

Florida Forever Natural Resource Acquisition Progress Report

November 2023

Prepared by the
Florida Natural Areas Inventory
for the
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of State Lands



This is the thirty-second Progress Report for the Florida Forever environmental land acquisition program. The reports are produced at the request of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of State Lands, as part of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory’s contract to provide scientific expertise and analysis to inform the Florida Forever program.

These reports document the progress of Florida Forever Board of Trustees (FFBOT), water management district (FFWMD), Florida Communities Trust (FCT) and other Florida Forever program acquisitions toward meeting the goals and measures of the Florida Forever program. Progress is measured using the natural resource data layers developed or compiled by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and presented in the Conservation Needs Assessment Summary and Technical Reports (available online at www.fnai.org/conslands/florida-forever).

For this report, Florida Forever acquisitions include those properties for which transactions have closed from the inception of the program in July 2001 through September 2023. The following table lists total acquisitions through Sep 2023. Note that acreages are calculated in GIS for parcels with digital boundaries and do not include all small parcels. Parcels that FFBOT or FFWMD acquired in combination with non-Florida Forever funds (e.g., a separate agency funding source or another funding partner) are counted entirely as Florida Forever purchases.

Table 1. Florida Forever Acres Acquired by Program: July 2001-Sep 2023

Program*	Full Fee	Less-than-Fee	Total
FFBOT	377,548	171,010	548,558
FWMD	179,574	102,754	282,328
FCT	47,243	-	47,243
Inholdings and Additions (I&A)			
DEP/Office of Greenways and Trails	2,751	-	2,751
DEP/Division of Recreation and Parks	6,224	-	6,224
FDACS/Florida Forest Service	18,068	7,160	25,228
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	12,302	-	12,302
Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (included with I&A in attached table)	-	2,900	2,900
Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts (not included in attached table)	5	-	5
Total Florida Forever Acquisitions	643,715	283,824	927,539

*Program is the primary Florida Forever funding source. Parcels acquired in combination with other funding sources or partners are attributed entirely to the primary program in the acreage summary.

The attached Florida Forever Summary of Resource Acres Protected on Conservation Lands (Summary) shows the baseline of natural resources protected on conservation lands at the onset of the Florida Forever program. The baseline represents the starting point from which Florida Forever’s progress will be measured. The Summary also reports additional acreage of each resource acquired by the Florida Forever program as of September 2023.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory updates our managed areas database quarterly with the latest information available from land managing agencies. We also maintain a separate parcel database of Florida Forever acquisitions which is updated biannually. In addition to newly acquired parcels, updates may also include boundary revisions or deletions as agencies provide improved information. The September 2023 update to the Florida Forever acquired parcel and the managed areas databases were used to calculate acquisitions since the onset of the Florida Forever program for this report. In addition to Florida Forever acquisitions, many parcels were added to managed area boundaries, as part of the continual building and maintenance of the database. These lands may represent federal, local, or private acquisitions, other state acquisition programs, or revisions to existing managed area boundaries. These lands are split into two columns in the Summary: Other Lands Acquired within FL Forever Projects (526,319 total acres) and Other Lands Added to the FNAI Database since July 2001 (792,925 total acres).

