

Pringle Creek Forest

Partnerships & Regional Incentives

Flagler

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	2012
<i>Project Acres</i>	8,446
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	0
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$0
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	8,446
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$12,860,938

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pringle Creek Forest project will enhance the landscape mosaic of conservation lands that provides protection of the Pellicer Creek watershed and its tributaries. The project will also retain functioning natural systems that reduce the possibilities of flood damage and water supply shortages and ensure and improve upon the ecosystem services this property provides for capturing, storing, filtering, and slowly releasing clean water to Pellicer Creek and its significant downstream estuary. The project will provide habitat protection and enhance numerous rare species such as the Florida black bear and celestial lily and protect imperiled natural communities.

General Description

Pringle Creek originates in the northern portion of the project and flows north into Pellicer Creek which then flows eastward into the estuarine waters of the Matanzas River. In the proposal site, Pringle Creek is surrounded by a mostly natural forested wetland corridor. Acquiring the proposal would contribute to surface water protection of Pringle and Pellicer creeks as well as the Matanzas River. Aquifer recharge is thought to be high on this site due to the functional wetlands.

Over one-half (56 percent) of Pringle Creek Forest consists of pine plantations planted on former mesic and wet flatwoods communities. They are North Florida slash pine and almost all the trees 12 to 14 years old because of the 1998 wildfire. Slightly more than one-third (38 percent) is represented by dome and basin swamps impacted by logging of cypress. Less than 6 percent is categorized as baygall, blackwater stream, hydric hammock, mesic/wet flatwoods, floodplain swamp, marsh/prairie, scrubby flatwoods, and mesic hammock natural communities.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida black bear	G5T4/S4
<i>celestial lily</i>	G2/S2

Public Use

Regarding recreational opportunities, the property has potential for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, picnicking, primitive camping, nature interpretive trails and geocaching. At this time, some of these activities could be offered on existing woods roads without the need for major development. The current roads could serve as trails suitable for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Currently, there is a hunting lease on the property.

Acquisition Planning

Pringle Creek Forest was submitted by Flagler County and DEP's Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR). Being on the Florida Forever priority list is a requirement for getting acquisition grant funding with the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). Flagler County and the GTMNERR plan to pursue CELCP funding for this project. This project was placed on the Florida Forever list as a Partnerships and Regional Incentives project.

Coordination

Flagler County is anticipating being an acquisition partner on this site, but with NOAA rather than the State of Florida. SJRMWD is supportive of this project. However, they have not committed to any assistance with funding of the acquisition.

Management Policy Statement

This proposal meets the following public purposes as identified in 259.032(3), Florida Statutes, to varying degrees:

- (d) To conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, if the protection and conservation of such lands is necessary to enhance or protect significant surface water, groundwater, coastal, recreational, timber, or fish or wildlife resources which cannot otherwise be accomplished through local and state regulatory programs;
- (e) To promote water resource development that benefits natural systems and citizens of the state;
- (g) To provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural resource-based recreation and other outdoor recreation on any part of any site compatible with conservation purposes; and
- (i) To conserve open spaces suitable for greenways or outdoor recreation which are compatible with conservation purposes.



Manager(s)

Flagler County

Management Prospectus**Qualifications for state designation**

Most of the property (77 percent) is wetlands, with most uplands in silviculture and about 2,500 acres of the jurisdictional wetlands also in silviculture production. Flagler County plans to, over time, convert silviculture areas back to their historic natural communities.

Pringle Creek Forest is within the CELCP targeted watershed boundary. This will qualify the parcel for federal acquisition funding under the CELCP. The CELCP reserves fifteen percent of its appropriated funds for acquisitions within National Estuarine Research Reserve targeted watersheds. The Florida Forever listing is a prerequisite for funding through CELCP. Additional management obligations and details will be presented in a later comprehensive land management plan.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

Managing this property is not anticipated to require intense management due to the proposed activities.

Management implementation, Public access, Site security and Protection of infrastructure

Implementing the intended uses of this property would begin immediately upon acquisition. It is anticipated that environmental studies and archaeological and cultural resource surveys would be initiated as part of or immediately following the acquisition process. The development of passive recreation plans, permitting and construction of the improvements would have a goal of initiation within 5 years.

No infrastructure other than pumphouses for the wells is presently on the property. Planned infrastructure includes the installation of restroom facilities and a parking facility, picnic tables, limited camping facilities, and nature trails with bird watching stations. Flagler County Parks and Recreation will perform grounds keeping and maintenance on the facilities and improvements. Flagler County Land Management will oversee the natural community restoration and maintenance. Security will be provided by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office.

