

# Dade County Archipelago

Partnerships and Regional Incentives

Miami-Dade County

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Year Added to Priority List</i>            | 1994         |
| <i>Project Acres</i>                          | 853          |
| <i>Acquired Acres</i>                         | 634          |
| <i>Remaining Project Acres</i>                | 218          |
| <i>2024 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i> | \$42,226,629 |

## Purpose for State Acquisition

The Dade County Archipelago project will protect some of the last remaining subtropical pinelands and hardwood hammocks unique to the United States. These forests were once abundant on a limestone ridge east of the Everglades, where Miami and Homestead along with surrounding farms now stand; only tiny pieces of the forests remain, the best of which the Dade County Archipelago project will protect. The project will conserve habitat for rare and imperiled species (many found nowhere else in the world) and will provide areas where residents and visitors can learn about and appreciate this ecosystem.

## General Description

This project contains some of the most outstanding examples of rockland hammock that remain in Florida, as well as the best remaining examples of the endangered pine rockland outside Everglades National Park. The pine rocklands are critical to the survival of at least 51 rare and endangered plant species found nowhere else as well as numerous rare animal species. Several of the hammocks contain significant archaeological sites. These remaining sites are threatened by agriculture and urban development.





FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

| <b><u>FNAI Elements</u></b>         | <b><u>Score</u></b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>tiny polygala</i>                | G1/S1               |
| <i>Florida lantana</i>              | G2T1/S1             |
| <i>Carter's small-flowered flax</i> | G1/S1               |
| <i>modest spleenwort</i>            | G1/S1               |
| <i>rockland hoary-pea</i>           | G1/S1               |
| <i>beach jacquemontia</i>           | G1/S1               |
| Bartram's scrub-hairstreak          | G4T1/S1             |
| <i>Cuban snake-bark</i>             | G2G3T1/S1           |
| <i>Florida brickell-bush</i>        | G5T1/S1             |
| <i>Florida filmy fern</i>           | G4G5T1/S1           |
| <i>Gould's wedge sandmat</i>        | G2T1/S1             |
| <i>pinelands spurge</i>             | G2T1/S1             |

**Public Use**

The project is designated for use as botanical sites with passive recreational use.

**Acquisition Planning**

**1994**

The Dade County Archipelago dates from 1994 when the former Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands and Miami Rockridge Pinelands, both in Miami-Dade County, were combined.

**Tropical Hammocks of the Redlands**

Phasing of the hammocks in order of priority: Silver Palm (two of three tracts purchased through The Nature Conservancy (TNC)); Castello Extension; Loveland; Big and Little George; Meissner Ross; Southwest Island; Holiday; Lucille; Ross; and Madden’s. All sites are essential. Miami-Dade County has acquired acreage in Holiday and Lucille Hammocks.

**Miami Rockridge Pinelands**

Phasing of the pineland sites in order of priority: Site 12 (partially acquired); Site 2 (partially acquired); Site 6; Site 15 (majority acquired in 1992); Site 14; Site 13 (partially acquired); Site 8 (acquired in 1991); Site 1 (acquired in 1991); Site 16 (half acquired in 1992); Site 7 (majority acquired in 1992); and the Florida Natural Areas Inventory addition to Site 10 and Site 9. The Ludlam Pineland (10 acres) was added on July 20, 1994. Miami-Dade County has acquired the tract. All sites are essential.

**1995**

In December 1995, Miami-Dade County proposed adding 16 sites to the project area. All of the sites were assessed during the 1995 cycle with the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council approving in December 1995. The sites added were Boystown (77 acres); Tamiami Addition; Wilkins-Pierson Addition; Whispering Pines; Castellow Complex #28; Castellow Complex #31; Castellow Complex #33; Goulds, Hardin, Owaissa Bauer Addition; Fuchs; Navy Wells #2; Navy Wells #23; Navy Wells #39; Round Hammock; and Bauer Drive Pineland. Miami-Dade County acquired approximately 348 acres within the project at a cost of \$21,889,314.





## **2005**

On December 28, 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund acquired the Yang parcel (9.47 acres) from Miami-Dade County.

## **2008**

On December 17, 2008, the Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management acquired Wilkins-Pierson Pineland (10.56 acres).

## **2011**

On December 9, 2011, the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) placed this project in the Partnerships and Regional Incentives category.

## **2023**

In October 2023, ARC voted to remove approximately 42 acres from the project that were deemed unsuitable for State acquisition.

### **Coordination**

Miami-Dade County is the acquisition partner. In May 1990, county voters approved a referendum, which increased ad valorem tax by 0.75 mills for two years, generating approximately \$90 million for the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands. The county participated in all phases of project development and paid for initial mapping and title work on all the hammock sites. TNC has been an intermediary in the acquisition of some sites. Miami-Dade County continues with acquisition of the remaining tracts. Resolutions in support of this project included a pledge from the Miami-Dade County Commission to participate in providing 50 percent of acquisition funds and to manage the acquired sites.

### **Management Policy Statement**

The primary objective of management of the Dade County Archipelago project is to preserve and restore the best of the small areas of pine rockland and rockland hammock left in Miami-Dade County. Achieving this objective will protect over 50 rare plant species, several of which are found nowhere else in the world and will allow the public to learn about and appreciate the original landscapes of the Miami Rock Ridge.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept that management activities should be directed toward the preservation of resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the sites, thoroughly inventory the natural and historical resources of the sites, work to eliminate invasive exotic plants and monitor management activities to ensure that they are effective. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as interpretive trails, to ensure that they do not harm the most sensitive resources. Recreational facilities should be sited in already disturbed areas when possible. With intensive management, this project has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.





**Manager(s)**

Miami-Dade County is the recommended manager.

**Management Prospectus**

**Qualifications for State Designation**

The project includes some of the best rockland hammocks and pine rocklands in Florida. Their rare West Indian and endemic plant species and their small size qualify these areas as state botanical sites.

**Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management**

The project generally includes high-need tracts requiring site-specific resource management and protection.

**Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure**

Within the first year after acquisition, initial activities concentrate on site security, removing existing trash, public and fire management access and resource inventory (including areas of special concern such as archaeological sites, rare species sites, and fern-, vine- and exotic-dominated areas). Long-range plans will generally be toward restoring disturbed areas and perpetuating and maintaining natural communities.

