



# **Ocoee Election Day Riots Historical Review and Dedication Committee Meeting**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2021**



# **WELCOMING REMARKS**

**SHAWN HAMILTON**

**INTERIM DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LAND & RECREATION  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



# **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**TONI COOKE**

**FOUNDER**

**ON COMMON GROUND CONSULTING**



# **OVERVIEW OF FLORIDA'S SUNSHINE AND PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS**

**MICHAEL WEISS**

**ATTORNEY, OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**





# **FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW**



# **SCOPE OF THE SUNSHINE LAW**

- **IT PROVIDES A RIGHT OF ACCESS TO GOVERNMENTAL PROCEEDINGS AT BOTH THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS.**
- **THE LAW IS EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARDS.**
- **IT HAS BEEN APPLIED TO ANY GATHERING OF TWO OR MORE BOARD MEMBERS TO DISCUSS SOME MATTER WHICH WILL FORESEEABLY COME BEFORE THAT BOARD.**
- **ADVISORY BOARDS, EVEN THOUGH THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MAY NOT BINDING UPON THE AGENCIES THAT CREATE THEM.**



# **THREE BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

- 1. MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BOARDS OR COMMISSIONS MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC;**
- 2. REASONABLE NOTICE OF SUCH MEETINGS MUST BE GIVEN; AND**
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS MUST BE TAKEN, PROMPTLY RECORDED, AND OPEN TO PUBLIC INSPECTION.**



# **MISCELLANEOUS SUNSHINE LAW INFORMATION**

- **BOARD MEMBERS MAY NOT USE ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION TO CONDUCT A PRIVATE DISCUSSION ABOUT BOARD BUSINESS.**
- **WHILE A BOARD MEMBER IS NOT PROHIBITED FROM DISCUSSING BOARD BUSINESS WITH STAFF OR A NON-BOARD MEMBER, THESE INDIVIDUALS CANNOT BE USED AS A LIAISON TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION BETWEEN BOARD MEMBERS.**
- **THE SUNSHINE LAW PROVIDES THAT NO RESOLUTION, RULE, REGULATION, OR FORMAL ACTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED BINDING IF THEY ARE NOT MADE IN AN OPEN MEETING.**
- **IF YOU RECEIVE A COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE TASK FORCE, SPECIFICALLY SOLICITING AN IDEA OR PROCESS, REACH OUT TO THE BOARD'S STAFF FOR GUIDANCE.**
- **PENALTIES CAN BE LEVIED FOR VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING MISDEMEANORS AND FINES.**



# **PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS**



# **WHAT IS A PUBLIC RECORD?**

- **“ALL DOCUMENTS, PAPERS, LETTERS, MAPS, BOOKS, TAPES, PHOTOGRAPHS, FILMS, SOUND RECORDINGS, DATA PROCESSING SOFTWARE, OR OTHER MATERIAL, REGARDLESS OF THE PHYSICAL FORM, CHARACTERISTICS, OR MEANS OF TRANSMISSION.”**
- **“...MADE OR RECEIVED PURSUANT TO LAW OR ORDINANCE OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSACTION OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS BY ANY AGENCY...”**
- **THAT IS “INTENDED TO PERPETUATE, COMMUNICATE, OR FORMALIZE KNOWLEDGE OF SOME TYPE.”**



# **WHAT IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD?**

- **DOCUMENTS THAT ARE NOT INTENDED TO PERPETUATE, COMMUNICATE, OR FORMALIZE KNOWLEDGE OF SOME TYPE**
  - **INCLUDES DOCUMENTS THAT ARE NOT INTENDED AS FINAL EVIDENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE RECORDED.**
  - **PERSONAL NOTES TO YOURSELF WHICH ARE DESIGNED FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL USE IN REMEMBERING CERTAIN THINGS.**
  - **THESE ONLY INCLUDE THOSE DOCUMENTS THAT SERVE NO GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION.**



# **EXEMPTIONS & CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- **ALL RECORDS ARE PUBLIC RECORDS EXCEPT IF THEY HAVE BEEN LIMITED IN SOME WAY BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.**
- **THE LEGISLATURE HAS ENACTED STATUTES THAT HAVE GENERAL EXEMPTIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS THAT PREVENT CERTAIN TYPES OF RECORDS OR INFORMATION FROM BEING INSPECTED OR COPIED.**
  - **THESE APPEAR IN CHAPTER 119, F.S.**
  - **THESE CAN ALSO BE FOUND THROUGHOUT FLORIDA STATUTES.**
- **BE AWARE THAT NOTES AND DRAFTS CAN BE PUBLIC RECORDS.**
- **PLEASE CHECK WITH THE BOARD'S STAFF IF YOU GET A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST.**





