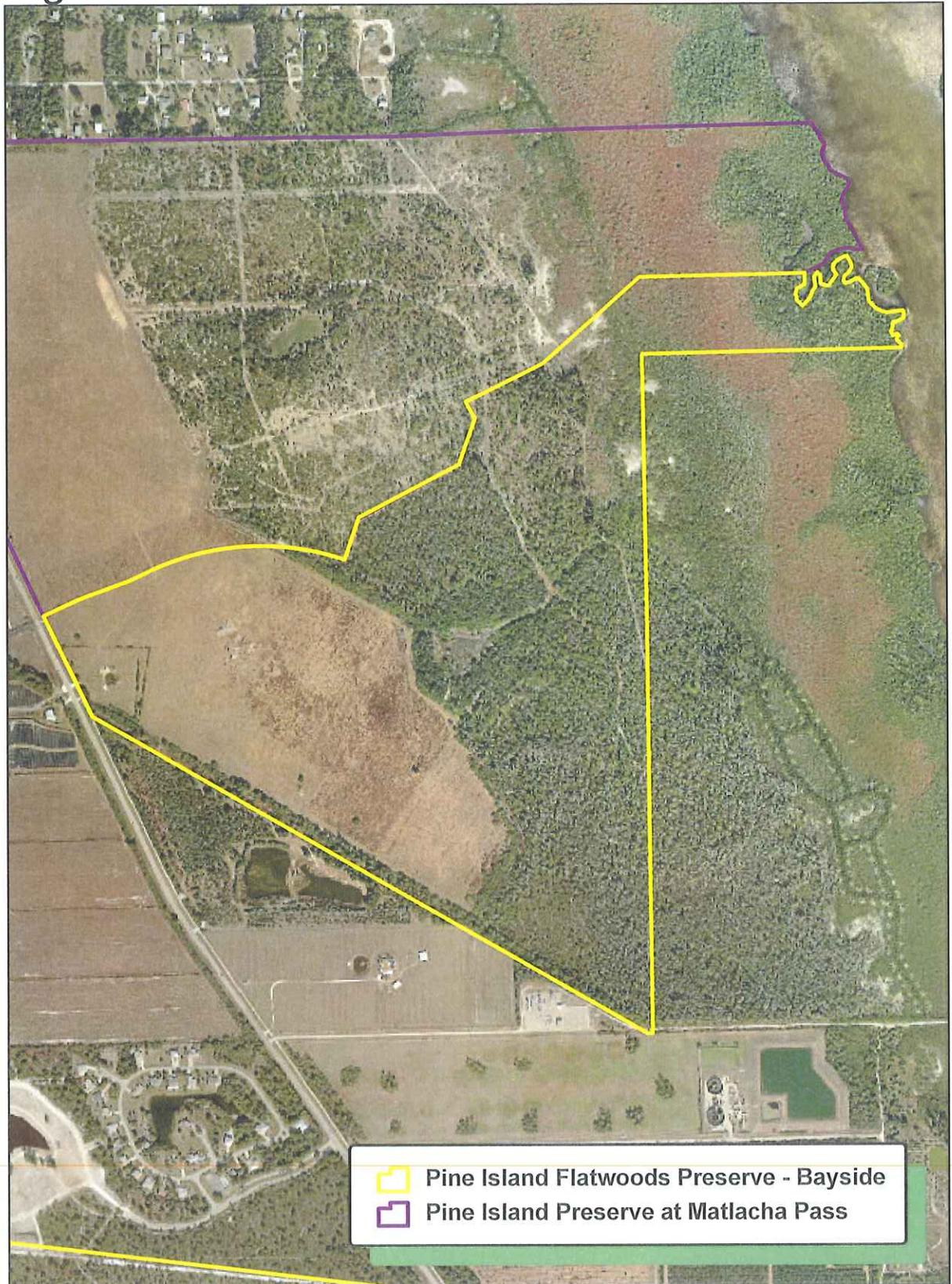


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Figure 8: 2011 Aerial



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

