

Pumpkin Hill Creek

Partnerships & Regional Incentives
Duval

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1994
<i>Project Acres</i>	24,757
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	17,807
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$9,868,766
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	6,951
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$198,829,633

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect one of the larger natural uplands left in Duval County and enhance the water quality and protections for the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers. The project will support the foundation of an important fishery and, therefore, protect wading birds' rookeries. The growth of the city of Jacksonville and its outlying developed areas has reduced natural lands in Duval County to a fraction of their original extent, this project will provide the public with opportunities for resource-based recreation such as fishing, hunting, hiking, and canoeing.

General Description

As a remnant of relatively intact natural communities in the urban landscape of Duval County, the Pumpkin Hill Creek project will protect upland buffer to the Nassau River—St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve, an Outstanding Florida Water that supports a significant commercial and recreational fishery. Besides sandhill, large areas of scrubby flatwoods of diverse quality, wet flatwoods, and salt marsh, the project contains nearly pristine maritime hammock. It provides habitat for several rare species and contains two colonial wading bird rookeries, one of which is used by the federally endangered wood stork. Manatees frequent both the St. Johns and Nassau Rivers and move into tidal creeks, such as Hill Creek and Clapboard Creek, adjacent to the project. The project contains 14 archaeological sites, including the ruins of the early 19th century Fitzpatrick Plantation house. The cultural resource value of the project is high. The area is threatened by urban development.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Striped newt	G2G3/S2
Piping plover	G3/S2
Gopher tortoise	G3/S3
Bird Rookery	G5/SNRB
<i>pondspice</i>	G3?/S2
Worthington's marsh wren	G5T3/S2
Macgillivray's seaside sparrow	G4T3/S2
Wood stork	G4/S2
Roseate spoonbill	G5/S2
Atlantic salt marsh mink	G5T3/S3
Least tern	G4/S3
Bald eagle	G5/S3

Public Use

This project is designated as a buffer preserve.

Acquisition Planning

1993

On December 9, 1993, the LAAC added Pumpkin Hill Creek to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and SJRMD, is approximately 6,292 acres, 25 parcels, 12 owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$9,383,700. The essential parcels included North Shore (acquired by TNC using Cedar Bay Cogeneration Project mitigation funds), Verdie Forest and Penland (acquired jointly with SJRWMD), and Tison and Birchfield (acquired by the SJRWMD).

1997

On March 14, 1997, the LAAC approved a fee-simple, 635-acre addition (aka Sample Swamp property) to the project boundary. It was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, consisted of multiple owners and parcels, and a 1996 taxable value of \$995,638.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAMAC designated an additional 1,419 acres as essential including Sample Swamp, City National, Beasly, Wingate, and two small connecting parcels.

2000

On October 17, 2000, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 18,995- acre addition to the project boundary. The addition was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, TNC, and ORCP and consisted of 93 owners, 176 parcels, and a 1999 taxable value of \$7,624,669. On February 7, 2003, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 73-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by TNC, consisted of 3 owners, Caldwell Trust (37 acres), the Cambridge AandE Ltd, and Squires (36 acres), 5 parcels, and a 2002 taxable value of \$399,726.



2003

On December 5, 2003, the ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2004 Florida Forever Priority list.

2004

On December 3, 2004, the ARC approved a 658.3-acre deletion to the project boundary. The deletion consisted of 4 parcels (D2, D3, D4, and the southern 2/3rds of D7) with a taxable value of \$541,781. The project was moved to Group B of the 2005 Florida Forever Priority list.

2005

On December 9, 2005, the ARC moved this project to Group A of the 2006 Florida Forever Priority list.

2006

On August 11, 2006, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 713-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by DRP, in coordination with the City of Jacksonville Preservation Project, consisted of 41 ownerships, 50 parcels, and a 2005 taxable value of \$4,180,827. DRP will manage the addition, except for 24.75 acres in Component 11, owned by Hughes, which will be managed by the City of Jacksonville. The parcels have been designated as essential.

2011

On December 9, 2011, the ARC placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

Coordination

TNC is an intermediary in the project. Resolutions in support of this project include SJRWMD in support of a shared acquisition. SJRWMD, ORCP (formerly CAMA), FCT, and the City of Jacksonville are acquisition partners.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Pumpkin Hill Creek project are to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreational, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreational trails, for natural-resource- based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Manager(s)

DRP, SJRWMD, the City of Jacksonville, and the federal government all manage lands within the project boundaries.

Management Prospectus**Qualifications for state designation**

The Pumpkin Hill Creek project includes uplands centrally located in the Nassau River-St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve. The project qualifies as a state buffer preserve because it will protect uplands important to the hydrology of the sensitive tidal marshes of the aquatic preserve.



Conditions affecting intensity of management

Pumpkin Hill Creek Project generally includes lands that are “low-need” tracts, requiring basic resource management and protection.

