

Florida Forever Natural Resource Acquisition Progress Report

November 2024

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



This is the thirty-third 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 2024. The following table lists total acquisitions through Sep 2024. 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 2024

| Program* | Full Fee | Less-than-Fee | Total |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| FFBOT | 382,295 | 171,397 | 553,692 |
| FWMD | 179,557 | 102,753 | 282,311 |
| 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 | 6,222 | - | 6,222 |
| FDACS/Florida Forest Service | 18,112 | 7,160 | 25,271 |
| 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 | 648,487 | 284,210 | 932,697 |

*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 2024.

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 2024 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 (577,982 total acres) and Other Lands Added to the FNAI Database since July 2001 (819,218 total acres).

| 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 2024 |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|---|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | BOT ^a | WMDs ^a | RFLPP ^{a*} | FCT ^a | | | | | |
| <u>B1: Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 3,766,060 | 1,721,400 | 146,360 | 12,420 | 34,480 | 2,720 | 123,510 | 129,290 | 1,595,880 | 46% | 58% |
| Priority 2 | 5,270,390 | 3,077,450 | 101,770 | 65,650 | 27,600 | 10,870 | 153,810 | 210,620 | 1,622,620 | 58% | 69% |
| Priority 3 | 9,585,080 | 3,481,610 | 214,940 | 150,290 | 60,080 | 21,490 | 201,880 | 286,170 | 5,168,620 | 36% | 46% |
| Priority 4 | 216,890 | 139,550 | 8,260 | 12,500 | 1,840 | 1,950 | 6,780 | 14,880 | 31,130 | 64% | 86% |
| Priority 5 | 4,101,740 | 320,450 | 60,940 | 16,210 | 11,900 | 1,820 | 65,410 | 55,140 | 3,569,870 | 8% | 13% |
| Total | 22,940,160 | 8,740,460 | 532,270 | 257,070 | 135,900 | 38,850 | 551,390 | 696,100 | 11,988,120 | 38% | 48% |
| <u>B2: FNAI Habitat Conservation Priorities</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 1,119,460 | 675,570 | 56,000 | 8,140 | 3,210 | 670 | 14,990 | 10,690 | 350,190 | 60% | 69% |
| Priority 2 | 1,593,520 | 1,002,840 | 51,080 | 7,600 | 6,880 | 1,610 | 38,140 | 38,920 | 446,450 | 63% | 72% |
| Priority 3 | 1,955,560 | 1,076,900 | 68,080 | 12,380 | 13,740 | 2,030 | 64,630 | 58,440 | 659,360 | 55% | 66% |
| Priority 4 | 3,557,690 | 1,901,650 | 68,390 | 33,670 | 33,350 | 4,140 | 78,730 | 141,270 | 1,296,490 | 53% | 64% |
| Priority 5 | 4,330,630 | 1,692,720 | 63,100 | 56,840 | 30,380 | 8,960 | 113,570 | 175,860 | 2,189,200 | 39% | 49% |
| Priority 6 | 6,292,240 | 1,559,210 | 103,530 | 78,290 | 28,080 | 13,350 | 117,500 | 171,950 | 4,220,330 | 25% | 33% |
| Total | 18,849,100 | 7,908,890 | 410,180 | 196,920 | 115,640 | 30,760 | 427,560 | 597,130 | 9,162,020 | 42% | 51% |
| <u>B3: Ecological Greenways</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 10,925,790 | 6,628,190 | 387,220 | 129,830 | 68,640 | 3,050 | 300,200 | 256,540 | 3,152,120 | 61% | 71% |
| Priority 2 | 5,143,360 | 1,229,100 | 96,030 | 75,460 | 35,230 | 11,840 | 134,420 | 156,090 | 3,405,190 | 24% | 34% |
