

**100% GOPHER TORTOISE SURVEY
COMPLETION REPORT**

**4498 SW PORT SAINT LUCIE BLVD
PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34953
PARCEL ID: 3420-660-2586-000-2**

Prepared for:

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Permit No.: GTA-13-00002C

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INTRODUCTION

A 100 percent gopher tortoise survey was conducted on behalf of Abraham Chabab Inc. on the approximately 1.03-acre residential property located on 4498 SW Port Saint Lucie Blvd, Port Saint Lucie FL, 34957 (See Figure 1). The survey included review of 100% of the subject property.

The objectives of the survey were to document the number of gopher tortoise burrows within the property in order to confirm presence/absence and approximate both the number of tortoises to be relocated and the number of burrows to be excavated. The results of the survey determined the subsequent actions required to develop the residential lot.

This Survey Report (Report) provides a summary of the survey activities conducted, including methods used and areas surveyed. Survey activities were executed according to the burrow survey methodology from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines, April 2008, Revised July 2020, Appendix 4 Methods for Burrow Surveys on Development (Donor) and Recipient Sites, 100% Burrow Survey Protocol. Survey activities were conducted on the afternoon of October 17, 2021. The information contained herein is based on the findings from the field survey.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The property boundary encompasses 1.03 acres within a residential area in southwestern Saint Lucie County (see Figure 1). The Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser lists the Property Parcel IDs as 3420-660-2586-000-2. The subject property is currently vacant undeveloped residential property.

This site is best classified as disturbed lands (FLUCCS 740) with ± 1.03 acres of potentially suitable gopher tortoise habitat. The site has been cleared of woody vegetation and has been maintained as a graminoid dominated landscape with repetitive maintenance mowing. The property is adjacent to and surrounded by both developed and undeveloped single-family residential properties.

METHODS

The survey activities were completed by Patrick Zuloaga, a licensed gopher tortoise agent, and performed in accordance with those specified in Appendix 4 of the FWC Guidelines. The pedestrian survey was conducted by walking pre-determined transects in an approximate north-south orientation at 20-foot spacing across 100 percent of the subject property. Apparent activity status (active, inactive, or abandoned), size (juvenile <5 in.; subadult 5-8 in.; adult >8 in.), GPS coordinates, and photographs were recorded for each burrow encountered along each transect. Burrows that were not clearly made by a tortoise or old burrows that were collapsed or blocked by debris were not recorded. Figure 2 presents the survey design for the property.

All gopher tortoise burrows encountered were catalogued using a field datalogger utilizing Solo Field mapping software. Status, location, and any other pertinent information were recorded using the handheld datalogger.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

The 100 % pedestrian survey of the project area resulted in **no** live gopher tortoises, signs of utilization (i.e., tracks, scat), or potentially occupied burrows during the survey. The disturbed nature of the site provides suboptimal gopher tortoise habitat. Conditions on the site allowed for suitable access and visibility of 100 percent of the property while conducting the survey.

REFERENCES

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines. Revised July 2020. 133 pp.

4498 SW Port Saint Lucie Blvd, Port Saint Lucie FL, 34957, 100% Gopher Tortoise Survey Completion Report



Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

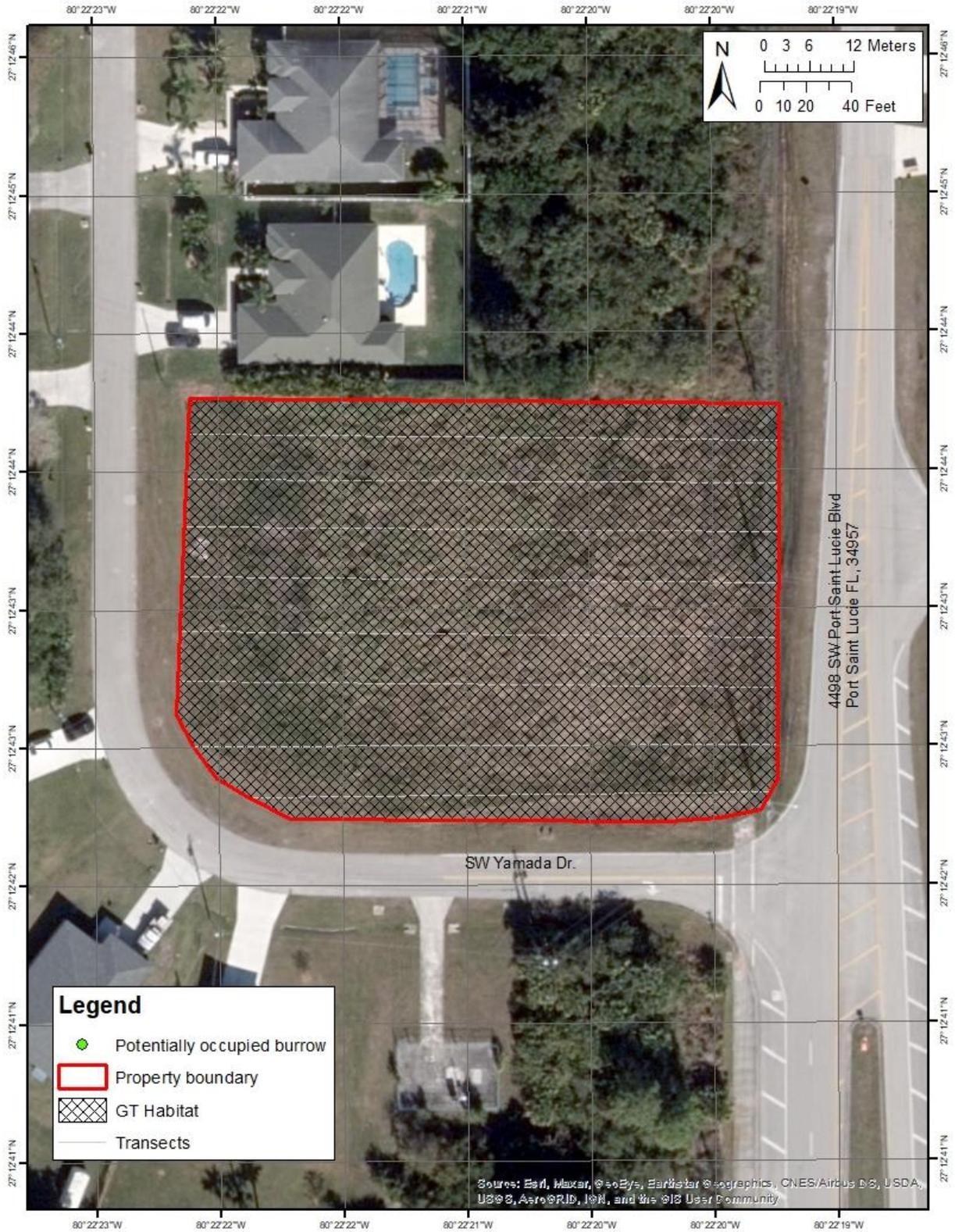


Figure 2. Gopher Tortoise Survey Map