# **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC RECORDS INFORMATION**

- **EXPECT EVERYTHING TO BE A PUBLIC RECORD.**
- **BEFORE YOU SEND ANYTHING, CONSIDER IT COULD END UP ON THE NEWSPAPER'S FRONT PAGE.**
- **BEST PRACTICE: DON'T MIX WORK AND PLEASURE WHEN EMAILING AND TEXTING.**
- **JUST BECAUSE IT IS AN EXCHANGE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ATTORNEY, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE PROTECTS IT.**
- **IF YOU GET A QUESTION OR REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC RECORD, SEE THE BOARD'S PUBLIC RECORD LIAISON.**



# **QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**

**WHEN IN DOUBT OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:**

- **LOOK IT UP IN CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES (OR OTHER GOVERNING STATUTES)**
- **LOOK IT UP IN THE GOVERNMENT-IN-SUNSHINE MANUAL (THE CURRENT YEAR'S EDITION)**
- **SPEAK TO YOUR BOARD'S STAFF**



# **WHY WE'RE HERE**

**PAMELA SCHWARTZ**

**CHIEF CURATOR**

**ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER**



# YESTERDAY, THIS WAS HOME

The Ocoee Massacre of 1920

Orange County Regional History Center  
On display through March 7



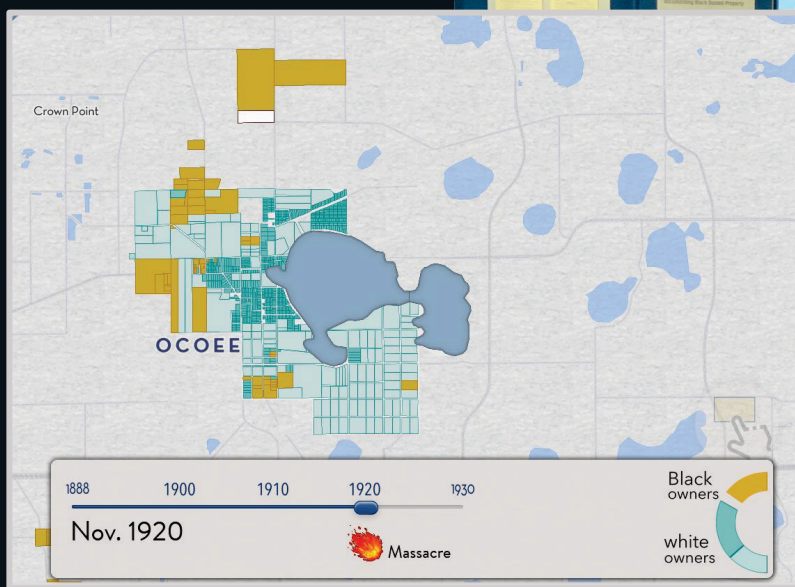






The Ocoee Massacre  
November 2-3, 1920





Today, the value of property formerly owned by Black Ococeans is worth more than \$8 million dollars.

“At the time that I visited  
Ocoee, the last colored family  
of Ocoee was leaving with their  
goods piled high on a motor  
truck with six colored children  
on top. White children stood  
around and jered the Negroes  
who were leaving, threatening  
them with burning if they did  
not hurry up and get away.  
These children  
thought it [was]  
a huge joke  
that some Negroes  
had been burned alive.”

—Wiley White, Executive Secretary of the NAACP

[illegible]

ORLANDO MORNING SENTINEL

COLOPLAND SLIDE HARDING WINS  
TWO WHITES DEAD COOEE RIOT

SANTA FE AND CONCORDIA RAILROADS IN A.S. 1,000  
THOUSANDS HARKING LAUNCHING RALLY RACE  
TO BE AT CLOSING CLAIMS 2 WHITE VICTIMS