Revenue-generating potential

The revenue generating potential is limited to the harvesting of existing silviculture stands. It is premature to speculate on the revenue potential as it is unknown whether the current owner intends to harvest merchantable timber as part of the purchase and sale terms. Development, operation, and maintenance costs for natural communities, activities, passive recreation and camping will be provided by Flagler County via grants and general revenue funding. The county will assume responsibility for managing the park utilizing existing staff. County Parks and Recreation personnel will maintain the park features and facilities and the Land Management Department will monitor and conduct natural resource

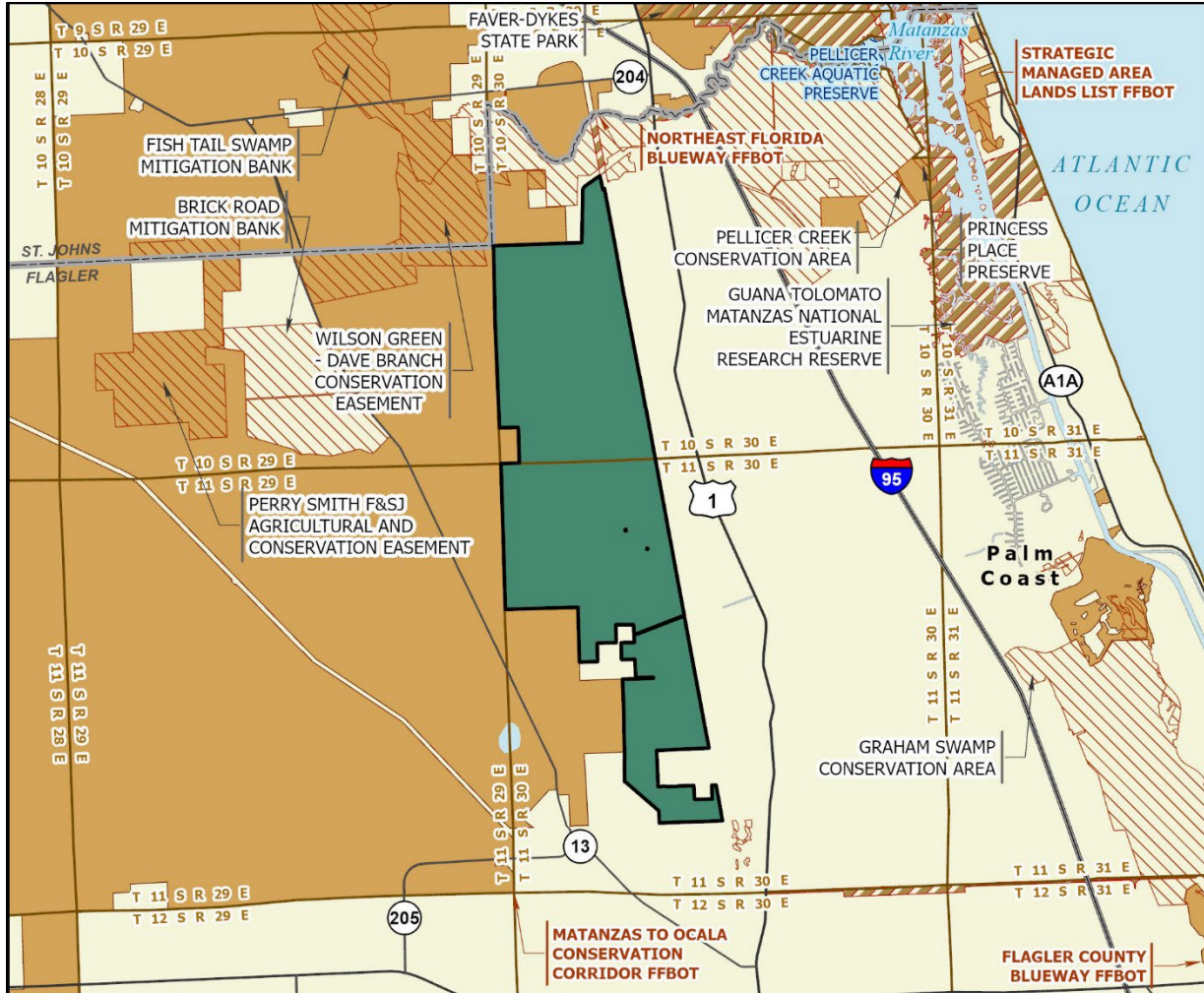


activities. Volunteer and educational groups will be welcomed and encouraged to become involved in the management and care of the park.

Cooperators in management activities

Currently the GTMNERR is an anticipated co-manager of the Pringle Creek Forest property, however, these obligations and restrictions may shape future management activities and partnerships.





PRINGLE CREEK FOREST

FLAGLER COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Other Florida Forever BOT Projects
-  State Aquatic Preserve



FEBRUARY 2022



Map 1: FNAI, February 2022