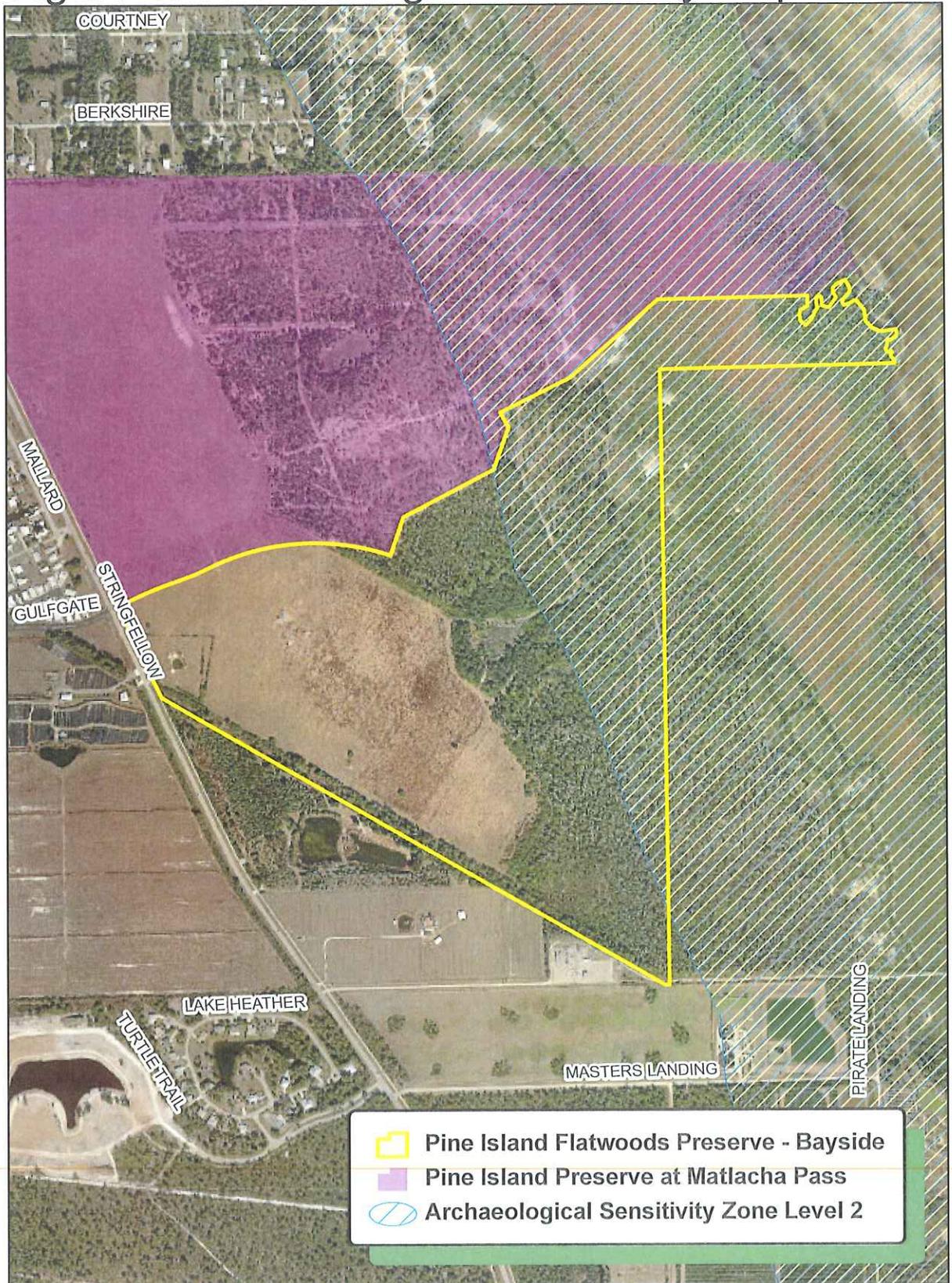


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Figure 9: Archaeological Sensitivity Map





Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

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Figure 10: Future Land Use

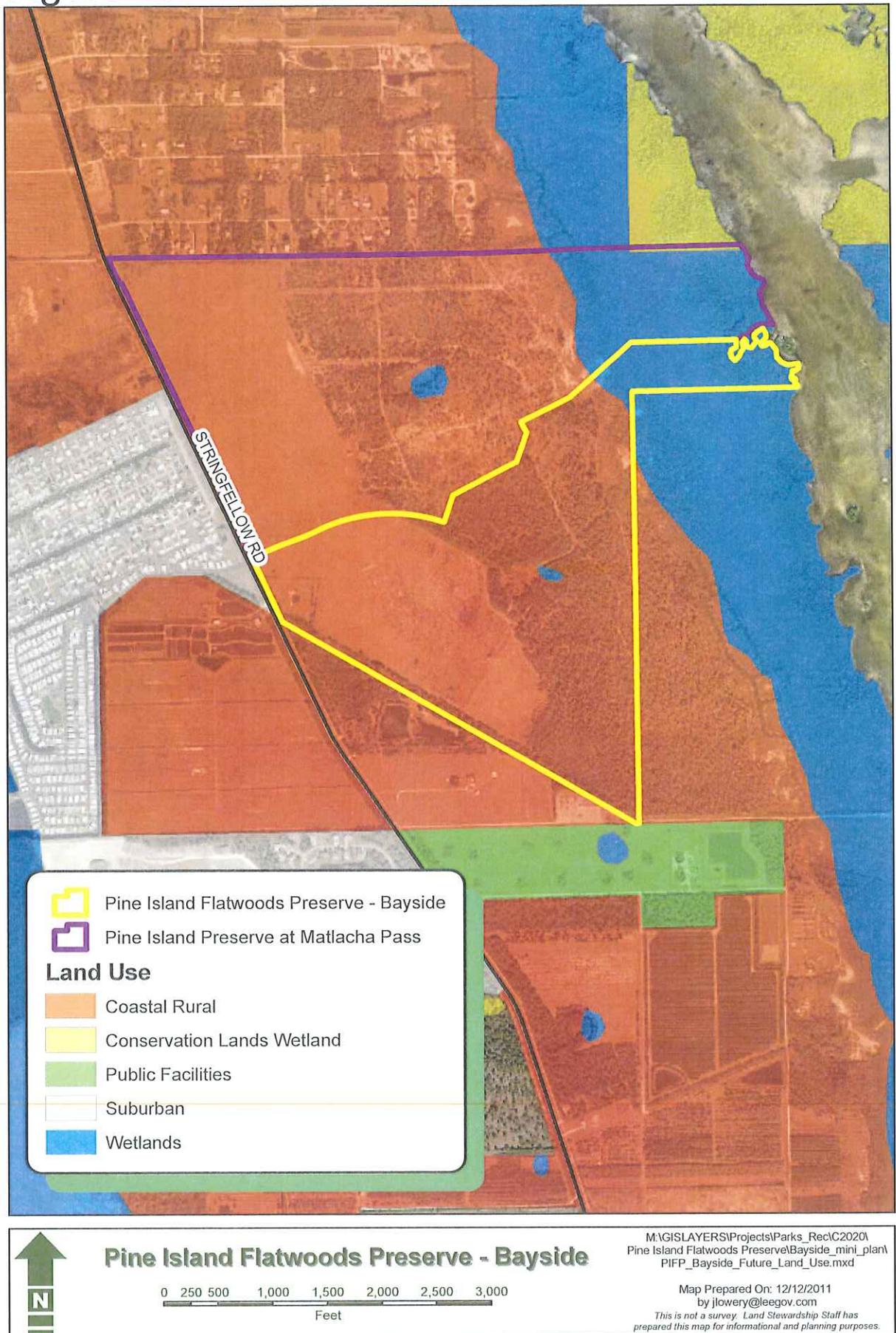
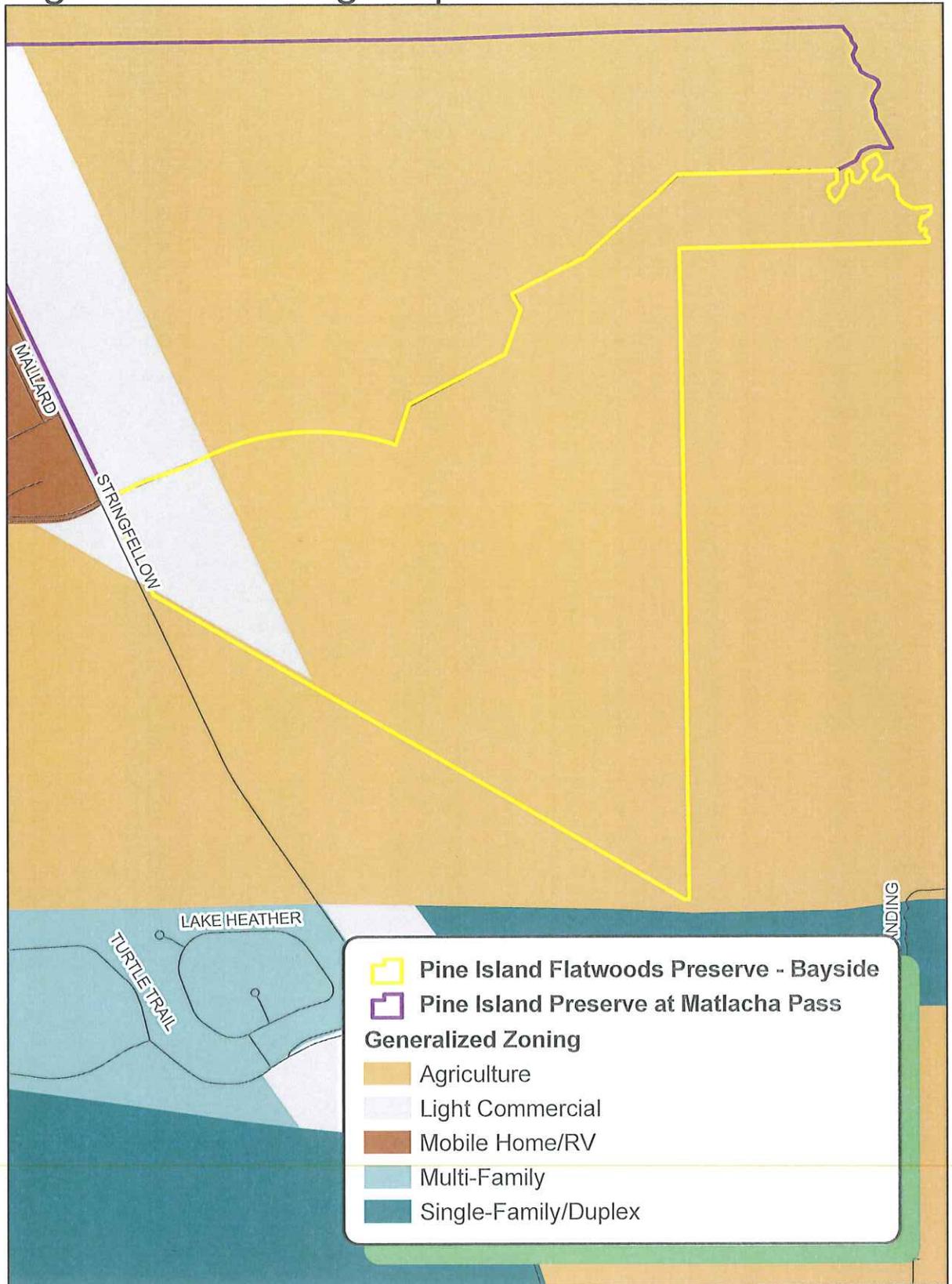
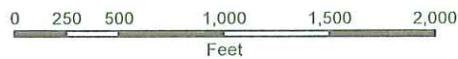


