Conservation Lands

The Alachua County Forever Program is the County’s conservation land acquisition and management program. It was established in 2000 after the Alachua County Forever Bond referendum was approved by the voters of Alachua County. The Bond provided $29,000,000 for the acquisition and management of environmentally significant lands. Alachua County Forever has since been renewed twice through the Wild Spaces Public Places referenda, in 2008 when voters approved a 2-year ½-cent sales tax, and in 2016 when voters approved an 8-year ½-cent sales tax. So far, the County has conserved over 20,000 acres and leveraged almost 50% of the cost through partners and matching funds. Properties acquired through the program are managed either in house or by partners. Partners manage over 40% of the acquired properties, thus significantly reducing the County’s management costs. The County manages almost 13,000 acres as part of its system of Preserves.

Mission Statement
To acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource based recreation.

Vision and Values
Alachua County Forever is a conscientious, innovative, progressive leader in land conservation and uses acquisition, stewardship, and funding development practices to preserve the environmental integrity of Alachua County and improve the quality of life for current and future generations.

Objectives
1. To be accountable to the taxpayers.
2. To acquire the most environmentally significant habitats.
3. To use a 'No Loss of Conservation Values' stewardship ethic.
4. To treat partners, landowners, and sellers with respect.
5. To leverage the County's local investment.
6. To encourage a community land ethic.
7. To provide safe, enjoyable, passive, nature-based recreational opportunities

Acquisition Process
- The public nominates property to the Program using a simple one-page form. Property owners must be willing sellers. Condemnation of property is not permitted.
- Projects are evaluated by staff using a 25-question matrix and presented to the Land Conservation Board. Criteria include water resources protection, habitat protection, species protection, social value, manageability, economic, and acquisition issues.
• After reviewing the evaluation, the Land Conservation Board determines which projects to recommend to the County Commissioners for inclusion on the Acquisition List.
• The County Commission decides which projects are placed on the Acquisition List.
• Once projects are on the Acquisition List, staff negotiate to acquire property outright, through life estates, or conservation easements.
• Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals of market value.
• Millions of dollars have been provided by partner agencies, cities, private groups, individuals, and grants.

Stewardship
Stewardship of acquired properties begins with an in-depth assessment of existing conditions, including natural resources and passive recreational opportunities. A management plan is developed that describes: existing and future desired condition of the natural resources; actions necessary to achieve the future desired condition; actions to protect cultural resources; and proposed public access and recreational amenities. After a public comment period and public meeting are held to get input from neighbors, stakeholders and the general public, the management plan is presented to the County Commission for approval. Once approved by the County Commission, staff implements the management plan through the following activities: prescribed burning; controlling invasive species; planting and seeding vegetation; timber thinning; removing solid waste; site monitoring; developing and maintaining roads, trails, and firebreaks; securing the site; installing and maintaining public access and recreational amenities; developing interpretive materials; and hosting volunteer workdays and nature walks. The County offsets management costs through timber sales, cattle leases, caretaker agreements, volunteers and grants. The County further protects the Alachua County Forever Properties by placing them on the Registry of Protected Places. Once on the Registry, a majority vote of the electorate in a County-wide referendum is required to sell or convert the properties to another use.

Land Conservation Board
The 11 member (plus one alternate) volunteer Land Conservation Board is appointed by the County Commission. They review and recommend properties for acquisition through the Alachua County Forever Program to the County Commission and provide recommendations on stewardship issues. They usually meet at 5:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Environmental Protection Department’s Conference Room A (408 West University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601). Information about vacancies can be found on the County’s website.
1 Applicant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Name:</th>
<th>Street Address:</th>
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Applicant Signature: ___________________________ Date: __/__/_____

2 Property Owner Verification

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<th>Yes</th>
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(Please check one)

3 Access Authorization

By signing below, I as the property owner, authorize County staff to access said property at reasonable hours and upon reasonable notice for the purpose of conducting such review as may be necessary to determine eligibility of the property. (Valid only for property owner to authorize access)

Owner Signature: ___________________________ Date: __/__/_____

4 Property Owner Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner Name:</th>
<th>Agent's name:</th>
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5 Owner's Authorized Agent (if applicable)

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<th>Owner Name:</th>
<th>Agent's name:</th>
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6 Project Information

General Location (address, intersection, etc.):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Is this a Conservation Easement or Purchase of Development Rights Projects? (please check box)</th>
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<td>[ ]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tax Parcel Acreage (if known):

Proposed Project Acreage (if known):

Tax Parcel Number (if known):

Section/Township/Range (if known):

Future Land Use Map Designation (if known):

Zoning Designation (if known):

7 Project Description

Describe the property’s ecological significance, natural resources, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat etc.