| Priority 3 | 1,385,110 | 201,230 | 13,720 | 50,520 | 16,040 | 1,210 | 35,810 | 48,350 | 1,018,230 | 15% | 26% |
| Priority 4 | 1,847,650 | 275,340 | 31,410 | 10,530 | 3,240 | 9,420 | 30,790 | 59,820 | 1,427,100 | 15% | 23% |
| Priority 5 | 3,459,940 | 448,180 | 15,320 | 11,250 | 24,550 | 4,440 | 60,590 | 173,750 | 2,721,860 | 13% | 21% |
| Total | 22,761,850 | 8,782,040 | 543,700 | 277,590 | 147,700 | 29,960 | 561,810 | 694,550 | 11,724,500 | 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 | 140 | 160 | 710 | 93% | 96% |
| Scrub (G2) | 504,080 | 351,900 | 6,340 | 1,110 | 930 | 960 | 7,980 | 8,130 | 126,730 | 70% | 75% |
| Rockland Hammock (G2) | 20,610 | 15,740 | 460 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 820 | 220 | 3,350 | 76% | 84% |
| Dry Prairie (G2) | 154,300 | 92,680 | 7,990 | 480 | 1,680 | 0 | 7,190 | 5,010 | 39,270 | 60% | 75% |
| Seepage Slope (G2) | 6,260 | 6,230 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 100% | 100% |
| Sandhill (G3) | 828,110 | 489,300 | 11,540 | 2,450 | 1,890 | 170 | 4,510 | 10,330 | 307,920 | 59% | 63% |
| Sandhill Lake (G3) | 76,180 | 14,110 | 160 | 310 | 20 | 10 | 390 | 610 | 60,570 | 19% | 20% |
| Upland Pine (G3) | 221,720 | 160,560 | 6,350 | 450 | 7,270 | 0 | 220 | 3,680 | 43,190 | 72% | 81% |
| Pine Flatwoods (G4) | 2,367,500 | 1,091,910 | 93,170 | 27,250 | 13,450 | 4,750 | 71,620 | 48,970 | 1,016,380 | 46% | 57% |
| Upland Hardwood (G5) | 201,220 | 32,450 | 800 | 1,080 | 1,940 | 990 | 390 | 2,270 | 161,300 | 16% | 20% |
| Total | 4,396,900 | 2,270,640 | 126,930 | 33,130 | 27,180 | 6,900 | 93,260 | 79,380 | 1,759,480 | 52% | 60% |
| <u>B5: Landscape-sized Protection Areas</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Acres acquired within contiguous conservation lands ≥ 50,000 acres</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | n/a | 7,499,428 | 443,960 | 198,308 | 82,989 | 15,773 | 363,819 | 362,782 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| MEASURES | Total Statewide Acres | Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001 | OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^{ax} , 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 2024 |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | BOT ^a | WMDs ^a | RFLPP ^{ax} | FCT ^a | | | | | |
| <u>C3: Natural Floodplain Function</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 4,673,010 | 4,053,730 | 43,960 | 40,450 | 10,640 | 4,090 | 95,050 | 78,020 | 347,070 | 87% | 93% |
| Priority 2 | 2,549,900 | 1,341,780 | 64,700 | 45,060 | 13,470 | 3,320 | 87,730 | 135,050 | 858,790 | 53% | 66% |
| Priority 3 | 2,645,460 | 559,690 | 94,260 | 47,320 | 17,460 | 6,190 | 87,460 | 106,040 | 1,727,040 | 21% | 35% |
| Priority 4 | 2,825,970 | 165,450 | 69,260 | 25,240 | 17,840 | 5,620 | 56,130 | 89,300 | 2,397,130 | 6% | 15% |
| Priority 5 | 963,560 | 36,890 | 20,790 | 5,900 | 9,040 | 1,470 | 22,370 | 44,680 | 822,420 | 4% | 15% |
| Priority 6 | 1,591,420 | 71,450 | 3,890 | 6,420 | 2,650 | 1,350 | 6,080 | 39,900 | 1,459,680 | 4% | 8% |
| Total | 15,249,320 | 6,228,990 | 296,860 | 170,390 | 71,100 | 22,040 | 354,820 | 492,990 | 7,612,130 | 41% | 50% |
| <u>C4: Surface Water Protection</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 2,842,570 | 1,425,050 | 58,160 | 16,770 | 4,300 | 5,020 | 86,600 | 118,430 | 1,128,240 | 50% | 60% |
