



**EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Community Development/Public Works Center
1500 Monroe Street, Ft. Myers, Florida 33901
First Floor Conference Room 1B**

**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
3:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Shane Johnson with Passarella & Associates to Present Bald Eagle Management Plan for LE-068A Del Webb Oak Creek DOS2024-00032
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2025
- 4) Lost Determination for LE-096, Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Bayside
- 5) Season Summary for 2024-2025
- 6) Member Reports
- 7) Public Input
- 8) Adjournment – Next Tentative Meeting Date: August 12, 2025

To view a copy of the agenda, go to www.leegov.com/dcd/calendar. For more information, contact Janet Miller (239) 533-8583 or jmiller@leegov.com. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs, or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Ranice Monroe, (239) 533-0255, ADArequests@leegov.com or Florida Relay Service 711. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.

**DEL WEBB OAK CREEK
BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR BALD EAGLE NEST LE-068A
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

May 2025

Prepared For:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Bald Eagle Management Plan (BEMP) has been prepared for an undocumented bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest (Nest) located within the Del Webb Oak Creek project (Project). The Project site is located in Section 17, 19, and 20; Township 43 South; Range 25 East; Lee County (Exhibit 1). The Project site totals 446.37± acres and is bordered by Interstate 75 to the northeast, Bayshore Road to the southeast, a combination of low-density, single-family residences and undeveloped land to the west and south, and commercial and industrial uses to the east (Exhibit 2).

The Project consists of a permitted residential, planned development with associated infrastructure and a surface water management system. Environmental permits have been issued for the Project including South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Environmental Resource Permit No. 36-105316-P and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Nationwide Permit SAJ-2006-03929. Additionally, Lee County issued Development Order (DO) No. DOS2021-00010 for the site. Construction of the Project began in 2022 and is anticipated to continue through 2026. An incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is not required for Project activities since the applicant will follow the USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (2007a) and no new construction will occur within the 330-foot buffer zone of the Nest.

This BEMP is proposed as part of the Project and is intended to facilitate construction and preserve maintenance activities on the site while providing sufficient measures to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to nesting bald eagles that could occur as a result of Project activities. A description of the undocumented nest and a summary of the proposed minimization measures are provided below.

2.0 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The Project site is an active residential development with residences that are currently under construction and occupied home sites. As such, construction activities, such as heavy machine operation and external and internal work, have actively been occurring on the Project site. Portions of land within the 330-foot and 660-foot buffer zones of the Nest were cleared in 2022 and now contain single-family residences, cleared lots, and roadways. The Nest location and associated 330- and 660-foot buffer zones are depicted on Exhibit 3.

As depicted on Exhibit 3, the Nest is located within one of the Project's on-site preserve areas in the east-central portion of the site. The preserve area contains a mixture of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), pop ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) trees and is routinely maintained free of exotic vegetation.

3.0 BALD EAGLE BIOLOGY AND PROTECTION

The following information on the biology of the bald eagle is excerpted from the South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan (USFWS 1999).

Bald eagles are considered a water-dependent species and are typically found near estuaries, large lakes, reservoirs, major rivers, and some seacoast habitats (Robards and King 1966, King *et al.* 1972, Weekes 1974, Whitfield *et al.* 1974, Gerrard *et al.* 1975, Grier 1977, Anthony and Isaacs 1989, Wood *et al.* 1989). Their distribution is influenced by the availability of suitable nest and perch sites near large, open water bodies, typically with high amounts of water-to-land edge. Bald eagles demonstrate a remarkable ability to tolerate perturbations to their habitat throughout their range.

Their adaptability to a variety of habitat conditions makes generalizations about habitat requirements and nesting behavior difficult. Though variable, eagles have basic habitat requirements that must be met in order to successfully reproduce and survive during the winter or non-nesting season. Florida bald eagle nests are constructed in dominant or co-dominant living pines (*Pinus* spp.) or bald cypress and are often located in the ecotone between forest and marsh or water (McEwan and Hirth 1979). Approximately ten percent of eagle nests are located in dead pine trees, while two to three percent occur in other species such as Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) or live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). The stature of nest trees decreases from north to south (Wood 1987, Wood *et al.* 1989), and in extreme Southwest Florida, eagles nest in black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*) and red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*), half of which are snags (Curnutt and Robertson 1994). Nest trees in South Florida are smaller and shorter than reported elsewhere; however, they are comparatively the largest trees available (Wood *et al.* 1989, Hardesty 1991). The small size of nest trees in South Florida relative to other nest sites throughout the eagle's range is due to the naturally smaller stature of slash pine, loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), longleaf pine (*P. palustris*), and sand pine (*P. clausa*) in South Florida and to the lack of pines in extremities of southern Florida.

Bald eagles are monogamous, and annual courtship behavior reinforces pair bonds (Palmer 1988). Pair-bond formation includes dramatic pursuit flights, high soaring, talon locking, and cartwheeling (Johnsgard 1990). Eagles may also fly around the perimeter of their nesting areas, visually communicating their presence and further establishing their territories. Pair-bond behavior, as well as territory establishment and defense, may occur concurrently throughout much of the eagle's range. Successful pair bonding ultimately leads to nest-site selection and nest construction for newly formed pairs or established pairs without nests. Pairs that have previously nested may repair established nests or construct an alternate nest concurrent with copulation.

Nesting activities generally begin in early September in South Florida, with egg-laying occurring as early as late October and peaking in the latter part of December. Incubation may be initiated from as early as October through as late as March, depending upon latitude. Clutches usually consist of one or two eggs, but occasionally three or four are laid. Incubation takes approximately 35 days, and fledging occurs within 10 to 12 weeks of hatching. Parental care may extend 4 to 6 weeks after fledging, even though young eagles are fully developed and may not remain at the nest site after fledging (USFWS 1989).

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) documented 88 active bald eagle nesting territories in Florida during their initial surveys of this species in 1973; by 1987, that number had increased to 391 active territories when the USFWS implemented the Habitat Management Guidelines for the Bald Eagle in the Southeast Region (Guidelines) (USFWS 1987). By 1999, the 1,000-breeding-pairs recovery goal for Florida had been achieved, and by 2012, Florida had 1,511 breeding pairs (Brush *et al.* 2012). Peterson and Robertson (1978) reported that historic numbers of breeding pairs of bald eagles in Florida were likely “in excess of 1,000 breeding pairs.”

