



AGENDA

Volusia Forever Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, June 25, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

TCK Administration Building

Volusia County Council Chambers

2nd 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://tinyurl.com/VFJune25>. You may provide public comment in person or written comments regarding this agenda by email to spresley@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

Dona Butler, Community Services Director
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 June 11, 2021 meeting minutes
3. New Business
 - Review tentative timeline
 - Budget and land management set-aside presentation
 - Review and revise draft criteria for forests and farmland
 - Direction on small lot acquisition program
 - Discussion of urban parcels
4. Old Business
 - Review revised primary criteria from 6/11/21 meeting
5. Public Participation
6. Advisory Committee Comments
7. 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, James 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 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**JUNE 25, 2021
9:00 A.M.**



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call
2. Approval of June 11, 2021 meeting minutes
3. New Business
 - Review tentative timeline
 - Budget and set-aside presentation
 - Review and revise proposed criteria for forests and farmland
 - Direction on small lot acquisition program
 - Discussion of urban parcel criteria
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7. Adjournment



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

2. Approval of June 11, 2021 minutes



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

3. New Business

- **Review tentative timeline**
- Budget and set-aside presentation
- Review and revise proposed criteria for forests and farmland
- Direction on small lot acquisition program
- Discussion of urban parcel criteria



VOLUSIA FOREVER TENTATIVE TIMELINE

2021-2022	
6/25/2021 9:00 AM	Advisory Committee meets to approve primary criteria, forests and farmlands criteria, land management set-aside, and gives staff direction on the small lot acquisition program.
7/6/2021	Staff prepares a workshop agenda with draft resolution, which includes recommended criteria and process, and distributes to the committee and County Council.
7/13/2021 1:30 – 3:15 PM	Joint workshop with Volusia County Council to review the process, draft resolution, and recommended criteria and process.
8/9/2021	Staff submits final recommended resolution to the Department Director for review and approval.
9/7/2021	Staff presents recommended resolution to County Council for approval.
10/1/2021	Staff opens call for nominations (FY 21/22 Cycle 1).
11/15/2021	Call for nominations closes and staff begins eligibility review.
2/2022	Advisory Committee meets to determine eligibility and evaluate and prioritize the A/B list properties.
3/2022	Staff presents committee's recommended ranking to County Council for approval and authorization to proceed with the acquisition process.
* Timeline is tentative based on progress at each of the meetings, and decisions regarding process.	

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

3. New Business

- ~~Review tentative timeline~~
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- Direction on small lot acquisition program
- Discussion of urban parcel criteria



Distribution of Forever Fund 161 Balance

- Estimated ending fund balance as of 9/30/21: \$14,090,521
- Funding distribution:
 - Land Acquisition: \$726,711
 - Land Management: \$12,657,605
 - Barberville Mitigation Tract: \$706,205



VOLUSIA COUNTY FORECAST

FUND: 162 - Land Acquisition

Millage Rate 0.2000

	FY 2021-22 Budget	FY 2022-23 Forecast	FY2023-24 Forecast	FY 2024-25 Forecast
Revenues:				
Ad Valorem Taxes*	8,218,034	8,464,575	8,718,512	8,980,068
Millage Rate	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
Investment Income	8,096	8,096	8,096	8,096
Subtotal Operating Revenues	8,226,130	8,472,671	8,726,608	8,988,164
Transfer from Volusia Forever Fund	726,711	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	8,952,841	8,472,671	8,726,608	8,988,164
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	131,834	136,090	140,366	144,712
Operating Expenditures	10,472	10,646	10,816	10,996
CRA Payment**	235,643	246,341	257,357	268,706
Capital Outlay	49,765	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenditures	427,714	393,077	408,539	424,414
% of total operating revenue	5%	5%	5%	5%
15% set aside for Land Management	1,232,705	1,269,686	1,307,777	1,347,010
Taxing District Commisions	110,629	113,948	117,366	120,887
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	1,771,048	1,776,711	1,833,682	1,892,311
REVENUES LESS EXPENDITURES	7,181,793	6,695,960	6,892,926	7,095,853
Reserve for Land Acquisition	7,181,793	13,877,753	20,770,679	27,866,532
Total Reserves	7,181,793	13,877,753	20,770,679	27,866,532

*Fiscal year 2021-22 taxable property value increase is 7.6% over Post VAB FY21 values.

