

# Florida Forever: Linking Land and Sea for the Future

# Callie DeHaven

**Director Division of State Lands** 

# 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. Funding for Florida's premier land conservation program helps acquire natural lands that conserve critical habitats, protect water resources, benefit Everglades restoration and enhance local communities.

# Florida Forever Program



The department is currently working to acquire land from the statewide list of Florida Forever projects. These projects provide a host of ecosystem benefits, including water quality and quantity, resiliency from storm impacts, habitat and species protection and outdoor recreation.

#### Through Florida Forever, the State Has Protected:

- 637,570 acres of **strategic habitat conservation** areas
- 603,510 acres of **rare species habitat** conservation areas
- 758,520 acres of ecological greenways
- 133,040 acres of under-represented natural communities
- 521,600 acres landscapesize protection areas
- 436,000 acres of natural floodplains





- 770,860 acres important (adjacent) to significant water bodies
- 440,430 acres minimize damage from flooding
- 9,580 acres of fragile coastline
- 309,600 acres of functional wetlands
- 745,250 acres of significant groundwater recharge areas
- 460 miles of priority recreational trails
- 398,840 acres of forest land
- 1,084 archaeological or historic sites
- 12,120 acres in urban service areas

#### 2008:

### **Legislature Establishes Florida Forever Project Categories**





## Florida Forever Five-Year Plan Climate Change Category

The **2008** Legislature established a climate change project category for the Florida Forever Priority List.

#### This category of Florida Forever projects:

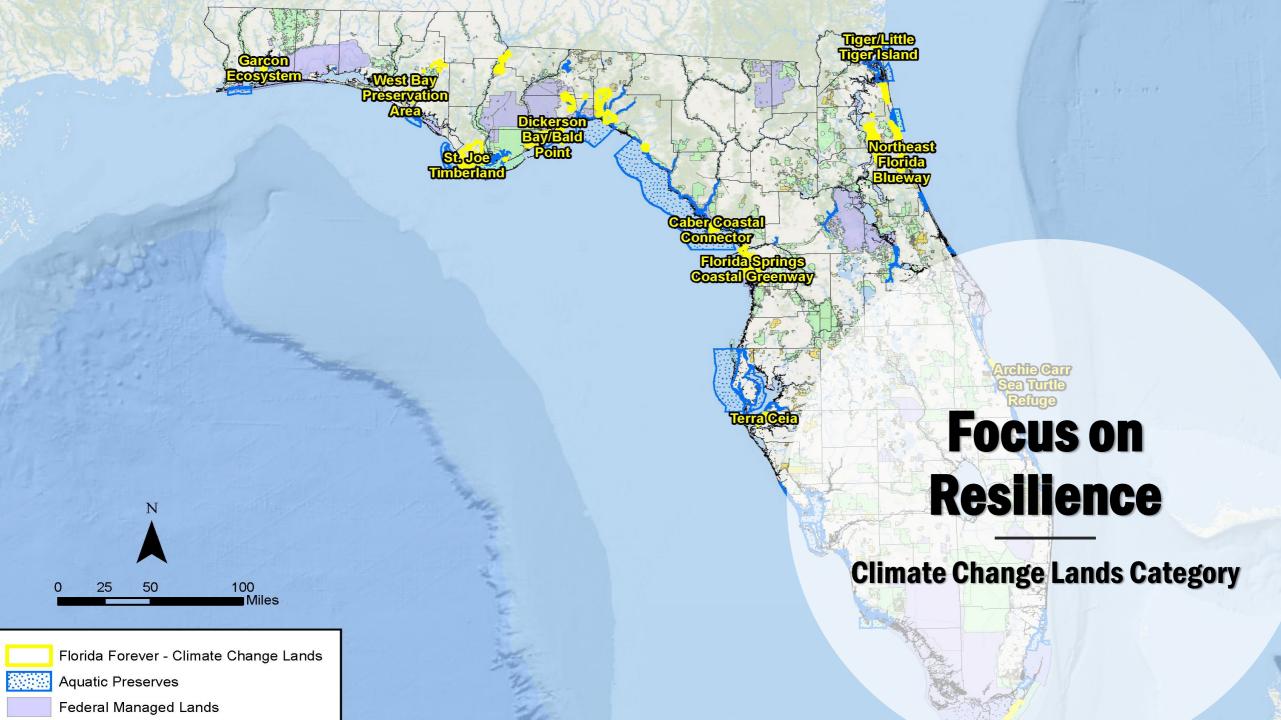
"A list of lands where acquisition or other conservation measures will address the challenges of global climate change, such as through protection, restoration, mitigation, and strengthening of Florida's land, water, and coastal resources. This category includes lands that provide opportunities to sequester carbon, provide habitat, protect coastal lands or barrier islands, and otherwise mitigate and help adapt to the effects of sea-level rise and meet other objectives of the program"

