

The Essential Owners Manual for VOLUSIA FOREVER



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and
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ECHO VOLUSIA FOREVER

Protect our quality of life

Thank You Volusia County Voters!

Please help us support the county's process by attending the upcoming listening sessions and staying engaged in Volusia Forever.

Please let the county know what you would like to see the Volusia Forever program accomplish during the next 20 years.

The ECHO/Volusia Forever Alliance recommends fulfilling long-range conservation planning by acquiring lands and easements in the conservation corridor, gaps in park land, farmland (to keep farmers farming); and water resources (shorelines, springs protection, etc.)

Volusia Forever Implementation

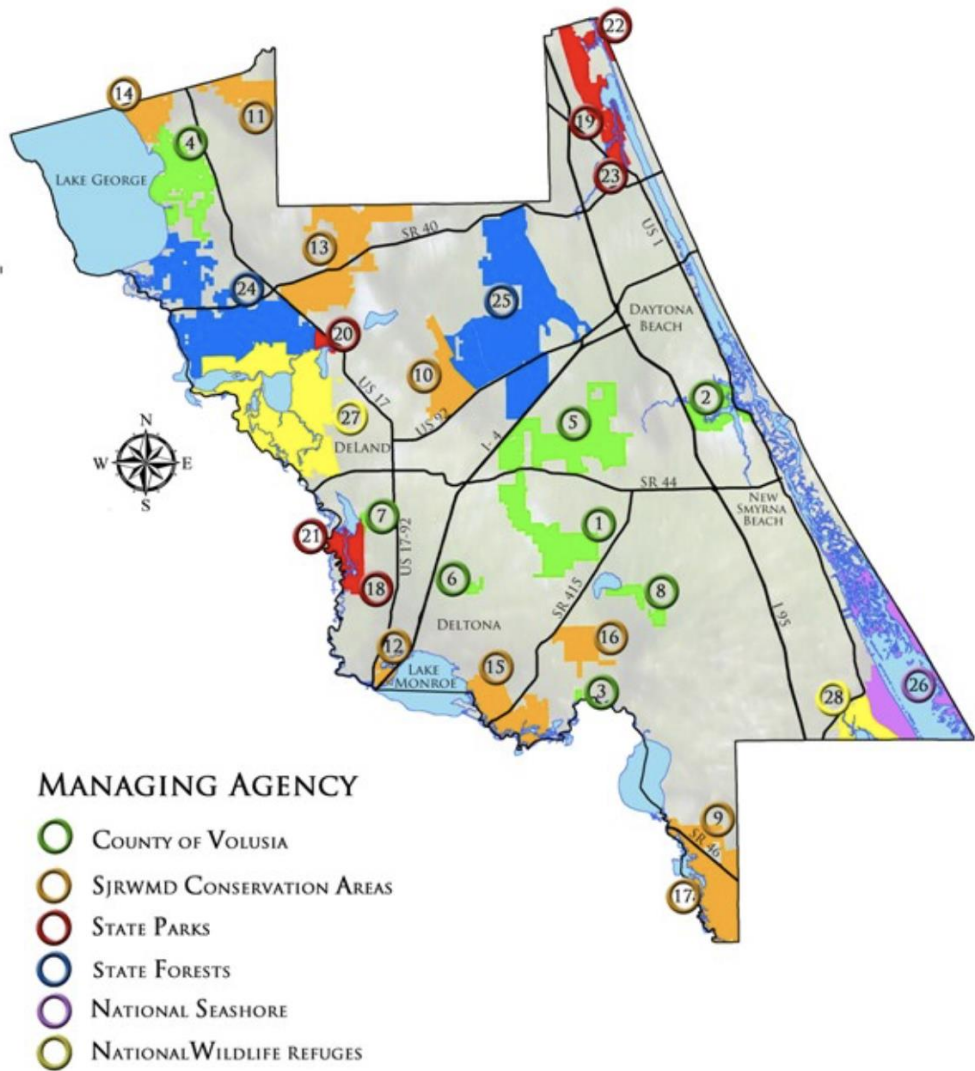
- County Council appointed an oversight advisory board March 2nd
- County to hold listening sessions in April and May
- Advisory Board will recommend procedures to be adopted
- County Council adopts procedures.
- Tax levy and possible bond issue not until after October 30th

<https://www.volusia.org/services/community-services/parks-recreation-and-culture/land-management/volusia-forever.stml>

Volusia Forever Listening Sessions:

Please Attend and give public comment/recommendations.

Date:	Time:	Location:
April 21, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	Thomas Kelly Administration Building, 123 West Indiana Avenue, County Council Chambers, Second Floor, DeLand
April 28, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	Brannon Center, 105 South Riverside Drive, New Smyrna Beach
May 5, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	Beach Safety Headquarters, 515 South Atlantic Avenue, Conference Room, Second Floor, Daytona Beach
May 12, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	City of Ormond Beach, 22 Beach Street, City Commission Chambers, Ormond Beach
May 19, 2021	6:00-8:00pm	Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Ave, Auditorium, Deltona