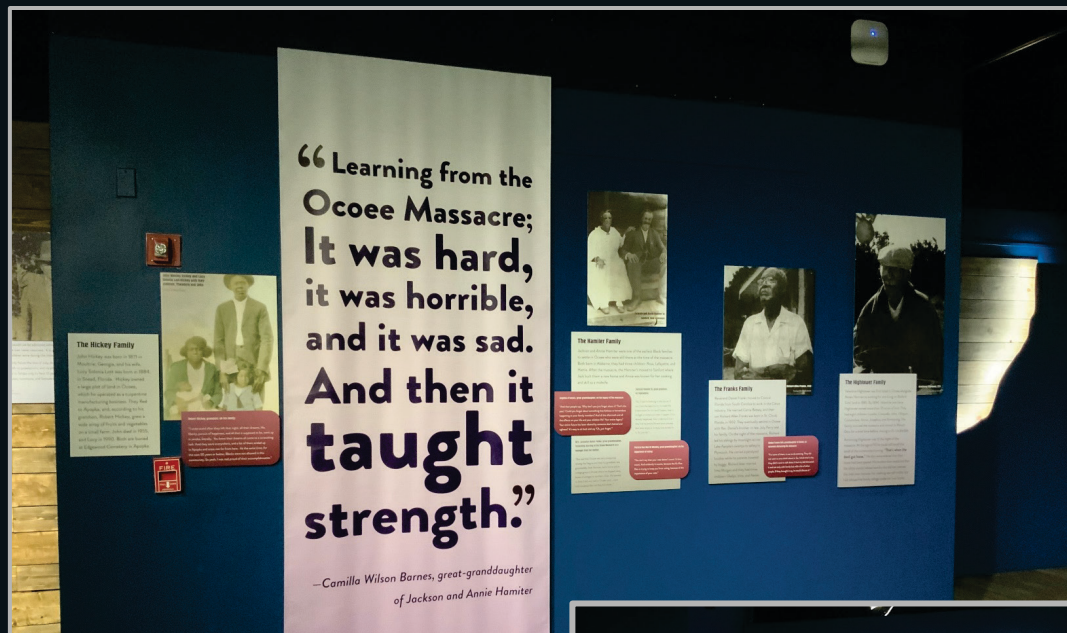
HARDING AND COOEE RIOT

HARDING AND COOEE RIOT

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Voters could be  
number of reasons  
have to appear be-  
to submit proof of  
election. In 1920  
Orange County has  
On election day the  
elections at Precinct  
were cast, including  
July Perry's wife, as  
those who success-  
"rating went on in a  
o'clock when the first  
challenge any voter









More recent:

- Democracy Forum
- Human Relations Diversity Board
- Proclamation
- Placement of July Perry Memorial Marker
- History Center Exhibit
- Passage of House Bill 1213





**BREAK**



# **OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATION AND COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES**

**SHAWN HAMILTON**

**INTERIM DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LAND & RECREATION  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



# **HOUSE BILL 1213**

- **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR DESANTIS ON JUNE 23**
- **DIRECTS DEP TO NAME STATE PARK, PORTION OF STATE PARK, OR FACILITY IN RECOGNITION OF VICTIMS OF OCOEE ELECTION DAY RIOTS**
- **PROVIDED DEP SECRETARY AUTHORITY TO APPOINT COMMITTEE TO ASSESS NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**



# **COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES**

- **ASSESS NAMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR:**
  - **STATE PARK**
  - **PORTION OF A STATE PARK**
  - **FACILITY WITHIN A STATE PARK**
- **DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **SUBMIT REPORT TO DEP SECRETARY**



# TIMELINE

**FEBRUARY 1**

**1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting**

**APRIL 14**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Committee Meeting**

**TBD**

**Final Report to DEP Secretary**

**MARCH 5**

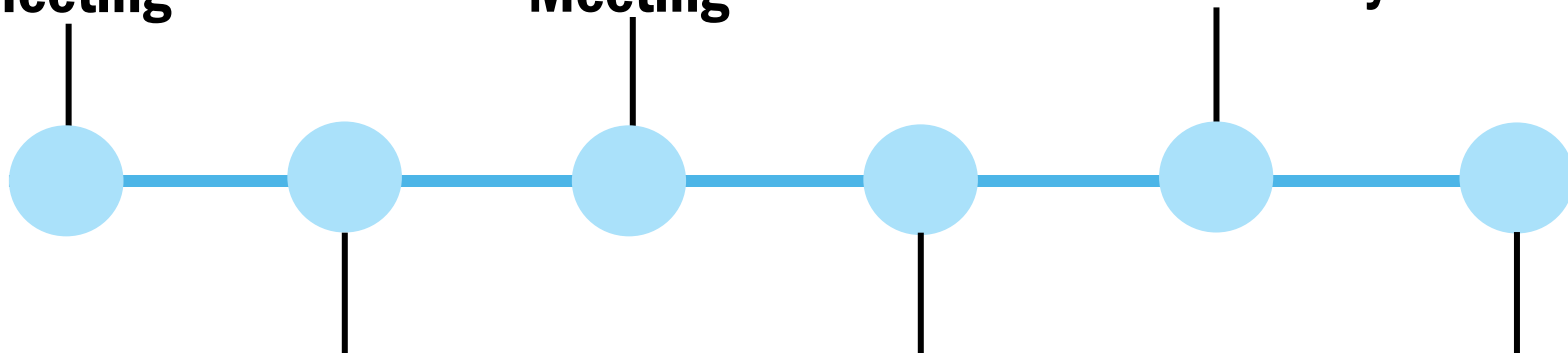
**2<sup>nd</sup> Committee Meeting**

**MAY**

**4<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting (*if needed*)**

**TBD**

**Implement Recommendations**







# **OVERVIEW OF THE FLORIDA PARK SERVICE**

**ERIC DRAPER**

**DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



## **Florida Park Service Mission:**

To provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources.