Please Return This Form to:
Alachua County Parks and Conservation Lands
408 West University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601
phone: (352) 264 6868 fax: (352) 264 6852
http://www.alachuacountyforever.us

Questions?

Contact the Conservation Lands staff at the address above or by our email

Thank you!

10/2/2017
In addition to this form, up to 15 pages of text, maps, etc. may be attached for consideration. Providing supplemental information is optional, but may assist Staff with the evaluation of the property.

**Examples:**

★ A location map with the property outlined and any other important features (i.e. access points, roads, water bodies, landmarks, etc.)

★ A topographic quadrangle map (U.S.G.S. with boundaries of property sketched in)

★ Photographs or video representing the characteristics of the property

★ Estimate of the market value (This can be documented with a property appraisal, if available, or asking price).

★ Documentation of owner(s) willingness to sell

★ Description and analysis of environmental resources and features

Alachua County Forever was established to protect the finest examples of Alachua County's natural communities, endangered species, and rich biological diversity. The citizens of Alachua County authorized the Alachua County Forever program by public referendum on November, 2000. The referendum provided ad valorem revenues to support $29 million in bond funds for the acquisition and management of environmentally significant lands. Voters re-authorized funding with the Wild Spaces Public Places referendum first in 2008 providing an additional $14 million in sale tax proceeds then again in 2016. Public access, passive recreation and environmental education are addressed as components of the overall acquisition and conservation objectives of the program.

Land Conservation Board (LCB) is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to review property for possible acquisition for the protection of environmentally significant land in Alachua County. All proposed purchases must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval prior to initiating a contract purchase.
Can I submit an application if I am not the property owner?

YES. The process allows anyone to nominate projects to ACF.

Can I nominate land for acquisition without the property owner’s permission?

YES. However ACF acquires land from willing sellers only. The owner may request the land be removed from consideration at any time during the process. The owner will also be asked to grant permission for staff to access the property to conduct a site inspection.

Can I hire an agent to represent me?

YES. While it is not necessary to hire a real estate agent, it may be advisable if it would make you more comfortable with the process. The agent would work for you and be paid out of the proceeds due to you from the sale.

Can I obtain information on property ownership, Tax Parcel Number, Land Use, Zoning and Tax Assessment?

YES. Contact the Alachua County Property Appraiser’s Office (374-5230) and the Alachua County Growth Management Department (374-5249). You may also obtain maps and aerial photographs from the departments listed above, or you may purchase a U.S.G.S. topographical map from most outdoor recreation stores.

Can I submit a multi-parcel project?

YES. You should check the box provided and list all of the parcel numbers of your proposed project on the form. In addition, you may submit a map outlining the proposed project boundary.

If I have a report that would support my application but that is longer than the 15 pages allowed, may I submit it with the nomination form?

YES. You may submit any published and bound publication that would assist staff in their evaluation of the proposal documentation. You may also submit the form with just a reference to the publication. Any loose materials should stay within the 15-page limit.

May I nominate any size project?

YES. The Commission has not set size limits on proposed projects. However, the evaluation criteria favor larger proposals.

Are there opportunities for me and others to speak on the proposal?

YES. The Land Conservation Board and the Board of County Commissioners hold public hearings and workshops concerning the proposals throughout the application process. Staff will attempt to contact the property owners and the nominator in advance of these meetings.

How long will it take before I know if my proposal was successful?