History of Land Conservation

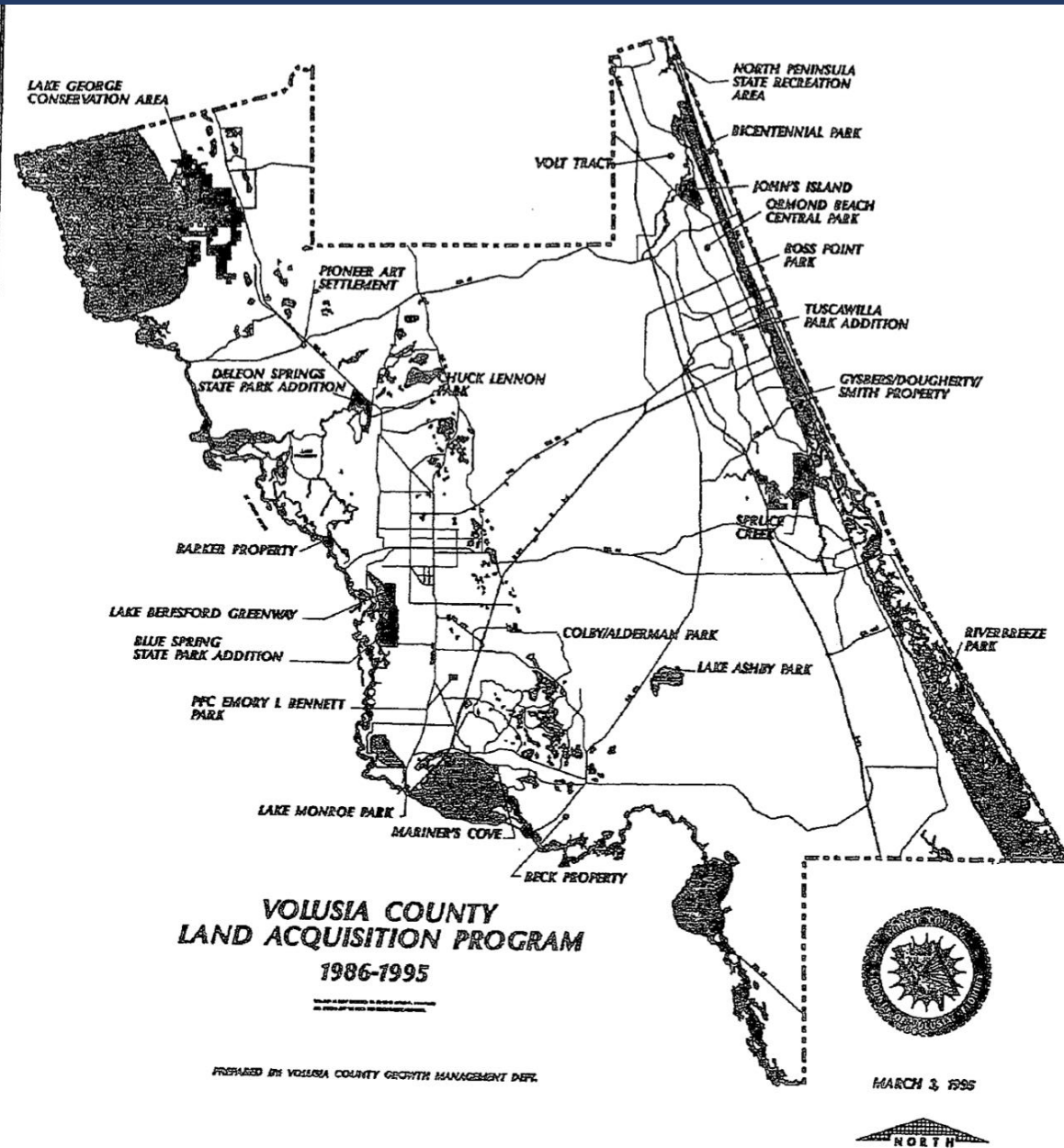
1986 First in the nation
environmental endangered lands program

2000 Volusia Forever/Volusia ECHO

2020 Volusia Forever extended

1986 Referendum
Environmentally Endangered Lands
\$20 million
Acquired 50,000 acres

DeLeon Springs Addition
Blue Springs Addition
Lake George State Forest
Lake Monroe Park
Lake Beresford Park
Riverbreeze Park
Bicentennial Park
Spruce Creek Preserve
North Peninsula State Park
Johns Island Addition to Tomoka
Lake Monroe Park





Volusia Forever Approved 2000

.2 mils for 20 years

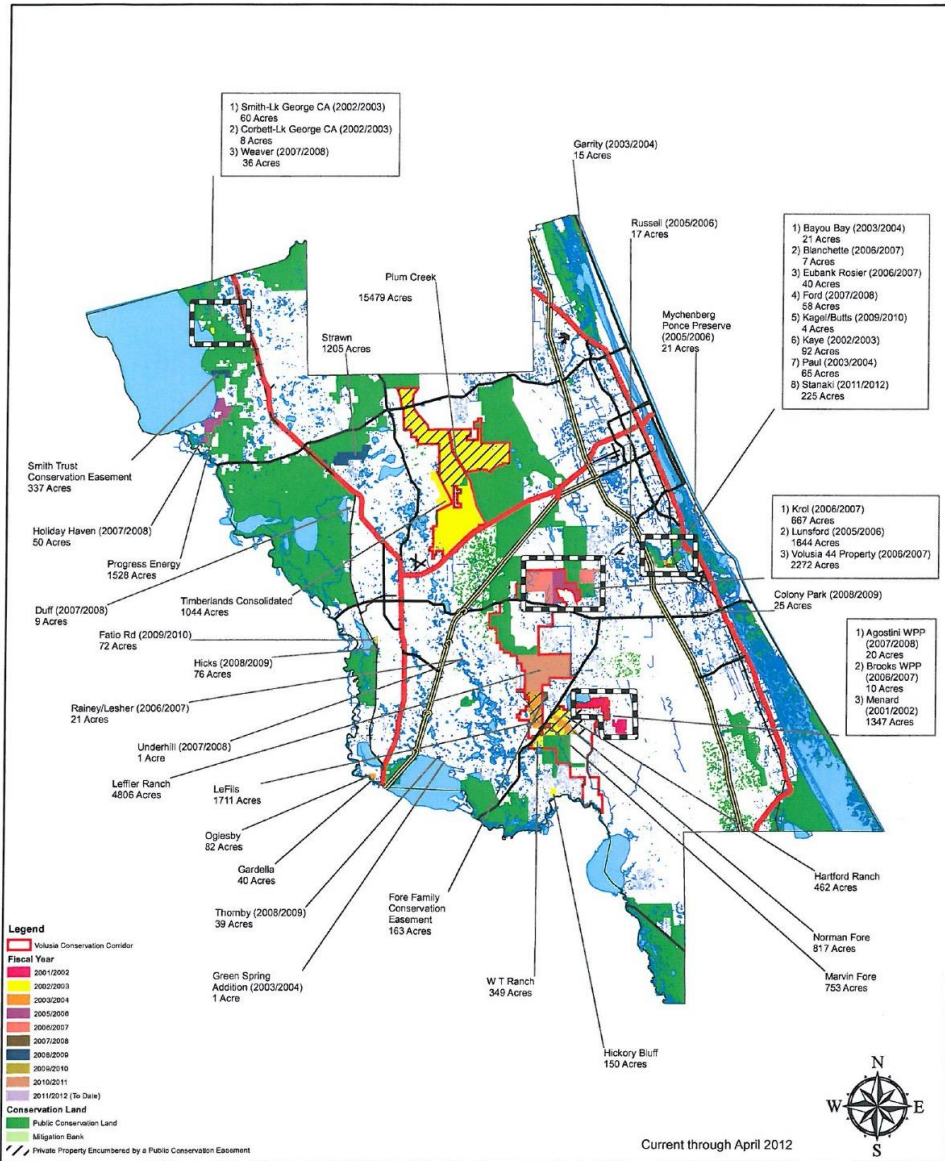
Raised \$68 million

Mission

To finance the acquisition and improvement of **environmentally sensitive, water resource protection** and **outdoor recreation lands**, and to manage those lands as conservation stewards in perpetuity.