| Priority 2 | 5,531,050 | 3,582,630 | 76,290 | 62,490 | 19,860 | 3,280 | 91,280 | 152,060 | 1,543,160 | 65% | 72% |
| Priority 3 | 1,898,390 | 408,450 | 40,590 | 20,370 | 10,790 | 3,690 | 23,310 | 35,890 | 1,355,300 | 22% | 29% |
| Priority 4 | 8,702,900 | 2,332,770 | 243,250 | 108,400 | 51,620 | 13,200 | 219,180 | 226,540 | 5,507,940 | 27% | 37% |
| Priority 5 | 5,522,980 | 366,990 | 58,720 | 28,970 | 45,360 | 6,210 | 62,900 | 118,740 | 4,835,090 | 7% | 12% |
| Priority 6 | 4,492,500 | 562,270 | 68,600 | 34,360 | 13,810 | 9,340 | 73,570 | 62,260 | 3,668,290 | 13% | 18% |
| Priority 7 | 1,955,790 | 62,750 | 4,670 | 7,370 | 3,650 | 760 | 14,180 | 36,500 | 1,825,910 | 3% | 7% |
| Total | 30,946,180 | 8,740,910 | 550,280 | 278,730 | 149,390 | 41,500 | 571,020 | 750,420 | 19,863,930 | 28% | 36% |
| C5: Minimize Damage from Flooding | 15,412,670 | 6,266,280 | 299,530 | 171,950 | 71,330 | 22,130 | 357,140 | 495,420 | 7,728,890 | 41% | 50% |
| <u>C6: Fragile Coastal Resources</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fragile Coastal Uplands | 96,670 | 68,330 | 860 | 50 | 70 | 130 | 1,190 | 2,510 | 23,530 | 71% | 76% |
| Imperiled Coastal Lakes | 1,530 | 540 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 990 | 35% | 35% |
| Coastal Wetlands | 998,530 | 740,470 | 5,580 | 2,320 | 1,110 | 1,910 | 41,750 | 56,810 | 148,580 | 74% | 85% |
| Total | 1,096,730 | 809,340 | 6,440 | 2,370 | 1,180 | 2,040 | 42,940 | 59,320 | 173,100 | 74% | 84% |
| <u>C7: Functional Wetlands</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 4,472,650 | 3,877,890 | 44,310 | 37,150 | 10,190 | 4,180 | 92,720 | 76,440 | 329,770 | 87% | 93% |
| Priority 2 | 2,266,210 | 1,150,920 | 53,120 | 39,710 | 12,520 | 3,500 | 79,780 | 127,450 | 799,210 | 51% | 65% |
| Priority 3 | 2,124,560 | 380,480 | 51,180 | 39,090 | 13,510 | 5,890 | 74,140 | 87,840 | 1,472,430 | 18% | 31% |
| Priority 4 | 1,791,860 | 103,720 | 36,820 | 15,350 | 7,910 | 4,520 | 36,780 | 55,330 | 1,531,430 | 6% | 15% |
| Priority 5 | 399,230 | 15,460 | 3,970 | 2,180 | 1,560 | 1,060 | 4,210 | 14,080 | 356,710 | 4% | 11% |
| Priority 6 | 276,450 | 9,800 | 200 | 190 | 100 | 670 | 330 | 6,570 | 258,590 | 4% | 6% |
| Total | 11,330,960 | 5,538,270 | 189,600 | 133,670 | 45,790 | 19,820 | 287,960 | 367,710 | 4,748,140 | 49% | 58% |
| <u>D3: Aquifer Recharge</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 1,122,030 | 212,040 | 15,660 | 5,710 | 1,950 | 1,030 | 4,330 | 7,790 | 873,520 | 19% | 22% |
| Priority 2 | 3,310,030 | 447,630 | 29,620 | 20,120 | 8,890 | 3,990 | 16,610 | 34,850 | 2,748,320 | 14% | 17% |
| Priority 3 | 6,133,020 | 893,120 | 73,960 | 49,640 | 25,710 | 8,070 | 75,720 | 104,540 | 4,902,260 | 15% | 20% |
| Priority 4 | 7,555,200 | 1,277,340 | 158,530 | 73,070 | 39,690 | 11,460 | 149,310 | 175,140 | 5,670,660 | 17% | 25% |
| Priority 5 | 6,685,890 | 1,389,550 | 140,480 | 62,460 | 35,890 | 8,380 | 137,230 | 165,390 | 4,746,510 | 21% | 29% |
| Priority 6 | 8,633,890 | 3,851,420 | 111,580 | 55,940 | 31,850 | 7,020 | 140,970 | 224,690 | 4,210,420 | 45% | 51% |
| Total | 33,440,060 | 8,071,100 | 529,830 | 266,940 | 143,980 | 39,950 | 524,170 | 712,400 | 23,151,690 | 24% | 31% |