At least twice a year, County staff submits a list of proposals to the Land Conservation Board for ranking. These meetings are open to the public. The length of time it takes to review and evaluate the proposals depends greatly on the number of nominations and the complexity of the proposals.
Alachua County Forever Acquisition List Projects

Legend
- ACF Acquisitions
- Lakes
- Active Acquisition List
- Eligibility Pool
- Acquired by Partners
- Nominated
- Conservation Lands

Open/Open Soon Nature Preserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map #</th>
<th>Purchased with ACF funds</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barr Hammock Preserve</td>
<td>5702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Buck Bay Flatwoods Preserve</td>
<td>464</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cofrin Nature Park</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Lake Alto Preserve</td>
<td>592</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Little Orange Creek</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>with ACF funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Longleaf Flatwoods Preserve</td>
<td>2810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mill Creek Preserve</td>
<td>1226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Newmans Lake Conservation Area</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>with ACF funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Phifer Flatwoods Preserve</td>
<td>1015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Santa Fe River Ranch</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>with ACF funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sweetwater Preserve</td>
<td>125</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Turkey Creek Preserve</td>
<td>377</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Watermelon Pond Preserve</td>
<td>1269</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>San Fasasso Hammock Additions</td>
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</table>

DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.
TRAIL MAP
LEY LOUP
MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667
4920 SE 17TH DR.

PRESERVE
BAR HAMMACK

PARTNERS IN ACQUISITION

Do not approach alligators blocking the trail.

and carry water.

Stay off private roads.

Stay on marked trails.

Respect their privacy.

Be a good neighbor to our neighbors.

Respect the environment that surrounds you.

TRAIL RULES
8 AM-8 PM (May-October)
8 AM-6 PM (November-April)

RESERVE HOURS
**Preserve Hours**

- 8 AM—6 PM (Nov—April)
- 8 AM—8 PM (May—Oct)

**Preserve Rules**

“Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time.”

- Be a good neighbor to our neighbors:
  - Respect Private Property.
  - Park in the designated parking area.
  - Stay off private roads.
  - Pack out what you pack in.
  - Collecting plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited.
  - Leash and clean up after dogs.
  - Feeding alligators is dangerous and illegal (FAC 68A-25.001).
  - Help prevent erosion by staying on trails.
  - No motorized vehicles except ADA equipment.
  - Cyclists must walk bikes over bridges and boardwalks.
  - Visitors who remain after hours are trespassing.
  - Keep out of Closed Areas: they are closed for your safety.
  - Equestrians—Proof of negative Coggins test required to enter the Preserve (FAC SC—18).
  - Pedestrians may use any marked or unmarked trail except those in Closed Areas.
  - Cyclists and Equestrian users must use designated trails.
  - A horse’s natural instinct is to be frightened of predators.
  - Sudden movements and noises frighten horses.
  - Announce yourself with a calm voice when approaching others.
  - A horse can kick its entire body length behind it.
  - Pass carefully and courteously: dismount your bike and move to the side to allow horses to pass.
  - Maintain a safe speed.

**Sharing the Trails**

- Follow yielding rules to minimize conflicts.
- Cyclists yield to horses and hikers. Hikers yield to horses.
- Pedestrians may use any marked or unmarked trail except those in Closed Areas.
- Cyclists and Equestrian users must use designated trails.
- A horse’s natural instinct is to be frightened of predators.
- Sudden movements and noises frighten horses.
- Announce yourself with a calm voice when approaching others.
- A horse can kick its entire body length behind it.
- Pass carefully and courteously: dismount your bike and move to the side to allow horses to pass.
- Maintain a safe speed.

**Advice for the Trails**

- Natural areas and wildlife may be hazardous. Use common sense and be cautious.
- Be prepared for soft, uneven terrain - some trails are maintained as firebreaks.
- In an emergency call 911. To report an issue call 352-264-6800.
- Do not approach alligators, snakes or wild hogs.
- For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen and a hat, use insect repellent, carry water and a trail map.
- Under wet weather some trails are flooded.

**Partners in Acquisition**

The 5,840-acre Barr Hammock Preserve was bought between 2006 & 2016. Alachua County provided funding from the Alachua County Forever Bond, and the Wild Spaces Public Places sales taxes. Other funding was through Florida Communities Trust grants, North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, a donation from the Whitehurst family, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The preserve was purchased to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property, to protect water resources, and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.