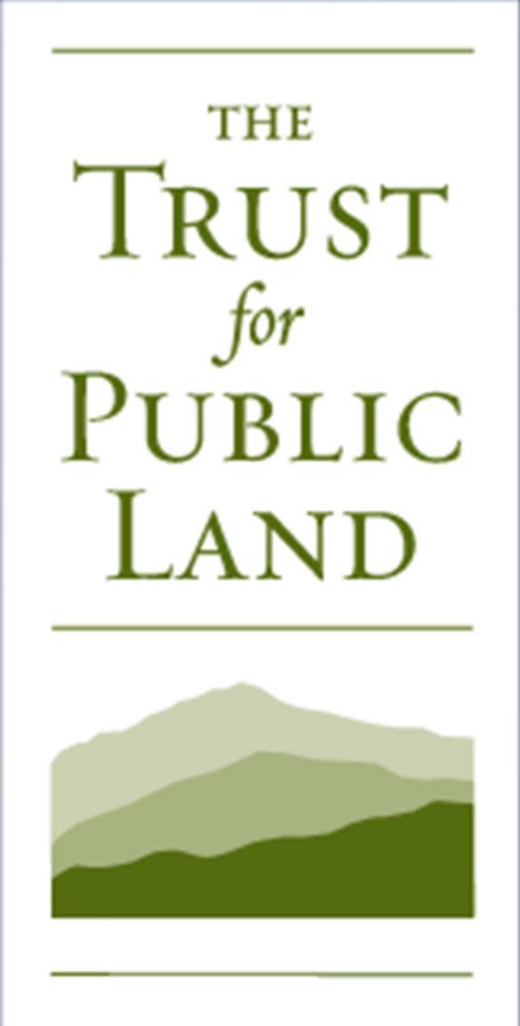
Volusia Forever Land Acquisitions



Volusia Forever 2001-2021

Volusia Conservation Corridor
 Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve
 Thornby- Enterprise
 Green Springs
 Inholdings and additions
 38,000 acres

Award-winning for “visionary leadership”



Keys to the success of prior programs



Sticking to procedures

Keeping free of political influences

Working with national land conservation groups

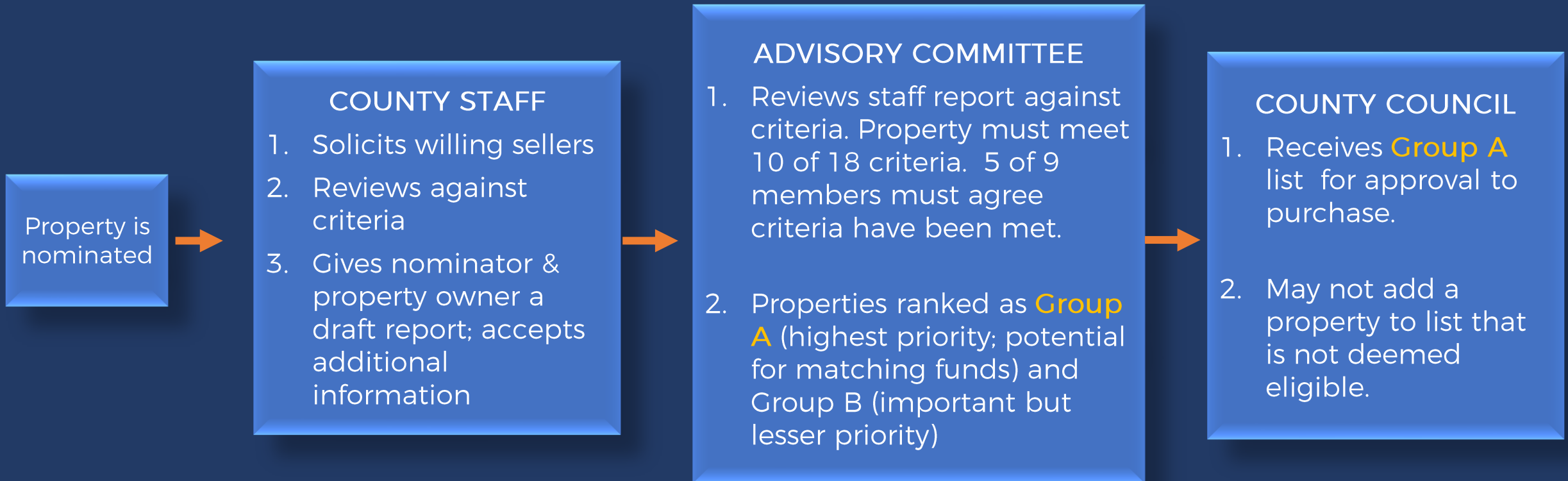
**Partnering with state, water management districts
and cities**

