



AGENDA

Volusia Forever Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, June 11, 2021 1:00 p.m.
TCK Administration Building
Training Room – 1st Floor
123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, FL

IMPORTANT: The meeting, including public participation, may be attended in person or virtually. If you wish to participate in public participation, you are encouraged to attend in-person or through the webinar. A link to the webinar will be posted on the Volusia Forever Advisory Committee webpage at: <https://www.volusia.org/government/county-council/advisory-boards/volusia-forever-advisory-committee.stml> You may provide public comment in person or written comments regarding this agenda by email to spresely@volusia.org, or by letter to Attn: Sarah Presley, 123 W. Indiana Avenue, Room 100, DeLand, FL 32720.

MEMBERS

Mary Anne Connors, Chair
Wanda Van Dam, Vice Chair
Steve Crump
Gerald Fieser
John Gamble
Jessica Gow
Derek LaMontagne
Derrick Orberg
Suzanne Scheiber

STAFF

Clay Ervin, Growth & Resource Management Director
Brad Burbaugh, Resource Stewardship Director
Ginger Adair, Environmental Management Director
Russ Brown, Senior County Attorney
Sarah Presley, Administrative Coordinator

1. Call to order, Welcome, and Roll Call
2. Approval of 3/19/21 & 4/19/21 Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of 5/13/21 Joint Workshop Minutes
4. Approval of 4/21/21, 4/28/21, 5/5/21, 5/12/21, 5/19/21 Listening Session Minutes
5. New Business
 - Review ballot language
 - Decision points and proposed changes discussion
6. Old Business
7. Public Participation
8. Advisory Committee Comments
9. Adjournment

NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (TITLE II)

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the County of Volusia ("County") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of

disability in its services, programs, or activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of County, should contact the office of the County's ADA Title II Coordinator, Jim Corbett, at (386) 248-1760 as soon as possible but no later than 2 business days before the scheduled event or meeting. This paragraph shall likewise apply to written requests by a physically handicapped person needing a special accommodation to attend a public meeting in accordance with section 286.26, Florida Statutes.

A copy of the County's Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II) can be obtained at <http://www.volusia.org/ada> or requested from the County's ADA Title II Coordinator at the telephone number listed above.



Volusia Forever Process & Criteria Decision Tree

Staff has determined there are five major decision points based on the committee's previous discussions, listening sessions, and joint workshop. These decision points are outlined below:

1. Do you think the existing process and evaluation criteria are sufficient as written to meet the approved ballot language?
 - If YES, staff will include current language in the draft implementing resolution.
 - If NO, what changes do you propose using the Criteria Review Sheet and Feedback Matrix handout? **Will discuss in detail on June 11.**
2. Do you want to continue the small lot acquisition process as it is currently designed (see page 4 for program description)?
 - If YES, staff will include current language in the draft implementing resolution.
 - If NO, what changes do you propose for our **June 25 discussion?**
3. Do you believe that the current Volusia Forever criteria are sufficient to meet the ballot language regarding forests and farmlands?
 - If YES, staff will include current language in the draft implementing resolution
 - If NO, what changes do you propose based on the matrix attached? **We will discuss in detail on June 11.**
4. Do you believe that Volusia Forever funds should be used to purchase urban parcels or be used to purchase lands for green infrastructure projects?
 - If YES, how should the program be modified to accomplish this (program procedures or criteria). What other information/data do you require to help with this discussion? **Will discuss in detail on June 25.**
 - If NO, staff will not include in the draft implementing resolution.
5. The program is currently based on a willing seller model, where all properties are evaluated individually by the committee, except that any property in the Volusia Conservation Corridor is automatically on the A-list. Do you want to identify other areas that are automatically included on the A-list for purchase?
 - If YES, what other areas should be included? What other information/data do you require to help with this discussion? **We will discuss in detail on June 25.**
 - If NO, staff will not include in the draft implementing resolution.

Description of Small Lot Acquisition Program

Small Lot Acquisition Program. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Resolution, there is established a Small Lot Acquisition Program, utilizing a set percentage of the annual Volusia Forever tax receipts and/or an annual appropriated amount of the Volusia Forever tax receipts. This program will supplement the County's efforts in acquiring environmentally sensitive lands in antiquated platted subdivisions. The lots within these subdivisions are small in size, have no or limited physical access and/or infrastructure. The goal of the program is to assemble enough contiguous small lots into ecologically significant tracts. As these lots have low assessed values the usual Volusia Forever acquisition procedures are modified. Specifically, it is a willing seller only program, no survey or appraisal will be performed, there will be a limited title search, and an affidavit will be obtained from the property owner(s) stating there are no known pollutants on the property, which will be substituted for a Phase I Environmental Assessment. Volusia County Property Appraiser appraisal may form the basis of any offer to purchase said property.