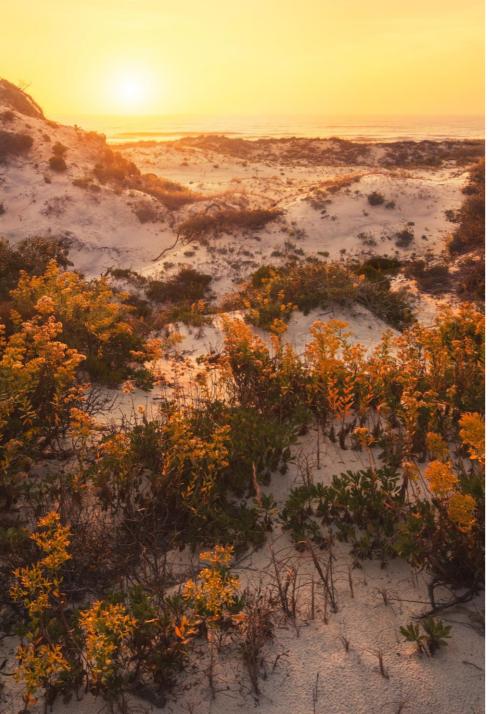




## **2019 Florida Forever Priority List**

Rank	<b>Climate Change Lands Projects</b>	County (ies)
1 Flo	orida Keys Ecosystem	Monroe
2 Die	ckerson Bay/ Bald Point	Wakulla/ Franklin
3 Co	oupon Bight/ Key Deer	Monroe
	. Joe Timberland	Bay/ Franklin/ Gadsden/ Gulf/ Jefferson/ Leon/ Liberty/ Taylor/ Wakulla/ Walton/ Washington
5 Na	ortheast Florida Blueway	Duval/ St. Johns/ Flagler
	orida Springs Coastal Greenway	Citrus
	aber Coastal Connector	Levy
	chie Carr Sea Turtle Refuge	Brevard / Indian River
	. Johns River Blueway	St. Johns
		Taylor
10 Taylor Sweetwater Creek		
	arcon Ecosystem	Santa Rosa
12 West Bay Preservation Area		Bay/ Franklin/ Gadsden/ Gulf/ Jefferson/ Leon/ Liberty/ Taylor/ Wakulla/ Walton/ Washington
13 Te	rra Ceia	Manatee
14 Tig	ger Island/ Little Tiger Island	Nassau





## Florida Forever Five-Year Plan Substantially Complete Category



The **2008** Legislature established a substantially complete project category for the Florida Forever Priority List.

#### This category of Florida Forever projects:

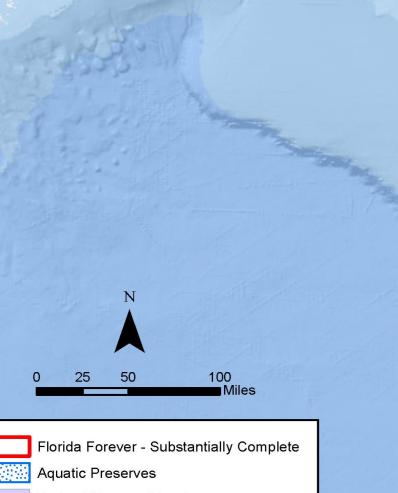
"Where mainly inholdings, additions, and linkages between preserved areas will be acquired and where 85 percent of the project is complete."

Other project categories included in the Florida Forever Priority List are: critical natural lands; partnerships and regional incentives; less-than-fee; and critical historical resources.



# **2019 Florida Forever Priority List**

Rank	Substantially Complete Projects	County(ies)
1	Escribano Point	Santa Rosa
2	Charlotte Harbor Estuary	Charlotte/ Lee/ Sarasota
3	Estero Bay	Lee
4	South Walton County Ecosystem	Walton
5	Lochloosa Wildlife	Alachua
e	Upper St. Marks River Corridor	Leon/ Jefferson/ Wakulla
7	Spruce Creek	Volusia
8	Save Our Everglades	Collier
9	Clay Ranch	Putnam



