

Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) 2004

Conservation Areas

More than 400,000 acres of **conservation** land are scattered throughout Palm Beach County. These areas range from small municipal sites to vast areas devoted to wildlife refuge and management areas. These areas act as a buffer between the developed coastal communities and the Glades' Tier agriculture area. The conservation areas are intended to protect natural resources, wildlife, and surface water and groundwater quality.

To protect additional conservation areas, the County established an Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Program. It is funded by more than \$150 million in bonds which are used to leverage additional funds for land acquisition. To preserve wildlife migration corridors and enhance natural environmental systems, a linked open space system has been established to promote the connection of these conservation lands.