



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of State Lands
Office of Environmental Services

Florida Forever Project Goals and Performance Measures

[Section 259.105\(4\), F. S. \(2019\)](#)

It is the intent of the Legislature that projects or acquisitions funded pursuant to paragraphs (3)(a) and (b) contribute to the achievement of the following goals, which shall be evaluated in accordance with specific criteria and numeric performance measures developed pursuant to [Section 259.035\(4\), F.S. \(2019\)](#):

Goal A:

Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired through the state's land acquisition programs that contribute to the enhancement of essential natural resources, ecosystem service parcels, and connecting linkage corridors as identified and developed by the best available scientific analysis;
2. The number of acres protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition; or
3. The number of shared acquisition projects among Florida Forever funding partners and partners with other funding sources, including local governments and the Federal Government.

Goal B:

Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired of significant strategic habitat conservation areas;
2. The number of acres acquired of highest priority conservation areas for Florida's rarest species;
3. The number of acres acquired of significant landscapes, landscape linkages, and conservation corridors, giving priority to completing linkages;
4. The number of acres acquired of underrepresented native ecosystems;
5. The number of landscape-sized protection areas of at least 50,000 acres that exhibit a mosaic of predominantly intact or restorable natural communities established through new acquisition projects or augmentations to previous projects; or
6. The percentage increase in the number of occurrences of imperiled species on publicly managed conservation areas.

Goal C:

Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems of the state, as measured by:

1. The number of acres of publicly owned land identified as needing restoration, enhancement, and management, acres undergoing restoration or enhancement, acres with restoration activities completed, and acres managed to maintain such restored or enhanced conditions; the number of acres which represent actual or potential imperiled species habitat; the number of acres which are available pursuant to a management plan to restore, enhance, repopulate, and manage imperiled species habitat; and the number of acres of imperiled species habitat managed, restored, enhanced, repopulated, or acquired;
2. The percentage of water segments that fully meet, partially meet, or do not meet their designated uses as reported in the Department of Environmental Protection's State Water Quality Assessment 305(b) Report;
3. The percentage completion of targeted capital improvements in surface water improvement and management plans created under [Section 373.453\(2\), F.S. \(2019\)](#), regional or master stormwater management system plans, or other adopted restoration plans;
4. The number of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions;
5. The number of acres acquired that protect surface waters of the state;
6. The number of acres identified for acquisition to minimize damage from flooding and the percentage of those acres acquired;
7. The number of acres acquired that protect fragile coastal resources;
8. The number of acres of functional wetland systems protected;
9. The percentage of miles of critically eroding beaches contiguous with public lands that are restored or protected from further erosion;
10. The percentage of public lakes and rivers in which invasive, nonnative aquatic plants are under maintenance control; or
11. The number of acres of public conservation lands in which upland invasive, exotic plants are under maintenance control.

Goal D:

Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired which provide retention and storage of surface water in naturally occurring storage areas, such as lakes and wetlands, consistent with the maintenance of water resources or water supplies and consistent with district water supply plans;
2. The quantity of water made available through the water resource development component of a district water supply plan for which a water management district is responsible; or
3. The number of acres acquired of groundwater recharge areas critical to springs, sinks, aquifers, other natural systems, or water supply.

Goal E:

Increase natural resource-based public recreation or educational opportunities, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired that are available for natural resource-based public recreation or education;

2. The miles of trails that are available for public recreation, giving priority to those that provide significant connections including those that will assist in completing the Florida National Scenic Trail; or
3. The number of new resource-based recreation facilities, by type, made available on public land.

Goal F:

Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites, as measured by:

1. The increase in the number of and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places which are protected or preserved for public use; or
2. The increase in the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties that are in state ownership.

Goal G:

Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management;
2. The number of acres of state-owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current best management practices;
3. The number of acres of forestland acquired that will serve to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions; or
4. The percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation.

Goal H:

Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas, as measured by:

1. The percentage of local governments that participate in land acquisition programs and acquire open space in urban cores; or
2. The percentage and number of acres of purchases of open space within urban service areas.

Goal I:

Mitigate the effects of natural disasters and floods in developed areas, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired within a 100-year floodplain or a coastal high hazard area; 2. The number of acres acquired or developed to serve dual functions as:
 - a. Flow ways or temporary water storage areas during flooding or high-water events, not including permanent reservoirs; and
 - b. Greenways or open spaces available to the public for recreation;
2. The number of acres that protect existing open spaces and natural buffer areas within a floodplain that also serve as natural flow ways or natural temporary water storage areas; and

3. The percentage of the land acquired within the project boundary that creates additional open spaces, natural buffer areas, and greenways within a floodplain, while precluding rebuilding in areas that repeatedly flood.

Criteria

Section 259.105 (9)-(10), F.S. (2019)

- (9) The Acquisition and Restoration Council shall recommend rules for adoption by the board of trustees to competitively evaluate, select, and rank projects eligible for Florida Forever funds pursuant to paragraph (3)(b). In developing these proposed rules, the Acquisition and Restoration Council shall give weight to the following criteria:
 - (a) The project meets multiple goals described in subsection (4).
 - (b) The project is part of an ongoing governmental effort to restore, protect, or develop land areas or water resources.
 - (c) The project enhances or facilitates management of properties already under public ownership.
 - (d) The project has significant archaeological or historic value.
 - (e) The project has funding sources that are identified and assured through at least the first 2 years of the project.
 - (f) The project contributes to the solution of water resource problems on a regional basis.
 - (g) The project has a significant portion of its land area in imminent danger of development, in imminent danger of losing its significant natural attributes or recreational open space, or in imminent danger of subdivision which would result in multiple ownership and make acquisition of the project costly or less likely to be accomplished.
 - (h) The project implements an element from a plan developed by an ecosystem management team.
 - (i) The project is one of the components of the Everglades restoration effort.
 - (j) The project may be purchased at 80 percent of appraised value.
 - (k) The project may be acquired, in whole or in part, using alternatives to fee simple, including but not limited to, tax incentives, mitigation funds, or other revenues; the purchase of development rights, hunting rights, agricultural or silvicultural rights, or mineral rights; or obtaining conservation easements or flowage easements.
 - (l) The project is a joint acquisition, either among public agencies, nonprofit organizations, or private entities, or by a public-private partnership.
- (10) The council shall give increased priority to:
 - (a) Projects for which matching funds are available.
 - (b) Project elements previously identified on an acquisition list pursuant to this section that can be acquired at 80 percent or less of appraised value.
 - (c) Projects that can be acquired in less than fee ownership, such as a permanent conservation easement.