The bald eagle was a federally and state-listed “threatened” species that had been protected since the mid-1970s under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Chapter 68A-27.004, Florida Administrative Code. Management and recovery efforts for the species have generally included actions to improve reproductive success and survival by protecting habitat and reducing levels of persistent organochlorine pesticides, such as dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), occurring in the environment. Habitat protection measures in Florida have primarily focused on the protection of nesting territories by implementing the 1987 Guidelines. Recovery goals for the bald eagle have been achieved as a result of these and related management actions throughout the United States, and the USFWS subsequently published a proposed rule in July 1999 to remove the bald eagle in the lower 48 states from the list of threatened or endangered wildlife. The bald eagle was subsequently delisted by the federal government in August 2007 and by the State of Florida in April 2008. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act provide continued federal protection for bald eagles. State Rule 68A-16.002 establishes rules for the continued protection and conservation of eagles in Florida.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE NEST

4.1 Location and Landscape Information

The Nest is located in the east-central portion of the Project site in a bald cypress tree that is approximately 65 feet tall. Specifically, the Nest is located approximately 150 feet south of the southeastern property boundary and approximately 1,400 feet north of the southern property boundary. The Nest is established near the top of the tree, approximately 58 feet above ground. The Nest tree is surrounded by a mixture of bald cypress, cabbage palm, slash pine, pop ash, and red maple trees. Additionally, single-family homes constructed within the Project exist within 330 feet of the Nest to the west and southwest (Exhibit 3).

The surrounding land uses include undeveloped forest land and single-family residences immediately to the south of the Project. Single-family residences exist to the west and north, and commercial and industrial properties are located to the immediate east. Vast conservation lands are located in the vicinity of the Project, including Prairie Pines Preserve to the northwest and Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve to the southeast. The surrounding land uses are identified and depicted on Exhibit 2.

The surrounding conservation lands contain an abundance of trees that could potentially be utilized for perching and nesting by bald eagles. In addition, the Project's on-site preserve areas contain trees that could be utilized for perching.

4.2 Nesting History and Observations

Observations of the Nest were first conducted by Passarella & Associates, Inc. (PAI) on April 2, 2025. At that time, two adult bald eagles were observed flying in and out of the Nest with food. Additionally, one chick with all its flight feathers was observed flapping its wings in the Nest. The bald eagles exhibited no signs of disturbed behavior. The Nest is presumed to be a new nest constructed during the 2024 through 2025 bald eagle nesting season since it had not previously been documented by the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (2024) and does not have an ID number. The exact time period of when the Nest was constructed is unknown.

Additional observations were conducted by PAI on May 2 and 9, 2025. During the May 2 and 9, 2025 observations, no bald eagles were seen utilizing the Nest. Thus, it was assumed that the chick observed on April 2, 2025 had successfully fledged.

Photographs of the Nest taken on May 9, 2025 are included as Exhibit 4.

5.0 SITE PLAN AND EAGLE PROTECTION ZONES

The USFWS and FWCC recognize 330- and 660-foot protection zones around an active eagle nest. Additionally, Lee County's Eagle Ordinance (08-25) states that no construction (structures or site work) may occur within 660 feet of an eagle nest without an approved BEMP.

The Project's site plan consists of a residential, planned development with associated infrastructure, stormwater management system, and amenities. As stated in Section 1.0, SFWMD and Corps permits and a Lee County DO have been obtained for the Project's development activities. The Nest is approximately 150 feet east of the approved development limit (Exhibit 3). However, there is a visual buffer of cypress (*Taxodium* spp.) trees between the Nest and the development footprint that obstructs the view of the Nest. Thus, there is a minimal risk of disturbance to the eagles.

The Nest is located within an area proposed for preservation; however, the 330-foot and 660-foot buffer zones overlap a portion of the permitted development area (Exhibit 3). Although not reflected on the current Lee County aerials, the development activities within 330 feet of the Nest have been completed. Thus, this BEMP is primarily for completing construction activities between 330 and 660 feet of the Nest.

To minimize impacts to bald eagles to the extent practicable, the applicant has committed to providing protection measures for the Nest, including monitoring and limitations on construction activities. The specific protection measures are provided in Section 6.0. Given the proposed

protection measures, impacts to bald eagles due to Project-related activities are anticipated to be relatively low.

6.0 PROPOSED EAGLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This BEMP is proposed as part of the Project and is intended to facilitate construction of the Project while providing sufficient measures to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to nesting bald eagles that could occur as a result of the proposed activities. As a management instrument, the BEMP is only applicable to the Project. It is the responsibility of the property owner to retain and implement this plan for as long as it is required, including educating others (e.g., contractors, future owners, tenants) about the specific requirements of this BEMP and the state and federal eagle protection laws. Any amendment to this management plan shall require review and approval by Lee County's Eagle Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC) or any successor body.

6.1 Bald Eagle Protection Measures for Undocumented Nest

Specific elements of the BEMP are as follows:

1. Infrastructure (e.g., grading, clearing, filling, paving, laying foundation, guttering; installing underground utilities, street lighting, excavation, and stormwater management facilities, etc.) that will be constructed within 660 feet of the nest tree shall be installed during the non-nesting season (i.e., May 16 through September 30). Construction may commence sooner in a given nesting season if the Nest is inactive or if confirmation of fledging occurs prior to May 16. In either case, the applicant will coordinate with Lee County Department of Community Development staff and ETAC prior to commencing construction within 660 feet of the Nest. Infrastructure installation shall begin early during the non-nesting season, and any portion of such infrastructure installation that may require completion activities to extend into the following nesting season (October 1 through May 15) or at such time as the nests are active (e.g., courtship, nest-tending, egg-laying, incubation, and brooding or fledging of the young is occurring), such activities shall be accomplished in accordance with provisions of the Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines (USFWS 2007b).
2. No construction activities are anticipated within 330 feet of the Nest. However, if an existing homeowner within the 330-foot nest buffer zone wishes to install a pool, construction of the pool will occur within the bald eagle non-nesting season (i.e., May 16 through September 30).
3. Interior and finish construction may occur during the non-nesting season as needed without monitoring. Vertical construction (i.e., framing, laying foundation, siding, windows, roofing, etc.) and heavy construction (i.e., grading, pouring concrete (including driveways), painting other than by hand, etc.) occurring between 330 feet to 660 feet of the nest during an active nesting season shall be accomplished in

accordance with provisions of the Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines (USFWS 2007b).

