

#### Introduction

Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conserving our natural and cultural resources. As one of the most successful programs of its kind in the United States, it replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000. Implemented in 2001, the Florida Forever Act reinforced the importance of conserving Florida's natural and cultural heritage, providing urban open space, increasing public recreation opportunities, and providing quality stewardship of the lands acquired.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition mechanism. The program addresses a range of statewide conservation goals, including the protection of water resources; preservation of working landscapes; sustainable forestry; protection of biodiversity and ecological greenways; environmental restoration; expansion of public recreation; public lands management and maintenance; and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

The \$3.6 billion investment since the inception of the Florida Forever program demonstrates Florida's continued commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources. Florida has been at the forefront of the nation's land protection efforts and continues to be the model for other land acquisition programs across the country.

#### **Acquisition and Restoration Council**

The Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) makes recommendations regarding the acquisition, management and disposition of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes four state agency representatives in addition to members of the public with backgrounds in land, water, or other environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management and outdoor recreation.

The Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The BOT also approves the acquisition of each parcel and has ultimate oversight over all state-owned land. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands (DSL) provides primary staff support for ARC and the BOT.

## Florida Ecological Greenways Network and Florida Wildlife Corridor Act

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) is a statewide database that identifies and prioritizes a functionally connected, statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands. The FEGN has been a key component of the evaluative criteria for Florida Forever projects since 2003. In July 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act into law, which designates the Florida Wildlife Corridor and authorizes conservation land acquisition for the benefit of



wildlife, Floridians and the economy. The act defines the Florida Wildlife Corridor as Priority 1, Priority 2 or Priority 3 areas of the FEGN.

The new law piqued interest in Florida Forever, and the program again received an unprecedented number of applications in 2023. As a result, ARC approved 46 new Florida Forever proposals representing 53,314 acres of land of which 41,602 acres are within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Over 64,000 acres within the Florida Wildlife Corridor were acquired through Florida Forever in 2023, including acquisitions in the following projects:

| • | 758 acres    | Apalachicola River                        |
|---|--------------|---|
| • | 11,691 acres | Avalon                                    |
| • | 4,195 acres  | Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw Ranch              |
| • | 1,291 acres  | Blue Head Ranch                           |
| • | 3,153 acres  | Bluefield to Cow Creek                    |
| • | 17,251 acres | Devil's Garden                            |
| • | 4,623 acres  | Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway            |
| • | 11,960 acres | Horse Creek Ranch                         |
| • | 470 acres    | Longleaf Pine Ecosystem                   |
| • | 1,602 acres  | Myakka Ranchlands                         |
| • | 5,457 acres  | Natural Bridge Ecosystem                  |
| • | 285 acres    | Osceola Pine Savannas                     |
| • | 139 acres    | Rainbow River Corridor                    |
| • | 163 acres    | Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL) |
| • | 1.488 acres  | Wolfe Creek Forest                        |

## **Partnerships**

The state's series of successful land acquisition programs also includes a long history of cooperative partnerships with state agencies, land trusts, conservation organizations, local governments and federal agencies. Partnerships may involve a local or regional cost-share agreement that lowers acquisition costs or the interim purchase of critical conservation land for subsequent purchase by the state. Each Florida Forever proposal is evaluated by an interagency team of professionals that represent the Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Commerce, Division of Historical Resources and regional water management districts. Partner agencies at the state-level provide valuable contributions to the Florida Forever evaluation and selection process.



#### The Florida Forever Plan

The 2024 Florida Forever Plan provides an overview of the status of each of the 128 land acquisition projects approved by ARC and included on the Florida Forever Priority List. The plan includes a description of how each project will conserve, protect and restore environmentally endangered lands and ecosystems and contribute lands for the provision of public outdoor recreation. Updated annually, the information provided in the Florida Forever Plan guides implementation of land acquisition projects over the long-term, as work on any individual Florida Forever project may span multiple years.