| 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 2024 |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|---|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | BOT ^a | WMDs ^a | RFLPP ^a | FCT ^a | | | | | |
| E2: Recreational Trails | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 miles | 6,380 | 2,800 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 40 | 60 | 220 | 3,040 | 44% | 52% |
| Priority 2 miles | 5,150 | 1,220 | 150 | 70 | 30 | 40 | 90 | 290 | 3,260 | 24% | 37% |
| Total | 11,530 | 4,020 | 220 | 140 | 110 | 80 | 150 | 510 | 6,300 | 35% | 45% |
| F1: Archaeological Sites^c | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 37,572 | 15,593 | 540 | 372 | 186 | 218 | 598 | 1,170 | 19,480 | 42% | 50% |
| G1: Sustainable Forestry | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Priority 1 | 1,033,590 | 651,010 | 46,990 | 1,230 | 10,270 | 30 | 12,510 | 12,360 | 299,190 | 63% | 71% |
| Priority 2 | 1,936,070 | 750,860 | 71,890 | 10,400 | 14,580 | 460 | 49,350 | 20,620 | 1,017,910 | 39% | 47% |
| Priority 3 | 2,105,420 | 554,950 | 68,840 | 23,350 | 13,910 | 1,570 | 44,010 | 34,910 | 1,363,880 | 26% | 35% |
| Priority 4 | 2,523,770 | 407,900 | 61,530 | 29,220 | 10,290 | 4,690 | 48,040 | 52,700 | 1,909,400 | 16% | 24% |
| Priority 5 | 1,158,920 | 285,030 | 20,420 | 17,640 | 2,620 | 3,220 | 21,900 | 31,630 | 776,460 | 25% | 33% |
| Total | 8,757,770 | 2,649,750 | 269,670 | 81,840 | 51,670 | 9,970 | 175,810 | 152,220 | 5,366,840 | 30% | 39% |
| H1: Urban Service Areas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 5,342,940 | 168,150 | 3,000 | 2,530 | 890 | 8,000 | 12,310 | 31,260 | 5,116,800 | 3% | 4% |

^aAcres acquired by each Florida Forever program as of September 2024.

^bAcres acquired by programs other than Florida Forever.

Number of Imperiled Species Protected on Conservation Lands - November 2024

| MEASURE | Baseline At start of FL Forever July 2001 ^d | OGT, A&I, RFLPP ^d , FCT ^d | | | | 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 | RFLPP ^d | FCT ^d | | | | |
| B6: Imperiled Species | | | | | | | | | |
| Species occurrences ^f | 15,105 | 921 | 194 | 166 | 123 | 657 | 787 | 1,350 | 17,008 |
| Species with at least 1 occurrence on cons lands | 1,044 | 331 | 115 | 115 | 73 | 272 | 311 | 424 | 1,077 |
| federal or state endangered | 389 | 145 | 36 | 55 | 26 | 125 | 134 | 175 | 400 |
| federal or state threatened | 119 | 69 | 19 | 25 | 19 | 61 | 65 | 78 | 122 |

^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 2024

^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.

^gIn 2023 & 2024 this category also included lands purchased by FDEP with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, totalling ca. 100,000 acres.