4. Preserve restoration/maintenance activities (i.e., exotic removal and treatment, supplemental plantings, etc.) within 330 feet of the Nest will be conducted during the bald eagle non-nesting season (i.e., May 16 through September 30).
5. The use of any chemicals that are known to be toxic to wildlife shall be prohibited at all times in close proximity to the nest tree and within the on-site preserve areas. Chemicals used for the purpose of controlling invasive exotic plants shall be prohibited around the base of the nest tree.
6. Completion of the Project will provide 99.87± acres of enhanced and restored conservation area that could be utilized for nesting and foraging by bald eagles. The enhancement and restoration activities include removing exotic vegetation and installing native supplemental plantings.
7. The applicant will monitor the Nest in accordance with the USFWS's 2007 Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines during the bald eagle nesting season (i.e., October 1 through May 15) for Project activities, including construction and preserve restoration and maintenance activities, occurring within 660 feet of the Nest.

7.0 REFERENCES

- Anthony, R.G. and F.B. Isaacs. 1989. Characteristics of bald eagle nest sites in Oregon. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 53(1): 148-159.
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Multi-Species Recovery Plan for South Florida. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vero Beach, Florida.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007a. National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007b. Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines.
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- Whitfield, D.W.A., J.M. Gerrard, W.J. Maher, and D.W. Davis. 1974. Bald eagle nesting habitat, density and reproduction in central Saskatchewan and Manitoba. *Canada Field Naturalist* 88(4):399-407.
- Wood, P.B. 1987. Distribution, ownership status, and habitat characteristics of bald eagle nest sites in Florida. Final report Nongame Wildlife Project 85-020, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Tallahassee, Florida.

Wood, P.B., T.C. Edwards, and M.W. Collopy. 1989. Characteristics of bald eagle nesting habitat in Florida. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 53(2): 441-449.

EXHIBIT 1

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

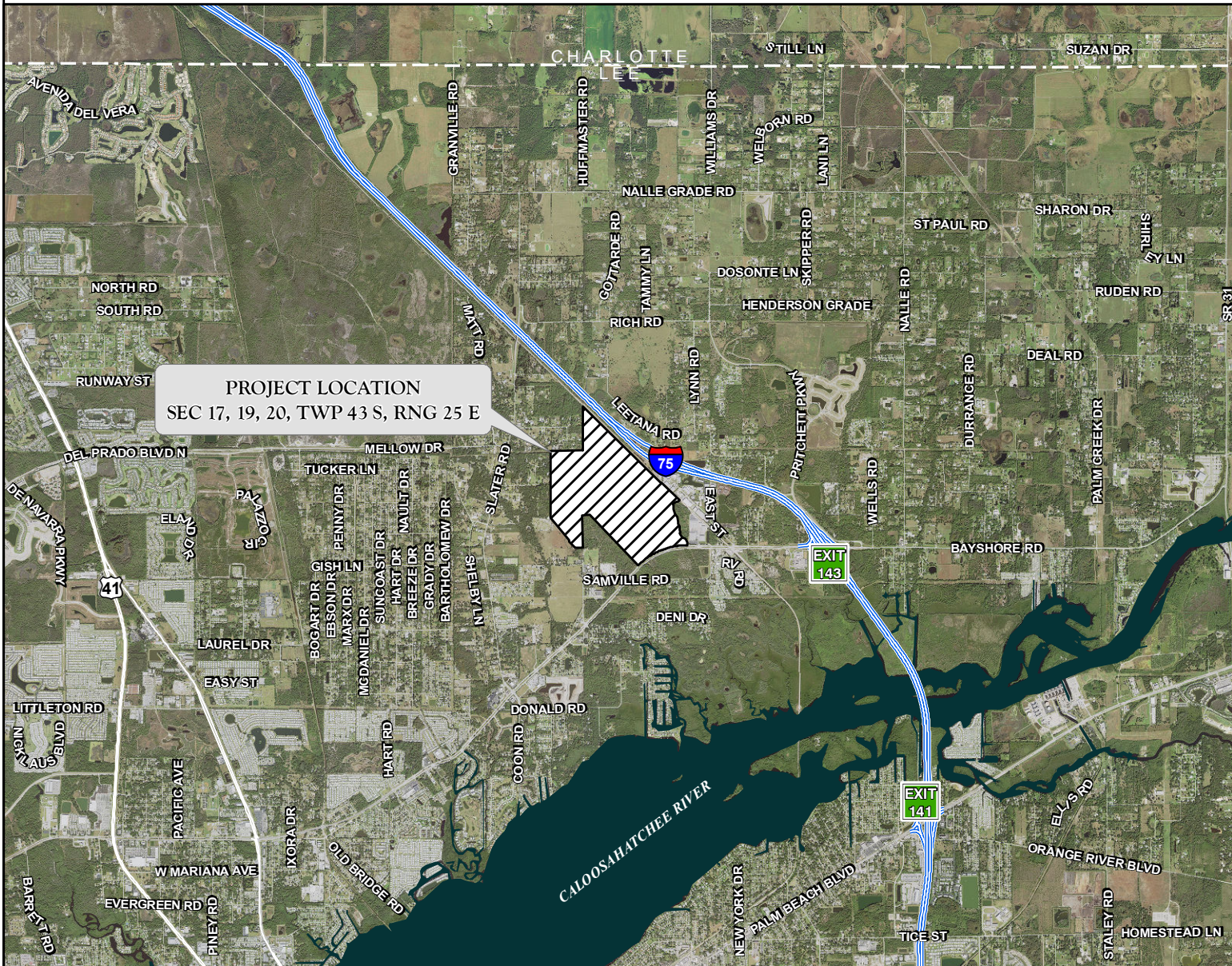
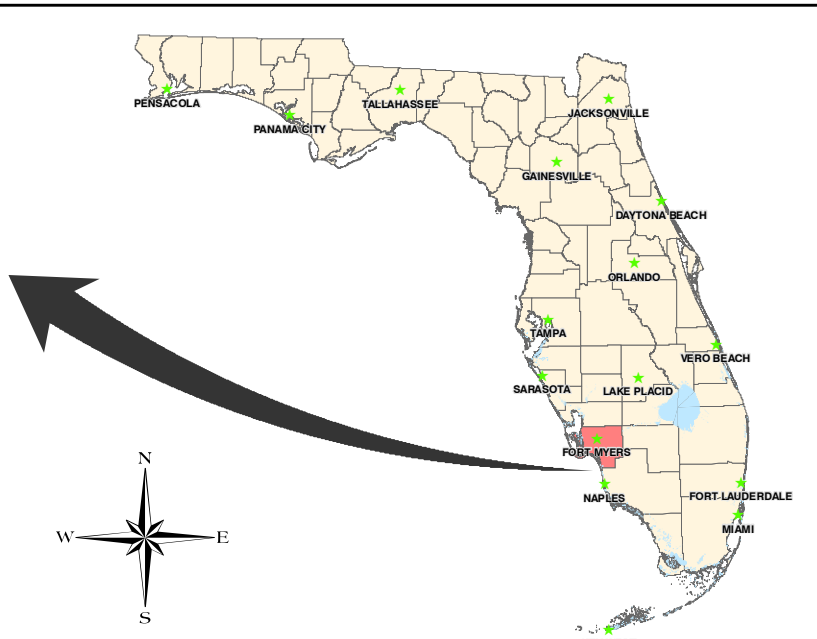
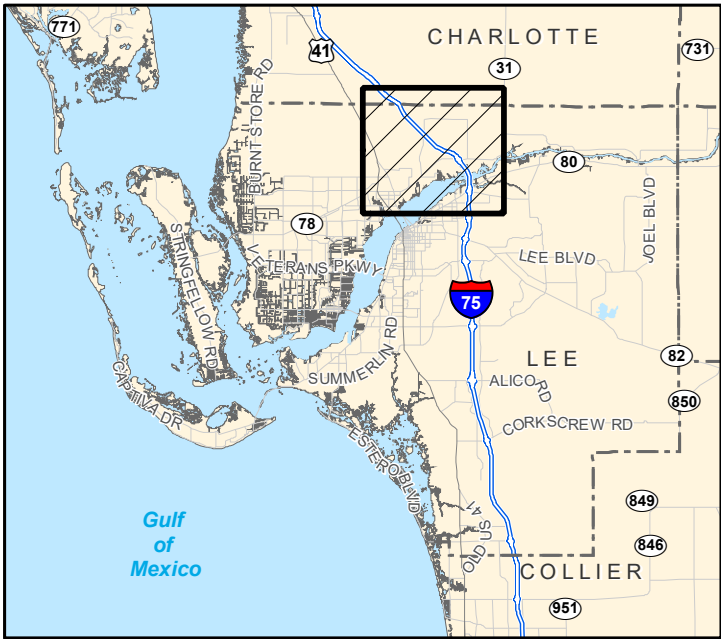


