



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department
Conservation Lands Division

Date: January 25, 2024
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Director
From: Wendy Swindell, Conservation Lands Manager
Subject: Environmental Land Bond - Introduction to the ArcGIS Hub/Dashboard

BACKGROUND:

On December 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the Environmental Lands Program Guide (ELP Guide), which is the primary document that contains the policies, standards, and procedures relating to environmentally significant land acquisition and management activities. One of the procedures outlined in the ELP Guide is the development and implementation of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Dashboard for use in mapping, analyzing, and managing data accumulated during the land acquisition process. GIS is a geographic information system comprised of an integrated collection of computer software and data used to view and manage information about geographic places, analyze spatial relationships, and model spatial processes. GIS provides a framework for gathering and organizing spatial data and related information so that it can be displayed and analyzed. The County utilizes a software program developed by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) for the production and analysis of GIS data procured and maintained by the County, as well as data acquired and through various sources. This data may include property information, aerial imagery, locations or areas of listed species, habitat types, canopy coverage, water features, and many other features which help in analyzing data tied to a specific location.

By using ESRI software and GIS data, the environmental land acquisition process will be optimized by storing and presenting data for this process which will be made available to: (1) the BCC; (2) the Environmental Land Acquisition Panel (ELAP); (3) staff; and (4) the general public in an online platform. Conservation and IT staff have developed an “ArcGIS Hub” for use in the environmental land acquisition process. ESRI defines an ArcGIS Hub as an “easy to configure cloud platform that organizes people, data, and tools to accomplish goals and initiatives.” This platform is widely used to provide up-to-date information on large-scale projects, programs, and initiatives.

The central component of the ArcGIS Hub developed for the environmental land acquisition process will be the GIS Dashboard. The Dashboard will be an on-line resource containing information on the parcels nominated for acquisition. In addition to the GIS Dashboard, the Environmental Land Bond ArcGIS Hub will provide information on the previous environmental bonds completed, links to explore conservation lands in the County, a summary of conservation land public partnership efforts, access to the ELP Guide, general information on the acquisition process, and searchable content stored in a data library. The Hub and Dashboard will be accessible through the County’s webpage.