Figure 11: Zoning Map



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

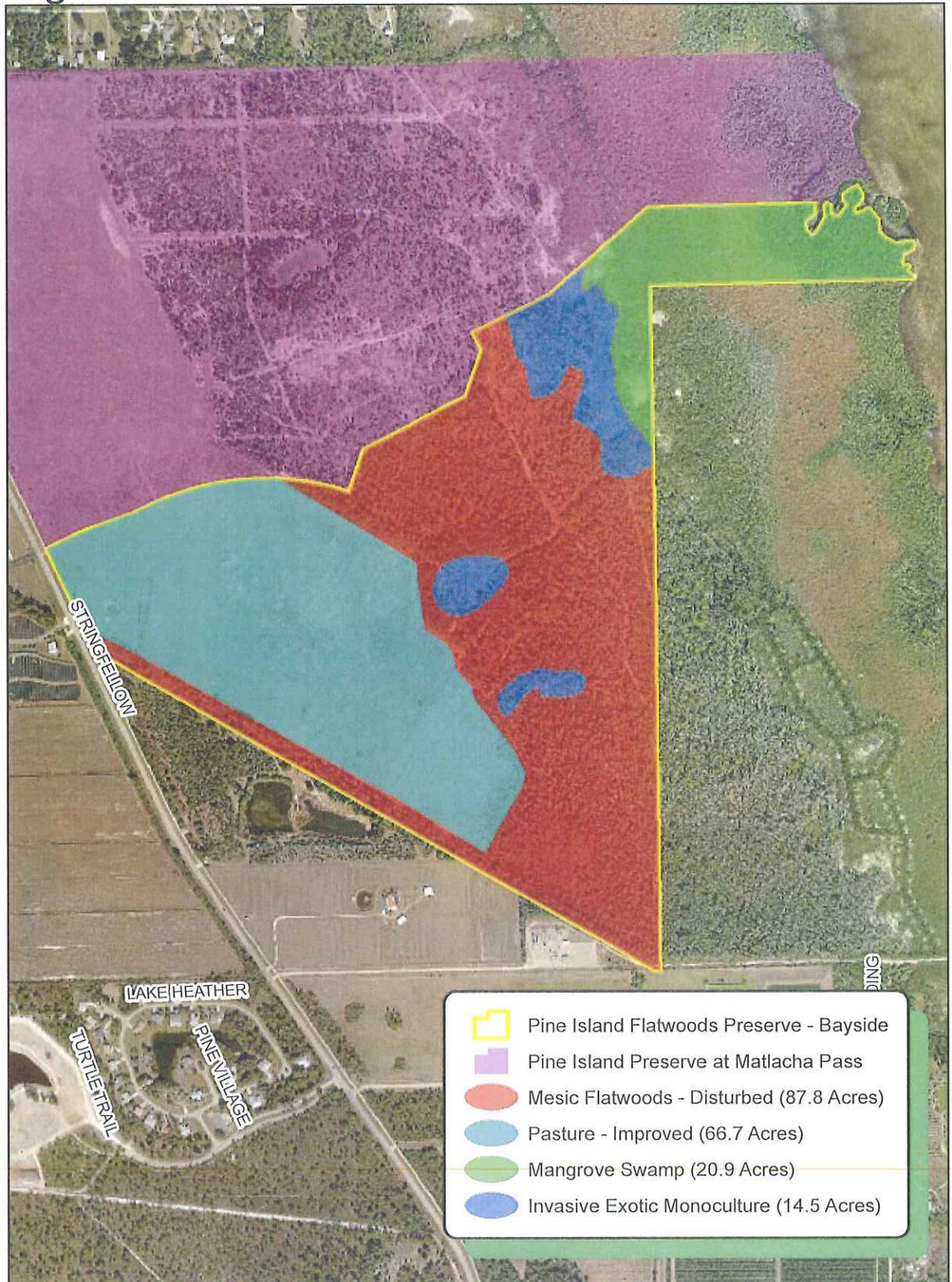


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Figure 12: Plant Communities



Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve - Bayside

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CONSERVATION
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June 29, 2011

Ms. Cathy Olson
Lee County Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Re: Restoration and Maintenance Contribution
Property 389: High Point Land Improvement Corp.
Conservation Lands Program: Project 8800

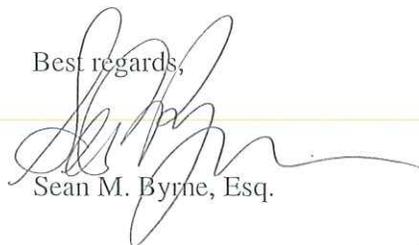
Dear Ms. Olson:

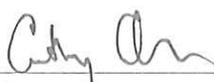
On behalf of Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast ("CFGC"), I am pleased to participate with you and Lee County as conservation partners to protect, restore and maintain nearly 190 acres on Pine Island.

As part of this project, CFGC is contributing \$200,000 for the restoration and maintenance of the property, referred to above. The objective of this letter is to memorialize CFGC's donative intent in making the contribution to Lee County and to limit the use of the funds to the purposes for which they were granted. Specifically, such purposes are the restoration and maintenance of the property, as described in Special Condition no. 11 of that certain Agreement, dated April 19, 2011, between High Point Land Improvement Corp. and Lee County and as consistent with the scope of services attached to the Agreement as Exhibit "C". CFGC understands that any funds remaining after the completion of the restoration scope of services will be dedicated to ongoing maintenance of the property referred to above.

Prior to closing, CFGC will deposit the contribution with the closing agent for the transaction. The funds will be released by the escrow agent to Lee County at closing in conformity with the terms of this letter. Please sign a copy of this letter on the line below acknowledging receipt of this letter and the donative intent described in this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,


Sean M. Byrne, Esq.



Cathy Olson
Acknowledgment of receipt of this letter and the
donative intent described herein