# Florida State Parks



**175** State Parks, Trails  
& Historic Sites  
*on 797,180 Acres*



**4x Winner  
of National  
Gold Medal**






# Florida State Parks



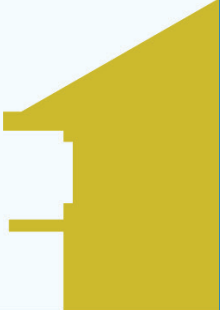
**100 Miles**  
of Sandy Beaches



**2,117 Miles**  
of Trails



**51**  
Concessions



**1**  
Lodge



**206**  
Cabins

**3,679** Full-facility  
Campsites





## Florida State Parks



**24,837,900**  
**Visitors**



**1,033**  
**Employees**



**10,411**  
**Volunteers**



**80+ Friends**  
**Groups**



**1,046,977**  
**Volunteer Hours**

**\$54.2 Million**  
**Total Revenue**



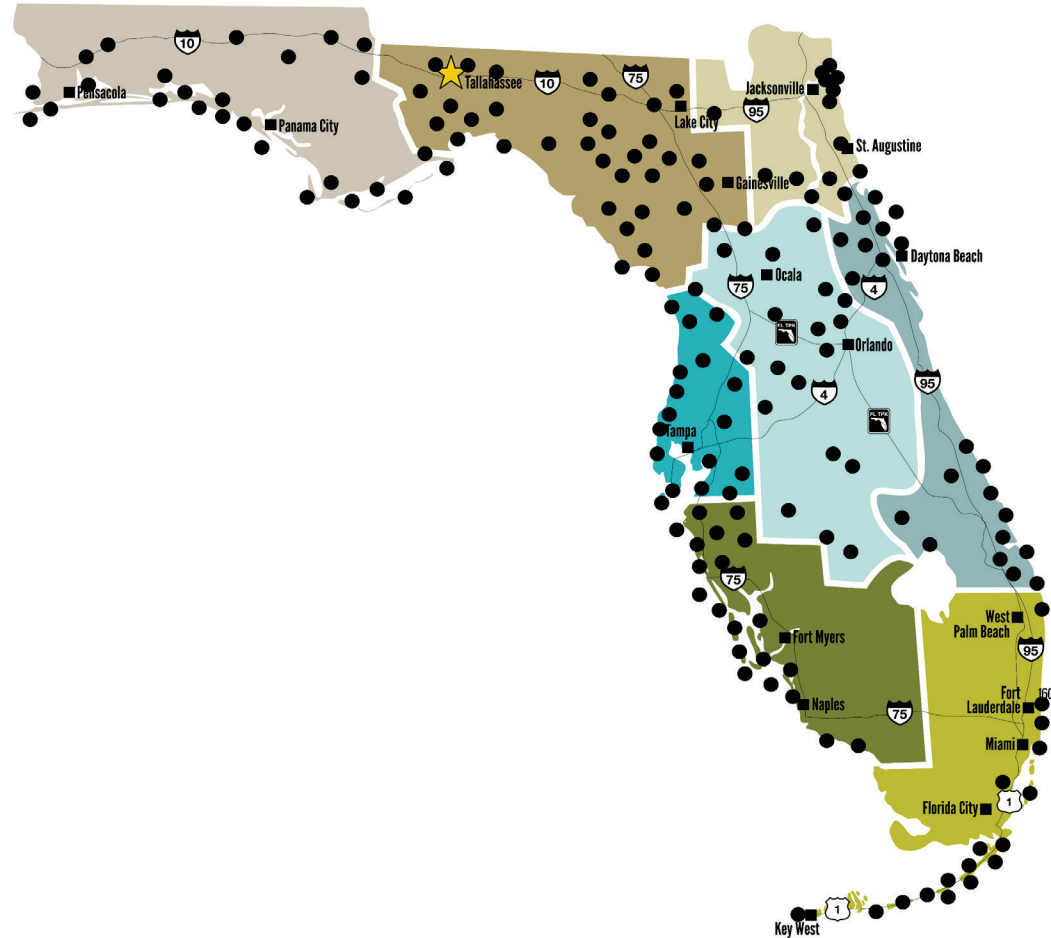
**\$2.2 Billion**  
**Economic Impact**



# Florida State Parks

**172 out of 175**

Florida State Parks units  
have at least one  
cultural feature





# Florida State Parks

To provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources.





