

History of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee (ESLOC)

- Formed in 2007 after the approval of the Conservation Charlotte referendum.
- Original responsibilities:
 - Ranked and recommended properties to BCC for acquisitions using the following criteria:
 - **Rarity:** Rarity of natural communities, rarity of species.
 - **Connectivity:** Proximity to other protected lands; green corridors.
 - **Quality:** Ecological quality; diversity of species.
 - **Water Resources:** important to maintaining water quality; natural water courses, recharge areas, estuarine.
 - **Manageability:** Potential for long-term viability.
 - Approve each property's Work Plan prior to it being forwarded to the Board for approval.
 - Advise the Board on the management and restoration of the properties.
 - Advise the Board on public use and expanded recreational opportunities of the protected properties.

- Initial Conservation Charlotte acquisitions:
 - Twenty-six sites were nominated and vetted.
 - Five properties totaling over 2,500 acres were acquired:
 - Bill Coy Preserve 80 acres
 - Peace River Preserve 450 acres
 - Prairie Creek Preserve 1605 acres
 - Shell Creek Preserve 370 acres
 - Thornton Key Preserve 31 acres



- Committee was disbanded in 2014 due to member attendance and lack of funding.
- Reestablished in 2017 with a revised mission -
 - Approved Umbrella Land Management Plan Criteria
 - Reviewed and commented on Land Management Plans and Short-term action steps.
 - Reviewed and recommended ordinance changes to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands ordinance to incorporate other environmental lands.
- Committee reassigned initial responsibilities in 2026 once excess funds were identified for new Conservation Charlotte land acquisition nominations.