

Listed Species Survey

CAPE CORAL UNIT 30 BLK 1637 PB 16 PG 30 LOTS 32 THRU 35
Parcel ID. 11-45-23-C3-01637.0320

4412 SANTA BARBARA BLVD
CAPE CORAL FL 33914
LEE COUNTY

Survey conducted: November 22, 2024

Prepared for:
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Field survey and report completed by:

Tropical Environmental Consultants



28200 Old 41 Road #209
Bonita Springs FL 34135

(239) 455-6232

I. INTRODUCTION

Tropical Environmental Consultants (TEC) conducted a listed species survey on the subject 0.46-acre properties located at 4412 SANTA BARBARA BLVD CAPE CORAL FL 33914 (Figure 1). The parcel is zoned within RS-1 and was undeveloped at the time of inspection. The lot is located within Florida Cooperative Land Cover code 0000 – VACANT RESIDENTIAL (Figure 2). The site is located within the Consultation and focal area for various species with the habitat on the lot particularly suitable for Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). An outline of the basic biology of both animals is described below. The present survey was conducted to determine whether federal/state listed species, or evidence thereof, are present within the subject property as requested by the client. A resource list of potential protected species was generated using the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix (FNAI) tool (Exhibit A). The project site is located within Matrix Unit **34592** of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory Biodiversity Matrix. The present survey was completed to examine potential or actual occupancy of all species listed within the FNAI matrix unit surrounding the parcel 11-45-23-C3-01637.0320 with the habitat specific to the survey site primarily suited for Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Basic aspects of the animal biology is provided below.

Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*)

A medium-sized turtle (to 10 in. = 254 mm) fully adapted for life on land. Upper shell brown and relatively flat above; lower shell yellowish, without hinge, and projecting forward, especially in male; skin brown to dark gray. Forelimbs greatly expanded for digging; hind limbs reduced, stumpy, lacking any form of webbing between toes. Lower shell of male somewhat concave. Young: scales of carapace often with yellow centers, skin yellowish to tan; approximately 2 in. (51 mm) shell length at hatching (FNAI 2018).



Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)



Small, ground-dwelling owl with long legs, white chin stripe, round head, and stubby tail. Adults are boldly spotted and barred with brown and white. Juveniles plainer above with less spotting, and buffy below with little or no brown barring. Will often dig their own burrow and, prior to egg laying, will line burrow and entrance with various materials (e.g., grass clumps, palm fronds). After eggs are laid, entrance chamber is further adorned with more decorative and visible objects, such as paper scraps, plastics, tin foil, mirrors, graduation tassels, cigarette butts, and other non-natural materials (FNAI 2001).