## **Explanation of Project Information**

A project evaluation report is approved by ARC for each project on the Florida Forever Priority List. The report contains resource and planning information compiled from partner agencies along with a management prospectus (for proposed fee simple projects) that includes a management cost summary. Each project description in this plan includes:

- An overview of significant natural and cultural resources.
- The recommended land manager.
- The purpose for state acquisition.
- Public use opportunities.
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory element occurrences.
- Project/parcel acres, acquisition history and boundary modifications.
- A management policy statement and summary of anticipated management costs (fee simple).
- A map showing project boundaries and essential parcels.

The project acres, acres acquired and acres remaining included with each summary reflect the project status as of Dec. 31, 2023. This information is based on the initial project proposal and reflects acquisitions within a project boundary made by the BOT as well as local governments, federal agencies and private conservation organizations. Project acreage figures may be refined over time as improved data are available and as parcels are acquired. Acreage from this plan should be cited as an approximation until such time actual parcels are fully acquired and final acres are determined as part of the official closing process. Acquisition costs represent expenditures of legislative appropriations by the BOT, state agencies and water management districts. Acquisition costs may also include expenditures by local governments, federal agencies or private conservation organizations.



# **Florida Forever Priority List Changes**

ARC approved the following changes to the 2024 Florida Forever Priority List:

- Added seven new projects
- Added seven new projects to existing project boundaries
- Amended the boundaries of 27 existing projects
- Removed eight projects from the list

| New Projects Added to the List | Acres +/- | <u>County</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Deer Creek Ranch               | 5,934     | DeSoto        |
| Floyd's Mound                  | 41        | Madison       |
| Ford Marsh                     | 1,200     | Volusia       |
| Waccasassa Watershed*          | 20,455    | Levy          |
| Welles Ranch                   | 1,183     | Charlotte     |
| Williamson Cattle Company      | 7,419     | Osceola       |
| Yarborough Ranch               | 1,361     | Seminole      |

<sup>\*</sup>Four new projects – Chunky Pond, Little Pine Ranch, Trailhead Blue Springs and Waccasassa Bay Headwaters – were combined to create the new Waccasassa Watershed project.

| New Projects Added to Existing Project Boundaries  | Acres +/-         | <u>County</u>         |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Avalon Phase II                                    | 1,384             | Jefferson             |
| Added to Avalon                                    |                   |                       |
| Carter Quail Ranch                                 | 1,344             | Volusia               |
| Added to Volusia Conservation Corridor             |                   |                       |
| Creek Ranch  | 1,295             | Polk                  |
| Added to Lake Hatchineha Watershed                 |                   |                       |
| Lake Powell North                                  | 103               | Bay                   |
| Added to Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL) |                   |                       |
| Myakka Ranch                                       |                   |                       |
| Added to Myakka Ranchlands                         | 998               | Manatee               |
| Quail Creek Ranch                                  |                   |                       |
| Added to Myakka Ranchlands                         | 2,698             | Hardee                |
| Venus Project                                      |                   |                       |
| Added to Fisheating Creek Ecosystem                | 1,110             | Highlands             |
|  |                   |                       |
| Projects with Boundary Amendments                  | <u> Acres +/-</u> | <u>County</u>         |
| Apalachicola River                                 | 1,089             | Jackson, Calhoun      |
| Archie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge                      | -159              | Brevard, Indian River |
| Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed                          | 305               | Jefferson             |
| Belle Meade  | -56               | Collier               |
| Carr Farm/Price's Scrub                            | 140.3             | Alachua, Marion       |
| Catfish Creek                                      | -44               | Polk                  |
| Coupon Bight/Key Deer                              | -231              | Monroe                |
| Dade County Archipelago                            | -42               | Miami-Dade            |
| Dickerson Bay/Bald Point                           | -1,796            | Franklin, Wakulla     |
| Florida Keys Ecosystem                             | -0.12             | Monroe                |
| Florida's First Magnitude Springs                  | 310               | Levy                  |
| Heather Island/Ocklawaha River                     | 150               | Marion                |
| Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem                         | 284               | Highlands             |
|  |                   |                       |