Utilizing creative financing

Using conservation easements where appropriate

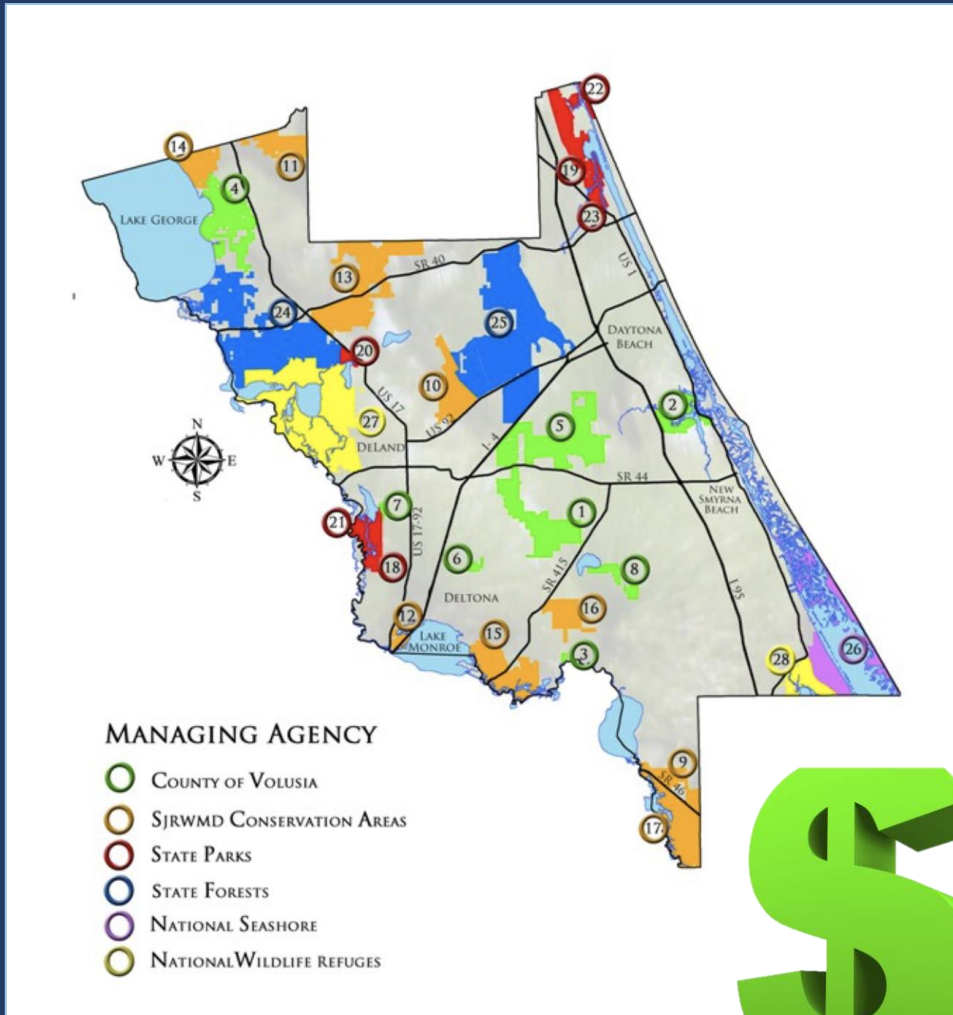
Bonding most of the money

Acquisition process



Property > \$500,000 in value must have two, current independent appraisals within one year of purchase

Selection criteria



- Proximity and connectivity
 - Functionally adjacent to already-conserved land
 - Will maintain an ecological link or habitat corridor between two unconnected conservation areas.
- Furthers prior acquisition efforts
 - Will complete a project already begun
 - There's a reasonable expectation of matching funds

Selection criteria

- Environmentally-sensitive lands
 - Potential to protect or maintain populations of Federal or State-listed species
 - Contains viable acreage of 1+ scarce, unique or significant upland communities (ecosystems)
 - Will protect fragile coastal resources



Selection criteria



- Water resources
 - Serves an important groundwater recharge function
 - Contains or fronts a waterbody, wetland or waterway
 - Contains springs or other unique geological features
 - Has potential as source of potable water

Selection criteria



- **Management**

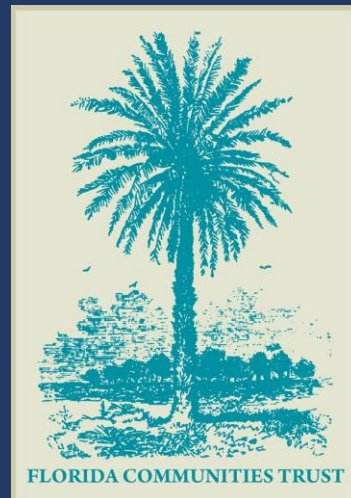
- Size & location make cost-effective management feasible Limited exotic or invasive species
- Existing & future adjacent land use will make management possible
- Has good access
- Wetlands don't need extensive restoration
- Uplands don't need extensive restoration

Selection criteria

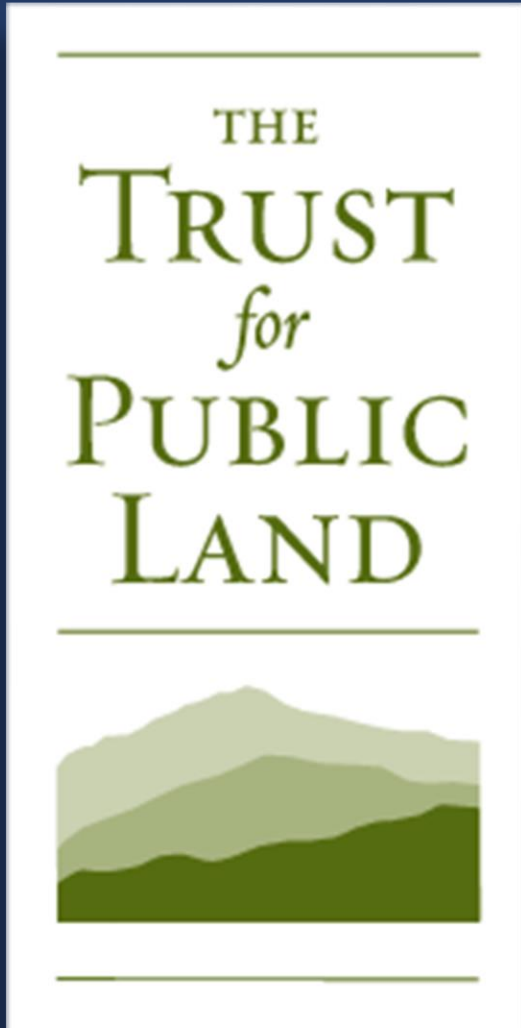


- **Resource-based recreation lands**
 - Has potential to establish or improve resource based public use, including greenways, blueways and trails