South Walton County Ecosystem

Corr

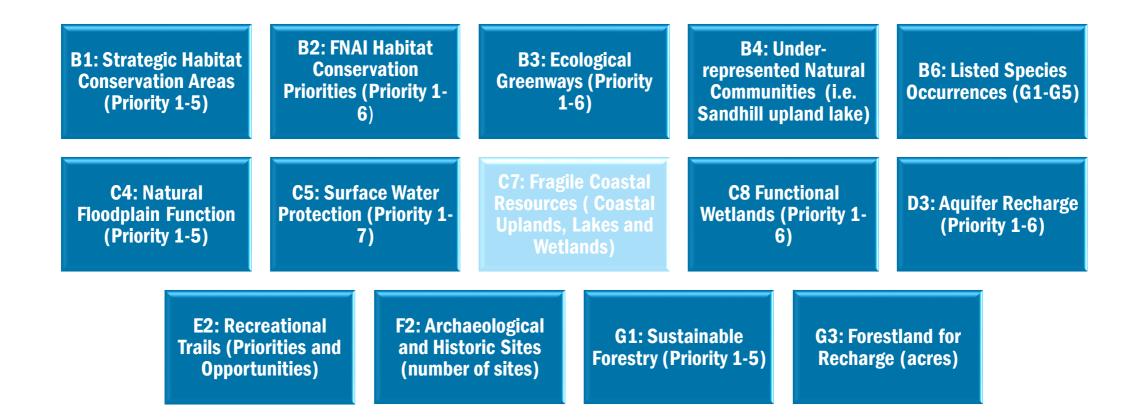
# Focus on resilience

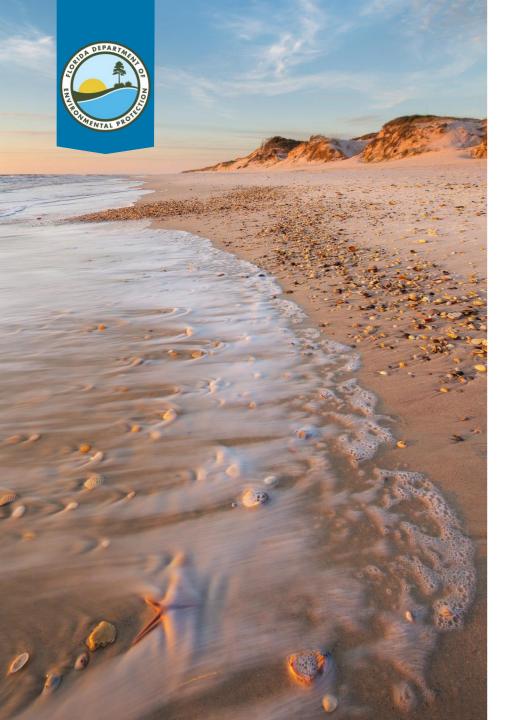
Es

Estero Bay

#### **Substantially complete**

## FNAI Analyzes Resources for ARC Main Focus on Specific