



FLORIDA FOREVER PROCESS

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program. To be considered for acquisition, a project must have a willing seller and be on the Florida Forever Priority List. The Florida Forever Priority List is developed by the [Acquisition and Restoration Council \(ARC\)](#) and is approved by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT). Projects placed on the Florida Forever Priority List are suitable for conservation and meet the Florida Forever Goals, Measures and Performance Criteria ([Chapter 259, Florida Statutes](#)). The Florida Forever Priority List only determines eligibility and does not guarantee acquisition.

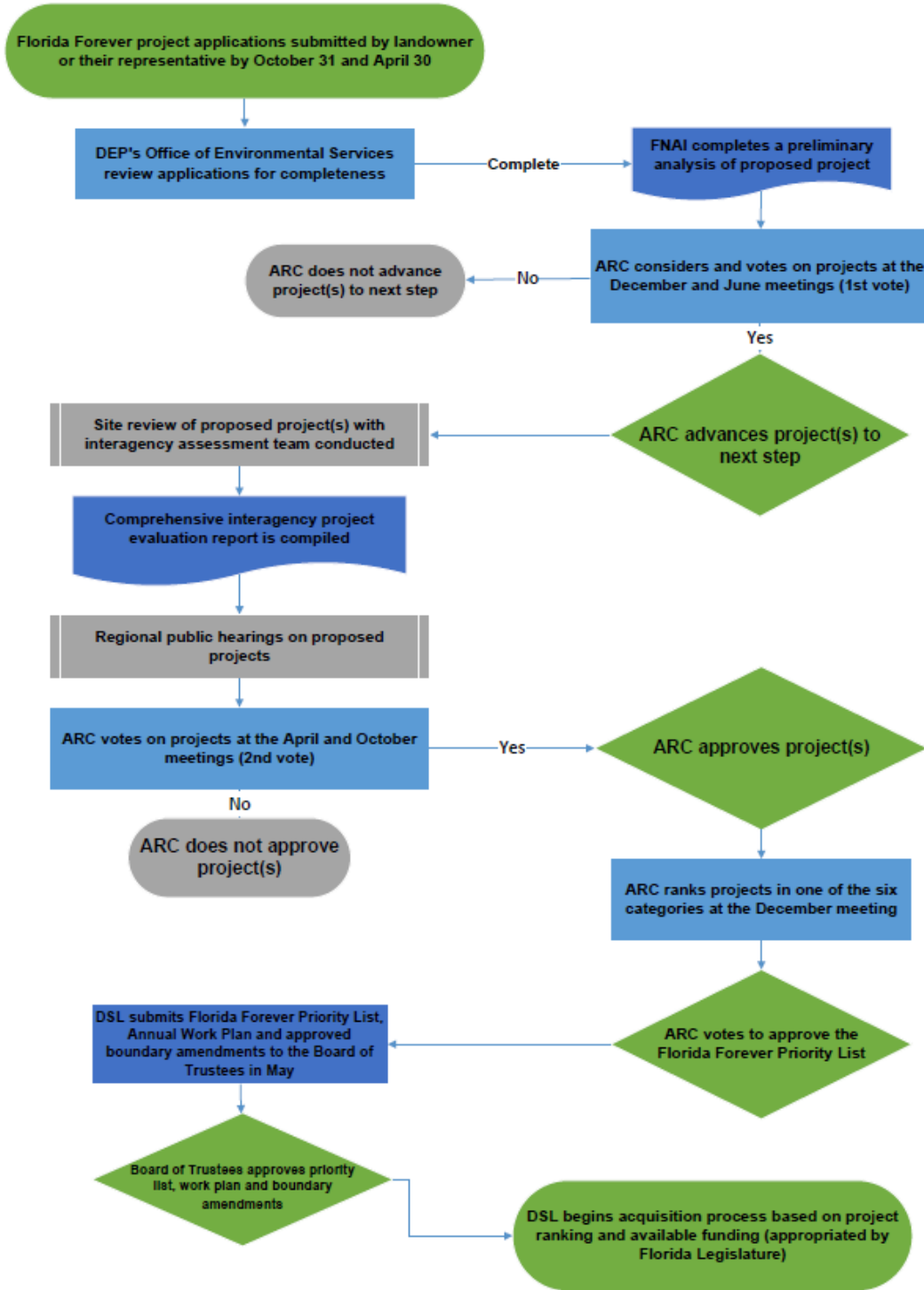
There are two application cycles per year for new project proposals with submittal deadlines of April 30 or October 31. The application must be accompanied by a landowner acknowledgment that indicates a willing seller and identifies a future land manager if fee simple acquisition is proposed.

Current Florida Forever projects may be modified via the expedited [boundary amendment application](#) process. Boundary amendments must meet criteria specified in [Rule 18-24, Florida Administrative Code](#), and can be considered by ARC throughout the year. Complete applications must be received at least 30 working days before a scheduled [ARC meeting](#). The [Florida Forever Five-Year Plan](#) includes a description and map of each of the current Florida Forever projects.

Steps for New Project Proposals

- [New project applications](#) are submitted to and reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands.
- The complete application and a preliminary analysis of the natural and cultural resources provided by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) are considered by ARC at the first scheduled meeting after the application deadline. ARC members vote on whether to advance the project to the next step (*first vote*).
- If the project advances, an on-site project assessment is conducted by an interagency team that includes the Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, respective Water Management District, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FNAI and DEP.
- The applicant submits the management prospectus from the proposed land manager to DEP. If the management prospectus is not submitted to DEP, the proposed project will be postponed for a future ARC meeting.
- Regional public hearings are held for new project proposals to accept public testimony from the area where the project(s) are located.
- A comprehensive project evaluation report is compiled by DEP and provided to ARC members for consideration and vote. ARC members vote to add the project(s) to the Florida Forever Priority List and place it in one of the six Florida Forever project categories (*second vote*).
- Each December, ARC members rank all projects by category to develop the Florida Forever Priority List.
- Each May, the Florida Forever Priority List, Annual Work Plan and approved boundary amendments are submitted to the BOT for consideration and final approval.
- Subject to appropriation by the Florida Legislature, projects may be pursued for acquisition, according to rank and available funding.

Florida Forever New Project Process Overview



Florida Forever Boundary Amendment Process Overview