EXHIBIT 1. PROJECT LOCATION MAP
DEL WEBB OAK CREEK

DRAWN BY	DATE
P.F.	2/4/25
REVIEWED BY	DATE
S.J.	2/4/25
REVISED	DATE



PASSARELLA
& ASSOCIATES INC.

EXHIBIT 2

AERIAL WITH CONSERVATION LANDS

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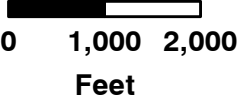
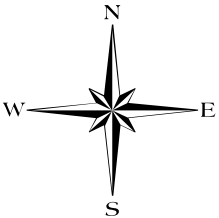


LEGEND

DEL WEBB OAK CREEK

DEL WEBB OAK CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

EXISTING CONSERVATION LANDS



NOTES:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE ACQUIRED THROUGH THE LEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE WITH A FLIGHT DATE OF JANUARY 8, 2024 - MARCH II, 2024.

PROPERTY BOUNDARY PER BARRACO AND ASSOCIATES, INC. DRAWING No. 2021-06-01_23668A00.DWG DATED JUNE I, 2021.

FLORIDA MANAGED AREAS WERE ACQUIRED FROM THE FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY WEBSITE AUGUST 2024.

LEE 2020 AREAS WERE ACQUIRED FROM U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES WEBSITE JULY 2024.

SFWM CONSERVATION EASEMENT WERE ACQUIRED FROM U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES WEBSITE AUGUST 2024.

REVISIONS		DATE	DRAWN BY	DATE	13620 Metropolis Avenue Suite 200 Fort Myers, Florida 33912 Phone (239) 274-0067 Fax (239) 274-0069	<div>PASSARELLA & ASSOCIATES INC</div>	DEL WEBB OAK CREEK AERIAL WITH CONSERVATION LANDS		DRAWING No.
			T.S.	5/01/25					21PGI3526
			DESIGNED BY	DATE					SHEET No.
			K.H.	5/01/25					EXHIBIT 2
			REVIEWED BY	DATE					
			S.J.	5/01/25					

EXHIBIT 3

AERIAL WITH SITE PLAN AND PRESERVE AREAS

EXHIBIT 4

UNDOCUMENTED BALD EAGLE NEST PHOTOGRAPHS



Undocumented Bald Eagle Nest, May 9, 2025



Undocumented Bald Eagle Nest, May 9, 2025



Animal Remains and Sticks Under Undocumented Bald Eagle Nest, May 9, 2025



Animal Remains and Sticks Under Undocumented Bald Eagle Nest, May 9, 2025



Animal Remains and Sticks Under Undocumented Bald Eagle Nest, May 9, 2025

MINUTES REPORT
EAGLE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Committee Members Present:

Edward Elms
Laura Greeno, Chair
Betsie Hiatt

Kyle Philpot, Vice Chair
Jacob Taminosian

Lee County Government Staff Present:

Nic DeFilippo, Planning
Erika Garcia, DCD Admin

Janet Miller, DCD Admin

Call to Order:

Ms. Greeno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room 1B, of the Community Development/Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe Street, Ft. Myers, Florida. Introductions were made.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024

Ms. Hiatt made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philpot. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 3 – Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Chair

Mr. Elms made a motion to nominate Laura Greeno as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Vice Chair

Ms. Hiatt stated she was willing to continue serving as Vice Chair, but she would also be willing to pass the position on to another committee member if anyone was willing to volunteer.

Mr. Philpot volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

Ms. Hiatt made a motion to nominate Mr. Philpot as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 4 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-020A, St. Jude Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated that all of the lost determinations being discussed today were a result of Hurricane Ian. He asked that the Committee members let him know if they have different data that does not match his information. The nest locations were reviewed with the Committee using aerials provided by staff.