Image Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

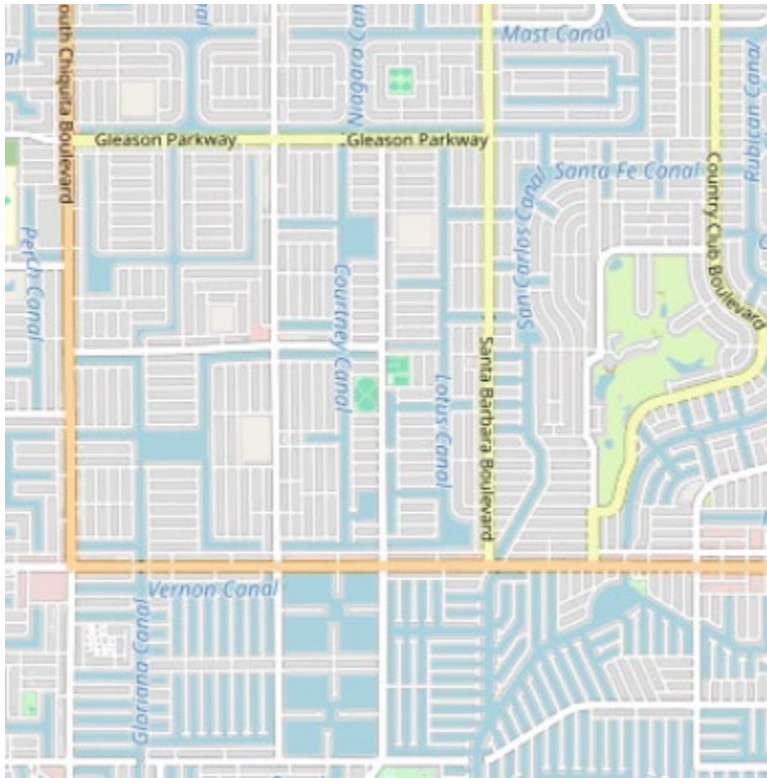


Fig. 1. Map of Cape Coral, FL with subject survey area Lee County Parcel No. 11-45-23-C3-01637.0320.



Fig 2. Existing site condition images at Lee County Parcel Id. 11-45-23-C3-01637.0320.

II. Methods

TEC staff conducted meandering pedestrian transects through the property, ensuring 100 percent visual coverage of the site, including all habitat from arboreal to ground. Transects were spaced approximately 10' apart for the initial inspection of the lot with a subsequent ground inspection focused on protected species activity and burrows. Transects focused on the identification of gopher tortoise burrows were spaced 5' apart and included areas surrounding the subject parcel. Potential occurrences of listed species were recorded using field GPS coordinates which were then corrected by tape measure and labeled with

orange flagging tape. Photos were taken of all identified tortoise burrows and assessed as “Abandoned” or “Potentially Occupied” as per FWC guidelines. Zero (0) on this site -Each burrow was documented with a sequential inventory and flagged in the field with orange flagging tape labeled with the burrow number and status (Figure 4) and marked by GPS coordinates. Gopher tortoises, their eggs and burrows are protected by state law, Chapter 68A- 27.003, FL Administrative Code, which prohibits the take, molestation, or harassment of tortoises and their nests unless authorized by a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) permit. Clearing, grading, filling and general construction activities are prohibited within 25 feet of potentially occupied burrows. Abandoned burrows do not require any special protection. If a potentially occupied burrow cannot be avoided by more than 25 feet, FWC permit will be required.

III. Results

Among potentially listed flora and fauna species, evidence of gopher tortoises were observed on site. A total of zero (0) potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows and zero (0) burrowing owl burrows were recorded within the assessment area (which includes the entirety of the parcel and a 25-foot surrounding buffer).

Abandoned burrows were not recorded during the present survey. Additionally, based on our review of available databases, there is no record of listed species occurrences within project site or nearby and construction of a single-family residence on a 0.46-acre lot would have negligible effect on listed species forage area and habitat range. Zero (0) cavity trees were observed.

Eagle Nest LE091 - 5,128’ NE.

Eagle Nest LE079 – 4,873’ NE.

No documented Eagle Nests within 660’.

*An updated species survey should be conducted after 90 days or prior to construction to ensure activity has not changed.



Fig. 3. Listed Species Survey Map with zero (0) gopher tortoise or burrowing owl burrows recorded at Lee County Parcel Id. 11-45-23-C3-01637.0320–Cape Coral, Florida.
 *Note that survey area extends beyond parcel limits by 25 feet or to fence line or road, where applicable.

IV. References

Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2001. Field Guide to the Gopher tortoise. Accessed January 5, 2021: https://www.fnai.org/FieldGuide/pdf/Gopherus_polyphemus.pdf

Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2018. Field Guide to the Florida Burrowing Owl. Accessed January 5, 2021: https://www.fnai.org/FieldGuide/pdf/Athene_cunicularia_floridana.pdf

EXHIBIT A (FNAI LIST)

FNAI Biodiversity Matrix



1018 Thomasville Road
 Suite 200-C
 Tallahassee, FL 32303
 850-224-8207
 850-681-9364 fax
 www.fnai.org

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Biodiversity Matrix Query Results

UNOFFICIAL REPORT

Created 11/25/2024

(Contact FNAI Data Services Coordinator
 for an official Standard Data Report)

NOTE: The Biodiversity Matrix includes only rare species and natural communities tracked by FNAI.

