CCFW
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

Legacy Planning

Preserving and enhancing the habitats of protected wildlife in Cape Coral



Photo by Paul Tressler



Photo by Michiale Carney

Leave a Legacy . . .to ensure a better future for protected wildlife

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife (CCFW) is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to protecting local species such as burrowing owls and gopher tortoises through education, advocacy, and the aquisition and preservation of land for wildlife habitat in Cape Coral.

Our History

Back in 1957 the Rosen Brothers came to Cape Coral to build a massive waterfront community. They brought in the largest collection of earthmoving equipment that had ever been seen in Florida and proceeded to level miles of land and dig over 400 miles of canals.

The large variety of wildlife that lived here left to find another home. What was once lush, wooded areas, beautiful meadows, and pristine streams, was reduced to near wasteland. As most of the wildlife left to find suitable habitat, the burrowing owls that lived on the outskirts of Lee County and Central Florida, found this prairie like habitat ideal, and began to move in and flourish.

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife started when resident Carol Kiefer moved to the city and took notice of the high population of burrowing owls. She got together with Sue Scott, a member of the planning division of Cape Coral, and set out to stake and recognize each burrow in the city. The pair brought a group of like-minded individuals together, including Beverly Saltonstall (author of the book, “Cape Coral Burrowing Owls Don’t Hoot!”) and the first official CCFW meeting took place on April 24, 2001, at Jaycee Park. The goal of the first CCFW crew was to advocate and raise awareness of the burrowing owl population.

Over time, through CCFW’s advocacy, numerous conservation measures have been put in place to protect Cape Coral’s owls from the increasing pressure due to development. The annual Burrowing Owl Festival has become a Southwest Florida staple and is one of the many special events the community looks forward to each year.

CCFW advocates not just for the burrowing owls, but other threatened local species such as gopher tortoises, bald eagles, manatees, scrub jays, purple martins, various butterflies and more.

Our Volunteers

We have over 500 members and volunteers who perform maintenance on some of the nearly 2200 burrowing owl burrows located in the city. This group of dedicated volunteers armed with city maps, weed whackers, safety equipment and lots of enthusiasm, trim burrows with high weeds, install PVC pipes and perches on newly found burrows, repair and clean up existing burrows. They also have obtained GPS coordinates for every known burrow and submitted this information to the City of Cape Coral to be put in the city database.

Our Community Outreach/Education

We have speakers that go out and educate other non-profit organizations, service organizations, schools, church groups and environmental groups. One of our most recent events called Wild About Wildlife invites school age children to participate in an afternoon of education, crafts and fun - instilling a love of wildlife and the environment.

Our Land Acquisitions - 91 lots protected and counting . . .

Through our partnering organization, Cape Coral Wildlife Trust, 91 conservation lots have been acquired, safeguarding vital habitat for burrowing owls, gopher tortoises, and dozens of other species. Our map on the back shows exactly where support from our donors has made a difference. From single lots to large parcels, every acre matters!

A future our legacy will ensure

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife is a non-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, TIN: 06-1694487, incorporated in the state of Florida. Your contribution may qualify for certain tax benefits. Please consult your legal counsel, tax advisor, or financial planner to determine how this may apply to your individual circumstances. CCFW does not provide legal, tax or financial advice.

Contact us to find out more about how you can leave a legacy to help protect wildlife:

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Photo by Sue Riebe



Photo by Save the Manatees

CAPE CORAL WILDLIFE TRUST