Regarding LE-020A (St. Jude Nest), Mr. DeFilippo stated that his understanding is that the tree went down as a result of Hurricane Ian. He noted it was one of Mr. Elms' territories.

Mr. Elms verified that there is no nest or tree at this location. He referred to the Helipad nest and stated he assumes the pair at that nest are the ones from the St. Jude Nest. He asked if the Helipad nest would be given a different number.

Mr. DeFilippo stated that was correct. The Heliport nest has a different number. He noted there has been an issue with the assigned nest numbers because Audubon assigns new numbers for the nests often, but they do not align with the County's historical numbering system. Staff tries to use their own historical numbers because when there is a lost or abandoned declaration, it is tied to that nest ID. However, many times Audubon has been changing the nest IDs back and forth based on which one is active and which one is now the alternative nest. It is staff's preference to stick with what has been done historically. This is why the Committee members might see different numbers based on what Audubon has versus the County. The Helipad nest has been assigned nest ID LE-020B. Mr. DeFilippo stated he wanted to declare LE-020A as lost and noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

Mr. Taminosian made a motion to determine the LE-020A (St. Jude) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 5 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-053A, Palm Triangle (Vacation Ln) Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated the trees at this location came down as a result of Hurricane Ian. It is the same situation as the previous item. The tree came down and there is no activity.

Mr. Elms also noted there is construction going on in that location involving single family homes and a couple of condos. He is assuming that the pair at this location moved over to 5th Street and Palm (Trailer Park) which is only a couple of blocks away.

Mr. Elms made a motion to determine the LE-053A (Palm Triangle aka Vacation Lane) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 6 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-081, Bank of America Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated that this nest was in an Australian pine. Prior to Hurricane Ian, the nest was inactive. The nest was still in the tree but in bad shape. After Hurricane Ian, several Australian Pine trees came down and the nest was gone. Mr. DeFilippo walked the property due to a current zoning request; however, he did not observe any eagle activity.

Ms. Hiatt verified that she has also been monitoring the site but has not observed any eagle activity either. Since the pair has been there for a long time, it might be possible that they are no longer reproducing. This could be why a new nest has not been discovered.

Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-081 (Bank of America) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 7 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-118, Creekside Preserve Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated this was a new nest that was discovered during the 2020/2021 nesting season. The property owner had their own environmental consulting company monitoring the nest. He noted that the monitoring reports attached to this item are from Paul Owen. Mr. DeFilippo stated that the nest came down due to Hurricane Ian and was not rebuilt. Due to a zoning case and development on the property, Mr. DeFilippo visited the site but did not find a new nest or eagle activity taking place. He noted that Mr. Owen did not observe a new nest or activity either. Therefore, Mr. DeFilippo wanted to declare this nest as lost and noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

Mr. Taminosian asked for confirmation that the applicant came in with a Bald Eagle Management Plan.

Mr. DeFilippo confirmed that they did come in with a Bald Eagle Management Plan and it was approved.

Kyle made a motion to determine the LE-118 (Creekside Preserve) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hiatt. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 8 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-979, Helen Road Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated ETAC had difficulty finding this nest or seeing any activity since 2020/2021. He suspected the nest came down during Hurricane Ian. There has been no nesting activity at this location. He asked Ms. Hiatt if this information matched hers.

Ms. Hiatt stated this was correct. Her information matches. She believed the eagles relocated their nest before Ian. She noted that when the eagles first started nesting, there was a clear view around them. However, the Australian Pines in the area grew thick. She had difficulty monitoring the site after that because the vegetation had substantially grown. After that season, they were not observed again. Ms. Hiatt stated she did thorough monitoring to see if she could spot an adult eagle flying in or out of the area but never saw any in the area.

Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-979 (Helen Road) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philpot. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Ms. Hiatt announced there was a new nest south of this location that was discovered this year.

Agenda Item 9 – Nest Lost Determination for LE-119, Burnt Store Road Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated this nest was found in the 2019/2020 nesting season by the City of Cape Coral, but it is on the boundary line between them and Lee County, so it was added to the permitting database. During the next two years, it was inactive and great horned owls took over the nest. The nest came down after Hurricane Ian and there has not been any activity since. Although it is not a nest that is monitored by ETAC, he has been working closely with Justin from the City of Cape Coral. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would like to declare this one as lost so it could be removed from the permitting system. He noted it meets the definition in the Land Development Code.

Ms. Hiatt stated that the City of Cape Coral keeps good records on their eagles.

Ms. Hiatt made a motion to determine the LE-119 (Burnt Store Road) nest as lost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taminosian. The Chair called the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item 10 - Member Reports

Betsie Hiatt

Gloria & Cubes Nest

Ms. Hiatt noted that this nest was already determined as lost during a previous ETAC meeting. However, she periodically monitors her old territories to see if anything has changed and if there is any activity. She noted there was a small nest across the street from where this nest was as of early January, but she never spotted any eagles, and the small nest was never built up to a viable nest.

Barrancas Drive

Ms. Hiatt stated that she checked on this territory throughout nesting season because she initially saw a sub-adult perched on the nest tree and the nest tree is still standing. However, one of its major branches came down. Because of this, it is not a great nesting tree but there are some nice trees on the property that could potentially be used. Ms. Hiatt stated she only saw the one sub-adult on one occasion and has never seen any adults.

Quail Trail

Ms. Hiatt stated the nest was good at this location and there was incubating behavior observed in early January with an additional second adult perched nearby. She observed what she believed to be brooding behavior in early March. However, she never saw chicks. She only spotted one adult. By early April, nothing was observed.

Chelsey Drive

Ms. Hiatt stated this was a new nest that was discovered last year. One of the chicks fell out of the nest and the parents continued to take care of it. CROW rescued the chick and eventually released it on Pine Island but never informed anyone. She observed two chicks at the end of the season. Soon after that, the adults and chicks were gone. Ms. Hiatt stated she is assuming that since there were two chicks next to each other, they were most likely related. During this year, the nest appears to be a beautiful, big nest. The adults are consistently observed and are incubating and brooding. In early March, she observed a large chick and expected it to fledge, fly, or take short flights. She stated the chick was flapping its wings and jumping up and down and branching. When she monitored the site several weeks later, there were no adults, and the chick was gone. Ms. Hiatt stated she knew the adjacent property owners and they said the adults were leaving every day and coming back in the evening. At the end of March, the adjacent property owners never saw the chick take a full flight. It disappeared so it is unknown as to whether something happened to it. They never heard the chick calling as they did with the first chick that fell out of the nest. It was not fledged the last time it was observed.