Alachua County Forever is a land conservation program that seeks to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands.

Florida Communities Trust is a state land acquisition grant program that provides funding to local governments and eligible non-profit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans.

The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust that partnered with Alachua County in preparing the grant applications to acquire the Preserve and currently assists Alachua County with field trips and educational programs.

**Alachua County**

Parks and Conservation Lands
408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: 352-264-6800
E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us
Finding The Way

Trails are marked with colored blazes. The symbol used designates the user group for each trail. A white halo around the symbol indicates a shortcut. Look for blazes at intersections. Intersections have numbered sign posts labeled on the map.

- **All Users (remember yielding rules)**
- **Cyclist and Pedestrian**
- **Equestrian and Pedestrian**
- **Pedestrian only**

**Legend**
- Trailhead
- Bridge
- Overlook
- Intersection Number
- Streams
- Unmarked Roads & Firebreaks
- Barr Hammock Preserve
- Lake/Pond
- Swamp/Marsh

**Elevation Value**
- High: 141.958
- Low: 56.001

**Hammock Trail** - Shared Trail. Round trip from the trailhead is ~ 9 miles via cycling route and ~ 8 miles via horse route. The orange shortcut removes about one mile from either trip. These distances include traveling portions of the blue and yellow trail to access the orange trail. This is a mostly shady trail sheltered by large old trees with wet hammock in the western portions. Under wet conditions, the western back roads are under water or muddy and only Main Road will be accessible. Mosquitoes may be abundant and cellular signal is weak.

**Still Branch Crossing** - North route for cyclists, south route for equestrians. Only pedestrians have a loop: Round trip from the trailhead via the outer loop is 4.4 miles. The shortcut removes 0.9 miles from the trip. Bikes and horses use this trail to reach Hammock Loop. The cyclist trail includes a bridged crossing of Still Branch Creek. The equestrian trail crosses the creek where swamp turns to creek. Both are partially shaded with variable surface.

**Bayhead Trail** - Cyclist Trail. Round trip from trailhead via the outer loop is 2.8 miles, the shortcut removes 0.8 miles from the trip. The route passes through sandhills and hardwood forest with views of Still Branch Creek. The route has sunny and shady areas, with sandy sections (between intersections 5 and 10).

**Pinney Woods Loop** - Equestrian Trail. Round trip length: 4.8 miles. This trail traverses pinelands and oak forests. The route is sandy and partially shaded.
Trail Map
14500 NE County Road 1471
Waldo, Florida

Acadia County

Preserve with Acadia County

District co-owns 120 acres of Lake Alton
The Suwannee River Water Management

Conservation

Funding for acquisition of Lake Alton Preserve
was provided by the voter-approved Acadia

For your comfort and safety, wear
- for Richardson's
- some fruits are nutritious
- nuts (placards)
- Food
- Drivings
- and stop signs
- trail signs; other roads are unmarked
- E-bikes and electric bikes are marked
- Natural areas and wildlife may be

Advice for Trail Visitors

Avoid putting up other trails
- Leave pets on leashes on trails
- Collection or disturbing plants, animals,

- Help prevent erosion by staying on the
- trails
- Preserve Visitors may not establish
-3
- Trailheads and trailheads must
- Where they are
- Poles, and other obstructions and
- Rock out what you pack in.
- Respecting Visitors who remain on other hours are
- on - 5:00 pm from May through October
- pm - 5:00 pm through April and 8:00
- Trailheads only.
- Enter the preserve through designated
- Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing.

Preserve Rules
Lake Alto Preserve Trail Map

Trail Guide - All trails are flat, crossing pinelands and swamp habitat. Trails may flood during wet weather. Trails may be rough, uneven and wet, with areas of soft sand or mud.