Funding partners



Working with Conservation Organizations



They are experienced

They know the state and federal programs

They understand working with landowners on tax issues

Includes regional land trusts



**Amendment 1 passed 2014
Will raise \$23 billion over 20 years**

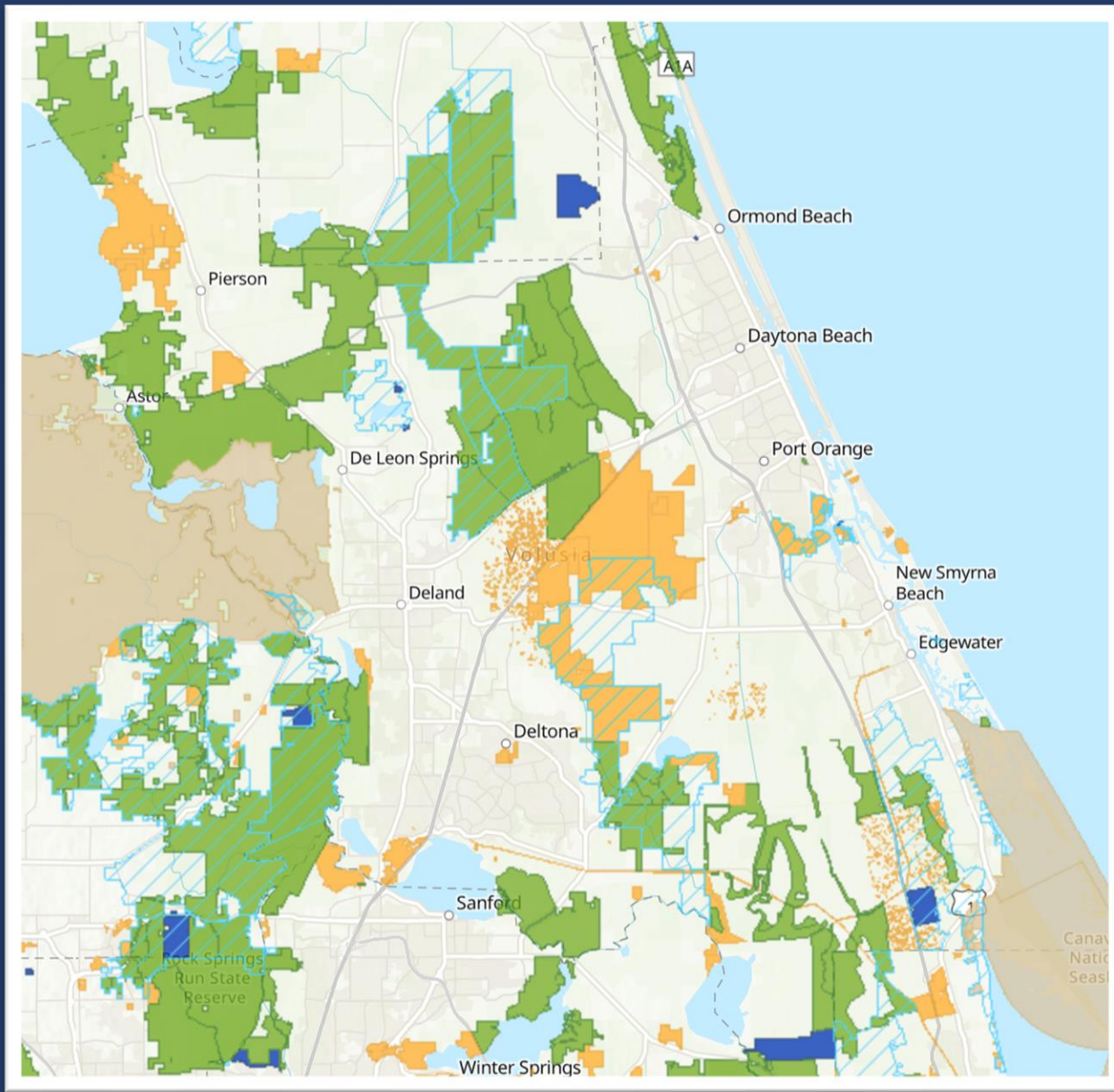
**\$50 million ever year for springs projects
\$100 million last year for Florida Forever**

**Funding for Florida Communities Trust and
Rural and Family Lands have been inconsistent**

**Need to engage and stay on top of funding and
Grant cycles.**



**Great American Outdoors Act 2020
\$900 million per year
Land and Water Conservation Act**



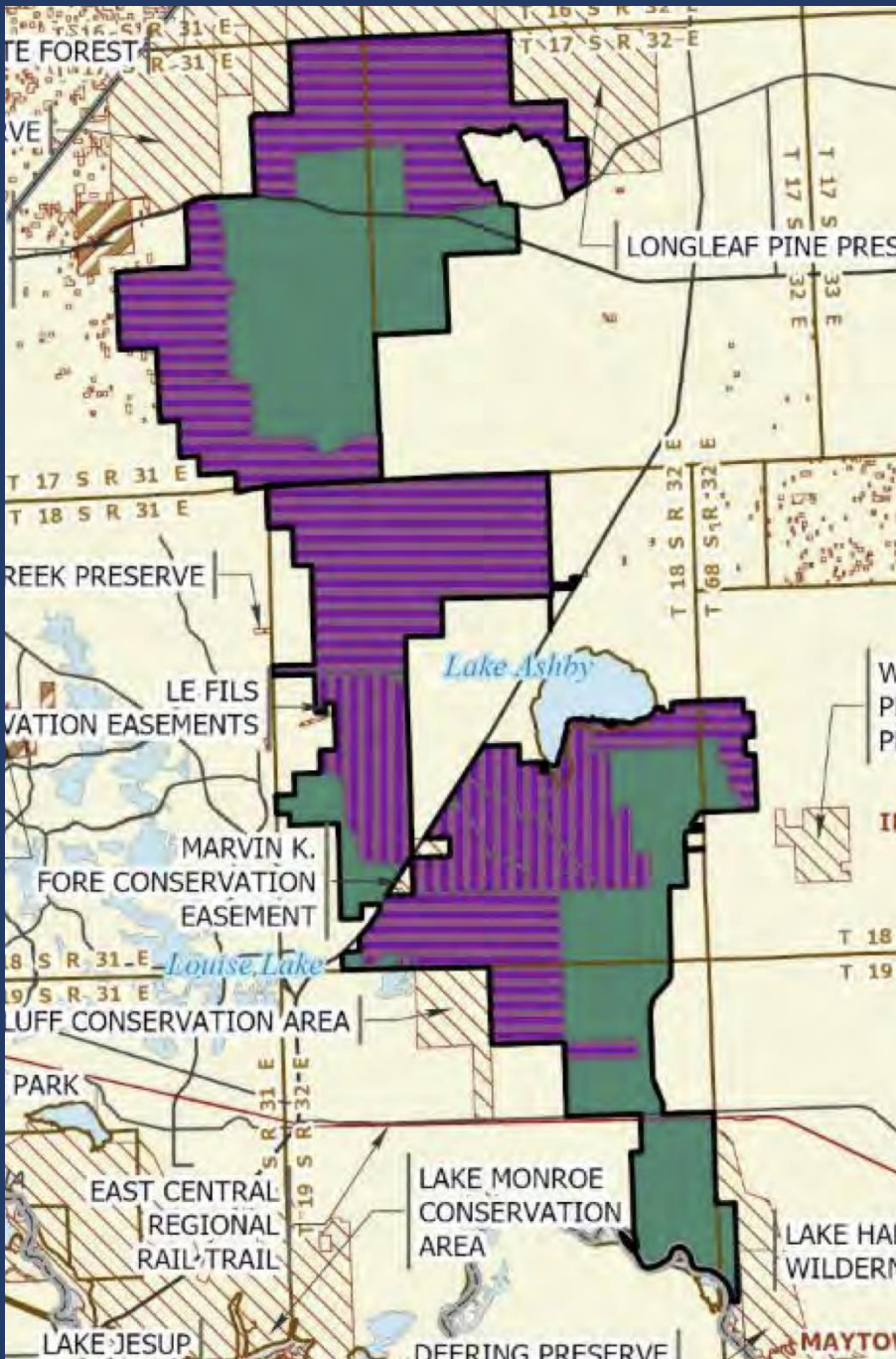
Complete the Mission Leverage Amendment 1