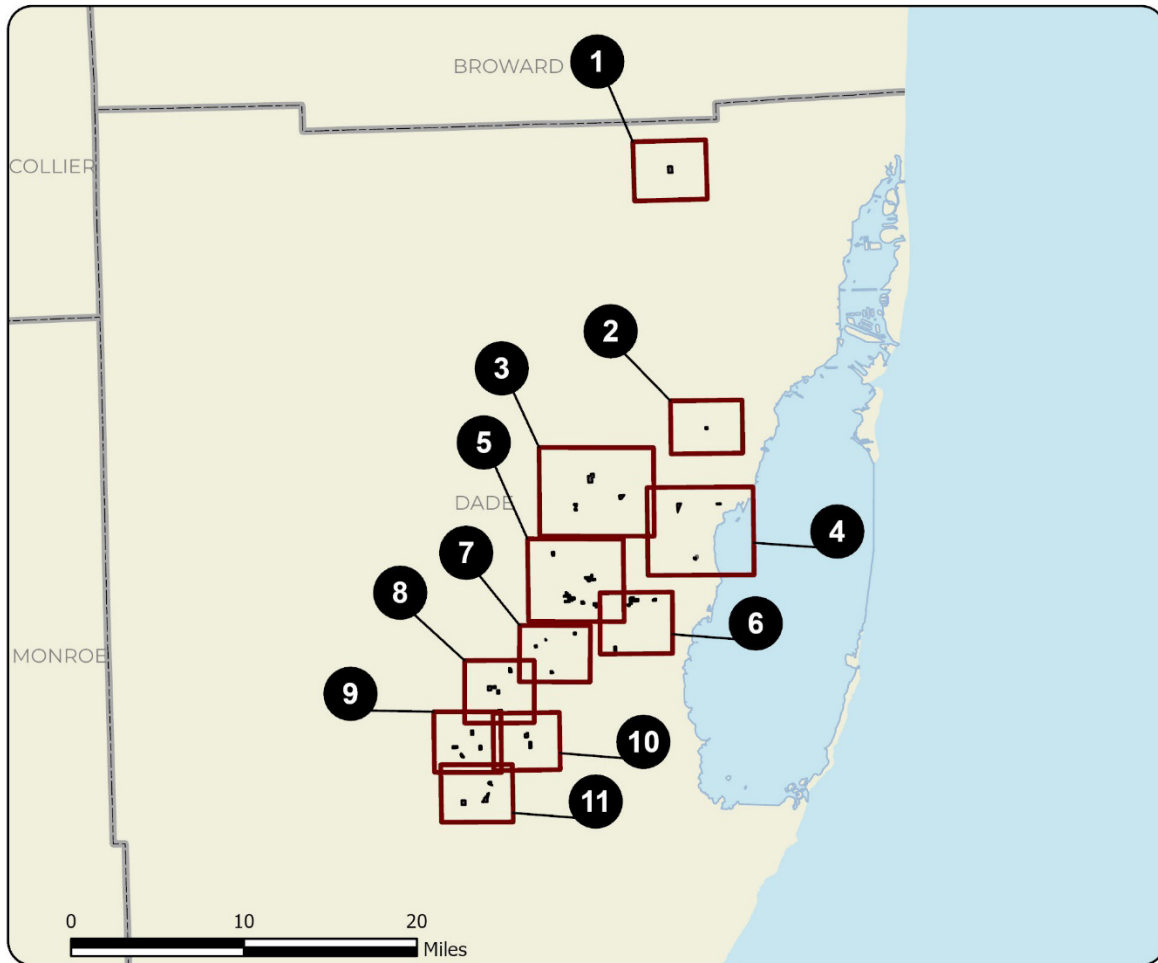
Management activities will also stress protecting threatened and endangered species. The resource inventory will be used to identify sensitive areas that need special attention, protection or management. Unnecessary roads, firelines and hydrological disturbances will be abandoned and/or restored to the greatest extent practical.

Management Cost Summary

| <u>Miami-Dade County</u> | <u>1996/97</u> | <u>1997/98</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Source of Funds          | County         | County         |
| Salary                   | \$120,362      | \$190,986      |
| OPS                      | \$57,119       | \$0            |
| Expense                  | \$0            | \$58,424       |
| OCO                      | \$31,320       | \$140,084      |
| FCO                      | \$8,357        | \$66,812       |
| TOTAL                    | \$217,158      | \$456,306      |

