

Mill Creek

Less-Than-Fee

Marion County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	<i>2003</i>
<i>Project Acres</i>	<i>14,300</i>
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	<i>2,156</i>
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	<i>12,144</i>
<i>2025 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	<i>\$43,623,022</i>

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Mill Creek project will increase Florida’s biodiversity by preventing the conversion of natural areas to alternative uses. The project will also increase the amount of forestland available for natural resource management, enhance existing wetlands through the prohibition of future timber harvesting, and benefit water quality and quantity by protecting property adjacent to the Orange Creek Restoration Area which flows to Orange Creek.

General Description

The Mill Creek project is in northern Marion County adjacent to Orange Creek Restoration Area and the Millpond Swamp conservation easement (Conservation Florida). The project is also near the Quail Roost conservation easement (Conservation Trust for Florida), Lochloosa Slough Preserve, Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and Ocala National Forest. The Mill Creek property has been impacted by cattle and timber operations such as conversion to pasture, pine plantation and cypress harvesting.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
Snowy egret	G5/S3
Little blue heron	G5/S4
Tricolored heron	G5/S4
White ibis	G5/S4





Public Use

The Mill Creek project is proposed for less-than-fee acquisition and does not provide for public access. However, the eastern portion of the property is leased for hunting.

Acquisition Planning

2003

On December 5, 2003, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) added the Mill Creek project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority List. This Less-than-Fee acquisition, sponsored by the Conservation Real Estate Group, consisted of approximately 12,285 acres, multiple owners and a tax-assessed value of \$13,694,672.

2005

On January 27, 2005, ARC moved this project to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority List.

On June 3, 2005 ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2005 Florida Forever Interim Priority List.

2007

On December 14, 2007, ARC voted to move the Mill Creek project to Group B of the 2008 Florida Forever Priority List.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed the Mill Creek project in the Less-than-Fee category.

2019

On December 19, 2019, the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank (2,159 acres) was approved.

2020

On June 25, 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the St. Johns River Water Management District acquired a conservation easement on the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank.

2025

In June 2025, ARC approved the addition of three parcels totaling approximately 689 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.

In October 2025, ARC approved the addition of one parcel totaling approximately 1,318 acres in Marion County to the project boundary.





Coordination

There are no acquisition partners currently.

Management Policy Statement

As a less-than-fee acquisition, the Mill Creek project would be managed for conservation purposes by the landowner as outlined in the conservation easement.

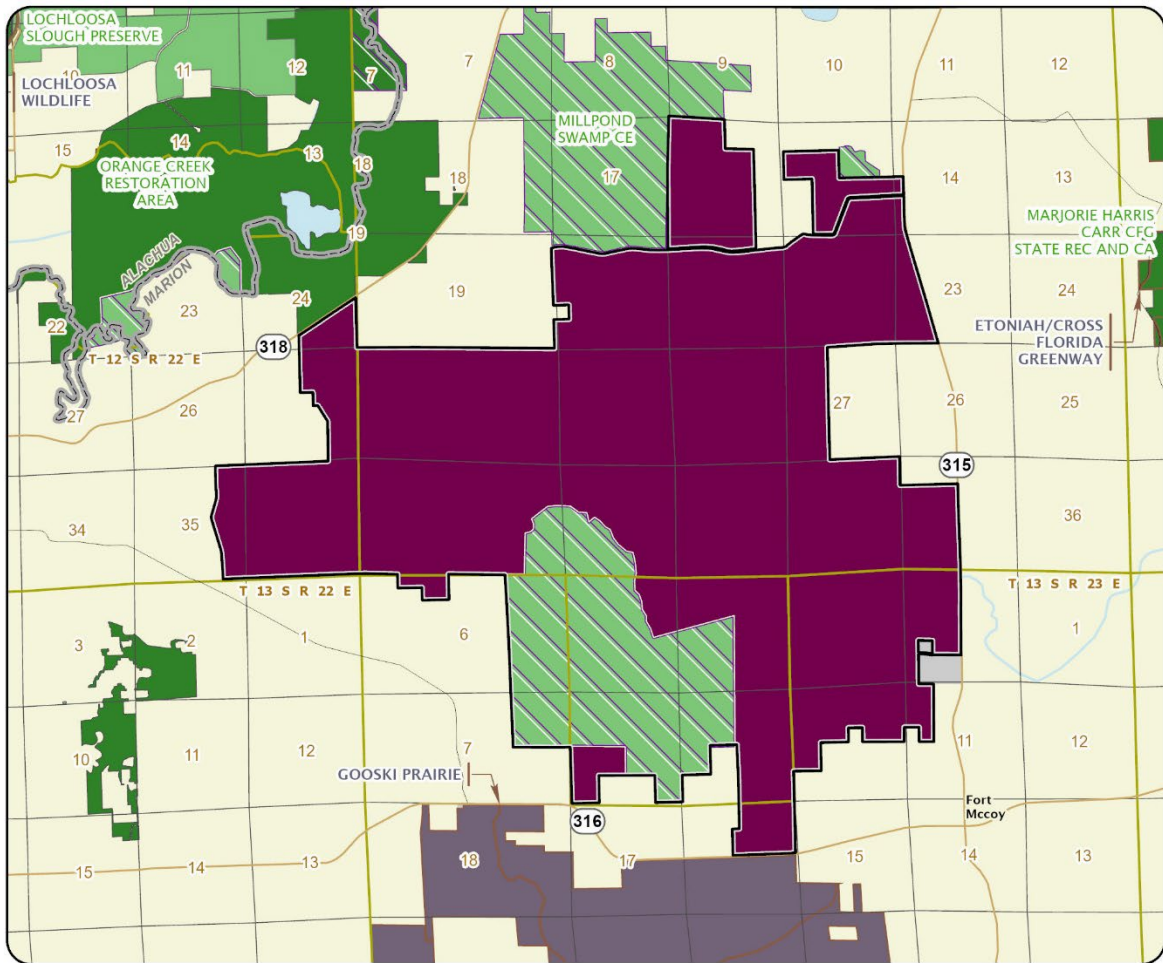
Manager(s)

If acquired as less-than-fee, management responsibility of the Mill Creek project would remain with the landowner. Periodic monitoring of the site's management 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 the management will be conducted by the property owner.





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