# Cultural Resources



Archaeological  
Sites

2,340



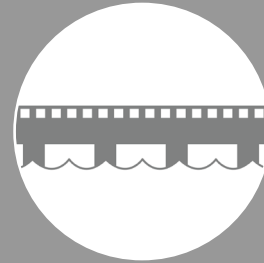
Historic  
Structures

838



Historic  
Cemeteries

23



Historic  
Bridges

50



Cultural  
Landscapes

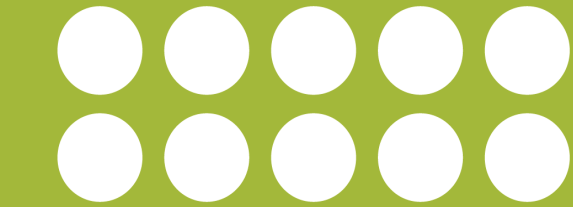
224

**Total: 3,475**





## Cultural Resource

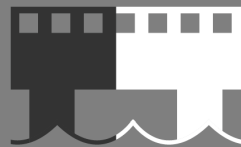


**10** Designated National  
Historic Landmarks



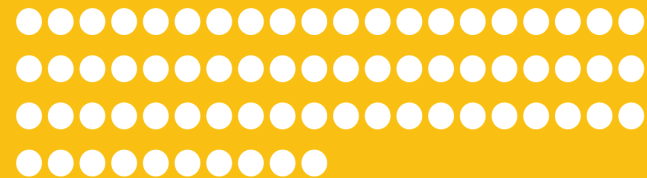
**31%**

of park buildings are over  
50 years old



**45%**

of parks have at least 1  
historic structure



**70** Listed National Register  
of Historic Places



**89%**

of parks have at  
least 1 archaeological site



# Renaming a Florida State Park

All parks have a Unit Management Plan, which is approved by the Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC).





# Renaming a Florida State Park

John U. Lloyd Beach State Park was renamed **Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park** in 2016.

Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula led the wade-in movement which prompted acquisition of the area now included in the park.





# Renaming a Florida State Park

1

DRP proposes renaming action.

2

DRP prepares background materials, including biographical and historical information.

3

DEP may decide to hold a public meeting and communicate the proposed name change to the public.

4

DSL reviews title and land records for deed restrictions which may limit renaming actions.

5

DRP submits the action as an item for the next DHR Historical Commission Meeting.

6

DRP submits a Unit Management Plan amendment to DSL for inclusion in an upcoming ARC meeting.

7

ARC considers the request at a public meeting and votes to approve.

8

DRP creates signage and interpretation following approval.



# Renaming a Florida State Park

- Renaming may take up to year
- Outreach to stakeholders can take place
- Interpretive materials may be prepared ahead of renaming







# Questions?

[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)



# **LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS**

**CALLIE DEHAVEN**

**DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF STATE LANDS**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



# Florida Forever Program



**Florida Forever has a long history as a national leader in conservation, which is vital to our state's environmental protection and economic growth.**

**These projects provide a host of ecosystem benefits, including water quality and quantity, resiliency from storm impacts, habitat and species protection and outdoor recreation.**





# Acquisition & Restoration Council

## ARC

- Evaluate
- Rank
- Select



**1 Representative:**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Protection



**1 Representative:**  
Division of Historical  
Resources



**1 Representative:**  
Florida Forest Service



**1 Appointee:** Commissioner  
of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services



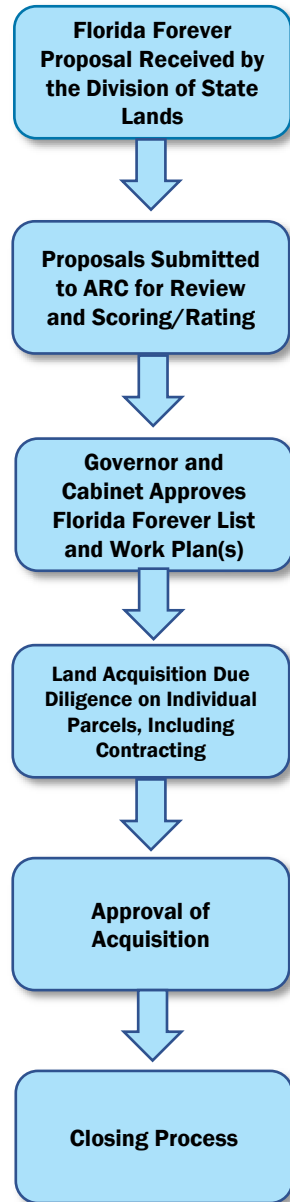
**1 Representative:**  
Florida Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission



**1 Appointee:**  
Florida Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation Commission



**4 Citizens**



# FLORIDA *Forever*

Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conserving our natural resources. It replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000, the largest program of its kind in the United States. Preservation 2000 acquired more than 1.78 million acres of land for protection. The Florida Forever Act, implemented in 2000, reinforced Florida's commitment to conserve its natural and cultural heritage, provide urban open space, and better manage the land acquired by the state.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition program. The Division of State Lands is currently working to acquire land from our statewide list of Florida Forever projects. These projects provide a host of ecosystem benefits including; water quality and quantity, resiliency from storm impact, habitat and species protection and outdoor recreation.

The state's land acquisition programs have a long history of cooperative partnerships with local and national land trusts, water management districts, counties, cities and other local governments, as well as the federal government. The successful acquisition of many state projects is the direct result of these partnerships. Many of the projects on the Florida Forever list have partners.

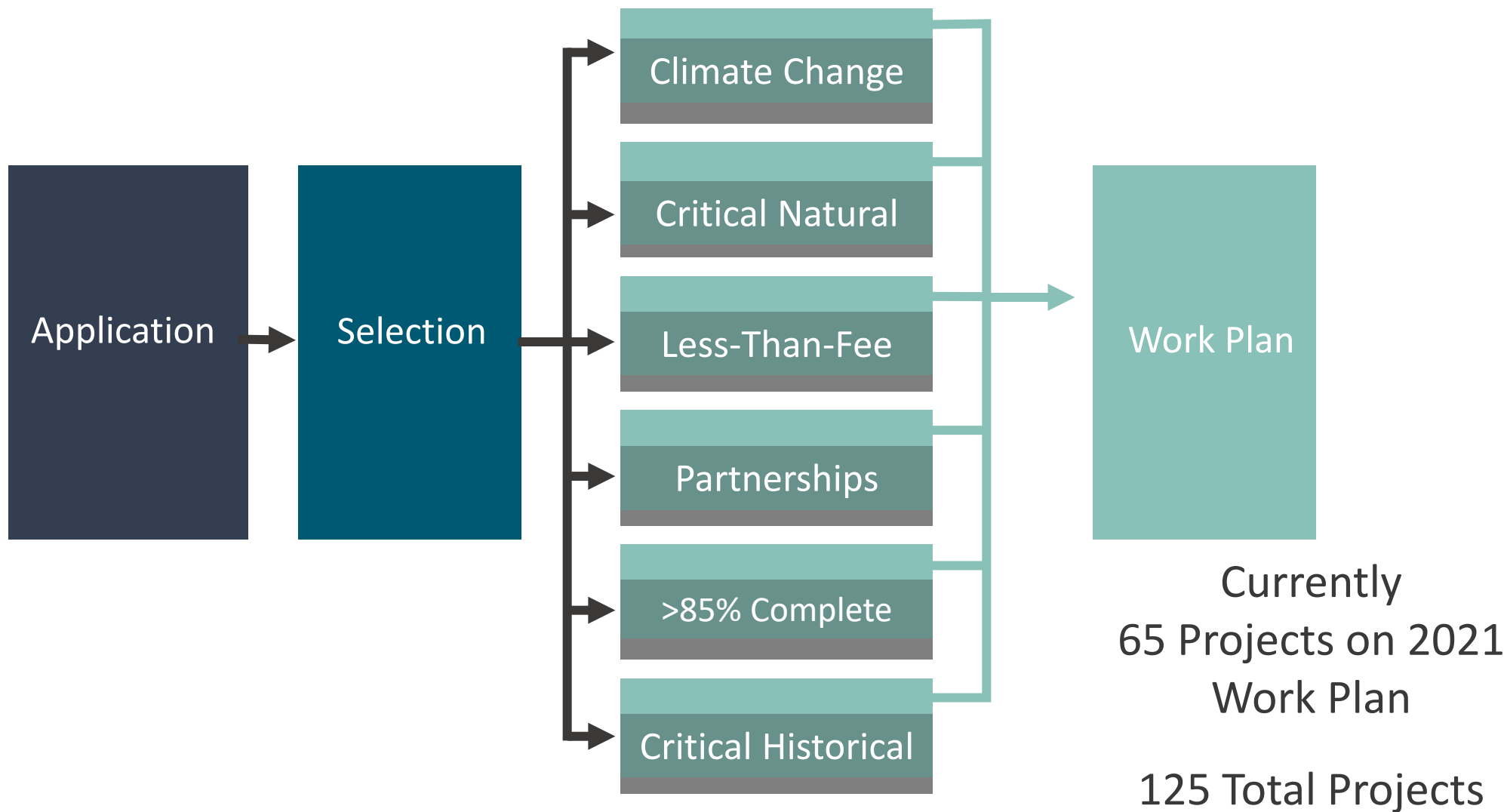
The 10-member Acquisition and Restoration Council makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes four state agency representatives; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of State, Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In addition, citizen members with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management and outdoor recreation are included.

