

# FLORIDA 2060: A POPULATION DISTRIBUTION SCENARIO

A Research Project Prepared for 1000 Friends of Florida by the GeoPlan Center at the University of Florida  
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## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota Counties)

	Population	Urban Acres	Total Urban Acres as % of Region Acres
Year 2005	1,238,844	662,294	15
Year 2060	3,539,766	1,800,131	40
Difference	2,300,922	1,137,837	25

- Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties are expected to build out before 2060 causing an almost continuous band of urban development along the southwest Florida coast and population spillover into adjacent inland counties.
- Large amounts of this spillover are projected for DeSoto, Hendry and Glades counties. These three counties are projected to experience the greatest transformation over the next 50 years as they go from largely rural to largely urban in character. Glades is expected to have more than 15 times the urban area it does today, DeSoto almost 9 times, and Hendry almost 5 times as much urban land as today.
- Another result will be an almost continuous urban strip linking Ft. Myers to West Palm Beach.
- Consequently only a few large areas of contiguous open space are likely to remain in the inland counties.
- The natural systems and wildlife habitat corridors in this region will be fragmented, if not replaced, by urban development.
- This region is projected to have the third largest percentage of urban land use (40%) of any region in the state by 2060.