Florida Forever Measures

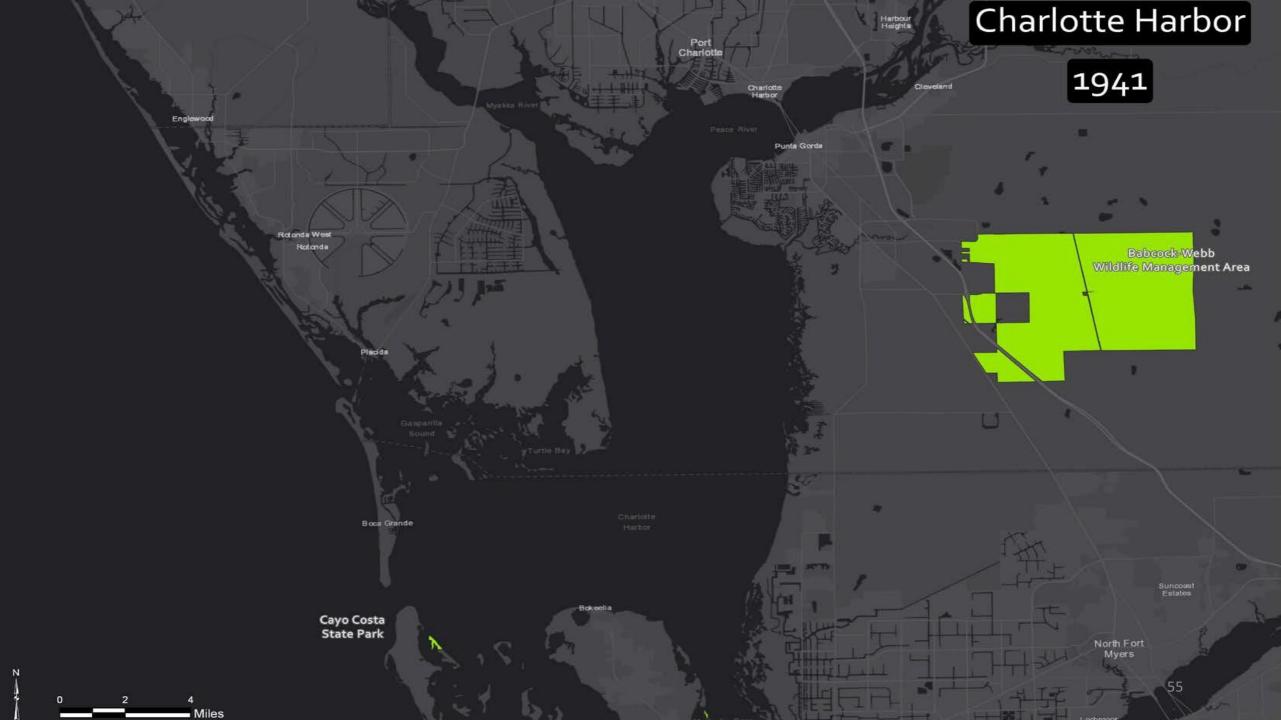


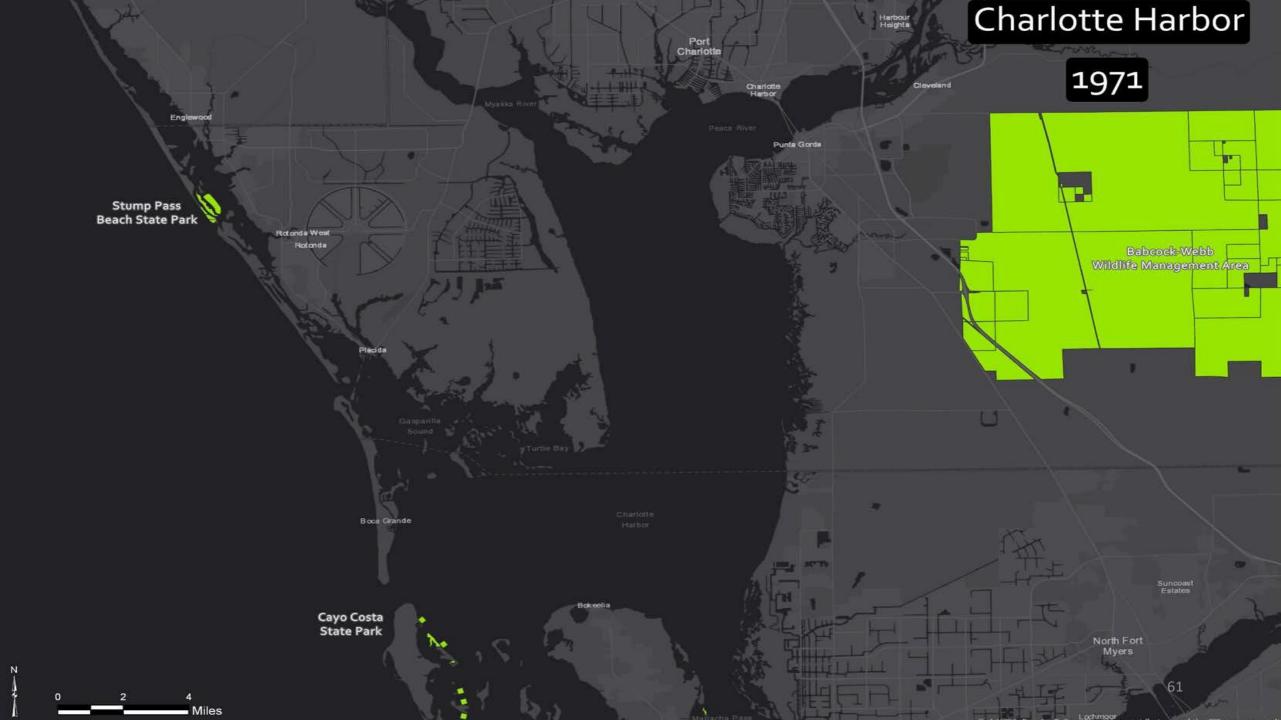


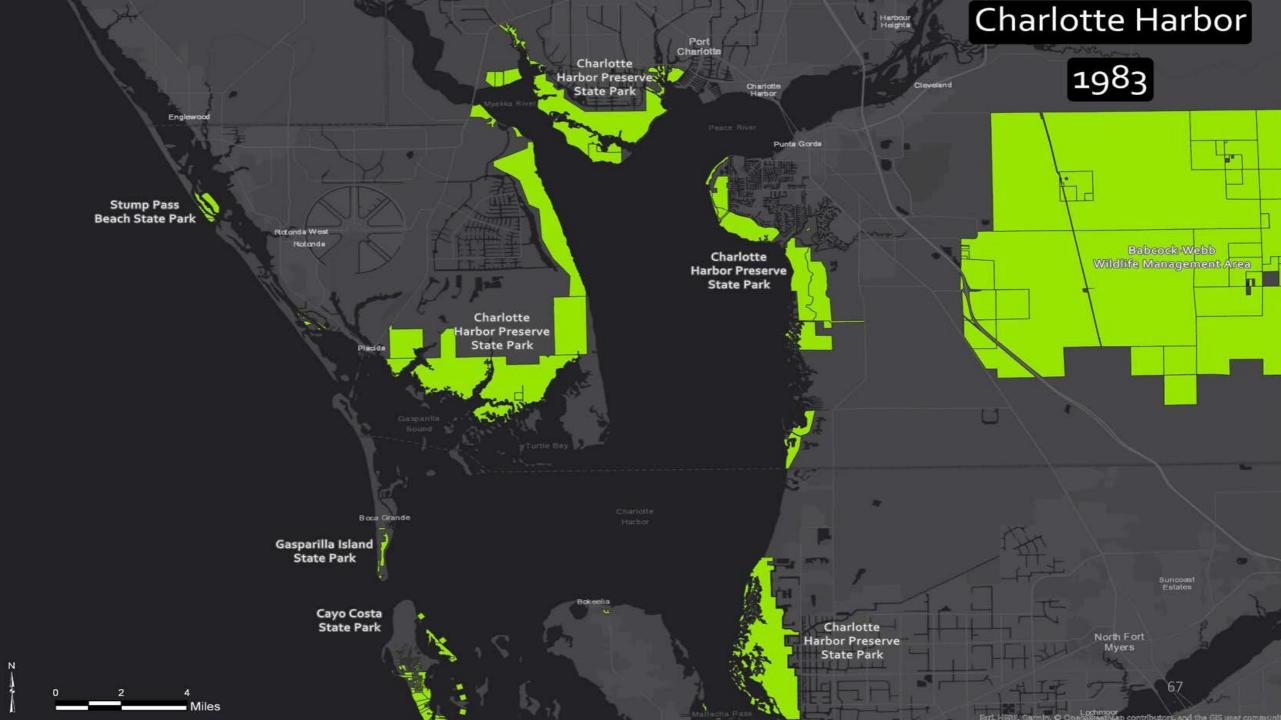
#### Florida's Natural Communities Associated with Fnai's Fragile Coastal Resources Data Layer