MEASURES	Total Statewide Acres	Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001					Other Lands Acquired within FL Forever Projects ^b	Other Lands Added to FNAI Database since July 2001 ^b	Remaining Acres	Percent Protected July 2001	Percent Protected Sep 2023
			BOT ^a	WMDs ^a	OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^a	FCT ^a					
<u>B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas</u>											
Priority 1	3,766,060	1,721,130	144,770	12,420	14,240	2,720	113,680	126,120	1,630,980	46%	57%
Priority 2	5,270,390	3,077,130	101,460	65,660	19,380	10,870	140,020	203,610	1,652,260	58%	69%
Priority 3	9,585,080	3,483,130	213,020	150,300	38,720	21,490	187,340	279,530	5,211,550	36%	46%
Priority 4	216,890	139,690	8,260	12,500	1,840	1,950	6,670	14,690	31,290	64%	86%
Priority 5	4,101,740	320,890	60,580	16,210	7,910	1,820	58,460	51,300	3,584,570	8%	13%
Total	22,940,160	8,741,970	528,090	257,090	82,090	38,850	506,170	675,250	12,110,650	38%	47%
<u>B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities</u>											
Priority 1	1,119,460	675,690	55,930	8,140	1,730	670	14,270	9,890	353,140	60%	68%
Priority 2	1,593,520	1,002,950	50,890	7,600	4,540	1,610	34,200	37,970	453,760	63%	72%
Priority 3	1,955,560	1,076,800	67,930	12,380	7,390	2,030	62,750	57,400	668,880	55%	66%
Priority 4	3,557,160	1,901,420	67,910	33,670	15,840	4,140	67,990	138,080	1,328,110	53%	63%
Priority 5	4,330,630	1,693,210	60,730	56,850	22,720	8,960	94,520	167,690	2,225,950	39%	49%
Priority 6	6,292,240	1,559,400	102,430	78,290	17,510	13,350	107,820	165,980	4,247,460	25%	32%
Total	18,848,570	7,909,470	405,820	196,930	69,730	30,760	381,550	577,010	9,277,300	42%	51%
<u>B3: Ecological Greenways</u>											
Priority 1	10,925,790	6,628,870	384,190	129,840	37,430	3,050	277,610	249,010	3,215,790	61%	71%
Priority 2	5,143,360	1,229,230	94,130	75,460	16,830	11,840	125,410	150,910	3,439,550	24%	33%
Priority 3	1,385,110	201,180	13,680	50,520	13,780	1,210	29,320	43,990	1,031,430	15%	26%
Priority 4	1,847,650	277,010	31,410	10,530	1,910	9,420	29,940	58,280	1,429,150	15%	23%
Priority 5	3,459,940	447,640	15,220	11,250	20,540	4,440	48,780	169,280	2,742,790	13%	21%
Total	22,761,850	8,783,930	538,630	277,600	90,490	29,960	511,060	671,470	11,858,710	39%	48%
<u>B4: Under-represented Natural Communities</u>											
Upland Glade (G1)	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0%	0%
Pine Rockland (G1)	16,890	15,760	120	0	0	0	130	160	720	93%	96%
Scrub (G2)	504,120	351,860	6,080	1,110	770	960	7,760	7,650	127,930	70%	75%
Rockland Hammock (G2)	20,610	15,770	450	0	0	20	810	230	3,330	77%	84%
Dry Prairie (G2)	154,300	92,610	7,990	480	1,350	0	5,830	5,000	41,040	60%	73%
Seepage Slope (G2)	6,260	6,230	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	100%	100%
Sandhill (G3)	826,650	489,630	11,530	2,450	1,580	170	3,280	10,010	308,000	59%	63%
Sandhill Lake (G3)	76,180	14,120	150	310	20	10	140	580	60,850	19%	20%
Upland Pine (G3)	221,650	160,570	6,350	450	1,500	0	220	3,400	49,160	72%	78%
Pine Flatwoods (G4)	2,368,290	1,092,350	92,750	27,250	9,100	4,750	68,770	47,450	1,025,870	46%	57%
Upland Hardwood (G5)	200,730	32,440	800	1,080	630	990	400	1,960	162,430	16%	19%
Total	4,395,710	2,271,340	126,220	33,130	14,950	6,900	87,340	76,440	1,779,390	52%	60%
<u>B5: Landscape-sized Protection Areas</u>											
<i>Acres acquired within contiguous conservation lands ≥ 50,000 acres</i>	n/a	7,481,050	439,100	198,300	47,000	15,780	340,720	348,150	n/a	n/a	n/a