| Lochloosa Wildlife                      | -4,737               | Alachua           |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lower Suwannee River and Gulf Watershed | 72                   | Levy              |
| Matanzas to Ocala Conservation Corridor | -8,568               | Putnam, St. Johns |
| Myakka Ranchlands                       | 438                  | Manatee           |
| Northeast Florida Blueway               | -613                 | St. Johns         |
| Osceola Pine Savannas                   | 15.9                 | Osceola           |
| Peace River Refuge                      | 149.1                | DeSoto            |
| Pinhook Swamp                           | 1,975.5              | Columbia          |
| Pumpkin Hill Creek                      | 129                  | Nassau            |
| South Walton County Ecosystem           | -2,048               | Walton            |
| Spruce Creek                            | -40                  | Volusia           |
| SMALL                                   | 336.9                | Multiple Counties |
| Wekiva-Ocala Greenway                   | 138.2                | Lake              |
| Welannee Watershed Forest               | 830.4                | Okaloosa          |
|   |                      |                   |
| Projects Removed from the List          | <u>Status</u>        | <u>County</u>     |
| Arbuckle Creek Watershed                | 90% or more complete | Highlands         |
| Charlotte Harbor Estuary                | 90% or more complete | Charlotte, Lee.   |

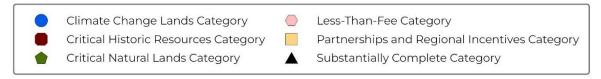
| Projects Removed from the List   | <u>Status</u>        | <u>County</u>   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Arbuckle Creek Watershed         | 90% or more complete | Highlands       |
| Charlotte Harbor Estuary         | 90% or more complete | Charlotte, Lee, |
|                                  |                      | Sarasota        |
| Horse Creek Ranch                | 100% complete        | DeSoto, Hardee  |
| River Property                   | 100% complete        | Highlands       |
| South Walton County Ecosystem    | 90% or more complete | Walton          |
| Telogia Creek                    | 100% complete        | Liberty         |
| Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island | 90% or more complete | Nassau          |
| Triple Diamond                   | 90% or more complete | Okeechobee      |
|                                  |                      |                 |

Consistent with section 259.032(8), Florida Statutes, and rule 18-24.002(2)(b), Florida Administrative Code, removing projects from the list does not prevent Florida Forever funds from being used to purchase the remaining acres.



# STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF FLORIDA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS JANUARY 2024

## Florida Forever Project Categories



NOTE: Numerals within the symbols represent the project rank within each category. See priority list for project name and details.



# FLORIDA FOREVER PROJECTS NEWLY ADDED TO THE PRIORITY LIST, EXPANDED, REDUCED OR REMOVED DURING 2023



# 2024 Florida Forever Priority List for Land Acquisition Projects

The 2024 Florida Forever Priority List was adopted by the BOT on March 26, 2024. It includes 128 projects containing more than 2.1 million acres with an estimated value of over \$7.8 billion. Ninety-nine of the projects on the Priority List overlap with the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Each project was ranked within one of following six categories:

- Critical Natural Lands 35 projects
- Partnerships & Regional Incentives 36 projects
- Less-Than-Fee 35 projects
- Climate Change Lands 10 projects
- Substantially Complete 8 projects
- Critical Historical Resources 4 projects