Fritz Park

Ms. Hiatt stated there is a new nest they are calling “Fritz Park” located south of Helen Road. It was discovered in February of 2025. One adult was observed flying into the nest and there was one young chick. She did not believe the chick would have been able to fledge at this point because it was too young. After that, Ms. Hiatt checked it a couple of times in early March to see if the adults were there, but nothing was observed.

Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve

Ms. Hiatt stated that on the edge of this park (not on the park) she was consistently seeing two adults perched on a Pine Tree. One of them flew into her neighbor’s yard on several occasions and then perched in a tree in her own backyard. However, she has not seen them since. Her neighbor stated they occasionally see the adults perched in the woods on the other side of Ms. Hiatt’s subdivision by Philipps Park. She and her neighbors were never able to see a nest. Ms. Hiatt stated that Mr. DeFilippo had received reports of eagles located to the east of this area. However, no nest has been located. If the trees remain, she felt hopeful that there would eventually be some eagle activity. She felt this might be considered as a lost nest by next year.

Ms. Hiatt stated she found a new nest on the south side of little Pine Island Mitigation Bank. She saw two adults fairly consistently. The nest is hard to see, but she did find it. It appears to be a different nest. She reviewed the location with the Committee and staff on the aerial provided by staff.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he found a new nest on Samadani Lane in Bokeelia. He showed the location to the Committee on an aerial. He noted there was one chick. He was unable to visit the site again in time to see if the chick fledged. This nest was discovered in March. It is a private road. He drove down the private road and was able to see it from the road. He received reports of it from the public.

Laura Greeno

Wild Turkey Strand, Yellow Fever, A&W (Tortuga), Lehigh Acres WWTP

The chicks for these nests have fledged.

Regarding the Lehigh nest, Ms. Greeno stated she did not observe the birds at the nest until a month ago. At that time, there was an adult and large chick together. They fly across to the golf course often, so there might be a possibility that they will move their nest there.

Laredo

There has been no activity at this nest so it may be on the list next year to be listed as lost or abandoned.

Kyle Philpot

Donald Road/Pritchett

This nest has failed. It has been publicized and listed on Facebook.

Moody River

Mr. Philpot stated he could not see the nest from where he is required to park, and he cannot get access to the site. He asked for confirmation that the applicants came in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan earlier this year. If so, County staff might have some data from them.

Mr. DeFilippo confirmed that they did come in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan. In addition, the County purchased the property where the nest is located. Mr. DeFilippo stated he would get Mr. Philpot access to the property next year.

Cell Tower Littleton Road

This nest is completely gone and there is no sign of adults.

Alico Road

He believed two chicks fledged.

Oriole Road

Two chicks fledged. Mr. Philpot stated he monitored the site this morning. The adults were observed, but the chicks were gone.

Creekside

Mr. Philpot stated this nest should be determined as lost.

Twin Pine Village

Mr. Philpot reported that the nest at this site looks good, but there has been no fledging or nesting activity. He noted there was activity at the beginning of the season, but nothing since. He was not surprised because he noted there were people approximately 30 feet from the nest tree.

Jacob Taminosian

St. Charles Harbor

Mr. Taminosian stated that at one point there were up to three chicks according to photos from the neighbor, but he only documented two chicks. The next time he monitored the site, there were no adults or chicks in the nest. The last time he saw them they were approximately 9 weeks old. He is not certain whether they fledged or not. Mr. Taminosian stated he assumes the nest was successful because the chicks were far along, and the parents were consistently feeding them. However, it is possible that something may have happened.

Mr. DeFilippo asked how the trees looked in that area.

Mr. Taminosian stated they were in rough condition. The eagles moved to a better tree, but it is near a home that is in the process of being sold, so he was not certain if that would have any impact on their eagles or their nest.

Yorkshire Lane

This was originally the Robalo nest that was relocated to this location. He believed two chicks fledged. They were perched high in the nest. He previously documented them hovering. Therefore, he assumes the nest was successful. To him, they looked to be flight capable.

Jonathon Harbor

This nest tree was tilted as a result of Hurricane Ian on Connie Mack Island, and it was eventually removed. He noted there is a large pine tree there. Earlier in the season, there was some activity where an eagle flew to it with a fish and then flew off.

He referred to some monitoring notes regarding this nest from the SCCF. He asked if there had been a typo.

Mr. DeFilippo stated there was miscommunication between Audubon and the City of Sanibel. Jonathon Harbor is not active. There was another nest that those notes were supposed to be for. According to Audubon, there is a different nest out there. Mr. DeFilippo showed the location on an aerial. He noted that Jonathon Harbor might be eligible to be declared a lost nest.

Lakes Park Cell Tower

Mr. Taminosian stated he monitors this site every year and checks the surrounding pines as well, but there has been no activity.

Pickle N Pub

Mr. Taminosian stated that at one point he saw three chicks. In March, he believed they were approximately 12 weeks old. In April when he monitored the site, he saw the chicks flying around the canopy. He spotted two of them, but he assumes there is a third because he documented a third in March. This nest has been successful.

Lexington Middle School

Mr. Taminosian stated that he always monitors this site but does not see any activity. He then looked north of Summerlin and saw one chick and an adult. When he looked east there were two more chicks. He had originally only documented one chick but now there are three.

Sora Drive/Ovenbird Drive

Mr. Taminosian documented one chick fledging. It was perched in a pine tree adjacent to the nest tree. He believed the chick fledged. He asked if Johnson Engineering was also monitoring that nest because he believed some construction was taking place.

Mr. DeFilippo stated there had been a lot of monitoring for that site that was done by Johnson Engineering, an out-of-town company, and Paul Owen.

Mr. Taminosian asked if they had to come in for a Bald Eagle Management Plan.

Mr. DeFilippo stated they were not required to do that because they were single family homes that had different owners. Mr. DeFilippo noted he had been working with each one individually to get them through the permit process.

Tortuga

Mr. Taminosian stated that in December he documented a potential chick. By February there were two older chicks. In March the two chicks were hovering above the nest and were active but never flew. When he monitored the site in April, there were no chicks in the nest. He assumes this nest was successful due to the activity he observed.