Report for 1 Matrix Unit: 34592

	<p>Descriptions</p> <p>DOCUMENTED - There is a documented occurrence in the FNAI database of the species or community within this Matrix Unit.</p> <p>DOCUMENTED-HISTORIC - There is a documented occurrence in the FNAI database of the species or community within this Matrix Unit; however the occurrence has not been observed/reported within the last twenty years.</p> <p>LIKELY - The species or community is <i>known</i> to occur in this vicinity, and is considered likely within this Matrix Unit because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. documented occurrence overlaps this and adjacent Matrix Units, but the documentation isn't precise enough to indicate which of those Units the species or community is actually located in; or 2. there is a documented occurrence in the vicinity and there is suitable habitat for that species or community within this Matrix Unit. <p>POTENTIAL - This Matrix Unit lies within the known or predicted range of the species or community based on expert knowledge and environmental variables such as climate, soils, topography, and landcover.</p>
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Matrix Unit ID: 34592

1 Documented Element Found

Scientific and Common Names	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Athene cunicularia floridana Florida Burrowing Owl	G4T3	S3	N	ST

0 Documented-Historic Elements Found

0 Likely Elements Found

Matrix Unit ID: 34592

16 Potential Elements for Matrix Unit 34592

Scientific and Common Names	Global Rank	State Rank	Federal Status	State Listing
Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi Gulf Sturgeon	G3T2T3	S2?	T	FT
Antigone canadensis pratensis				

https://data.labins.org/...ing/FNAI_BioMatrix/GridSearch.cfm?sel_id=34592&extent=599878.5176,286400.4559,601487.8627,288009.8009[11/25/2024 3:36:06 PM]

FNAI Biodiversity Matrix

Florida Sandhill Crane	G5T2	S2	N	ST
<i>Calopogon multiflorus</i> many-flowered grass-pink	G2G3	S2S3	N	T
<i>Drymarchon couperi</i> Eastern Indigo Snake	G3	S2?	T	FT
<i>Eragrostis pectinacea</i> var. <i>tracyi</i> Sanibel lovegrass	G5T1	S1	N	E
<i>Eumops floridanus</i> Florida bonneted bat	G1	S1	E	FE
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i> Gopher Tortoise	G3	S3	C	ST
<i>Gymnopogon chapmanianus</i> Chapman's skeletongrass	G3	S3	N	N
<i>Lechea cernua</i> nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Linum carteri</i> var. <i>smallii</i> Small's flax	G2T2	S2	N	E
<i>Nemastylis floridana</i> celestial lily	G2	S2	N	E
<i>Nolina atopocarpa</i> Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	T
<i>Pteroglossaspis acristata</i> giant orchid	G2G3	S2	N	T
<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i> Snail Kite	G4G5	S2	E	FE
<i>Sceloporus woodi</i> Florida Scrub Lizard	G2G3	S2S3	N	N
<i>Setophaga discolor paludicola</i> Florida Prairie Warbler	G5T3	S3	N	N

Disclaimer

The data maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory represent the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources statewide. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore, this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. FNAI shall not be held liable for the accuracy and completeness of these data, or opinions or conclusions drawn from these data. FNAI is not inviting reliance on these data. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Unofficial Report

These results are considered unofficial. FNAI offers a [Standard Data Request](#) option for those needing certifiable data.

https://data.labins.org/...ing/FNAI_BioMatrix/GridSearch.cfm?sel_id=34592&extent=599878.5176,286400.4559,601487.8627,288009.8009[11/25/2024 3:36:06 PM]