- Treefrog Trail - Green; 0.8 miles. Crosses the Lake View Loop.
- Lake View Loop - Blue; 1.7 miles. Loop trail between the Lake Alto dock and County Road 1471.
- Black Bear Loop - Black; 0.9 miles. Begins and ends on Lake View Loop.
TRAIL MAP

18795 NE 132nd Avenue
South Tract
Lake Alafia Preserve

GETTING THERE

- Trailhead for the South Tract is located off State Road 50.
- Follow signs to the trailhead.
- Parking is available at the trailhead.

TRAIL INFORMATION

- The trail is 12 miles long and is suitable for hikers and mountain bikers.
- The trail is open from sunrise to sunset.
- The trailhead is located at the south end of the preserve.

PRECAUTIONS

- Always wear appropriate footwear.
- Stay on the designated trails.
- Keep pets leashed.
- DO NOT pick flowers or plants.
- NOmelding of natural features.
- Do not litter.
- Respect the wildlife.

ADVISORY

- The preserve is closed during inclement weather.
- Trail conditions may vary depending on the season.
- Check trail conditions before heading out.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Alafia River Water Management District website or call 888-726-6724.

THE ALAFIA RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- Protect and conserve water.
- Support wetlands, diverse plant and animal species.
- Ensure water quality.
- Promote recreation.
- Preserve natural beauty.

TRAIL RULES

- No dogs or pets allowed on trails.
- No fires or open candles allowed.
- Collection of firewood is prohibited.
- No camping allowed.

PREVENTION OF FIRE

- No smoking on the trail.
- No open flames.
- Use water or fire extinguisher to extinguish any fires.

NO SOLICITING

- No solicitation or panhandling allowed.
- No solicitation of any kind.

NO TRESPASSING

- The preserve is closed during inclement weather.
- Trail conditions may vary depending on the season.
- Check trail conditions before heading out.

"Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints."
Trail Guide - Most of the trails are generally flat, crossing pinelands and hammock habitats. A short but steep hill is located at each end of the canal bank footpath. Trails may flood during wet weather. Trail surfaces may be rough, uneven and wet, with areas of roots, soft sand or mud.

- **Canal Loop (Blue)** - 1.2 miles. A portion of the trail follows the historic Waldo Canal. Hikers may walk on a narrow footpath along the top of the canal bank. A parallel trail at the toe of the bank is available for cyclists and equestrians.
AALACHUA COUNTY

Comprehensive Plans

needs identified in local government
tion and natural resource protection.
separately listed in the outdoor rec
memorialized for conservation
is a state funds acquisition program
ded to local government.
Florida Community Trust

Alachua County, FL 32615
14505 NW County Rd. 336
PRESTO
MILL CREEK

AALACHUA COUNTY

The 1.2 acre MILL CREEK Preserve was bought in
2002 by Alachua County with funding from the Alachua
COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TRAILS

ADVICE FOR THE TRAILS

- Wear sunscreen and a hat. Use
- Insect repellent and carry wa-
- For your comfort and safety,
- Are periodically harrowed
- Utilized for fire breaks and
- Trails - some roadsides are
- Be prepared for rough or soft
- May be under water
- During wet weather trails

MUNITIES TRUST
FOREVER AND FLORIDA COM-
ABOUT ALACHUA COUNTY

PREVIEW RULES
Alachua County Government Comprehensive Plan's goal is to protect and preserve this rich natural resource.

About Alachua County Forever

Alachua County Forever is a partnership of the County and local non-profit organizations that provides funding to local government entities that provide program services.

Advice for the Trails

- Provide water and carry water. Water is essential for your comfort and safety. Wear sun protection on hot and sunny days.
- Bring spare water bottles for the trail. Some sections may appear dry or blue trails.
- Stop for water breaks, and take the trail at a moderate pace.
- Bring other trail gear, such as maps and navigation tools.
- No littering on the established trails.trail.
- Respect the trails and other trail users.

Trail Map

Sweetwater Preserve

309 SE 16th Avenue,
Gainesville, Florida 32607

352-34-6800

Web: http://www.alachuanaturepreserve.com

E-mail: info@alachuanaturepreserve.com

Alachua County

Environmental Protection Department

Researchers and conservationists are encouraged to join us in our efforts to protect and preserve this rich natural resource.