Source: Management Prospectus as originally submitted



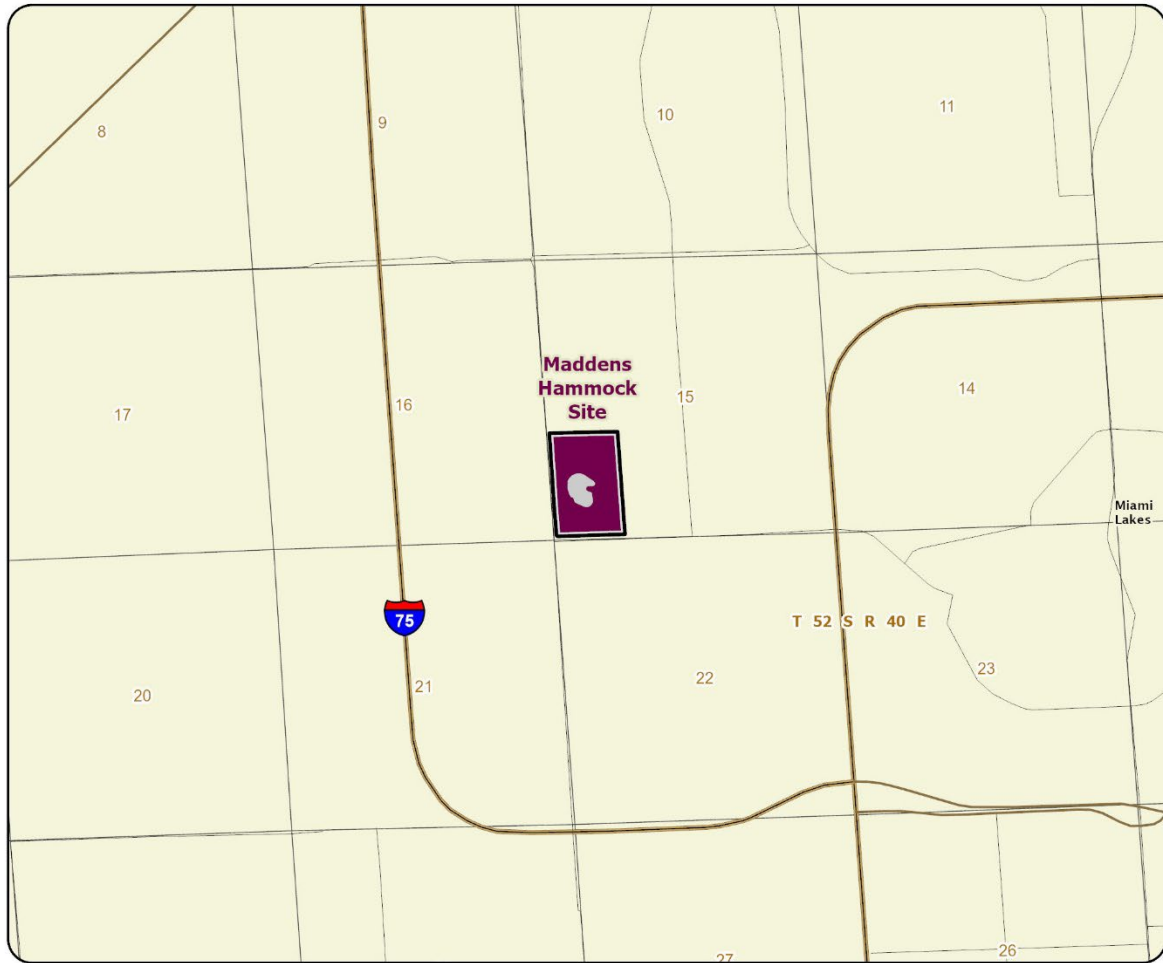


### DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: OVERVIEW

#### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

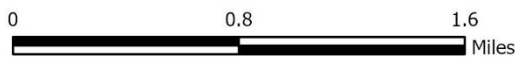
- Map 1 Maddens Hammock Site
- Map 2 Trinity Pineland Site
- Map 3 Big and Little George Hammocks Site
- Map 3 Boystown Pineland Site
- Map 3 Tamiami Pineland Complex Addition Site
- Map 4 Ludlam Pineland Site
- Map 4 Rockdale Pineland Site
- Map 4 Whispering Pines Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #28 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #31 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock #33 Site
- Map 5 Castellow Hammock Addition Site
- Map 5 Quail Roost Pineland Site
- Map 5 Ross Hammock Site
- Map 5 Silver Palm Hammock Site
- Map 5 Silver Palm Pineland Site
- Map 5 Wilkins Pierson Pineland Site
- Map 6 Goulds Pineland Addition Site
- Map 6 Goulds Pineland Site
- Map 6 Harden Hammock Site
- Map 6 Pine Island Lake Park Site
- Map 7 Bauer Drive Pineland Site
- Map 7 Camp Owassa Bauer Pineland Addition Site
- Map 7 Ingram Pineland Site
- Map 7 Plummer Drive Pineland Site
- Map 8 Fuchs Hammock Addition Site
- Map 8 Fuchs Pineland Site
- Map 8 Meissner Hammock Site
- Map 8 Navy Wells Pineland #2 Site
- Map 8 West Biscayne Pineland Site
- Map 9 Loveland Hammock Site
- Map 9 Lucille Hammock Site
- Map 9 Navy Wells Pineland #39 Site
- Map 9 Palm Drive Pineland Site
- Map 10 Florida City Pineland Site
- Map 10 Navy Wells Pineland #23 Site
- Map 11 Holiday Hammock Site
- Map 11 Round Hammock Site
- Map 11 Southwest Hammock Site





DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 1

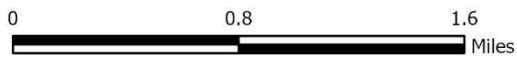
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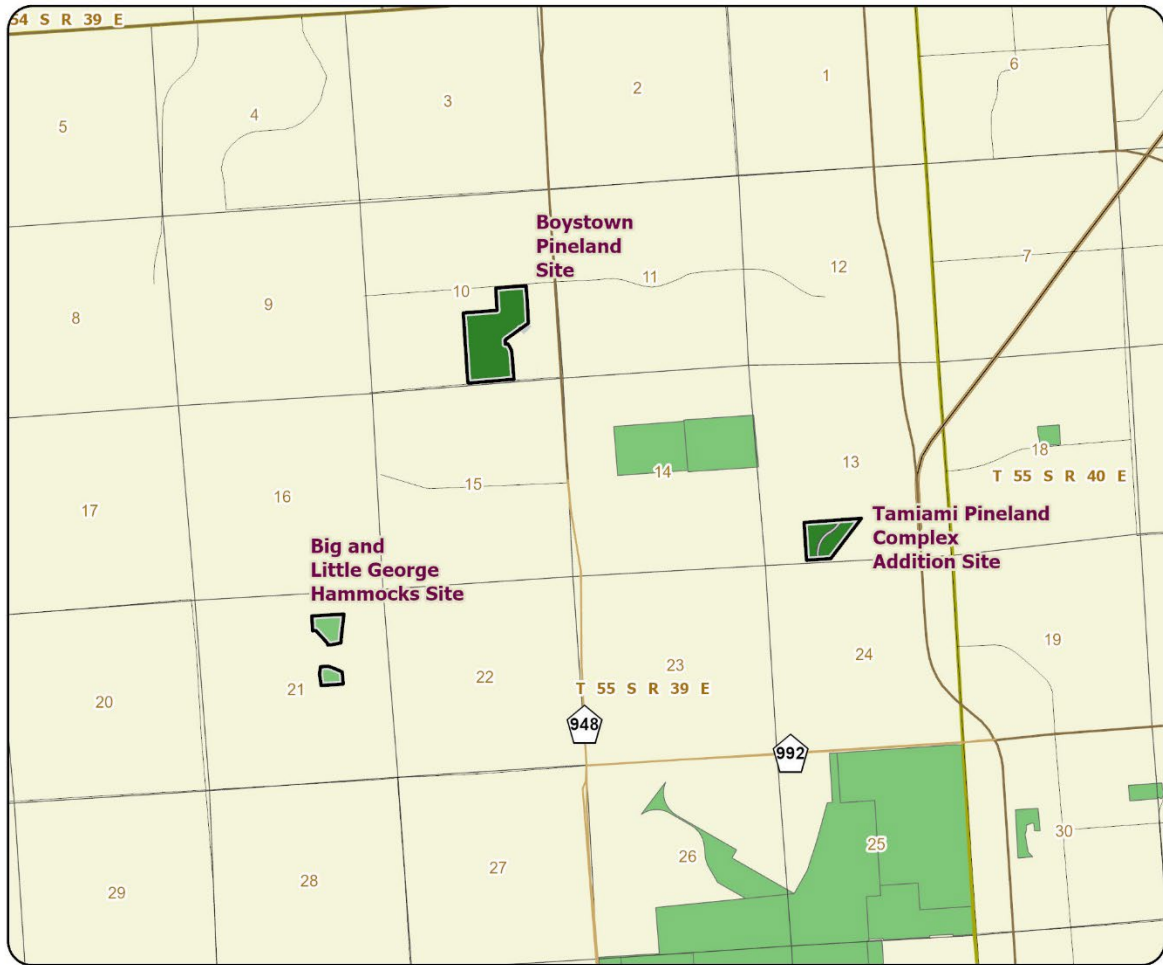