MEASURES	Total Statewide Acres	Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001	OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^a FCT ^a				Other Lands Acquired within FL Forever Projects ^b	Other Lands Added to FNAI Database since July 2001 ^b	Remaining Acres	Percent Protected July 2001	Percent Protected Sep 2023
			BOT ^a	WMDs ^a	OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^a	FCT ^a					
<u>C3: Natural Floodplain Function</u>											
Priority 1	4,673,010	4,053,920	43,850	40,450	8,440	4,090	90,850	77,940	353,470	87%	92%
Priority 2	2,549,900	1,342,070	64,630	45,060	9,790	3,320	76,420	133,240	875,370	53%	66%
Priority 3	2,645,080	559,410	94,130	47,320	10,330	6,190	82,070	102,280	1,743,350	21%	34%
Priority 4	2,826,280	165,320	68,670	25,240	10,770	5,620	52,690	84,740	2,413,230	6%	15%
Priority 5	963,630	36,820	20,630	5,900	3,010	1,470	18,130	40,890	836,780	4%	13%
Priority 6	1,591,420	71,470	3,890	6,420	290	1,350	4,220	37,540	1,466,240	4%	8%
Total	15,249,320	6,229,010	295,800	170,390	42,630	22,040	324,380	476,630	7,688,440	41%	50%
<u>C4: Surface Water Protection</u>											
Priority 1	2,842,570	1,425,670	58,050	16,770	3,250	5,010	79,830	116,880	1,137,110	50%	60%
Priority 2	5,531,050	3,583,570	74,490	62,490	15,330	3,280	82,090	148,300	1,561,500	65%	72%
Priority 3	1,898,390	408,580	40,580	20,370	8,600	3,690	22,170	34,510	1,359,890	22%	28%
Priority 4	8,702,900	2,332,350	240,050	108,410	35,370	13,200	201,810	219,340	5,552,370	27%	36%
Priority 5	5,522,980	366,850	58,710	28,970	18,210	6,210	53,770	112,330	4,877,930	7%	12%
Priority 6	4,492,500	562,370	68,590	34,360	9,110	9,340	69,150	58,010	3,681,570	13%	18%
Priority 7	1,955,790	62,800	4,670	7,370	1,580	760	11,380	35,320	1,831,910	3%	6%
Total	30,946,180	8,742,190	545,140	278,740	91,450	41,490	520,200	724,690	20,002,280	28%	35%
C5: Minimize Damage from Flooding	15,412,670	6,266,570	298,480	171,950	42,780	22,130	326,600	478,980	7,805,180	41%	49%
<u>C6: Fragile Coastal Resources</u>											
Fragile Coastal Uplands	96,670	68,360	850	50	60	130	1,190	2,420	23,610	71%	76%
Imperiled Coastal Lakes	1,530	430	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,100	28%	28%
Coastal Wetlands	998,530	740,580	5,550	2,320	330	1,910	36,630	56,670	154,540	74%	85%
Total	1,096,730	809,370	6,400	2,370	390	2,040	37,820	59,090	179,250	74%	84%
<u>C7: Functional Wetlands</u>											
Priority 1	4,472,650	3,878,140	44,220	37,150	8,120	4,180	88,460	76,340	336,040	87%	92%
Priority 2	2,266,210	1,151,220	53,010	39,710	8,870	3,500	69,690	125,630	814,580	51%	64%
Priority 3	2,124,030	380,350	50,670	39,090	8,400	5,890	70,330	84,660	1,484,640	18%	30%
Priority 4	1,791,860	103,970	36,150	15,350	4,950	4,520	35,340	52,870	1,538,710	6%	14%
Priority 5	399,230	15,400	3,940	2,180	740	1,060	3,580	13,390	358,940	4%	10%
Priority 6	276,450	9,770	200	190	30	670	320	6,380	258,890	4%	6%
Total	11,330,430	5,538,850	188,190	133,670	31,110	19,820	267,720	359,270	4,791,800	49%	58%
<u>D3: Aquifer Recharge</u>											
Priority 1	1,122,030	212,230	15,550	5,710	890	1,030	3,800	7,520	875,300	19%	22%
Priority 2	3,310,030	447,810	29,330	20,120	5,410	3,990	14,750	33,300	2,755,320	14%	17%
Priority 3	6,133,020	892,860	72,630	49,650	14,020	8,070	69,220	99,460	4,927,110	15%	20%
Priority 4	7,555,200	1,277,410	157,160	73,070	25,560	11,460	135,430	169,090	5,706,020	17%	24%
Priority 5	6,685,890	1,389,550	140,090	62,460	20,770	8,380	122,530	158,990	4,783,120	21%	28%
Priority 6	8,633,890	3,853,030	109,990	55,940	20,040	7,020	127,930	218,870	4,241,070	45%	51%
Total	33,440,060	8,072,890	524,750	266,950	86,690	39,950	473,660	687,230	23,287,940	24%	30%