# **2024 Florida Forever Priority List**

#### **Critical Natural Lands**

| Rank | Project                              | County <sup>1</sup>   | Remaining Acres | Cumulative Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1    | Apalachicola River                   | Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf,<br>Jackson, Liberty   | 48,912          | 48,912                        | High                               |
| 2    | Lake Wales Ridge<br>Ecosystem        | Highlands, Lake, Osceola  | 27,792          | 76,704                        | High                               |
| 3    | Bombing Range Ridge                  | Highlands, Osceola, Polk  | 28,807          | 105,511                       | High                               |
| 4    | Wekiva-Ocala Greenway                | Lake, Orange, Seminole,<br>Volusia  | 21,462          | 126,973                       | High                               |
| 5    | Panther Glades                       | Hendry  | 39,352          | 166,325                       | High                               |
| 6    | Strategic Managed Area<br>Lands List | Alachua, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Putnam, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla | 12,071          | 178,396                       | High                               |
| 7    | Blue Head Ranch                      | Highlands   | 41,746          | 220,142                       | High                               |
| 8    | Etoniah/Cross Florida<br>Greenway    | Citrus, Clay, Levy, Marion,<br>Putnam   | 53,079          | 273,221                       | High/Med                           |
| 9    | Forest and Lakes<br>Ecosystem        | Bay, Washington   | 54,862          | 328,083                       | Medium                             |
| 10   | Osceola Pine Savannas                | Osceola   | 22,872          | 350,955                       | Medium                             |
| 11   | Gardner Marsh                        | Osceola   | 5,949           | 356,904                       | Medium                             |
| 12   | Longleaf Pine Ecosystem              | Gilchrist, Hamilton,<br>Marion, Volusia   | 9,842           | 366,746                       | Medium                             |
| 13   | Belle Meade                          | Collier   | 4,653           | 371,399                       | Medium                             |





| Rank | Project                              | County <sup>1</sup>                         | Remaining Acres | Cumulative Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 14   | Pine Island Slough<br>Ecosystem      | Osceola                                     | 21,887          | 393,286                       | Medium                             |
| 15   | Half Circle L Ranch                  | Collier, Hendry                             | 11,182          | 404,467                       | Medium                             |
| 16   | Caloosahatchee Ecoscape              | Glades, Hendry                              | 10,507          | 414,974                       | Medium                             |
| 17   | Avalon                               | Jefferson                                   | 11,506          | 426,480                       | Medium                             |
| 18   | South Goethe                         | Levy, Marion                                | 11,350          | 437,830                       | Medium                             |
| 19   | Bear Creek Forest                    | Bay, Calhoun, Gulf                          | 97,428          | 535,258                       | Med/Low                            |
| 20   | Devil's Garden                       | Collier, Hendry                             | 47,043          | 582,301                       | Low                                |
| 21   | Twelvemile Slough                    | Hendry                                      | 8,020           | 590,321                       | Low                                |
| 22   | Bear Hammock                         | Marion                                      | 4,689           | 595,010                       | Low                                |
| 23   | Pinhook Swamp                        | Baker, Columbia, Hamilton                   | 39,004          | 634,014                       | Low                                |
| 24   | Lake Hatchineha<br>Watershed         | Osceola, Polk                               | 4,718           | 638,732                       | Low                                |
| 25   | Camp Blanding to Raiford<br>Greenway | Baker, Bradford, Clay,<br>Union             | 32,236          | 670,968                       | Low                                |
| 26   | Natural Bridge<br>Timberlands        | Jefferson, Leon                             | 5,442           | 676,410                       | Low                                |
| 27   | San Pedro Bay                        | Madison, Taylor                             | 46,345          | 722,755                       | Low                                |
| 28   | Perdido Pitcher Plant<br>Prairie     | Escambia                                    | 2,251           | 725,006                       | Low                                |
| 29   | Upper Shoal River                    | Walton                                      | 12,035          | 737,041                       | Low                                |
| 30   | Southeastern Bat<br>Maternity Caves  | Alachua, Citrus, Jackson,<br>Marion, Sumter | 578             | 737,619                       | Low                                |
| 31   | Bar-B Ranch                          | Martin                                      | 1,910           | 739,529                       | Low                                |
| 32   | Natural Bridge Creek                 | Walton                                      | 1,967           | 741,496                       | Low                                |
| 33   | Ichetucknee Trace                    | Columbia                                    | 1,707           | 743,203                       | Low                                |
| 34   | Shoal River Buffer                   | Okaloosa                                    | 880             | 744,083                       | Low                                |
| 35   | Hixtown Swamp                        | Madison                                     | 21,965          | 766,048                       | Low                                |

