

# **CONSERVANCY AND COMMUNITY TRUST**

of  
**SOUTH GULF COVE**

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Conservancy and Community Trust of South Gulf Cove, Inc. (CCT) a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, provides funding for land conservation, community improvement and protection of water quality of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary.

### **HISTORY**

The CCT was founded in 2003 out of a concern that the urbanization of a coastal community would negatively affect the quality and health of the community's environment and the waters of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary that we border. The CCT encourages and assists other communities with similar goals.

South Gulf Cove is located at the base of the Charlotte Harbor Watershed where the waters of the Myakka and Peace Rivers meet at Charlotte Harbor. We immediately border the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and the seventh largest estuary in Florida.

At present, there is a great deal of open space in South Gulf cove allowing residents vast amounts of safe recreational areas and providing good habitat for wildlife. Today, residents enjoy sightings of birds (egrets, ibis, heron, eagle), bobcat, fox and alligator. We enjoy the diversity of the subtropical plants and trees around us (palms, palmettos, pine, wildflowers). At night we enjoy the quiet and the dazzling display of stars.

We are determined to overcome the poor planning of the past that did not foresee the negative impact of urbanization. We are pledged to preserve, conserve and protect the quality of life that drew us to this community and to pass it on to the next generation in as good as or better condition than when we arrived. Because we hope our activities will inspire other coastal neighborhoods to undertake programs to create sustained communities we share our knowledge and resources with others.

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**ISSUES FACING THE SOUTH GULF COVE COMMUNITY**

**HOW TO:**

- 1. Handle the Community's increasing population density**
- 2. Develop open spaces and facilitate recreation**
- 3. Protect the natural resources**
- 4. Respond to changing neighborhood needs**

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**STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES**

**ISSUE No. 1** - How to handle the Community's increasing population density

**STRATEGIES:**

- Maintain adequate and safe roadways
- Help protect pedestrians and bikers
- Reduce direct access to major roadways
- Help incorporate other methods to calm traffic on major roadways

**ISSUE No. 2** - How to develop open spaces and facilitate recreation

**STRATEGIES:**

- Preserve land and hold land in trust for the public
- Enable development of neighborhood and water front parks
- Establish a walking/bicycling system along major community roadways

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**STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES**

**ISSUE No. 3** - How to protect the natural resources

**STRATEGIES:**

- Protect surface water quality
- Improve storm water management systems
- Educate land owners

**ISSUE No. 4** - How to respond to changing neighborhood needs

**STRATEGIES:**

- Help institute the community plan
- Cooperate and communicate with other organizations
- Evaluate requests for funds and CCT support
- Design and implement fund raising plans and events
- Facilitate tax deductible contributions
- Apply for funds, grants and donations