MEASURES	Total Statewide Acres	Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001	Acres Acquired by Florida Forever Programs				Other Lands Acquired within FL Forever Projects ^b	Other Lands Added to FNAI Database since July 2001 ^b	Remaining Acres	Percent Protected July 2001	Percent Protected Sep 2023
			BOT ^a	WMDs ^a	OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^a	FCT ^a					
E2: Recreational Trails											
Priority 1 miles	6,380	2,800	70	70	80	40	60	210	3,050	44%	52%
Priority 2 miles	5,150	1,220	150	70	20	40	90	270	3,290	24%	36%
Total	11,530	4,020	220	140	100	90	150	480	6,330	35%	45%
F1: Archaeological Sites^c											
	37,141	15,515	533	371	137	215	575	1,122	19,243	42%	50%
G1: Sustainable Forestry											
Priority 1	1,641,580	722,520	69,150	2,820	3,060	50	25,740	15,980	802,260	44%	51%
Priority 2	2,219,790	818,420	80,420	11,800	6,100	990	38,190	28,480	1,235,390	37%	44%
Priority 3	4,751,540	1,052,770	102,970	62,750	23,380	9,140	90,190	92,600	3,317,740	22%	30%
Priority 4	37,550	18,410	840	0	490	40	1,600	470	15,700	49%	58%
Priority 5	4,505,120	236,490	78,630	27,500	13,460	6,140	66,080	114,090	3,962,730	5%	12%
Total	13,155,580	2,848,610	332,010	104,870	46,490	16,360	221,800	251,620	9,333,820	22%	29%
H1: Urban Service Areas											
	5,599,260	171,270	3,010	2,590	900	8,080	12,400	30,590	5,370,420	3%	4%

^aAcres acquired by each Florida Forever program as of September 2023.

^bAcres acquired by programs other than Florida Forever.

Number of Imperiled Species Protected on Conservation Lands - November 2023

MEASURE	Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001 ^d	Acres Acquired by Florida Forever Programs				Other Lands Acquired within FL Forever Projects ^e	Other Lands Added to FNAI Database since July 2001 ^e	TOTAL - All FL Forever Programs ^c	TOTAL - All Conservation Lands ^c
		BOT ^d	WMDs ^d	OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^d	FCT ^d				
B6: Imperiled Species									
Species occurrences ^f	14,722	868	182	137	105	591	725	1,241	16,489
Species with at least 1 occurrence on cons lands	1,018	313	107	99	61	244	281	391	1,046
federal or state endangered	385	140	33	49	24	119	122	168	397
federal or state threatened	116	66	19	19	18	59	63	76	119

^cTOTAL numbers are less than the sum of all programs because numbers may overlap between programs.

^dNumber of species on lands acquired by each Florida Forever program as of September 2023

^eNumber of species on lands acquired by programs other than Florida Forever.

^fAn FNAI species occurrence typically represents an ecologically distinct population. A population is intended to be ecologically viable and persisting over time in order to meet the standard for an occurrence counted here. FNAI data come from many sources, including field surveys, published reports, museum collections, and other resource experts. Not all areas of the state have been surveyed for all species. The rarest elements of biodiversity are given greater emphasis in data collection efforts.