

Gilchrist Club

Less-Than-Fee

Gilchrist County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2022
<i>Project Acres</i>	23,298
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	23,298
<i>2024 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$97,605,206

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Gilchrist Club project would conserve a large expanse of natural communities at the junction of the Santa Fe, Suwannee and Waccasassa river basins. The project will provide important water quality benefits to these riverine systems, protect valuable habitat for native species and improve the connectivity of existing conservation lands that stretch from Goethe State Forest to the Suwannee River.

General Description

The Gilchrist Club project is in Gilchrist County, south of County Road 232, east of U.S. Highway 129 and west of U.S. Highway 41. Since the 1980s, the Gilchrist Club property has been utilized for forest products and as a private hunting and fishing club.

The property is adjacent to the North Waccasassa Flats Florida Forever project, which is just to its north. The Nature Coast State Trail, managed by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Recreation and Parks, crosses the property east-west at the approximate midline. Other conservation lands in the vicinity include Bell Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area, Goethe State Forest, and Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area. Nearly all the proposed project area falls within Priority 4 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

Water moves through the property as a series of swamps and other wetlands within three separate drainage basins. Due to its low-lying topography, more than half of the project area is characterized by various wetland communities in natural condition. The remaining acreage is largely pine plantation. Some planted pine stands can be considered as natural communities in active restoration. Multiple rare species have been documented on-site. No archaeological or historical resources were identified within the project area.

Developed portions of the property contain multiple cabins, a clubhouse and a lodge, as well as roads, pole barns, shop buildings, wildlife feeders, equipment storage and dog pens.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida mouse	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Bald eagle	G5/S3

Public Use

The Gilchrist Club project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition with no public access.

Acquisition Planning

2022

On October 14, 2022, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to add the Gilchrist Club project to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List.

Coordination

The owners of the Gilchrist Club have been in discussions with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a youth conservation center on the property.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Gilchrist Club project would be managed by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

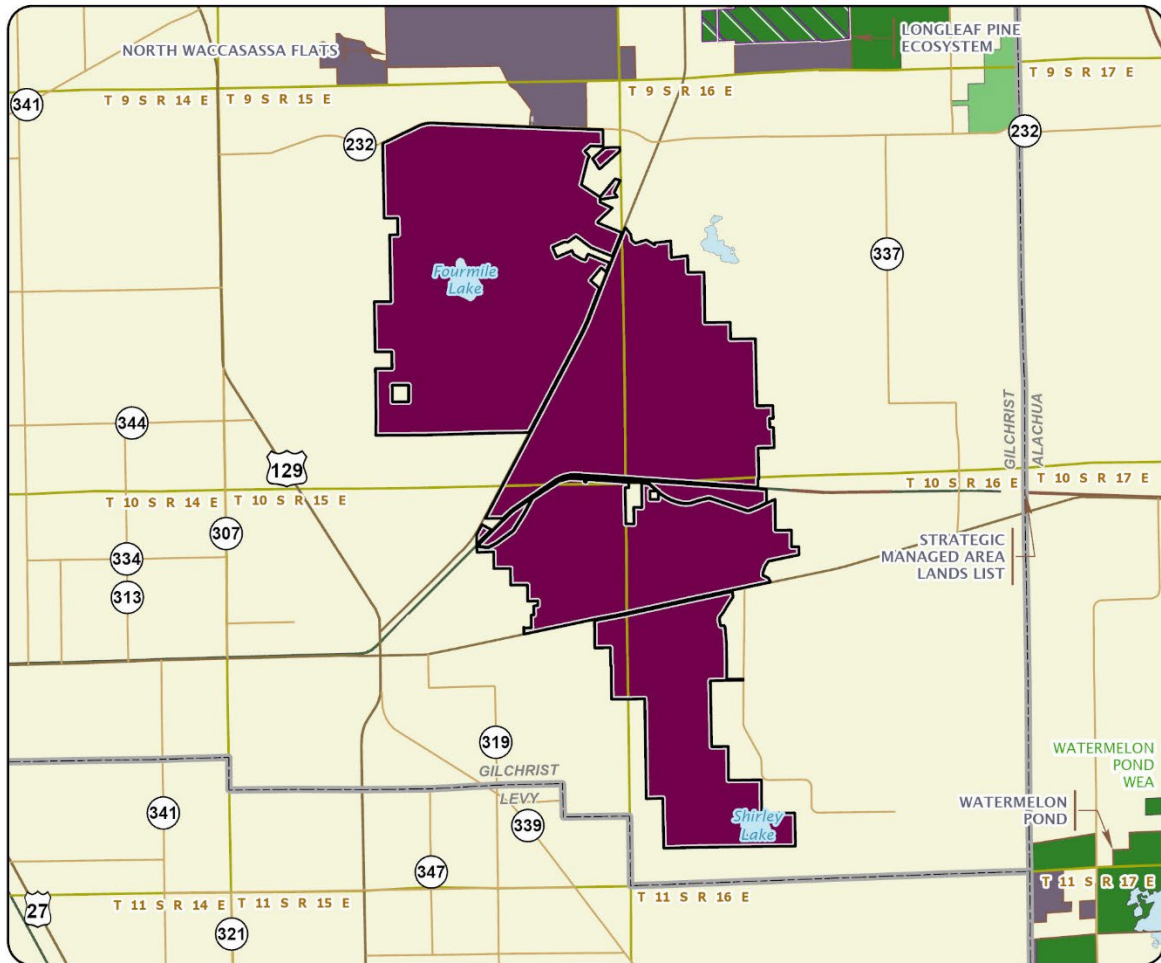
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Gilchrist Club project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring to confirm continued conservation easement compliance would be coordinated by DEP's Division of State Lands.

Management Prospectus

DEP's Division of State Lands will periodically monitor the conservation easement, while management will be conducted by the property owner.





GILCHRIST CLUB

GILCHRIST COUNTY

