Burnt Store Marina view west, with Charlotte Harbor in background.

East shore of Charlotte Harbor from Burnt Store Marina, looking north, Burnt Store Lakes development in midground, Key Point on upper left with mangrove islands reaching to Alligator Creek and Punta Gorda Isles in distance.
18. Matlacha, a historic fishing village adjoining Matlacha Pass Bridge, has developed a local eco-tourism/sport fishing industry based on the town’s location within Matlacha Aquatic Preserve. Located on the eastern shore of Little Pine Island, this village is today mostly a way-point to reach the island proper.
Land Use/Land Cover

- Urban & Built-Up
- Agriculture
- Shrub, Brushland, Rangeland
- Upland Forest
- Water
- Wetlands
- Mangrove
- Barren Land

19. Ft. Myers served as an army supply depot during the Seminole and Civil Wars. By 1879, the town had a population of 150 and included four stores that supplied goods and medicines to the sparse population of the Caloosahatchee Valley. The town's population grew to 349 by 1885. The following year Ft. Myers became the seat of newly formed Lee County. The railroad arrived in 1904, and later a large tourist trade developed. The lower Caloosahatchee attracted hundreds of fishermen and sportsmen annually. Waterborne commerce — steamers and trading schooners — declined in the face of competition by the railroad. Ft. Myers, during the 20th century preceding World War II, became the distribution center for a large and rapidly developing region, and its commerce increased accordingly.

The Ft. Myers waterfront today is undergoing a resurgence of development. Hotels, condominiums and single-family homes line the riverfront east and west of downtown proper. The downtown waterfront is the focus of a redevelopment study that will blend the historic structures with new growth. There is thriving nightlife in the core of the city today that city officials hope to spread throughout the daytime hours. One element that should spur downtown redevelopment was the creation in the late 1990s of a terminal to allow daily high-speed boat trips from the city to Key West. Operation of a high-speed catamaran is expected to begin by 2003.
20. Little Shell Island, at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee, provided a place for boaters to go for great hamburgers during the 1950s. Today, the burgers are gone and the island is mostly deserted except for weekend boaters.

21. Ft. Myers Yacht Basin and Waterfront Park was built in 1937 as a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project, the New Deal relief and recovery program of the Depression that employed tens of thousands of people on public works projects, such as building roads, bridges, and parks.

22. Ft. Myers (downtown) Bridge The first bridge across the Caloosahatchee was a wooden structure built in 1924 that burned in the early 1940s. The bridge crossed the river upstream of the present day Edison Bridge (Business 41) and all that remains of the wooden bridge is Old Bridge Park.

23. Midpoint Bridge This span opened to vehicular traffic in October 1997. It is a four-lane facility with a 55-foot clearance for boats at the center of the channel. Construction of the bridge was first discussed in the 1960s; the issue came before the Lee County Board of County Commissioners in 1975 and was defeated by a 3-2 vote. It eventually was constructed.

24. Cape Coral Bridge A two-lane bridge first opened to vehicular traffic in 1964. A twin span was added in 1989, creating a total of four lanes of traffic. The bridge has a clearance for vessels of 55 feet at the center of the channel.