Edward Elms

Pine Island Flatwoods Trail

Mr. Elms stated that he had consistently observed one chick at this location, and it has fledged. He noted that in that same area down the fire road or the end of the trail, some members of the public spotted another nest. Mr. Elms stated he had not seen the nest himself. It may have belonged to Great Horned Owls. If there was a nest there, he felt Ms. Greeno and staff would have been aware of it.

Helipad Nest

Mr. Elms stated two chicks fledged from there at the beginning of April. There is not much left of the tree. The main trunk of the tree is there, and the nest is at the very top. There are no branches. Because of this, Mr. Elms stated he was unsure how long the tree would last, especially since it was dead last nesting season and put in a worse condition after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

5th Street and Palm

Mr. Elms reported that two chicks fledged from this nest around the first week of April. He noted there were very few Australian Pines on 5th Street. The nesting tree is the only suitable tree that the pair from Vacation Lane could have relocated to, unless they left the area. This tree was alive before Hurricanes Helene and Milton, but it is now dead. He noted it still had good branching, but he did not know how long it would last or how long it would take before the residents living under it decide they do not want the risk of having the tree land on their home and have it removed.

Galt Preserve

Mr. Elms stated he checked this area, which has been built up to the public where the nest was located for many years. There was no activity and no suitable trees.

Manatee Bay

This nest was previously declared lost.

St. James Preserve (near the post office)

Mr. Elms stated that this nest backs up into a neighborhood but there has not been any activity there for a long time. It has been declared abandoned. However, there are plenty of good trees there for the use of eagles, but there is still no activity.

Nic DeFilippo

Bayshore Commons

Mr. DeFilippo stated there has been some activity at this site. Eagles came back to this site and worked on the nest, but there was no further activity. He observed the eagles flying west several times so there might be a nest somewhere in that area. The nest is still in the tree, but it is starting to fall apart.

Buckingham

Mr. DeFilippo stated he spoke to the resident whose property backs up to it. They saw two chicks in the nest. Unfortunately, one of the chicks fell out of the nest. CROW came and got the chick but had to put it down. The other one fledged.

Pine Island Nest

Mr. DeFilippo stated there was a new nest that may not have been reported in Pine Island. He stated he would share the information with Ms. Hiatt. The nest is located next to someone's house.

Ms. Greeno stated she would add the Galt and Jonathon Harbor nests as lost.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Input

No members of the public were present, so there was no public input.

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment – Next Tentative Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Ms. Hiatt asked if the June meeting could be cancelled unless there was a Bald Eagle Management Plan similar to the Board of County Commissioners being off for the summer.

Mr. DeFilippo stated he had no issue with this Committee taking a break in June unless there is a Bald Eagle Management Plan. He would keep the Committee posted.

The Committee had no further items to discuss, so the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

LE-096: Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Bayside Nesting History

Year	History
21-22	Active, fledglings not confirmed. Nest tree came down during Hurricane Ian (9/28/2022)
22-23	Nest tree came down due to Hurricane Ian, eagles relocated to LE-096C
23-24	No activity, nest tree down. Eagles using LE-096C
24-25	No activity, nest tree down. Eagles using LE-096C

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ETAC

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-002	St. Charles Harbor	34-45-23	Active	2	Good	Slash pine	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-006	Bayshore Commons	31-43-25	Active	0	Good	Slash pine	Nest still in tree but beginning to fall apart. Adults present at nest and appered to be incubating but no additional activity observed.
LE-010	Quail Trail	31-43-22	Failed	0	Good	Australian pine	Incubation observed in January, Brooding in March. No chicks observed. Failed
LE-020B	Helipad nest		Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	2 fledgling confirmed
LE-026B	Donald Rd/Pritchett	30-43-25	Failed	0	Good	Slash Pine	Nest failed
LE-028	Coconut Point Timeshare	06-47-25	Unknown	0	Good	Slash Pine	No reports
LE-038E/LE126	Tortuga		Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-040A	Winkler Rd		Active	1	Good		1 fledgling confirmed - Atwell
LE-043D	Moody River		Inactive	0	Good	Slash Pine	ETAC couldn't observe nest. County purchased property with nest.
LE-045C	Sabal Springs	22-43-24	Active	0	Good	Slash Pine	No data. Nest still in tree and in good shape
LE-047	Capri Ln		Inactive	0	Gone		No nesting activity
LE-047A	Capri Ln	07-44-22	Inactive	0	Gone	Nest Platform	Homeowner installed platform but no nest
LE-053	5th Street and Palm		Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-056	Lehigh Acres WWTP	30-44-27	Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	1 fledgling confirmed
LE-068A	Del Webb		Active	1	Good	Cypress	New nest. Chick observed flapping wings, assumed fledged
LE-069	Robalo	10-45-24	Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine gone	Nest tree cut down after Hurricane Ian
LE-069A	Yorkshire Lane		Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-070	Jonathon Harbour	10-46-23	Inactive	0	Gone	Slash pine	Nest came down as a result of Hurricane Ian. No activity.
LE-071B	Pickle N Pub	31-45-24	Active	3	Good	Slash Pine	3 fledglings confirmed
LE-072A	Three Sisters	12-43-20	unknown	0		Australian Pine	No data
LE-083	Big Hickory Island		unknown	0			
LE-093	Alico Road		Active	2	Good	Cypress	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-094	Fort Myers Beach	03-47-24	Inactive	0	Gone	Norfolk Pine	Nest down due to hurricane Ian. Nest not rebuilt, inactive
LE-095	Estero Marsh Preserve		Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	Nest moved slightly. 1 fledlging confirmed
LE-096C	Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Bayside		Active	0	Good	Slash Pine	Adults observed in nest. Chicks were not confirmed.
LE-100	Barrancas Dr	31-43-22	Inactive	0	Good	Slash Pine	Nest tree standing but limb came down. Only 1 sub-adult seen. No activity
LE-102	Galt Preserve	35-45-22	Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine	Nest is gone. No activity
LE-105	Lexington Middle School	04-46-22	Active	3	Good	Slash Pine	3 fledglings confirmed
LE-112	Pine Island Flatwoods Trail		Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	1 fledgling confirmed
LE-114	Laredo		Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine	No data - City of Fort Myers
LE-117	Sora Dr.		Inactive	0	Gone	Slash Pine	Nest gone. Eagles moved to LE-117A
LE-117A	Ovenbird Dr		Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	Nest relocation. 1 fledling confirmed
LE-124	Cell Tower Littleton Rd.		Inactive	0	Gone	Cell Tower	No nest. No activity observed