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 2

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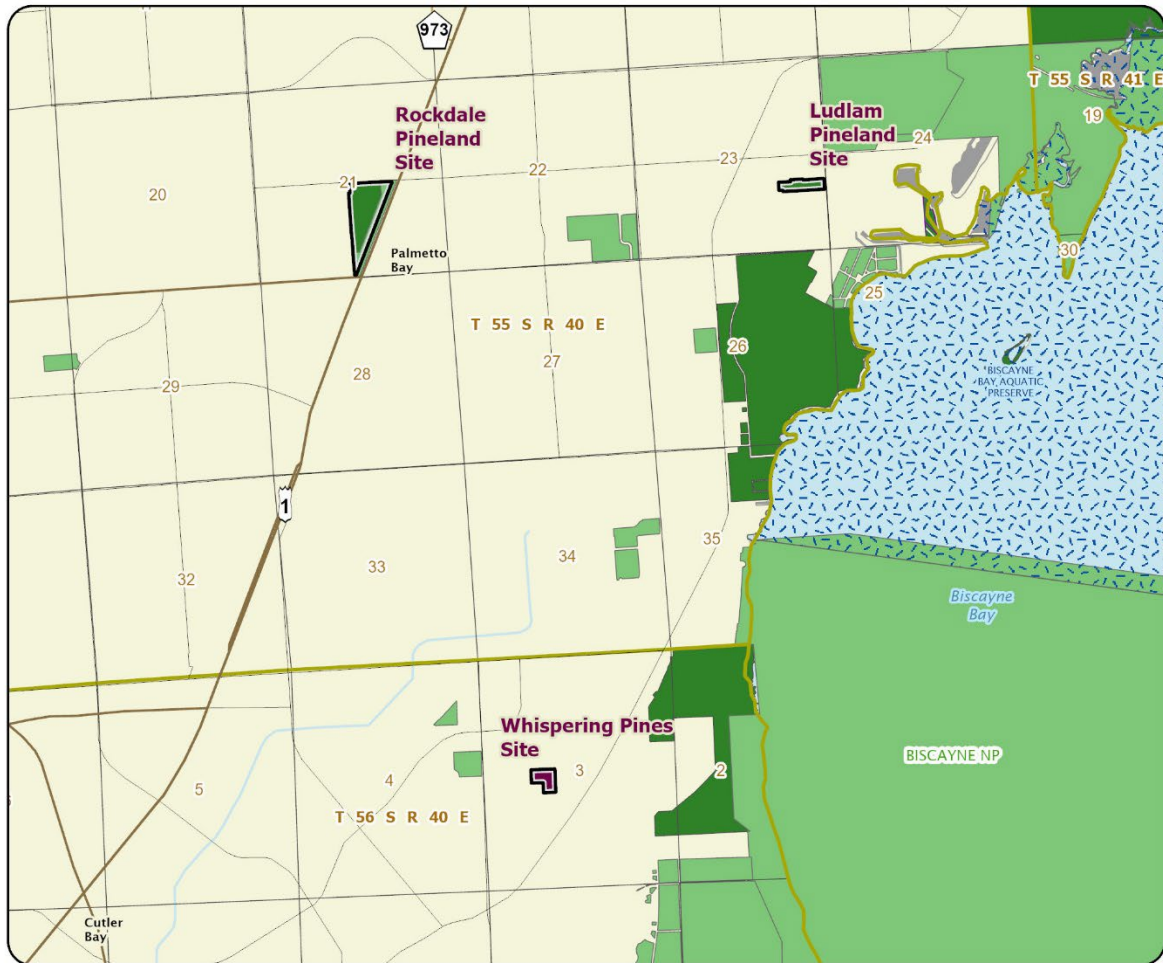


DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 3

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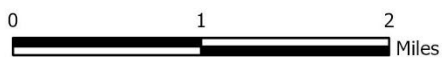


