

# Alachua County

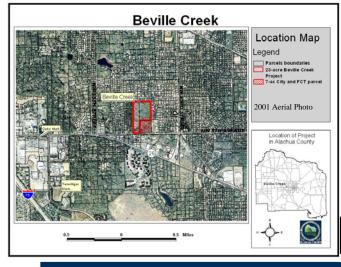
## Alachua County Forever's Beville Creek Nature Preserve /Cofrin Nature Park



Portion of Beville Creek.

Purchase Price: \$50,000/acre Date: December 30, 2003 Seller: Gladys Gracy Cofrin Size: 30 acres

- · Located in west Gainesville on N.W. 8 Avenue at approximately N.W. 48 Street
- The Preserve is the first urban tract to be purchased by the Alachua County Forever Program.
- It was nominated by the City of Gainesville in 2001.
- The acquisition showcased a four-way partnership: the City contributed \$132,000; the seller donated \$300,000; Florida Communities Trust paid \$600,000 and ACF paid
- Contains seepage stream, mesic flatwood and mixed hardwood habitats.
- The property will be managed by the City to restore and enhance its natural resources and to provide public access to greenspace in the urbanizing western core of the City of Gainesville.
- The Preserve's natural resources will be managed using a combination of invasive plant control, natural regeneration and re-vegetation.
- At least 23 acres will be restored and maintained in their natural state.
- Recreation opportunities may include hiking trails, interpretive exhibits, wildlife observation area. an environmental educational center and at least one active recreation facility.







## Alachua County Forever Program

#### <u>Partners</u>

- Citizens of Alachua County who approved the Bond Referendum
- Citizens who submit nominations
- Citizens who volunteer their time to support the Program
- Ms. Gladys Gracy Cofrin an example of a landowner willing to protect their lands and leave an environmental legacy for future generations
- · Alachua County Commission
- Land Conservation Board
- The City of Gainesville Commission
- The City of Gainesville Nature Operations Division
- The State Florida Communities Trust Program

#### **Program Notes**

- Alachua County Forever responds to nominations from the public.
- Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted under Alachua County Forever.
- Each project is evaluated by staff and the citizen Land Conservation Board using comprehensive 26-criterion matrix
- Projects are scored on water resources protection, habitat protection, species protection, social value, manageability, economic and acquisition issues.
- The County Commission approves projects for negotiation.
- County can negotiate to acquire property outright or acquire certain rights through less-than-fee mechanisms such as conservation easements.
- Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals.
- Program acquisitions are funded through a \$29 million in voter-approved bonds, payable through a quarter-mill ad valorem property tax, levied for 20 years.
- Program actively seeks to leverage county funds through state, federal and private grants.
- Properties are managed as preserves under approved management plans that describe the appropriate uses and management strategies.
- Resource-compatible, passive recreation is allowable on sites where appropriate.

#### For more information:

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#### Fall colors at Beville Creek

#### ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER REFERENDUM

Approved in November 2000 by the voters, to acquire, improve and manage the county's environmentally sensitive lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

### Alachua County Commission

Mike Byerly, Chair Cynthia Moore-Chestnut, Vice-Chair Lee Pinkoson Penelope Wheat Rodney J. Long

> <u>County Manager</u> Randall H. Reid