Volusia Forever + Florida Forever

- Volusia Conservation Corridor
- Spruce Creek Preserve
- Indian River Blueway

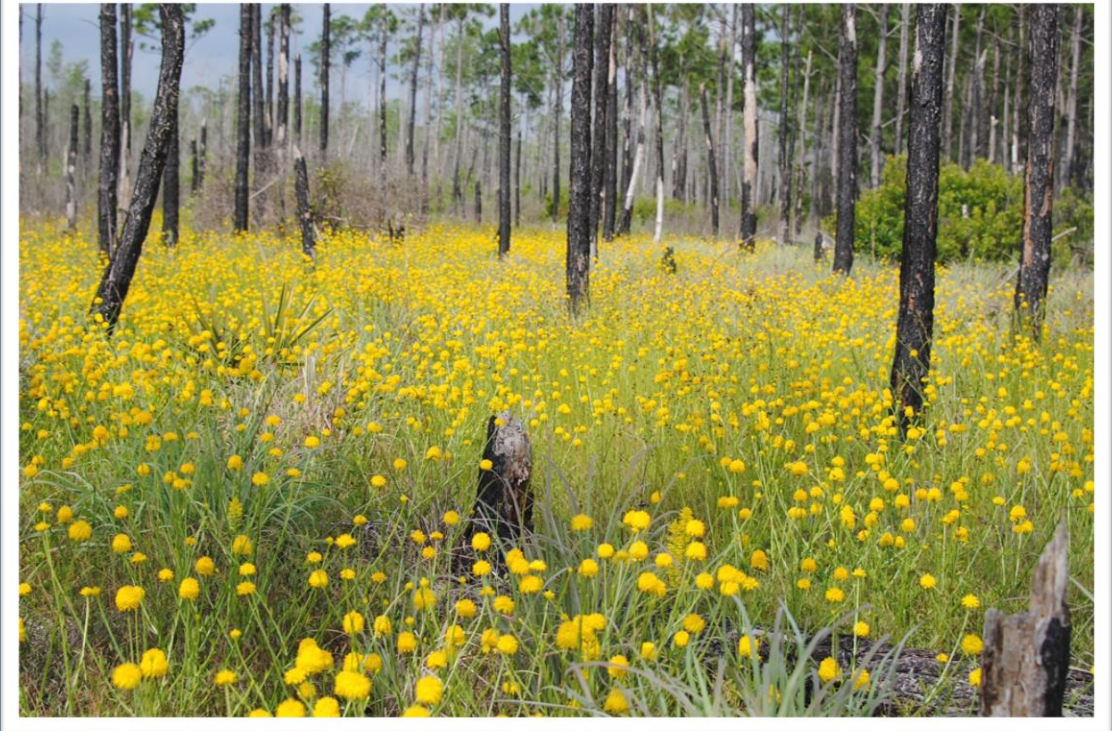
Conservation Lands in East Central Florida