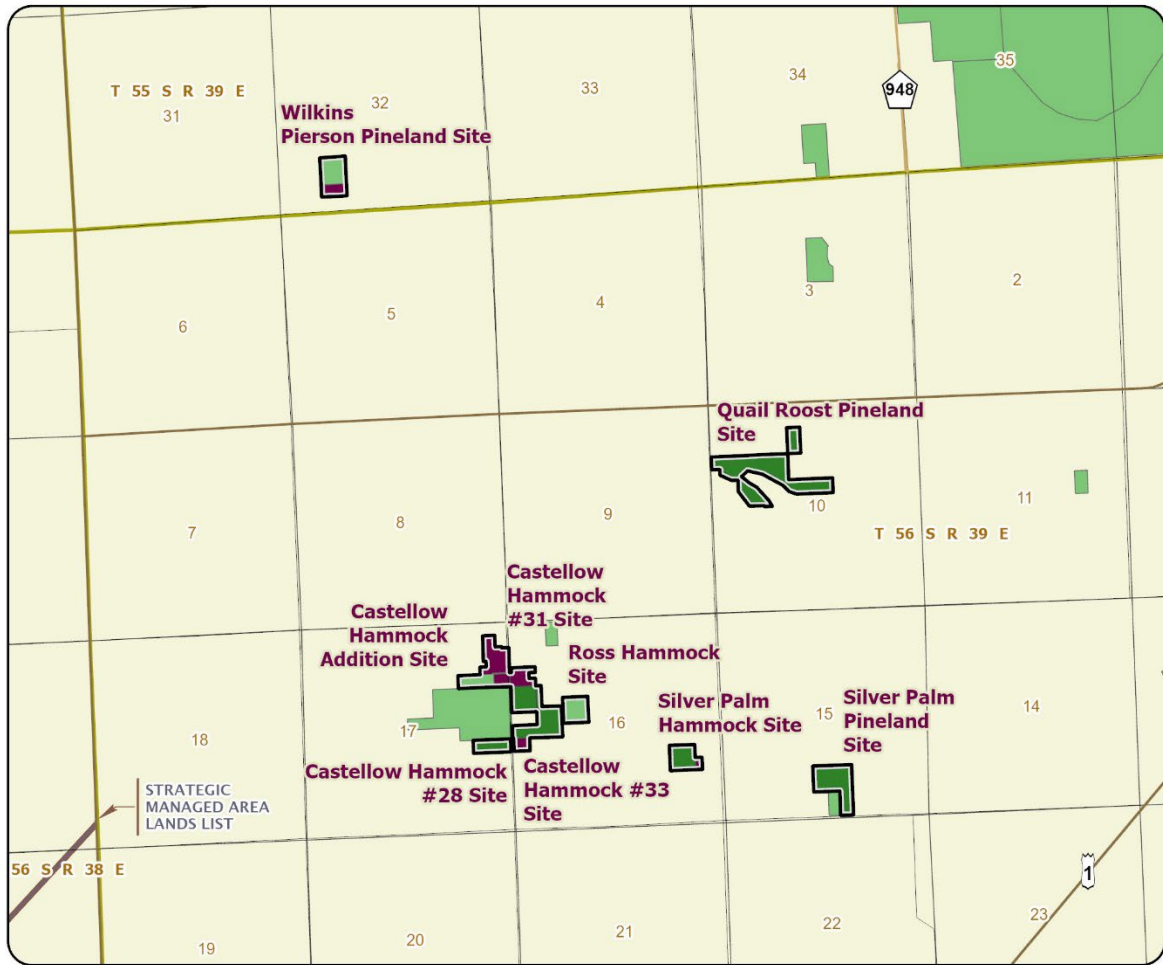




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 4

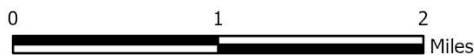
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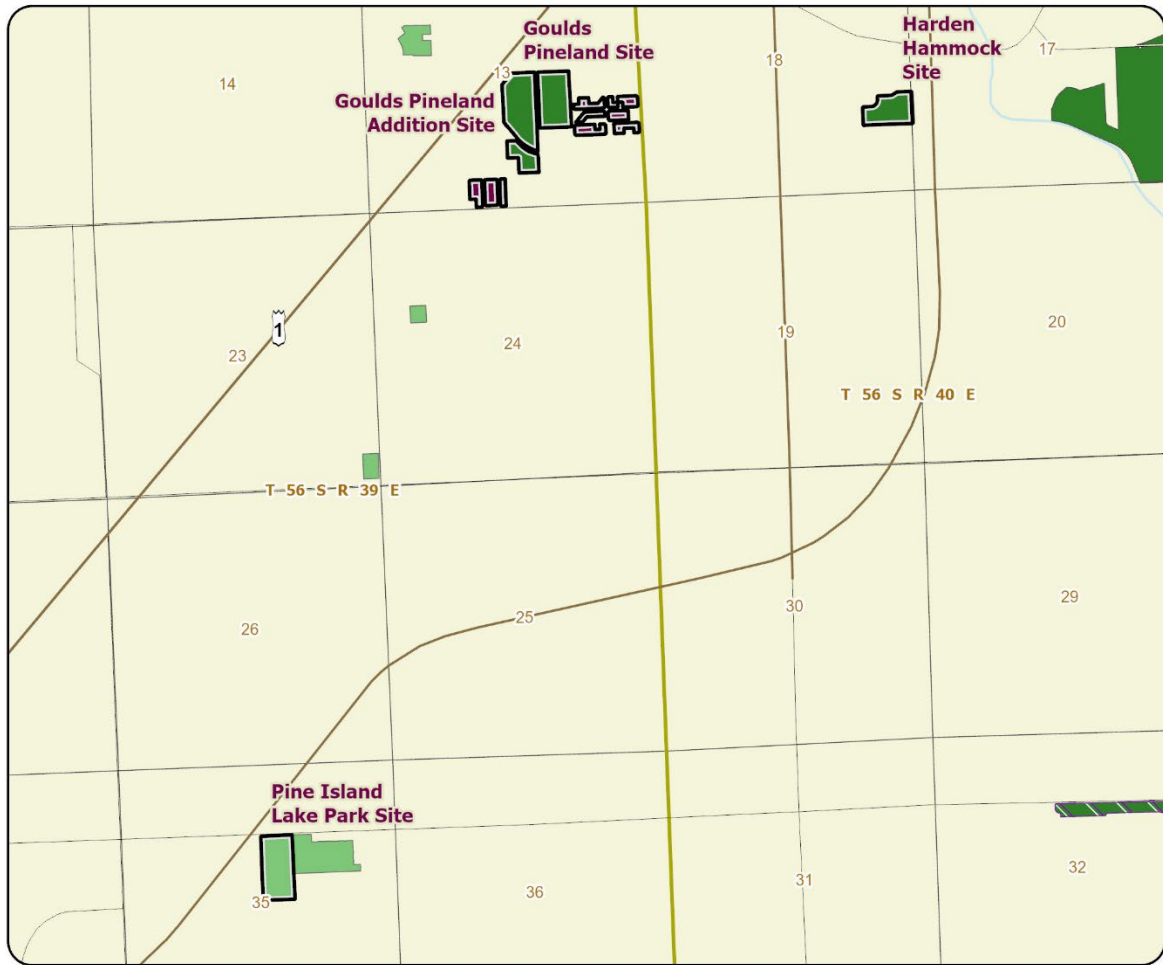