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

Long-range plans for this project will generally be directed toward restoring disturbed areas to their original conditions, as far as possible, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. An all-season burning program will use, whenever possible, existing roads, black lines, foam lines and natural breaks to contain fires. Infrastructure will be in disturbed areas and will be the minimum needed for management and public access.

Revenue-generating potential

Portions of this project are composed of manageable pinelands that could be used to help offset operational costs. Any estimate of the revenue from the harvest of these pinelands depends upon a detailed assessment of the value of the timber and upon the amount of harvesting that is consistent with protection of natural resources on this project. No revenue is expected to be generated for some years.

Cooperators in management activities

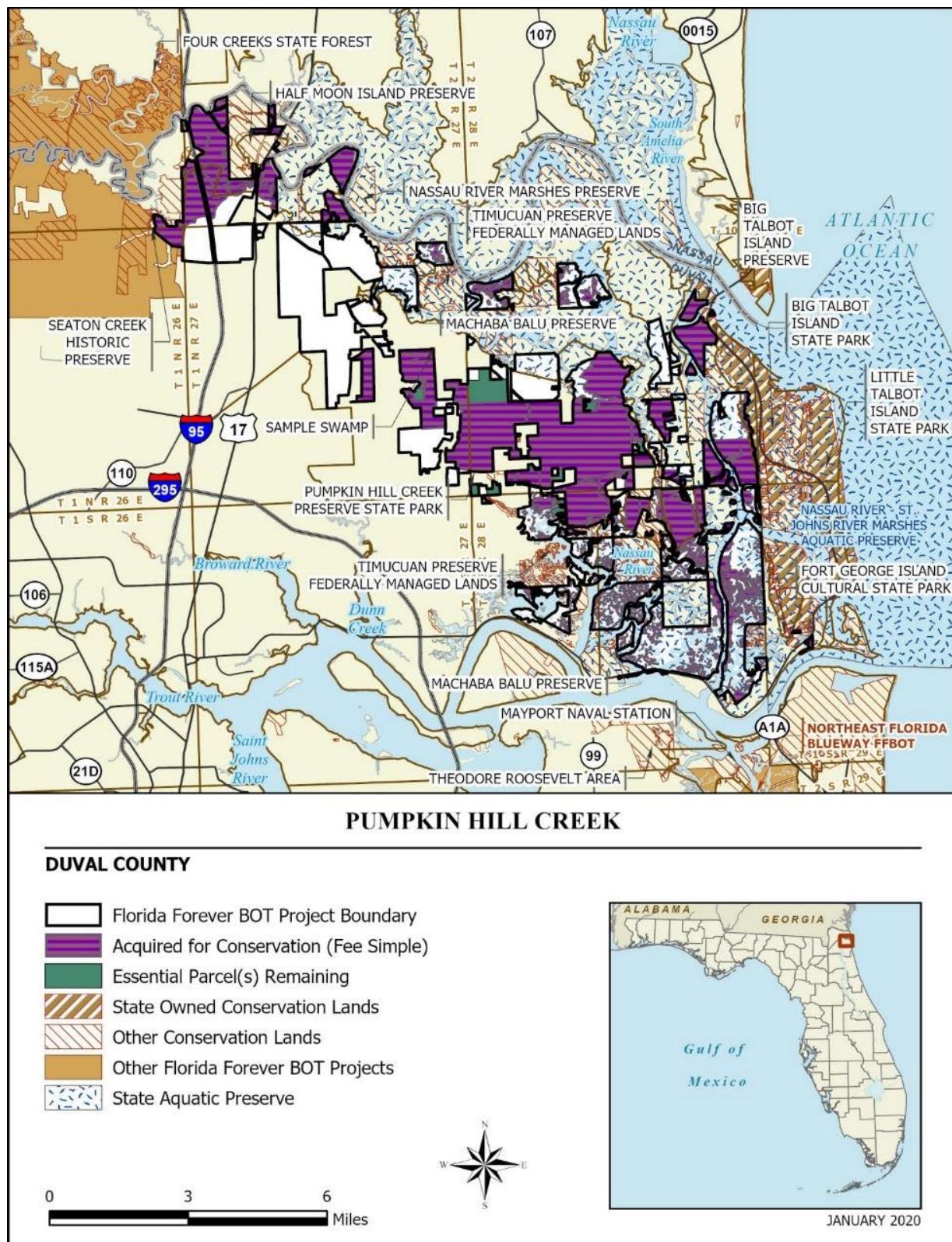
SJRWMD will cooperate in managing the project.

Management Cost Summary

DRP	Startup	Recurring
Source of Funds	CARL/LATF	not provided
Salary	\$62,079.65	not provided
OPS	\$28,631.85	not provided
Expense	\$24,762.68	not provided
OCO	\$0	not provided
Special	\$0	not provided
FCO	\$50,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$165,474.18	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





Map 1: FNAI, January 2020