Criteria Review Sheet & Feedback Matrix

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Is the property functionally adjacent to existing conservation land (conservation easement or public ownership) or a Volusia Forever eligible property?	1. Is the property functionally adjacent to existing conservation land, a Rural and Family Lands Protection Program eligible project or a Volusia Forever eligible property? (North Florida Land Trust [NFLT])	Display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public conservation lands GIS layer b. Public and private conservation easements
2. Will the acquisition maintain the ecological link or habitat corridor between two or more otherwise unconnected existing conservation lands (conservation easement or public ownership)?		Display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Volusia Conservation Corridor GIS layer b. Connectivity gap layer
	3. Is the property within Priority 1, 2 or 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (i.e. the Florida Wildlife Corridor)? (NFLT)	Display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Florida Ecological Greenways Network (i.e., Wildlife Corridor) GIS layer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Priority 1 area ii. Priority 2 area
Notes:		

FURTHERANCE OF ACQUISITION EFFORTS	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Will the acquisition further a project begun under previous or existing governmental land acquisition programs?		Display Florida Forever project GIS layers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Volusia Conservation Corridor (H) b. Wekiva Ocala Greenway (H) c. Indian River Lagoon Blueway (H) d. Longleaf pine ecosystem map (M) e. Spruce Creek (L)
2. Based upon preliminary assessment (i.e., partnership experience, property size, location and features), is there a reasonable expectation of matching funds from other sources to assist in the acquisition or management?		
Notes:		

WATER RESOURCES	Suggested Changes/Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
<p>1. Does the property serve an important groundwater recharge function?</p>	<p>1. Does the site have Type A soils for over 50% of the site, and thus has a high potential for groundwater recharge? [John Gamble (JG)]</p> <p>1. Does the property have more than 50% of its area in the 100 year flood plain? (JG)</p> <p>1. Is the property within a medium/high recharge area as defined by the St. Johns River Water Management District? (NFLT)</p>	<p>1. Does the property contain a significant area of medium or high groundwater recharge as determined by St. Johns River Water Management District Upper Floridan Aquifer Groundwater Recharge Map?</p> <p>Display the SJRWMD's Upper Floridan Aquifer Groundwater Recharge GIS layer.</p>
<p>2. Does the property contain, or have frontage upon, a waterbody, wetlands, or waterway?</p>	<p>2. Does the property contain or have frontage upon a water body or waterway? (JG)</p>	<p>2. Does the property contain or have frontage on a waterbody or wetland?</p>
<p>3. Does the property contain springs and/or other unique geological features?</p>	<p>3. Does the property contain springs or sinkholes? (JG)</p> <p>3. Does the property contain springs and/or other unique geological features, or is it in a Spring Priority Focus Area or Spring Basin Management Action Plan? (NFLT)</p> <p>3. Is the property within the Indian River Lagoon watershed? (NFLT)</p>	<p>3. Does the property contain springs and/or other unique geological features that enhance environmental resources, protect water quality, enhance water recharge, and/or protect the aquifer?</p> <p>Display Springs Priority Focus Areas and Basin Management Action Plan GIS layers.</p>
<p>4. Does the property have the potential for water resource (potable water) development?</p>	<p>4. Has the property been studied and been found to have potential for water resource development?(JG)</p> <p>4. Does the property have the potential for water resource (potable water) development, or to be restored in order to improve water quality or reduce water consumption within a springshed or Basin Management Action Plan? (NFLT)</p>	

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Is there the potential that acquisition of the property will protect or maintain populations of any Federal or State listed species (including, but not limited to, endangered, threatened or species of special concern) which may typically be expected to occur on the property?	1. Does the site have documentation of any Federal or State listed species? (JG)	
2. Does the property contain viable acreage of one or more scarce, unique or other significant upland communities?		2. Does the property contain viable acreage of one or more scarce or unique communities, as identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, or other significant upland community?
3. Will the acquisition protect fragile coastal resources?	3. Will the acquisition protect scrub or coastal resources?	3. Does the property contain coastal or estuarine habitats or areas vulnerable to sea level rise by 2040? Display vulnerable habitat map.
		4. Does the property contain high functioning or potentially high functioning wetlands as measured by Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM)?
Notes:		

PROVIDE RESOURCE BASED RECREATIONS LANDS	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Does the property offer the potential for the establishment or enhancement of resource based public use opportunities, including Greenways, Blueways and trails?		
	2. Does the property have public right of way (roads or trails) accessing or abutting? (JG)	
		3. Does the property likely contain significant historical, archaeological, and/or cultural resources? (Moved from enhancement criteria)
Notes:		

MANAGEMENT	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Is the size, access, and location of the property appropriate for cost effective management or will it be managed by others?	1. Is the required restoration of water bodies, wetlands and uplands within the Land Management's or other managing agency's capability within the first year of ownership? (JG)	
2. Does the property have a limited amount of exotic/invasive species?	2. What percentage of the property has exotic or invasive plant species? (JG)	2. The amount of exotic/invasive species on the site does not endanger the structure and function of the natural communities?
3. Is the pattern of existing and potential future land use of the area adjacent to the property compatible with typical land management practices?		
4. Is there appropriate access to the property?		4. Is there appropriate access and can land management activities be effectively implemented on the property?
5. Is the percentage of uplands requiring restoration minimal?		
6. Is the percentage of water bodies or wetlands requiring restoration minimal?		

Notes:

FORESTS AND FARMLANDS	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. None	1. Does the property protect natural resources, not as the primary purpose, but in conjunction with the economically viable agricultural operations? (Volusia County Farm Bureau & NFLT)	Display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Volusia farmland GIS layer Staff needs direction on whether we should delineate agriculture easements and conservation easements.
2. None	2. Will the acquisition protect agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land through a conservation easement? (VCFB & NFLT)	
Notes:		

ENHANCEMENT	Suggested Changes/ Comments	Staff Action Items/ Comments/ Recommendations
1. Does the property likely contains significant historical, archaeological, and/or cultural resources?		Recommend moving to the Provide Resource Based Receptions Lands Criteria (page 5, criteria #3).
2. Does the property have the potential for providing significant opportunities for education and/or scientific research?		Recommend elimination.
3. Does the acquisition of the property substantially furthers the conservation goals and management objectives of the Volusia Forever program?		Recommend to use as a way to determine which eligible properties move to the A list (in combination with other factors to be defined).
Notes:		