

Terra Ceia

Climate Change Lands

Manatee

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	4,724
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	2,432
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$4,962,500
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	2,292
<i>2020 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$25,762,405

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Terra Ceia project will preserve mangrove swamps and flatwoods on the islands and mainland around Terra Ceia Bay, some of the last natural lands left on the southeast shore of Tampa Bay. The project will protect and restore this natural area, to preserve the fishery and manatee feeding grounds in Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and give the public an area in which to fish, boat, and enjoy the original landscape of Tampa Bay.

General Description

The Terra Ceia project is two-thirds mangrove swamp and one-third a mix of xeric hammock, and flatwoods and old fields colonized by Brazilian pepper. The area is particularly significant for the protection it offers to bird rookeries, including nearby Bird Island, one of the top two rookeries in Florida. The project will support conservation of the adjacent Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve (an Outstanding Florida Water); its seagrass beds are used heavily by manatees, and its nursery areas crucial for fish and invertebrates, within this important Florida fishery. Sixty-nine archaeological sites, mostly middens, are within the project and more are likely to be discovered. The natural resources in the project are vulnerable to alteration or destruction by development and invasion by exotic plant species. Growth pressures are intense, so endangerment is high.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

FNAI Elements	Score
Florida manatee	G2G3T2/S2S3
<i>hairy beach sunflower</i>	G5T2/S2
<i>banded wild-pine</i>	G5/S3

Public Use

This project qualifies as a preserve, with uses such as boating and fishing, and activities like picnicking and hiking in accessible uplands.

Acquisition Planning

1996

On December 5, 1996, the LAAC added the Terra Ceia project to the CARL list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, consisted of some 2,612 acres, multiple owners, and a 1995 taxable value of \$8,059,357. The essential parcels were identified as: Hendry Corp; Reeder; Schater; Huber; Blalock; and First Union/Larson. Before the project's addition to the CARL list, the state's acquisition partner, SWFWMD, acquired Terra Ceia Isles. The District acquired the Reeder (20-acres) and Schater parcels (39.1-acres) in 2000 with the state contributing half of the funding.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the LAAC designated an additional 843 acres as essential.

2007

On June 15, 2007, the ARC approved a fee-simple, 395-acre addition (aka Frog and McMullen Creek Addition) to the project boundary. The proposal was sponsored by DEP's Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA), DRP, and the SWFWMD. The addition consisted of 33 landowners and 61 parcels. DRP is the recommended manager for most of the site. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by them.

2009

In June 2009, a donation of 40.06 acres was received from SWFWMD.

2010

On August 13, 2010, ARC approved a 251-acre (\$51,544,946 just value) reduction to the project boundary due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.

2011

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Climate Change Lands category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

SWFWMD is an acquisition partner. DEP received a grant of \$504,731 from FWS to acquire Rattlesnake Key and Joe's Island.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of management of the Terra Ceia project is to preserve and restore the coastal natural communities, ranging from xeric and maritime hammocks to coastal strand and mangrove swamps that remain around the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve. Achieving this objective will protect the resources of the aquatic preserve and play an important part in protecting and restoring the Tampa Bay estuary, the largest open-water estuary in Florida. The project should be managed under the single-use concept. Management activities should be directed first toward preserving resources and second toward integrating carefully controlled consumptive uses such as fishing.



Managers should control access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to one or a few main roads; thoroughly inventory the resources; restore hydrological disturbances; implement prescribed fire management; strictly limit timbering; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are actually preserving the resources of the aquatic preserve. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible. The project includes nearly all the coastal undeveloped land south of Port Manatee and around Terra Ceia Bay, and consequently has the size and location to achieve its primary objective.

Manager(s)

DRP is the designated manager. Parcels in Frog Creek already owned and managed by SWFWMD will continue to be managed by that agency.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation

This project qualifies as a state buffer preserve to protect the resources of the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve.

Conditions affecting intensity of management

The Terra Ceia 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

Management activities will seek to protect the water quality and the highly productive marine habitat of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition; preserve and protect significant endangered and threatened species including the West Indian manatee, roseate spoonbill, little blue heron, tricolored heron, least tern, snowy egret, reddish egret, and American oystercatcher; preserve and protect significant archaeological sites; restore islands to a natural state which will include removal of exotic vegetation and habitat restoration activities; and establish a self-guided canoe trail between the islands for use by the general public.

Within the first year after acquisition, activities will concentrate on the site security of the mainland property and resource inventory. The site’s natural resources will be inventoried, and a management plan will be formulated. Long-range plans for this property will be to remove exotic plants, restore disturbed areas and to perpetuate and maintain natural communities. Management practices will also stress the protection of the water quality of the aquatic preserve by maintaining the project area in a substantially natural condition, the protection of threatened and endangered species and the preservation of the significant archaeological sites for professional investigation.