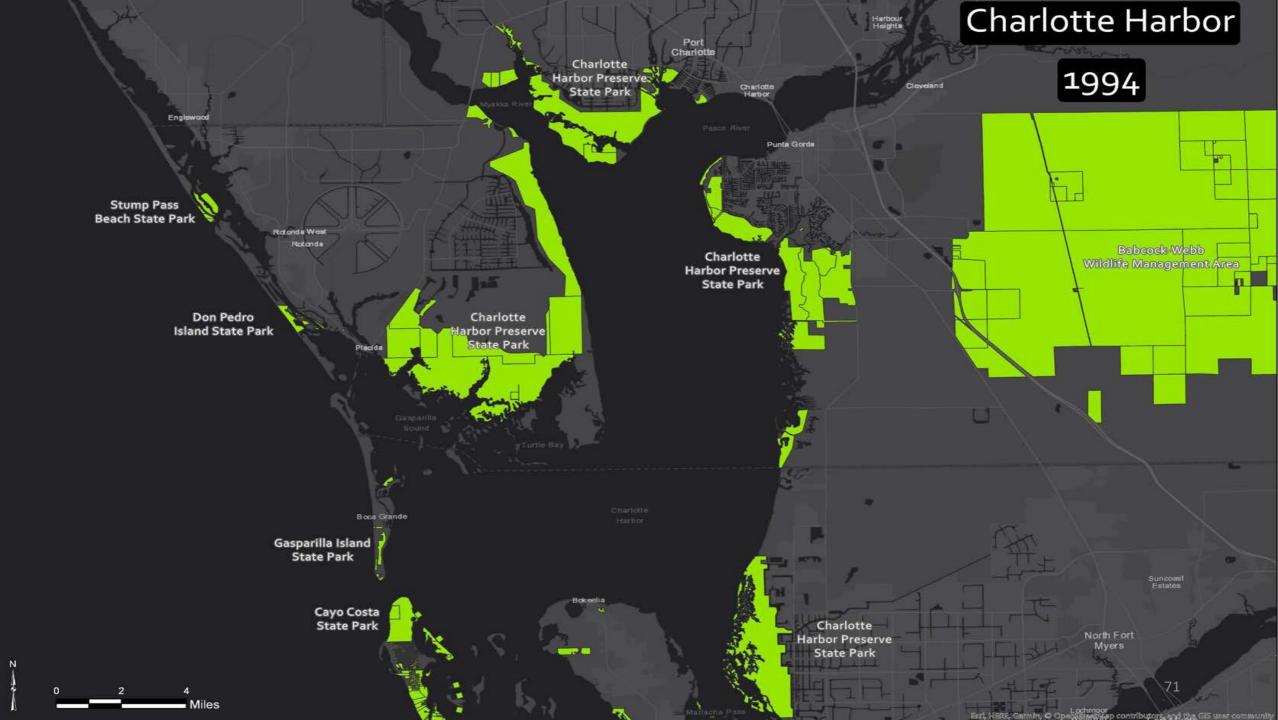
## The fragile coastal resources data layer identifies natural communities within one mile of the coast that are most vulnerable to disturbance or development including:

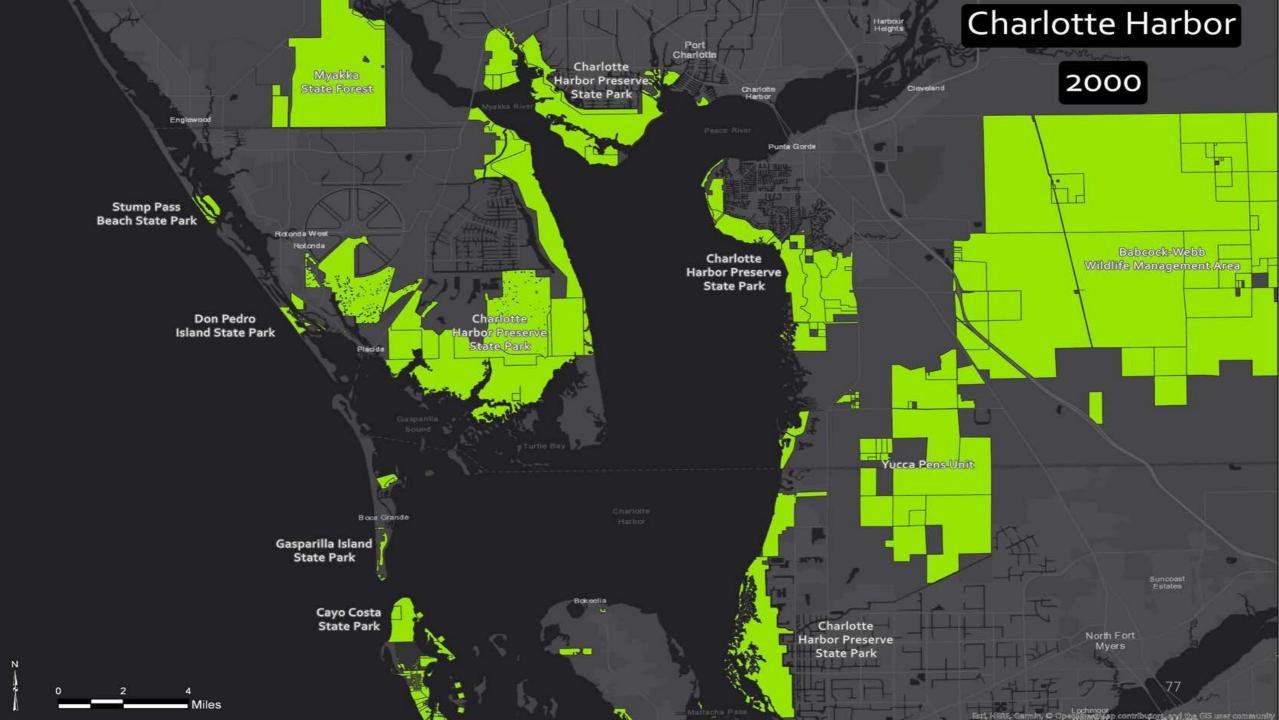
- Beach dune
- Coastal scrub
- Coastal grasslands
- Coastal strand
- Maritime hammock
- Shell mound
- Coastal dune lake
- Coastal rockland lake
- Mangrove wetlands
- Salt marsh (G5)