Need to complete Volusia Conservation Corridor

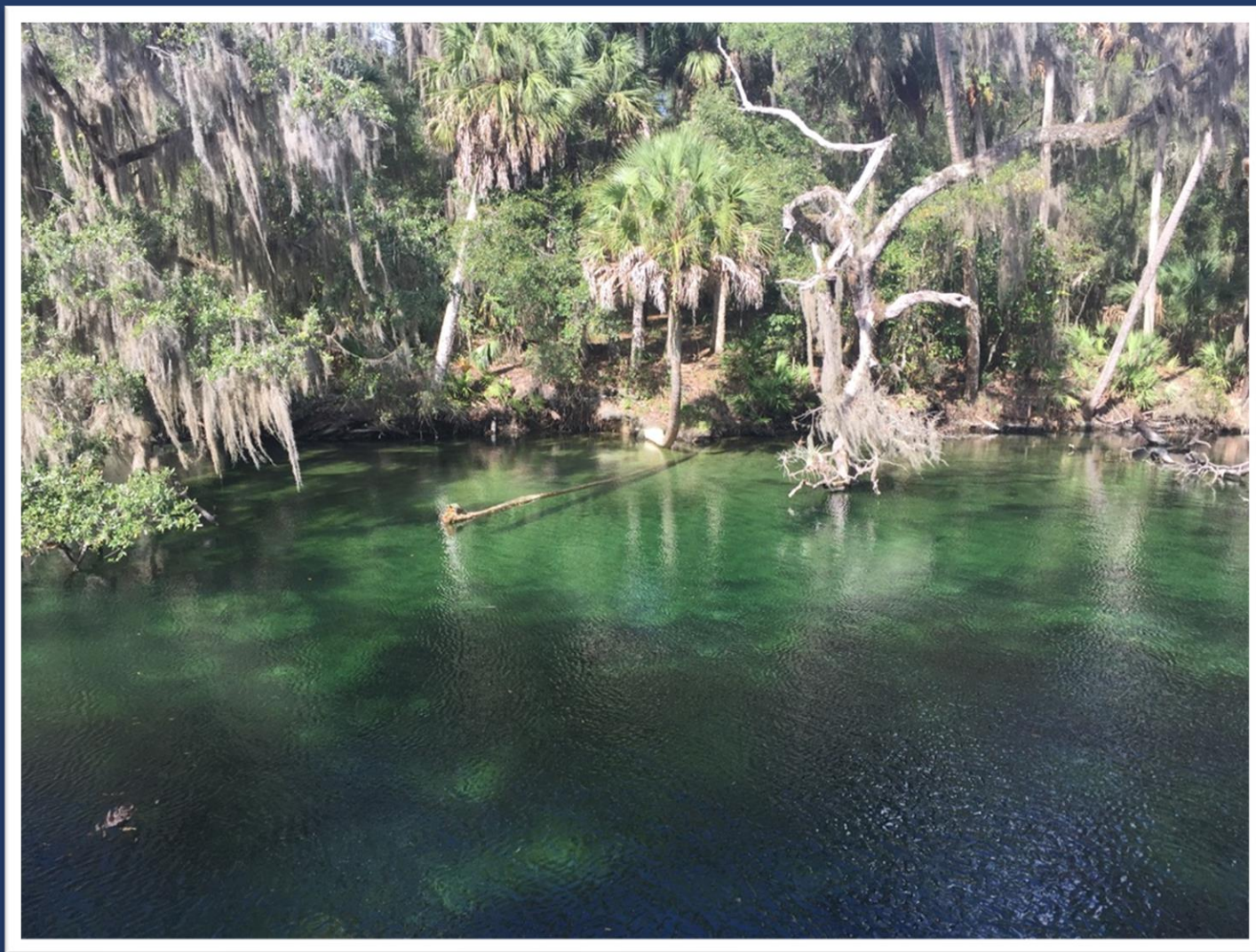


Placed on List	2001
Project Area (GIS Acres)	79,066
Acres Acquired (GIS)	60,734*
at a Cost of	\$76,566,247*
Acres Remaining (GIS)	18,332
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$11,598,844

*Includes acreage and expenditures by the SJRWMD, Volusia County, and USDA through 11/2011.



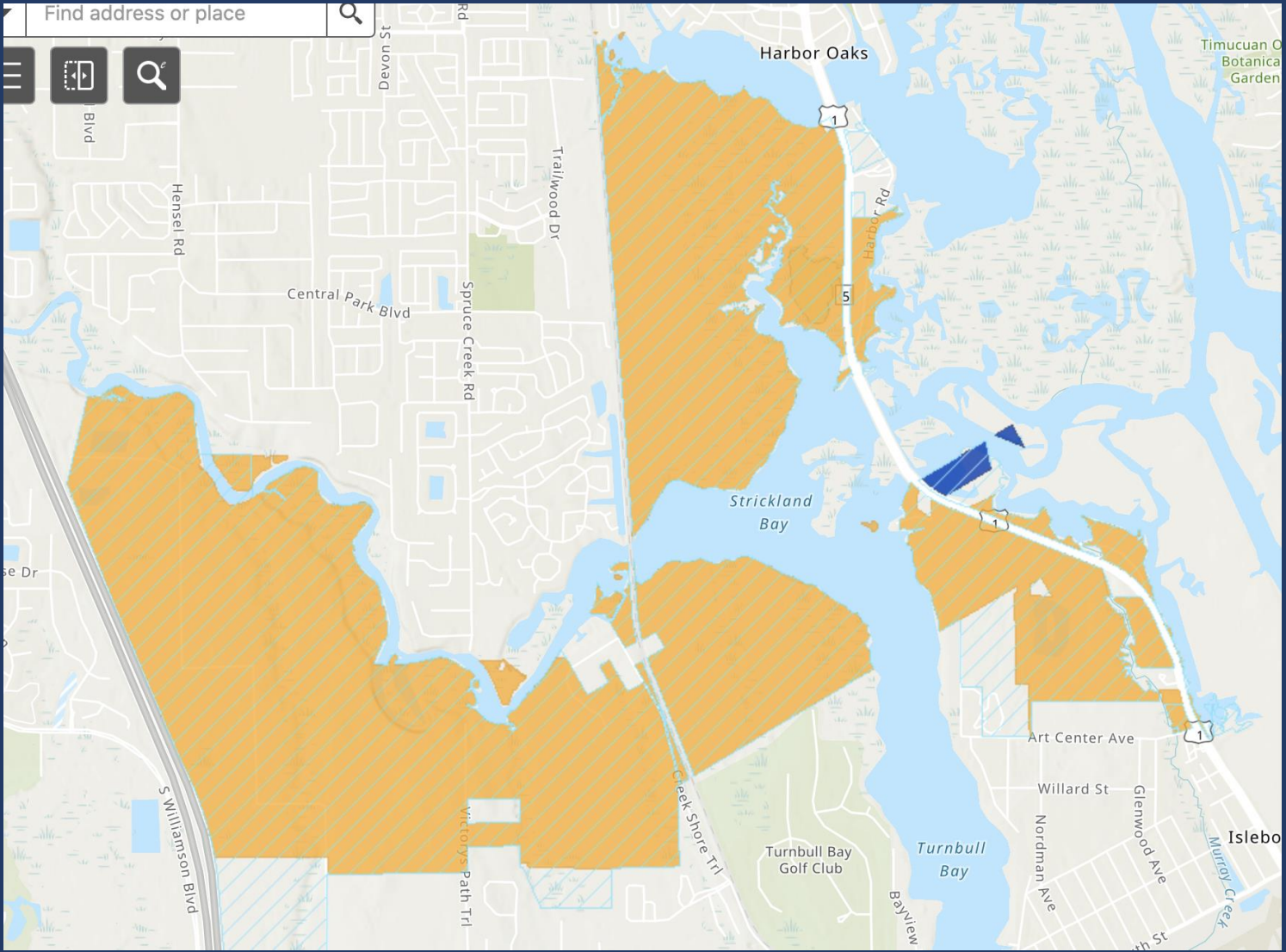
Volusia Conservation Corridor



Buffers around our springs
and protection of springsheds



Opportunities to purchase Inholdings or additions to Tomoka State Park Bulow Creek State Park North Peninsula State Park