LE-125	Esther		Inactive	0	Gone	Australian pine	Nest gone, No nesting activity observed
LE-128	Oriole Road		Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	2 fledglings confirmed
LE-133	Twin Pine Village		Inactive	0	Good	Slash Pine	No activity observed. Nest in good shape
LE-137	Waterman Farms	09-43-24	Active	2	Good	Slash Pine	New nest. 2 chciks observed. Presumed to have fledged
LE-901	Imperial Marsh Preserve		Inactive	0	Gone		No nest, no activity observed
LE-938	Wild Turkey Strand		Active	2	Good		2 fledgling confirmed
LE-93B	Orange River Nest		Active	1	Good	Slash Pine	2 chicks in nest, 1 eaglet fell from nest and CROW put down. 1 fledgling confirmed.
LE-946	Fritz Park		Failed	0	Good	Australian pine	1 chick observed but did not fledge. Suspect chick was injured and perished.
LE-948	Chelsey Drive		Failed	0	Good	Slash Pine	1 chick observed but did not fledge. Suspect chick was injured and perished.
LE-950	Rosie		Active	1	Good		1 fledgling confirmed
LE-953	Samadani Ln		Active	0	Good		New nest. 1 chick observed in nest. Unknown if chick fledged.
xxxx	Lakes Park		Inactive	0	None	Cell Tower	No adults observed at tower or in vicinity

Total Nests45Total Fledglings32

Cape Coral

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-001C	NW 44th Pl	18-43-23	Active	0	Good		Nesting unsuccessful - City of Cape Coral
LE-027	BMX Park	23-44-23	Active	0	Good		Nesting unsuccessful - City of Cape Coral
LE-035F	Gulf Elementary School	04-45-23	Active	0	Good		Nesting unsuccessful - City of Cape Coral
LE-052B	Pompano Ave	19-44-23	Unknown	0	Good		No data reported - City of Cape Coral
LE-062E	Trafalgar Elementary School	28-44-23	Active	1	Good	Cell Tower	1 fledgling confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-091	Wildwood Parkway	01-45-23	Active	3	Good	Nesting platform	3 fledglings confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-092B	Andalusia Blvd	30-43-24	Active	2	Good		2 fledglings confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-099B	Mariner High School	10-44-23	Active	1	Good		1 fledgling confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-103	SE 12th Ave	19-44-24	Active	0	Good	Cell Tower	Nesting unsuccesful - City of Cape Coral
LE-109D	West Cape Estates Cir	12-44-22	Active	1	Good		1 fledgling confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-138	Coral Oaks Golf Club		Unknown	0	Good		No data report for this nest - City of Cape Coral
LE-140	NW 46th Ave		Inactive	0	Gone		Nesting unsuccessful. Nest gone - City of Cape Coral
LE-143	SW 47th st & Agualinda Blvd		Active	1	Good		1 fledgling confirmed - City of Cape Coral
LE-933	Walmart	03-45-23	Inactive	0	Good	Cell Tower	No nesting activity - City of Cape Coral
LE-949	NW 10th Street		Active	0	Good		Nesting unsuccessful - City of Cape Coral

Total Nests15Total Fledglings9

SCCF

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-022	San-Cap Rd		Active	2	Good		2 fledgling confirmed - SCCF
LE-059	DQ		Failed	0	Good		Chick perished in February.Failed nest - SCCF
LE-073	North Captiva		Active	2	Good		2 fledgling confirmed - SCCF
LE-074	Chateaux sur Mer		Inactive	0	Good		Pair may be using alternative nesting location. - SCCF
LE-087	Captiva Dr. (Captiva)	02-46-21	Active	2	Good	Australian Pine	2 fledgling confirmed - SCCF
LE-113	Puschel Preserve		Active	1	Good		1 fledglings confirmed - SCCF
LE-115	Lake Murex		Active	2	Good		2 fledgling confirmed - SCCF
LE-116	West Rocks		Inactive	0	Gone		No activity - SCCF
LE-120	South Seas Resort		Active	1	Good	Australian pine	1 fledglings confirmed - SCCF
LE-130	Mcgregor Billboard		Active	0	Good		No activity - SCCF
LE-131	Captiva Copacetic		Active	2	Good		2 fledgling confirmed - SCCF
LE-136	Island Inn		Inactive	0			No activity - SCCF

Total Nests12Total Fledglings12

Bonita Springs

Nest Number	Nest Name	Location	Nest Activity	Fledgling #	Nest Condition	Nest Tree Species	Comments
LE-005A	Bonita Bay Baywoods		Active	0	Good		1 fledgling confirmed - City of Bonita Springs
LE-050B	River Park		Abandoned		Gone		Abandoned - City of Bonita Springs
LE-080	Creekside		Active	0	Good		Active but no fledglings confirmed - City of Bonita Springs
LE-097	Beaumont Rd		Inactive	0	Good		Inactive - City of Bonita Springs
LE-097B	St Leo's		Active	0	Good		Active but no fledglings confirmed - City of Bonita Springs
LE-106	Pelican's nest		Inactive	0	Good		Inactive - City of Bonita Springs
LE-106C	Spring Creek Park		Active	0	Good		Active but no fledglings confirmed - City of Bonita Springs
LE-111	Pelican Landing		Active	2	Good		2 fledglings confirmed - City of Bonita Springs
LE-127	Mastec		Lost		Gone		Take permit for nest on top of cell tower - City of Bonita Springs

Total Nests9Total Fledglings2

Nesting Season	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016 ETAC	2015-2016	2016-2017 ETAC	2016-2017*	2017-2018 ETAC	2017-2018	2018-2019 ETAC	2018-2019
Active Nests	43	32	29	30	52	19	47	22	28	23	32
Failed Nests	2	5	3	3	6	1	2	0	0	1	1
Inactive Nests											
Unknown											
Fledged Chicks	59	39	37	27	39	27	47	30	36	22	27
Young fledged per Active Nest	1.37	1.21	1.27	1.11	1.33	1.42	1	1.36	1.28	0.95	0.84
ETAC Data onlyAll Lee CountyETAC Data OnlyAll Lee CountyETAC Data OnlyAll Lee CountyETAC Data OnlyAll Lee County											

Historic Data

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