Revenue-generating potential

No revenue is expected to be generated from this property.

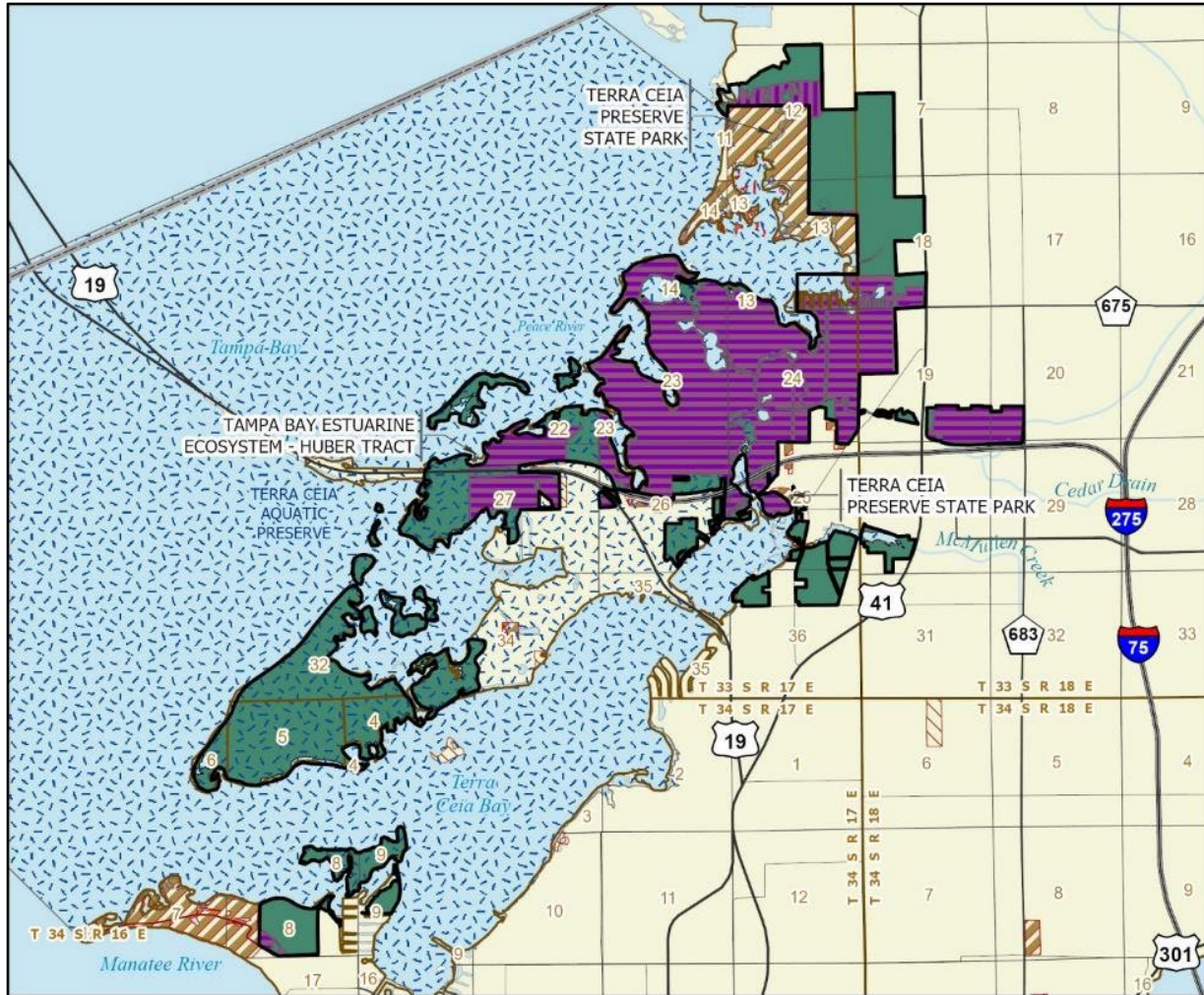


Management Cost Summary

<u>DRP</u>	<u>Startup</u>	<u>Recurring</u>
Salary (2 FTE)	\$62,000	not provided
Expense	\$10,000	not provided
OCO	\$100,000	not provided
FCO	\$500,000	not provided
TOTAL	\$672,000	not provided

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted





TERRA CEIA

MANATEE COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  Acquired for Conservation (Less-Than-Fee)
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining
-  State Owned Conservation Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  State Aquatic Preserve



JANUARY 2020

Map 1: FNAI, January 2020