**A few private inholdings
Exist within
Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve**

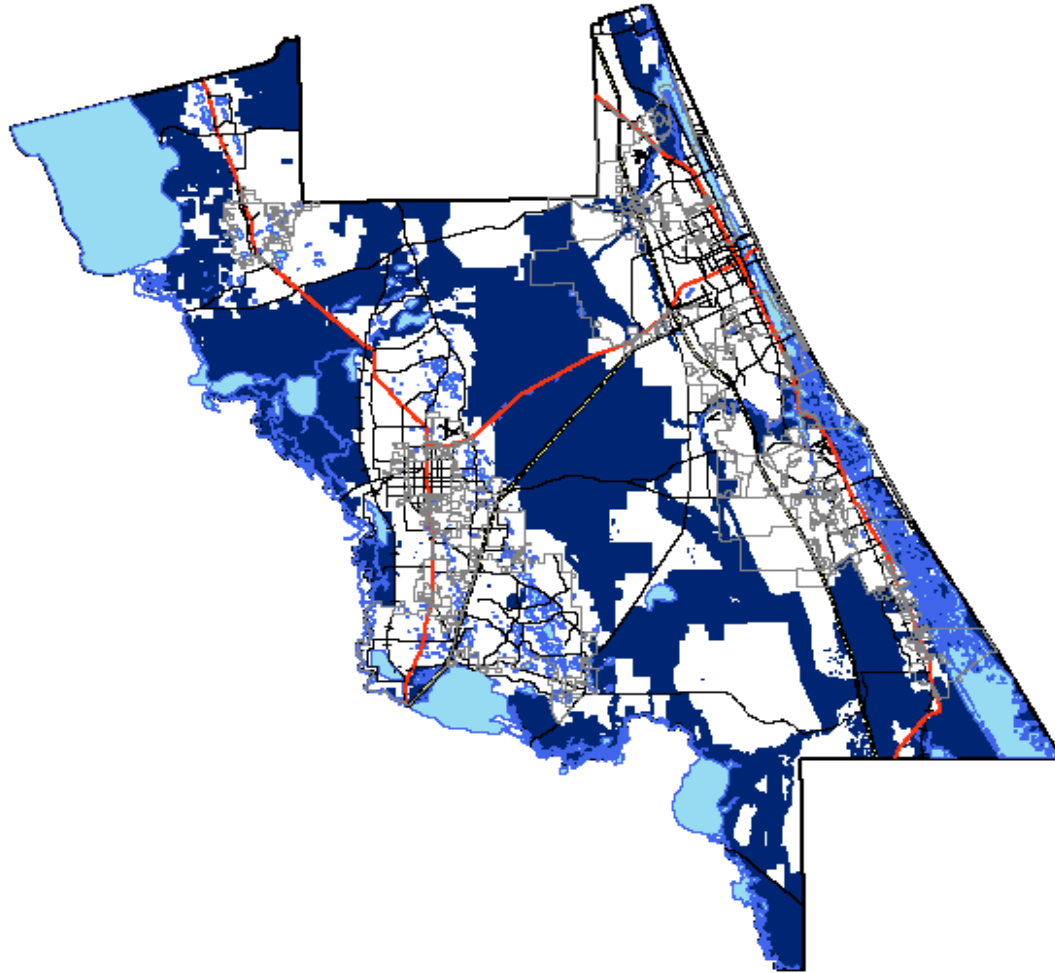




Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Need to acquire shoreline buffers

Environmental Core Overlay



Environmental
Core
Overlay

Conservation Easements

Protects land in perpetuity

Keeps landowner in possession

Lands can continue in forestry or agriculture

All development rights are released

Usually half the price of full acquisition



Financing Volusia Forever

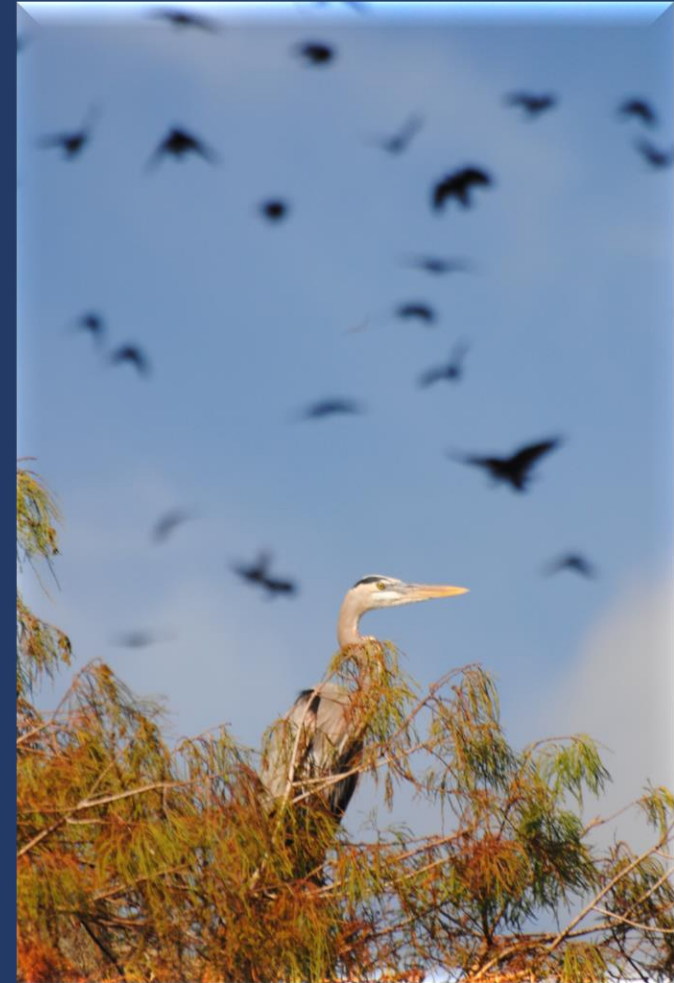
Annual ad valorem tax

- 20¢ on every \$1000 of taxable property value

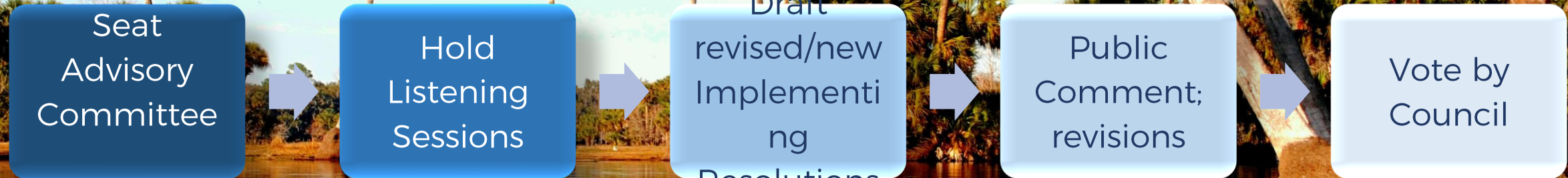
Return from Partnerships

- Florida Forever
- Water Management District

Most Land Acquisition Programs are bonded because interest rates are much lower than the increase in real estate values.



Next steps 2021-2041



Echo Volusia Forever Alliance is the coalition of supporters of
Volusia ECHO and Volusia Forever



Protect our quality
of life.

VOLUSIA FOREVER
VOLUSIA ECHO