# **Partnerships and Regional Incentives**

| Rank | Project   | County <sup>1</sup>  | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | Florida's First Magnitude<br>Springs                      | Bay, Citrus, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jackson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Suwannee, Wakulla, Walton, Washington | 7,273              | 7,273                            | High                                  |
| 2    | Northeast Florida<br>Timberlands and<br>Watershed Reserve | Clay, Duval, Nassau  | 68,600             | 75,873                           | High                                  |
| 3    | Wakulla Springs Protection Zone                           | Leon, Wakulla  | 3,301              | 79,174                           | High                                  |
| 4    | Corkscrew Regional<br>Ecosystem Watershed                 | Collier, Lee   | 30,658             | 109,832                          | High                                  |





| Rank | Project                            | County <sup>1</sup>                                  | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5    | Volusia Conservation<br>Corridor   | Flagler, Volusia                                     | 18,134             | 127,966                          | High                                  |
| 6    | Aucilla/Wacissa Watershed          | Jefferson, Madison, Taylor                           | 40,306             | 168,272                          | High                                  |
| 7    | Indian River Lagoon<br>Blueway     | Brevard, Indian River,<br>Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia | 17,036             | 185,308                          | High/Med                              |
| 8    | Brevard Coastal Scrub<br>Ecosystem | Brevard  | 17,381             | 202,689                          | Medium                                |
| 9    | Clear Creek/Whiting Field          | Santa Rosa   | 2,474              | 205,163                          | Medium                                |
| 10   | Annutteliga Hammock                | Citrus, Hernando                                     | 8,060              | 213,223                          | Medium                                |
| 11   | Green Swamp                        | Lake, Pasco, Polk                                    | 154,223            | 367,446                          | Medium/Lo<br>w                        |
| 12   | Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods         | Charlotte, Lee                                       | 6,406              | 373,852                          | Low                                   |
| 13   | Heather Island/Ocklawaha<br>River  | Marion   | 13,782             | 387,634                          | Low                                   |
| 14   | Lochloosa Forest                   | Alachua  | 4,693              | 392,327                          | Low                                   |
| 15   | Pal-Mar                            | Martin, Palm Beach                                   | 8,838              | 401,165                          | Low                                   |
| 16   | Middle Chipola River               | Calhoun, Jackson                                     | 12,115             | 413,280                          | Low                                   |
| 17   | Rainbow River Corridor             | Citrus, Marion                                       | 900                | 414,180                          | Low                                   |
| 18   | Sand Mountain                      | Bay, Washington                                      | 14,370             | 428,550                          | Low                                   |
| 19   | Lafayette Forest                   | Lafayette  | 10,218             | 438,768                          | Low                                   |
| 20   | Flagler County Blueway             | Flagler  | 2,836              | 441,604                          | Low                                   |
| 21   | Dade County Archipelago            | Miami-Dade   | 219                | 441,604                          | Low                                   |
| 22   | Watermelon Pond                    | Alachua, Levy  | 5,201              | 447,024                          | Low                                   |
| 23   | Waccasassa Watershed               | Levy   | 20,455             | 467,479                          | Low                                   |
| 24   | Lake Santa Fe                      | Alachua, Bradford                                    | 8,750              | 476,229                          | Low                                   |
| 25   | Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem           | Martin   | 8,175              | 484,404                          | Low                                   |
| 26   | Yarborough Ranch                   | Seminole   | 1,361              | 485,765                          | Low                                   |
| 27   | Catfish Creek                      | Polk   | 3,219              | 488,984                          | Low                                   |
| 28   | Hall Ranch                         | Charlotte  | 7,415              | 496,399                          | Low                                   |
| 29   | Welannee Watershed<br>Forest       | Okaloosa   | 9,208              | 505,607                          | Low                                   |
| 30   | Crossbar/Al Bar Ranch              | Pasco  | 12,440             | 518,047                          | Low                                   |
| 31   | Pumpkin Hill Creek                 | Duval  | 6,438              | 524,485                          | Low                                   |
| 32   | Baldwin Bay/St. Marys<br>River     | Duval, Nassau  | 8,397              | 532,882                          | Low                                   |
| 33   | Carr Farm/Price's Scrub            | Alachua, Marion                                      | 442                | 533,324                          | Low                                   |
| 34   | Crayfish Habitat<br>Restoration    | Bay  | 2,348              | 535,672                          | Low                                   |
| 35   | Pringle Creek Forest               | Flagler  | 8,446              | 544,118                          | Low                                   |
| 36   | Wilson Ranch                       | Polk   | 451                | 544,569                          | Low                                   |