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 5

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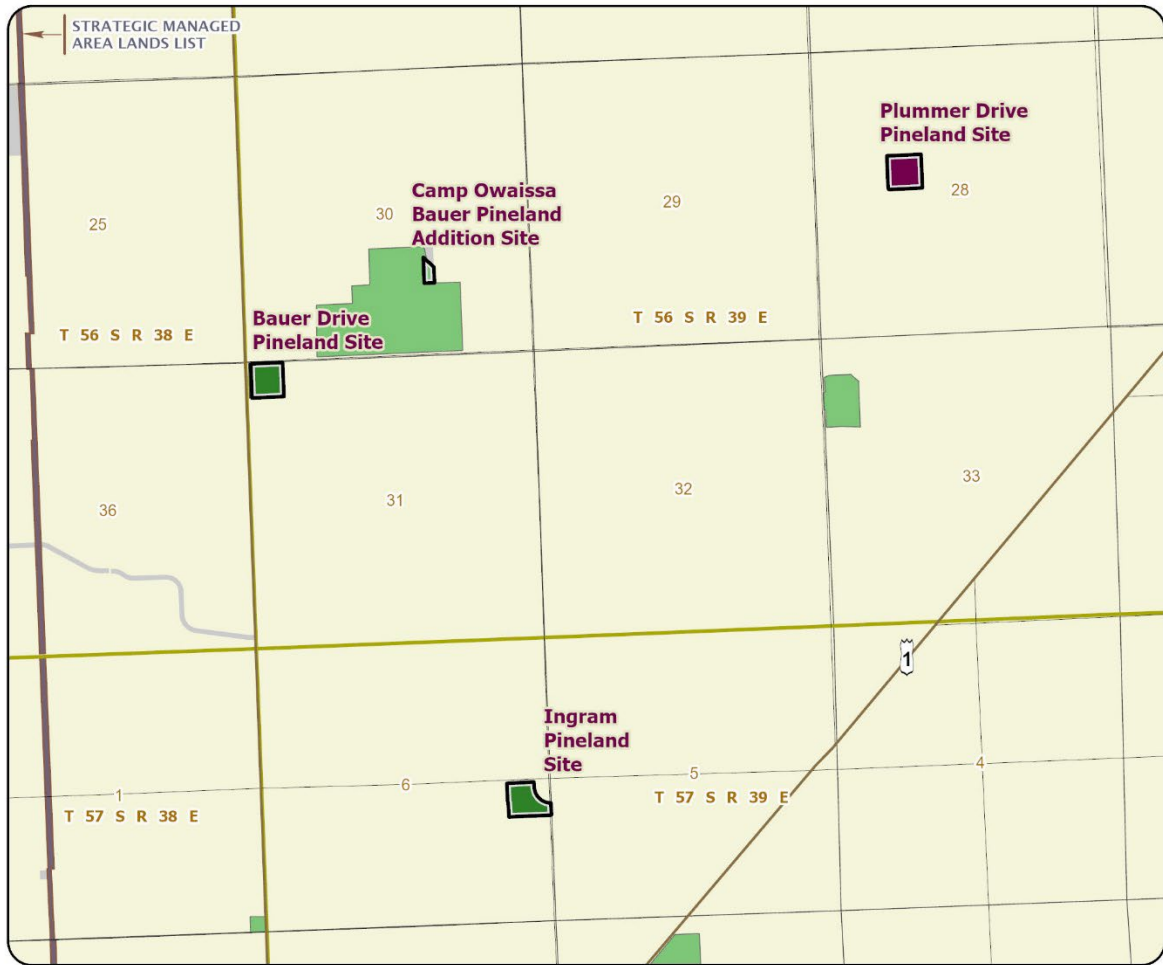




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 6

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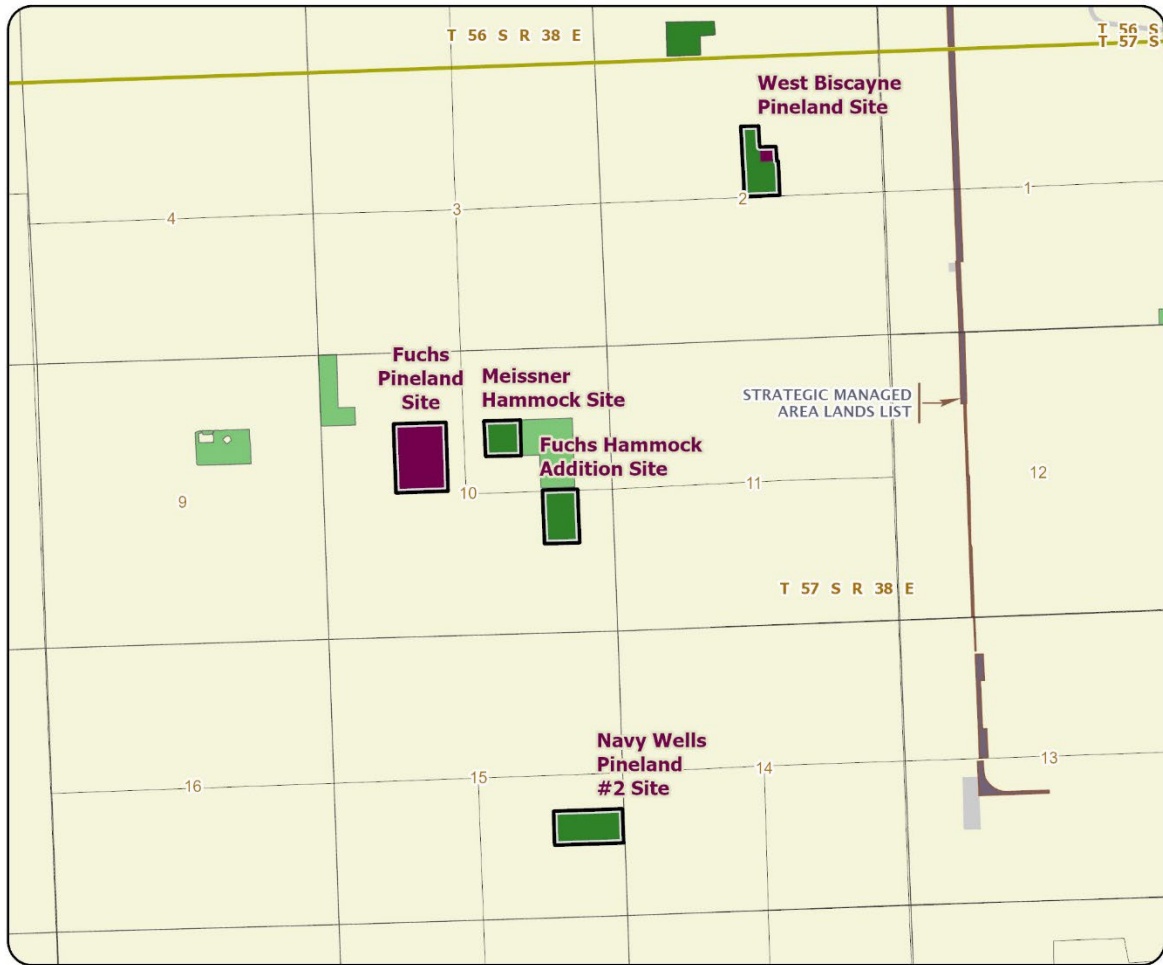




