

Pasco County Wildlife Habitat Protection Program, 2023 Update

Project:

Update status of conservation lands from the 2002 report titled *Wildlife Habitat Protection Program In Pasco County*

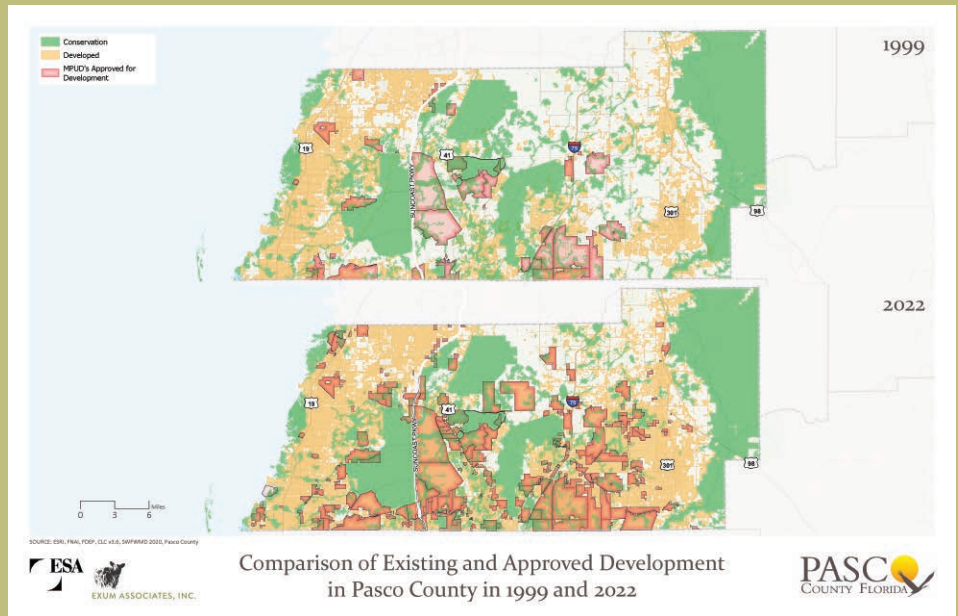
Client:

Pasco County Natural Resources Division

Project Team:

Exum Associates and ESA for GIS services

1999-2022 Current and Approved Development



Challenges:

- Extensive changes in development patterns required a detailed analysis of impacts and conservation related to Ecological Linkages defined in the 2002 study
- Understanding Pasco County's Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, and Land Development Code was necessary to describe the current context related to conservation
- GIS analyses showed that more than 6200 acres of land were acquired by the County's land acquisition program, while there was an 88% increase in the development footprint from the previous 25 years

Accomplishments:

- We defined the area of conservation in Ecological Linkages, Ecological Planning Units, and the Agricultural Reserve
- We proposed a new boundary for the Agricultural Reserve consistent with current development patterns
- Recommendations were given to the county for the next steps in conservation land acquisition, and planning strategies for directing growth

Assignment

Assess land conservation and development impacts in Pasco County since the completion of a 2002 wildlife habitat protection program. Provide recommendations for improving the effectiveness of comprehensive conservation strategies and directing development in a more strategic fashion.



EXUM ASSOCIATES, INC.