The Governor and Cabinet, as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The Board also approves acquisition under Florida Forever for the workplan and priority list.






# Acquisition & Restoration Council

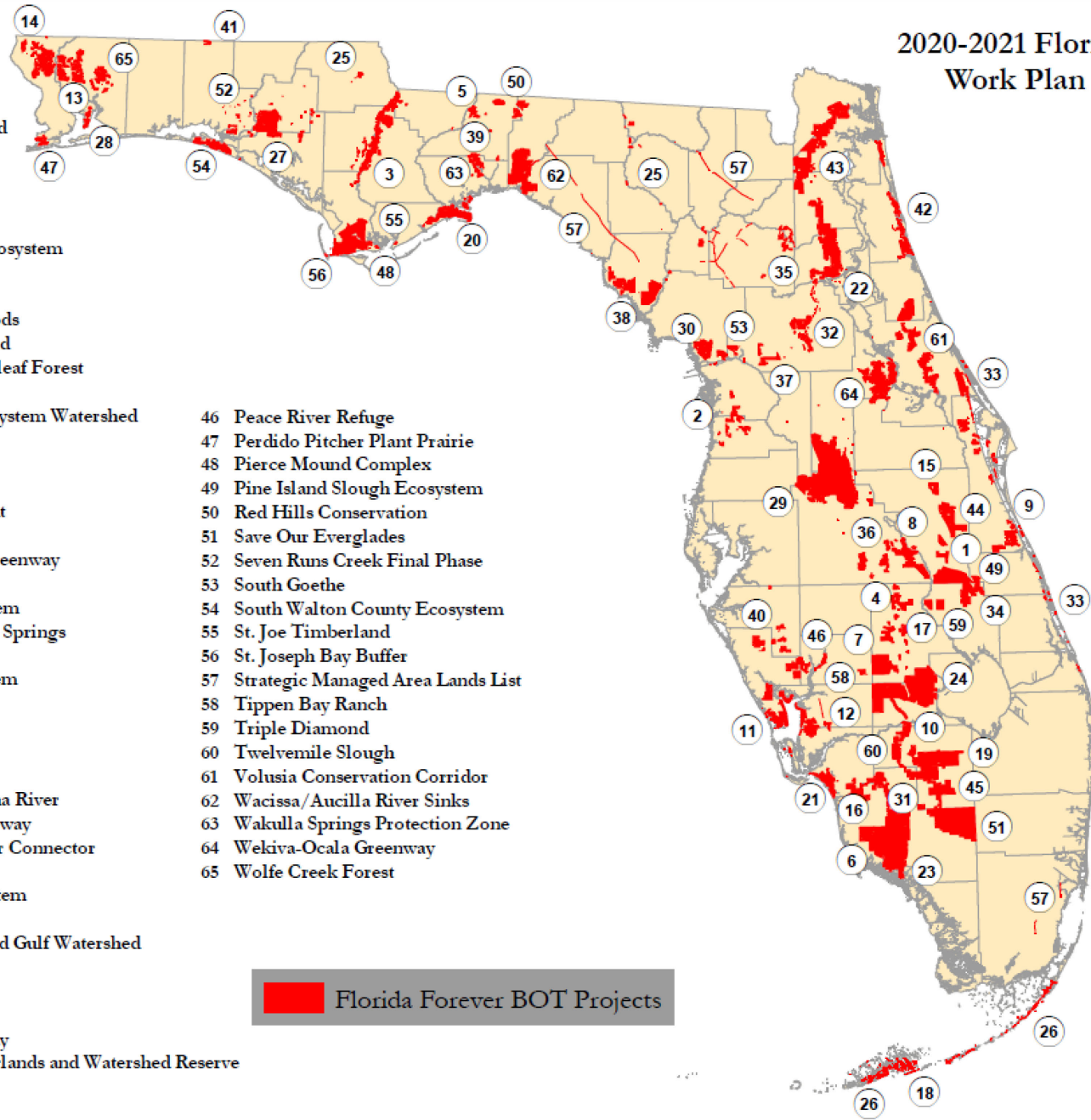


## 2020-2021 Florida Forever Work Plan Projects

- 1 Adams Ranch
- 2 Annutteliga Hammock
- 3 Apalachicola River
- 4 Arbuckle Creek Watershed
- 5 Ayavalla Plantation
- 6 Belle Meade
- 7 Blue Head Ranch
- 8 Bombing Range Ridge
- 9 Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem
- 10 Caloosahatchee Ecoscape
- 11 Charlotte Harbor Estuary
- 12 Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods
- 13 Clear Creek/Whiting Field
- 14 Coastal Headwaters Longleaf Forest
- 15 Conlin Lake X
- 16 Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed
- 17 Corrigan Ranch
- 18 Coupon Bight/Key Deer
- 19 Devil's Garden
- 20 Dickerson Bay/Bald Point
- 21 Estero Bay
- 22 Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway
- 23 Fakahatchee Strand
- 24 Fisheating Creek Ecosystem
- 25 Florida's First Magnitude Springs
- 26 Florida Keys Ecosystem
- 27 Forest and Lakes Ecosystem
- 28 Garcon Ecosystem
- 29 Green Swamp
- 30 Gulf Hammock
- 31 Half Circle L Ranch
- 32 Heather Island/Ocklawaha River
- 33 Indian River Lagoon Blueway
- 34 Kissimmee-St. Johns River Connector
- 35 Lake Santa Fe
- 36 Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem
- 37 Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
- 38 Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed
- 39 Millstone Plantation
- 40 Myakka Ranchlands
- 41 Natural Bridge Creek
- 42 Northeast Florida Blueway
- 43 Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve
- 44 Osceola Pine Savannas
- 45 Panther Glades

- 46 Peace River Refuge
- 47 Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie
- 48 Pierce Mound Complex
- 49 Pine Island Slough Ecosystem
- 50 Red Hills Conservation
- 51 Save Our Everglades
- 52 Seven Runs Creek Final Phase
- 53 South Goethe
- 54 South Walton County Ecosystem
- 55 St. Joe Timberland
- 56 St. Joseph Bay Buffer
- 57 Strategic Managed Area Lands List
- 58 Tippen Bay Ranch
- 59 Triple Diamond
- 60 Twelvemile Slough
- 61 Volusia Conservation Corridor
- 62 Wacissa/Aucilla River Sinks
- 63 Wakulla Springs Protection Zone
- 64 Wekiva-Ocala Greenway
- 65 Wolfe Creek Forest