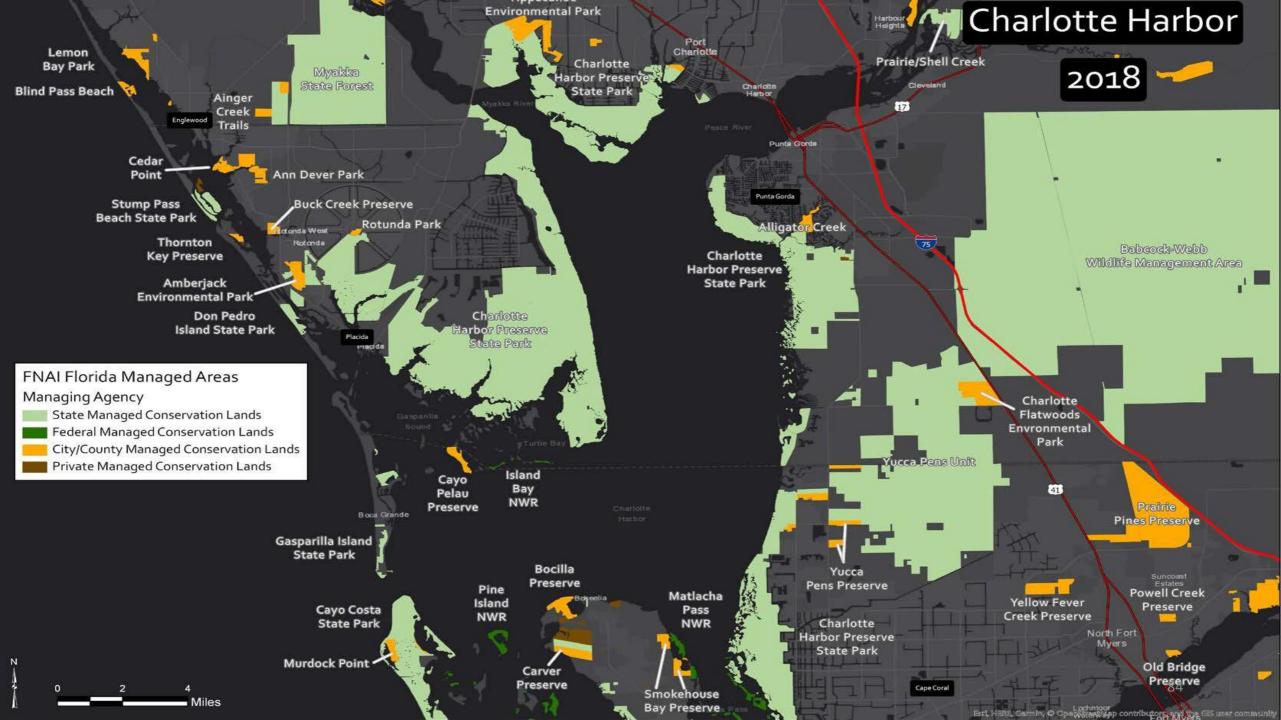




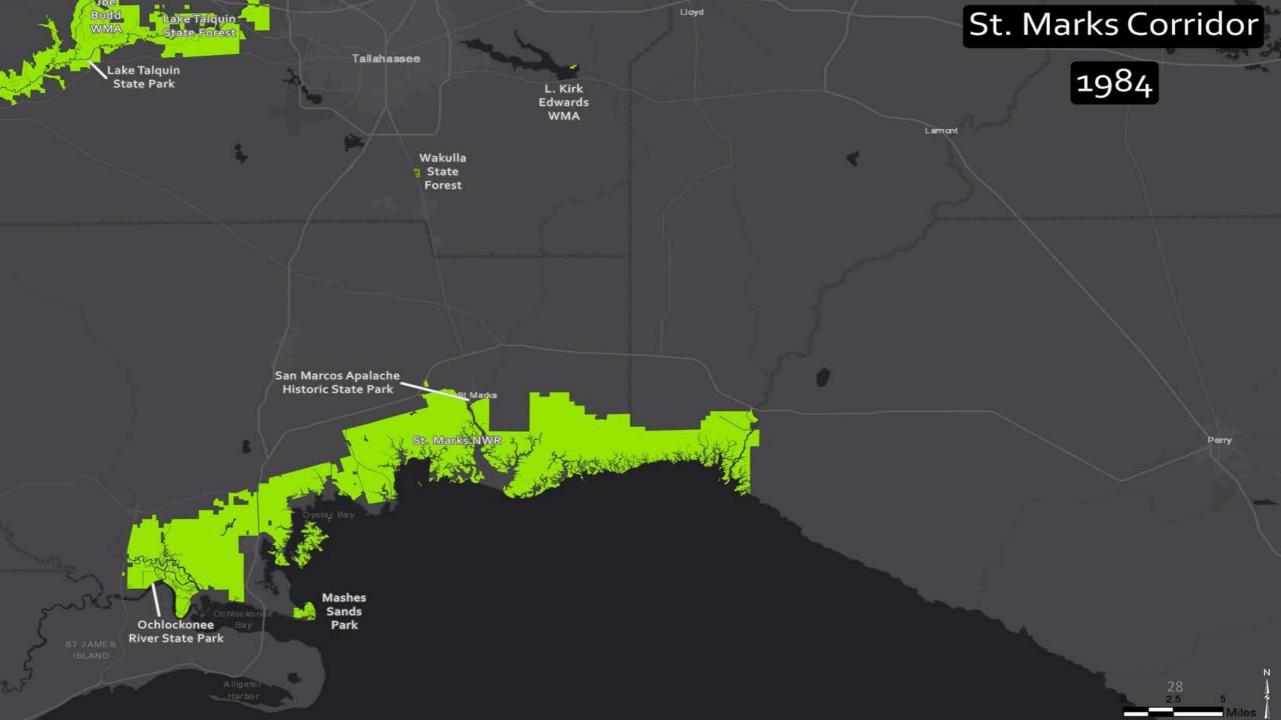




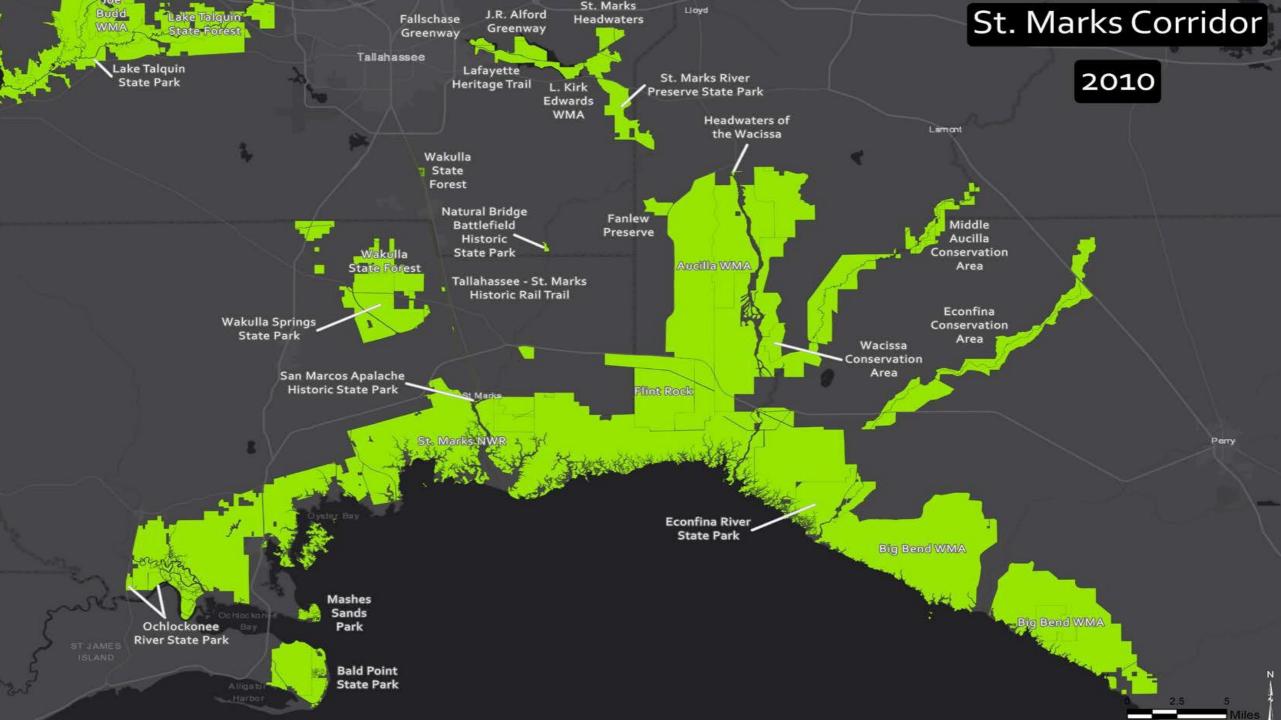


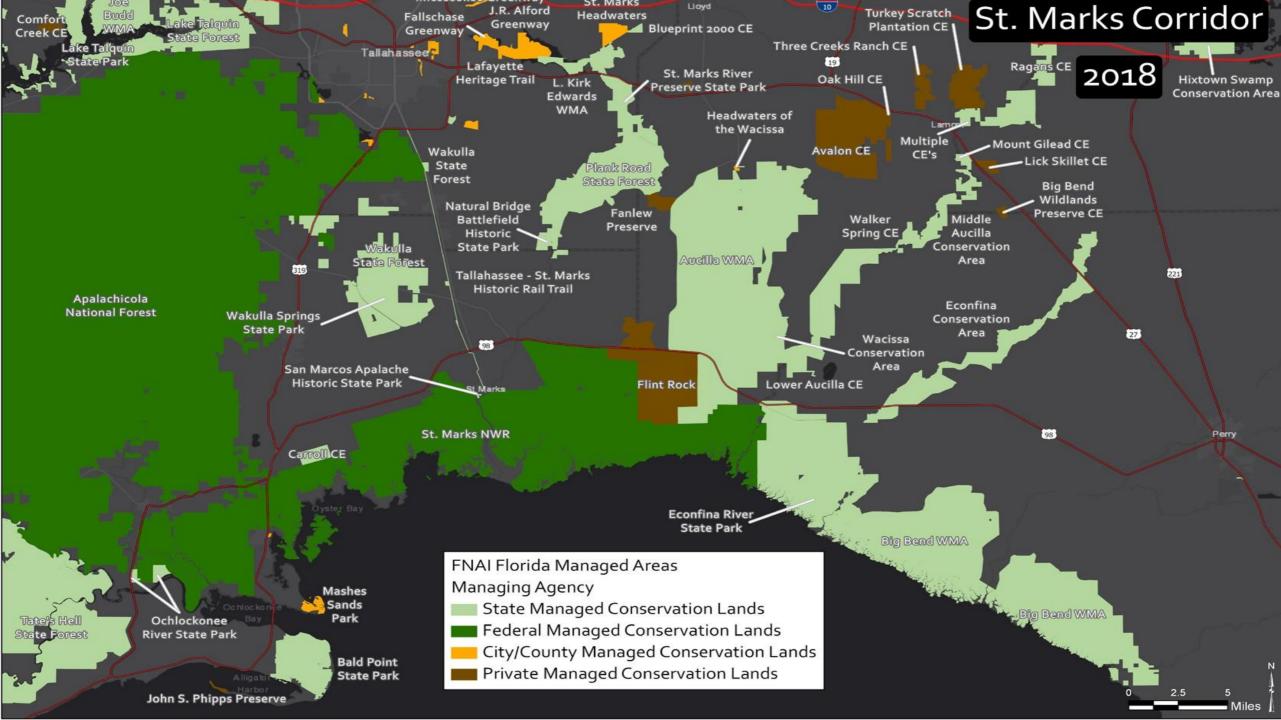


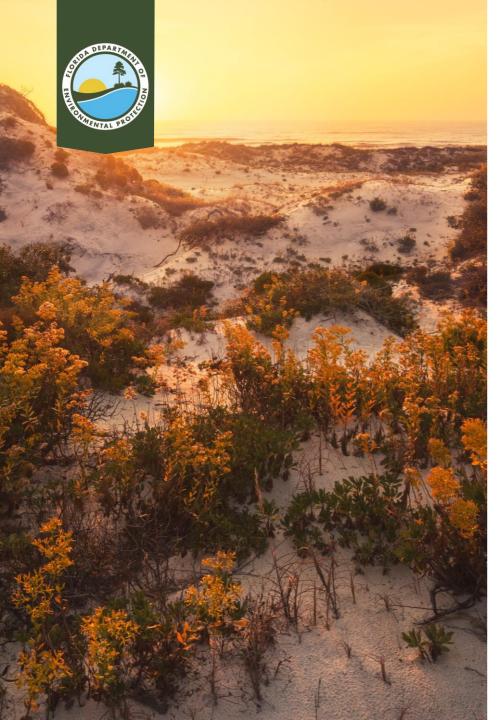






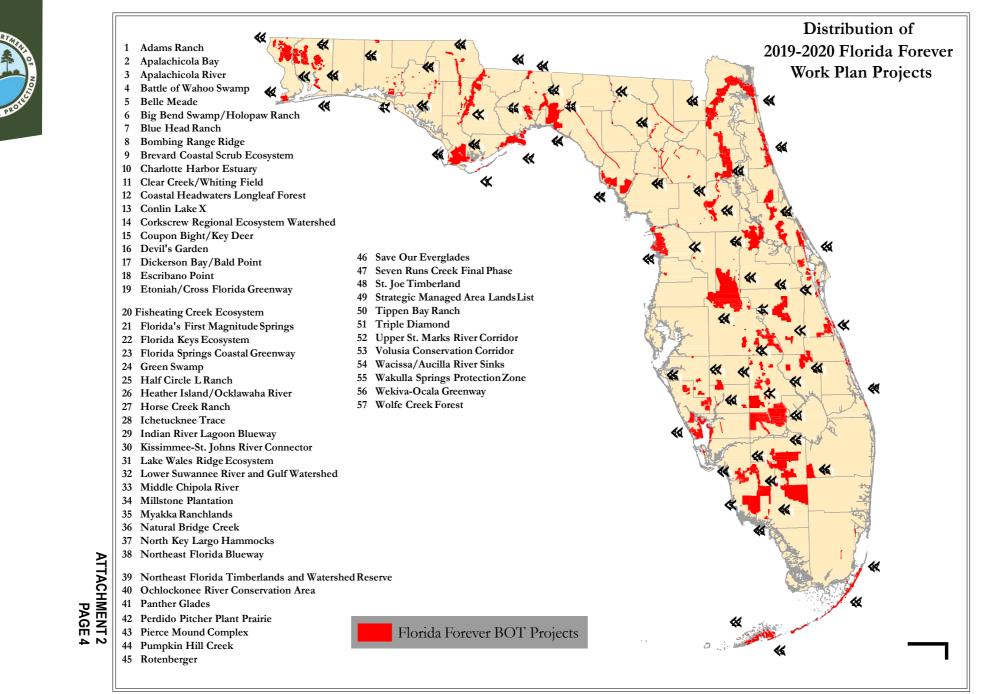






#### Florida Forever Assists in Keeping Florida's Coastline Resilient and Maintains Lands in Their Natural State for Adaptation

- Florida Forever has protected 9,580 acres of fragile coastline.
- The 2019 Florida Forever Priority List includes 14 Climate Change Lands category projects that we are still working to acquire.
- The 2019 Florida Forever Priority List includes in its Substantially Complete category five projects that would also meet the Climate Change category definition, but are at least 85 percent acquired.



File Location: \\FLDEP1\tech\_cad\Counties\_GIS\Multi\_Counties\_FF\_Projects\_ConservationLands\2019\2019-20\_DSL\_Work\_Plan\_FF\_2019\_Edits.mxd



# Callie.DeHaven@FloridaDEP.gov **Callie DeHaven** Director Division of State Lands