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 7

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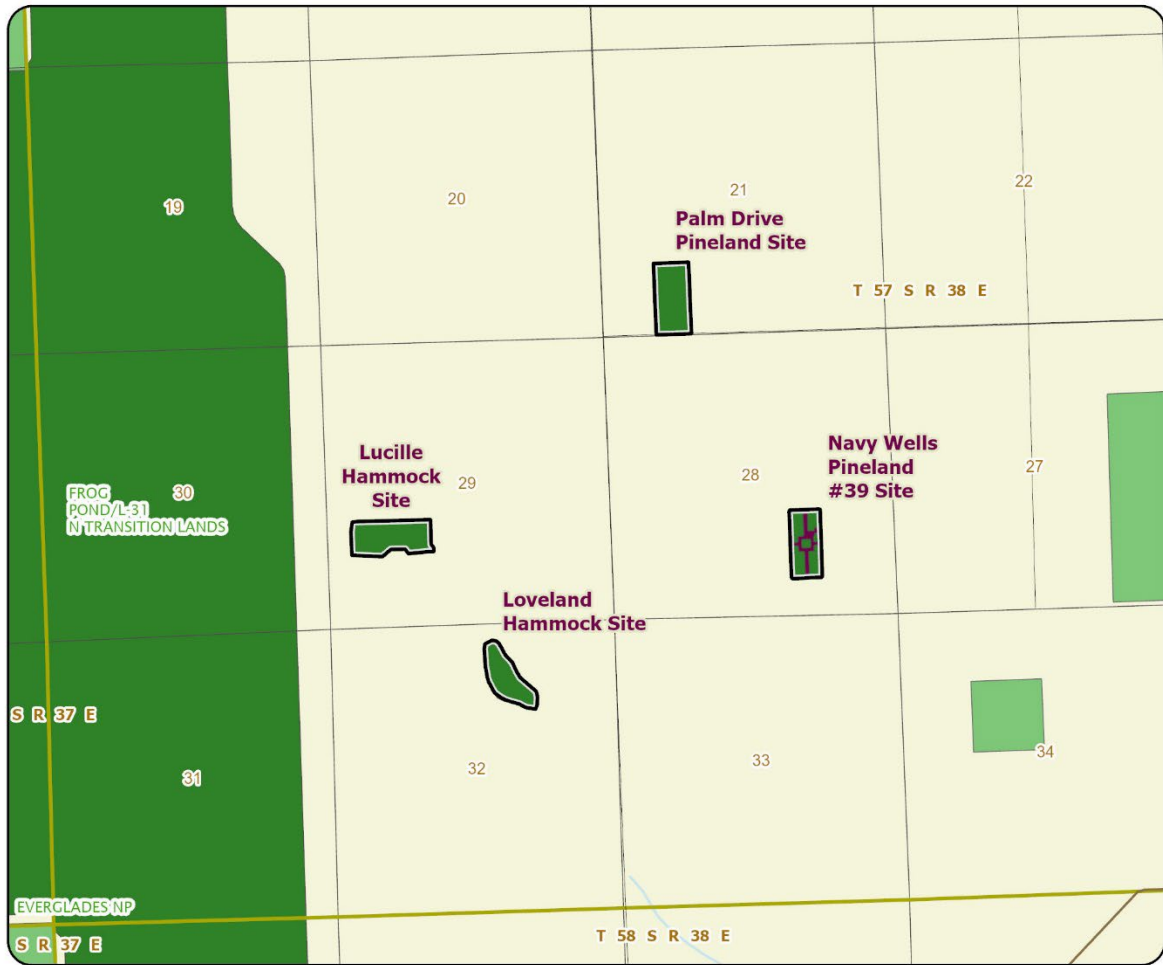