 Florida Forever BOT Projects





# Critical Historical Resources Projects

Rank	Substantially Complete Projects	County
1	Pierce Mound Complex	Franklin
2	Battle of Wahoo Swamp	Sumter
3	Pineland Site Complex	Lee

## **Past purchases:**

**The Barnacle Miami-Dade 1991 (managed by Florida Park Service)**

**Key West Custom House, Monroe 1992 (managed by Key West Art & Historical Society)**

**Pierce Mound Complex, Franklin 2001 (managed by Florida Park Service)**

**Pineland Site Complex, Lee (managed by Florida Museum of Natural History)**

**Letchworth Mounds, Jefferson 2004 (managed by Florida Park Service)**

**Pillsbury Mound, Manatee County 2009 (managed by Manatee County)**

**Tequesta Site, Miami-Dade 2009 (National Historic Landmark)**



# Future Investments - Grant Program



## Florida Communities Trust & Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts

### FCT

Provides grant funds to local governments and nonprofits to acquire conservation lands, urban spaces, parks and greenways.

### SMWW

Provides grant funds to acquire land for the restoration and preservation of working waterfronts.







# Future Investments - Grant Program



## Florida Recreation Development Assistance

Provides grant funds to qualified local governmental entities to acquire or develop land for public outdoor recreation.







**[Callie.DeHaven@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Callie.DeHaven@FloridaDEP.gov)**

**Callie DeHaven**

**Director  
Division of State Lands**





# **NEXT STEPS**

**SHAWN HAMILTON**

**INTERIM DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LAND &**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



# **NEXT STEPS**

- **SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING**
- **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**
- **RESOURCES:**
  - **COMMITTEE WEBPAGE**
    - **[WWW.FLORIDADEP.GOV/PARKS/PARKS-OFFICE-PARK-PLANNING/CONTENT/OCOEE-ELECTION-DAY-RIOTS-HISTORICAL-REVIEW-AND-DEDICATION](http://WWW.FLORIDADEP.GOV/PARKS/PARKS-OFFICE-PARK-PLANNING/CONTENT/OCOEE-ELECTION-DAY-RIOTS-HISTORICAL-REVIEW-AND-DEDICATION)**
  - **STAFF CONTACT – SHAUNA ALLEN**
    - **[OCOEECOMMITTEE@FLORIDADEP.GOV](mailto:OCOEECOMMITTEE@FLORIDADEP.GOV)**
    - **850-245-2713**
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**



# ADJOURN