# Less-Than-Fee

| Rank | Project  | County <sup>1</sup>               | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | Fisheating Creek Ecosystem                           | Glades, Highlands                 | 113,984            | 113,984                          | High                                  |
| 2    | Adams Ranch  | Osceola                           | 32,989             | 146,973                          | High                                  |
| 3    | Myakka Ranchlands                                    | DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota         | 30,972             | 177,945                          | High                                  |
| 4    | Coastal Headwaters<br>Longleaf Forest                | Escambia, Santa Rosa              | 93,062             | 271,007                          | High/Med                              |
| 5    | Kissimmee-St. Johns River<br>Connector               | Indian River, Okeechobee          | 30,810             | 301,817                          | Medium                                |
| 6    | Red Hills Conservation                               | Jefferson, Leon                   | 13,670             | 315,487                          | Medium                                |
| 7    | Big Bend Swamp/Holopaw<br>Ranch                      | Osceola                           | 33,198             | 348,685                          | Medium                                |
| 8    | Matanzas to Ocala<br>Conservation Corridor           | Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns        | 88,182             | 436,867                          | Medium                                |
| 9    | Ochlockonee River<br>Conservation Area               | Gadsden, Leon                     | 3,864              | 440,731                          | Medium                                |
| 10   | Deer Creek Ranch                                     | DeSoto                            | 5,934              | 446,665                          | Medium                                |
| 11   | Gulf Hammock   | Levy                              | 25,611             | 472,276                          | Med/Low                               |
| 12   | Lower Suwanee River and Gulf Watershed               | Dixie                             | 12,090             | 484,366                          | Low                                   |
| 13   | Ayavalla Plantation                                  | Leon                              | 5,700              | 490,066                          | Low                                   |
| 14   | Conlin Lake X  | Osceola                           | 3,522              | 493,588                          | Low                                   |
| 15   | Raiford to Osceola<br>Greenway                       | Baker, Union                      | 68,673             | 562,261                          | Low                                   |
| 16   | Heartland Wildlife Corridor                          | Hardee, Highlands                 | 9,579              | 571,840                          | Low                                   |
| 17   | Ranch Reserve  | Brevard, Indian River,<br>Osceola | 12,514             | 584,354                          | Low                                   |
| 18   | Withlacoochee River<br>Corridor                      | Citrus, Hernando                  | 3,286              | 587,640                          | Low                                   |
| 19   | Peace River Refuge                                   | DeSoto                            | 3,885              | 591,525                          | Low                                   |
| 20   | Gilchrist Club                                       | Gilchrist                         | 23,298             | 614,823                          | Low                                   |
| 21   | Eastern Scarp Ranchlands                             | Highlands                         | 2,214              | 617,037                          | Low                                   |
| 22   | Hosford Chapman's<br>Rhododendron Protection<br>Zone | Gadsden, Liberty                  | 6,923              | 623,960                          | Low                                   |
| 23   | Eight Mile Property                                  | Dixie                             | 5,717              | 629,677                          | Low                                   |
| 24   | Mill Creek   | Marion                            | 10,135             | 639,812                          | Low                                   |
| 25   | Welles Ranch   | Charlotte                         | 1,183              | 640,995                          | Low                                   |
| 26   | Bluefield to Cow Creek                               | Okeechobee, St. Lucie             | 7,731              | 648,726                          | Low                                   |
| 27   | Maytown Flatwoods                                    | Brevard                           | 1,613              | 650,339                          | Low                                   |
| 28   | Williamson Cattle Company                            | Okeechobee                        | 7,419              | 657,758                          | Low                                   |
| 29   | North Waccasassa Flats                               | Gilchrist                         | 14,714             | 672,472                          | Low                                   |
| 30   | San Felasco Conservation<br>Corridor                 | Alachua                           | 376                | 672,848                          | Low                                   |
| 31   | Little River Conservation<br>Area                    | Gadsden                           | 2,293              | 675,141                          | Low                                   |
| 32   | Lower Perdido River Buffer                           | Escambia                          | 2,271              | 677,412                          | Low                                   |