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 8

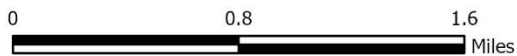
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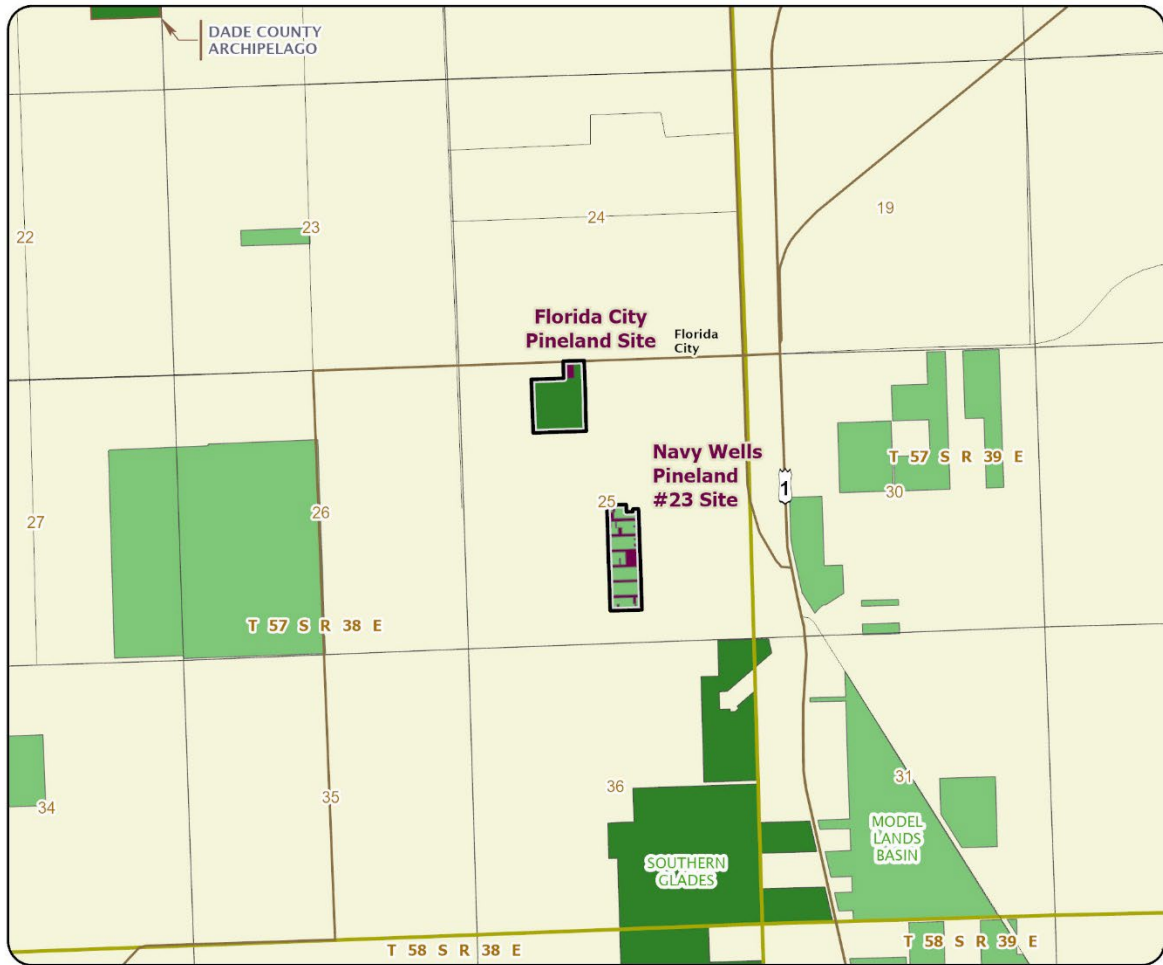




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 9

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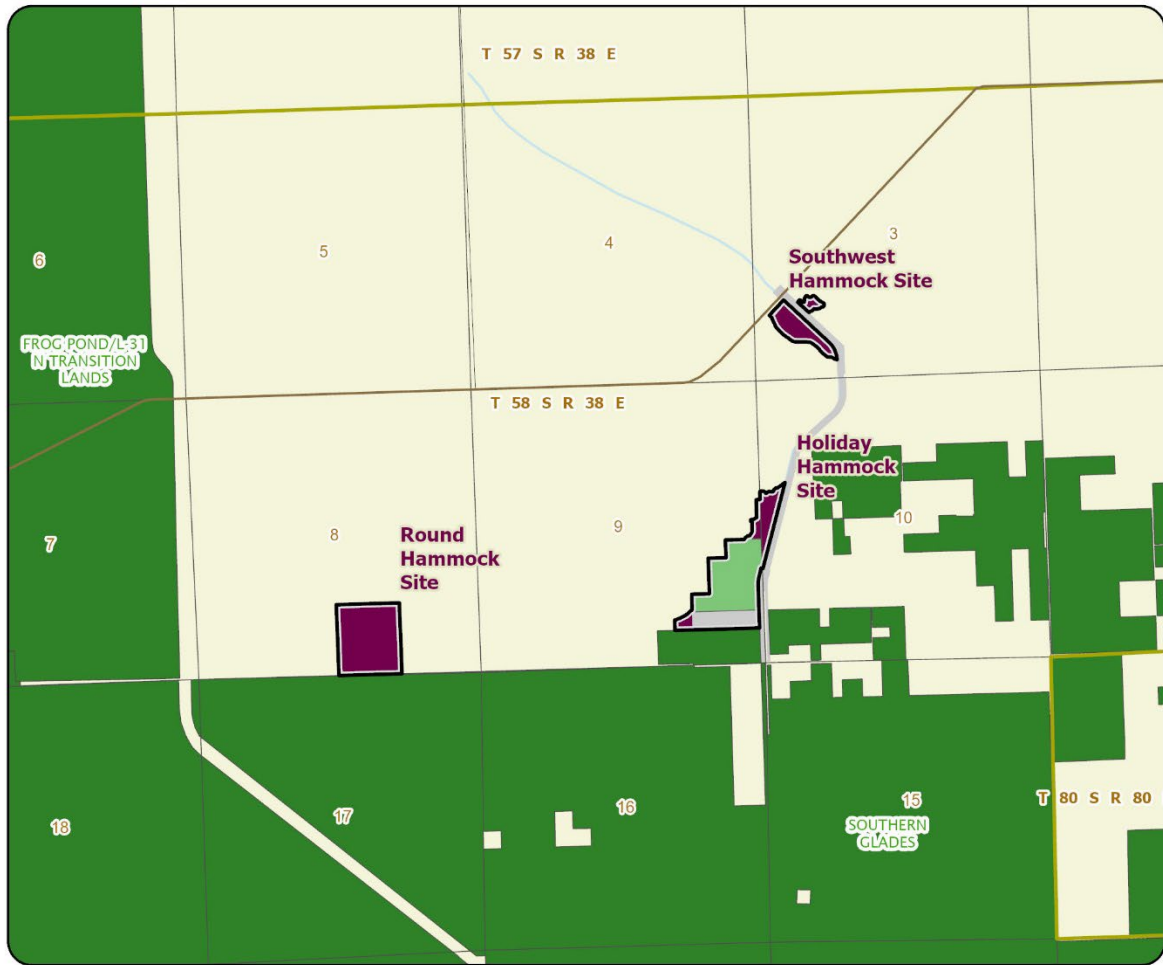




DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 10

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DADE COUNTY ARCHIPELAGO: MAP 11

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