| Rank | Project                         | County <sup>1</sup> | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 33   | Suwannee County<br>Preservation | Suwannee            | 1,254              | 678,666                          | Low                                   |
| 34   | Limestone Ranch                 | Hardee              | 6,382              | 685,048                          | Low                                   |
| 35   | Millstone Plantation            | Leon                | 83                 | 685,131                          | Low                                   |

# **Climate Change Lands**

| Rank | Project                    | County <sup>1</sup>  | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | Florida Keys Ecosystem     | Monroe   | 5,406              | 5,406                            | High                                  |
| 2    | St. Joe Timberland         | Bay, Franklin, Gadsden,<br>Gulf, Jefferson, Leon,<br>Liberty, Taylor, Wakulla,<br>Walton, Washington | 51,665             | 57,071                           | High/Med                              |
| 3    | Northeast Florida Blueway  | Duval, Flagler, St. Johns  | 7,277              | 64,348                           | Med/Low                               |
| 4    | Coupon Bight/Key Deer      | Monroe   | 711                | 65,059                           | Low                                   |
| 5    | St. Johns River Blueway    | Clay, St. Johns  | 15,912             | 80,971                           | Low                                   |
| 6    | West Bay Preservation Area | Bay  | 4,598              | 85,569                           | Low                                   |
| 7    | Garcon Ecosystem           | Santa Rosa   | 3,098              | 88,667                           | Low                                   |
| 8    | Taylor Sweetwater Creek    | Taylor   | 3,742              | 92,409                           | Low                                   |
| 9    | Ford Marsh                 | Volusia  | 1,200              | 93,609                           | Low                                   |
| 10   | Terra Ceia                 | Manatee  | 2,038              | 95,647                           | Low                                   |

# **Substantially Complete**

| Rank | Project                             | County <sup>1</sup> | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority <sup>3</sup> |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1    | Dickerson Bay/Bald Point            | Franklin, Wakulla   | 2,579              | 2,579                            | High                                  |
| 2    | Florida Springs Coastal<br>Greenway | Citrus              | 8,383              | 10,962                           | High/Med                              |
| 3    | Wolfe Creek Forest                  | Santa Rosa          | 1,975              | 12,937                           | Med/Low                               |
| 4    | Lochloosa Wildlife                  | Alachua             | 3,864              | 16,801                           | Low                                   |
| 5    | Archie Carr Sea Turtle<br>Refuge    | Brevard             | 118                | 16,919                           | Low                                   |
| 6    | Spruce Creek                        | Volusia             | 351                | 17,270                           | Low                                   |
| 7    | Save Our Everglades                 | Collier             | 11                 | 17,281                           | Low                                   |
| 8    | Old Town Creek Watershed            | Hardee, Polk        | 1,264              | 18,545                           | Low                                   |





# **Critical Historical Resources**

| Rank | Project               | County <sup>1</sup> | Remaining<br>Acres | Cumulative<br>Acres <sup>2</sup> | Work<br>Plan<br>Priority³ |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1    | Battle of Wahoo Swamp | Sumter              | 1,154              | 1,154                            | High/Med                  |
| 2    | Floyd's Mound         | Jefferson           | 41                 | 1,195                            | Low                       |
| 3    | Pierce Mound Complex  | Franklin            | 359                | 1,554                            | Low                       |
| 4    | Pineland Site Complex | Lee                 | 136                | 1,690                            | Low                       |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Counties with no remaining acreage to acquire in a project not listed here. See project summaries for counties in which acquisitions are complete.

<sup>3</sup> Work Plan Priority Groups pursuant to rule 18-24.006(6), Florida Administrative Code.

| High Priority = top 1/3 acreage within each Category | High/Medium Priority =<br>portion of project in High<br>Priority Group and portion<br>in Medium Priority Group | Medium Priority =<br>middle 1/3 acreage<br>within each Category | Medium/Low Priority =<br>portion of project in Medium<br>Priority Group and portion in<br>Low Priority Group | Low Priority = bottom<br>1/3 acreage within<br>each Category |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|--|--|---|--|--|



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cumulative acres used to calculate which Priority Group of the Acquisition Work Plan each project will qualify.



## **Program Accomplishments**

For decades, Florida has been one of the most successful states in acquiring and conserving critical natural resources and providing lands for public recreation. Since 1963, Florida has invested approximately \$8.4 billion to conserve more than 4 million acres of land for environmental, recreational and preservation purposes. This has been accomplished with a series of programs including Environmentally Endangered Lands, Outdoor Recreation, Save Our Coasts, Save Our Rivers, Conservation and Recreation Lands, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. Because of Florida Forever and its predecessor programs, residents and visitors have benefited from the protection of land and natural resources, including Florida's abundant flora and fauna.

Since its inception in July 2001, the Florida Forever land acquisition program has provided protection for the following:

- 906,120 acres of strategic habitat conservation areas
- 703,240 acres within rare species habitat conservation areas
- 936,680 acres within ecological greenways
- 181,200 acres of rare natural communities
- 700,180 acres within landscape-size protection areas
- 530,860 acres of natural floodplain
- 956,820 acres important to the protection of surface waters
- 535,340 acres to minimize damage from flooding events
- 11,200 acres of fragile coastline
- 372,790 acres of functional wetlands
- 918,340 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas
- 550 miles towards the completion of priority recreational trails
- 499,730 acres of sustainable forest land
- 1,256 archaeological/historic sites
- 14,580 acres within designated urban service areas

These acreages were derived from the Florida Forever Summary of Resource Acres Protected on Conservation Lands Table, which is continuously updated by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to reflect the most current scientific analyses of Florida's natural resources. The acreage includes properties acquired under the Florida Forever program, as well as donations and acquisitions by other entities with funding from other sources that were within Florida Forever project boundaries. Additionally, the acreages recorded for each measure often overlap, and thus should not be added together. Collectively, under the Florida Forever program the state has protected over 907,342 acres of land with approximately \$3.3 billion in Florida Forever funds.

Accounting for donations and lands acquired with non-Florida Forever program funding, the total acreage protected within Florida Forever projects is more than 1 million acres. All property within the boundaries of the Florida Forever acquisition projects, unless specifically noted, is proposed to be purchased, in fee simple or a lesser interest, for conservation purposes. The 2024 Florida Forever Priority List of land acquisition projects is consistent with section 187.201(9), Florida Statutes, the Natural Systems and Recreational Lands section of the State Comprehensive Plan.





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