*Taxable property value is estimated to increase 3% for FY23, FY24 and FY25.

**Cities receiving CRA Funding: Daytona Beach, Holly Hill, DeLand, Ormond Beach, Port Orange and South Daytona.

VOLUSIA COUNTY FORECAST
FUND: 163 - Land Management

	FY 2021-22 Budget	FY 2022-23 Forecast	FY2023-24 Forecast	FY 2024-25 Forecast
Revenues:				
15% set aside for Land Management	1,232,705	1,269,686	1,307,777	1,347,010
Transfer from General Fund for Land Mgmt. Support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Land Management Fees	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
Investment Income	45,879	45,879	45,879	45,879
Land Rentals	99,009	99,009	99,009	99,009
Subtotal Operating Revenues	1,792,593	1,829,574	1,867,665	1,906,898
Transfer from Volusia Forever Fund	12,657,605	-	-	-
TOTAL FUND REVENUES	14,450,198	1,829,574	1,867,665	1,906,898
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	796,445	820,887	845,627	870,862
Operating Expenditures	777,110	783,783	796,069	808,790
Capital Outlay	94,049	135,606	-	-
Total Operating Expenditures	1,667,604	1,740,276	1,641,696	1,679,652
% of total operating revenue	93%	95%	88%	88%
Capital Improvements	55,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES	1,722,604	1,765,276	1,666,696	1,704,652
REVENUES LESS EXPENDITURES	12,727,594	64,298	200,969	202,246
Reserve for Land Management	12,727,594	12,791,892	12,992,861	13,195,107
Total Reserves	12,727,594	12,791,892	12,992,861	13,195,107

Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

3. New Business

- ~~Review tentative timeline~~
- ~~Budget and set-aside presentation~~
- **Review and revise proposed criteria for forests & farmland**
- Direction on small lot acquisition program
- Discussion of urban parcel criteria



Forests and Farmland Criteria: Background

- Aligned with USDA Agricultural Easement Program
- Purpose:
 1. Protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.
 2. Helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture.
 3. Preservation of open space where such preservation is for the scenic enjoyment of the general public.
- Eligible Properties:
 - Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forest land.
- USDA could provide up to 50% cost-share for acquisition.
- **Do you agree we should align with this program?**



Proposed Forests and Farmland Criteria

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY

1. Is the property within 1 mile of other protected land whose purpose is to protect agricultural use or conservation?
2. Is the parcel within 1 mile of other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure?
3. Will the acquisition maintain the ecological link or habitat corridor between two or more otherwise unconnected existing conservation lands (conservation easement or public ownership)?



Proposed Forests and Farmland Criteria

FURTHERANCE OF ACQUISITION EFFORTS

4. Will the acquisition further a project begun under previous or existing governmental land acquisition program?
5. 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 of the agricultural easement?



Proposed Forests and Farmland Criteria

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

6. Will the easement area protect native habitat?
7. Does the property have known populations of State or Federal threatened (T) and endangered (E) animal species or State species of concern, or the parcel is located within Federal T & E designated Critical Habitat for a T& E species.



Proposed Forests and Farmland Criteria

PROVIDE FOR PRESERVATION OF FARMLANDS

8. Will the acquisition protect prime, unique, and important soils as defined by USDA/NRCS?
9. Will greater than 50% percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and/or rangeland in the parcel be protected?
10. Does the parcel contain historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by the easement area?



Proposed Forests and Farmland Criteria

MANAGEMENT

- 10. Does a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan exist to address farm viability for future generations?
- 11. Is the farm currently enrolled in a Best Management Practices program?



What number of criteria should a parcel meet to be eligible for the acquisition of an agricultural easement?



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

3. New Business

- ~~Review tentative timeline~~
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- **Direction on small lot acquisition program**
- Discussion of urban parcel criteria



Small Lot Acquisition Program: Overview

- Supplement efforts to acquire environmentally sensitive lands in antiquated subdivisions
- Small lots with limited or no physical access or infrastructure
- Goal is to assemble contiguous small lots into ecologically significant tracts
- Modified acquisition procedures – no survey, appraisal or environmental assessment required, a limited title search and an owner affidavit stating there are no known pollutants

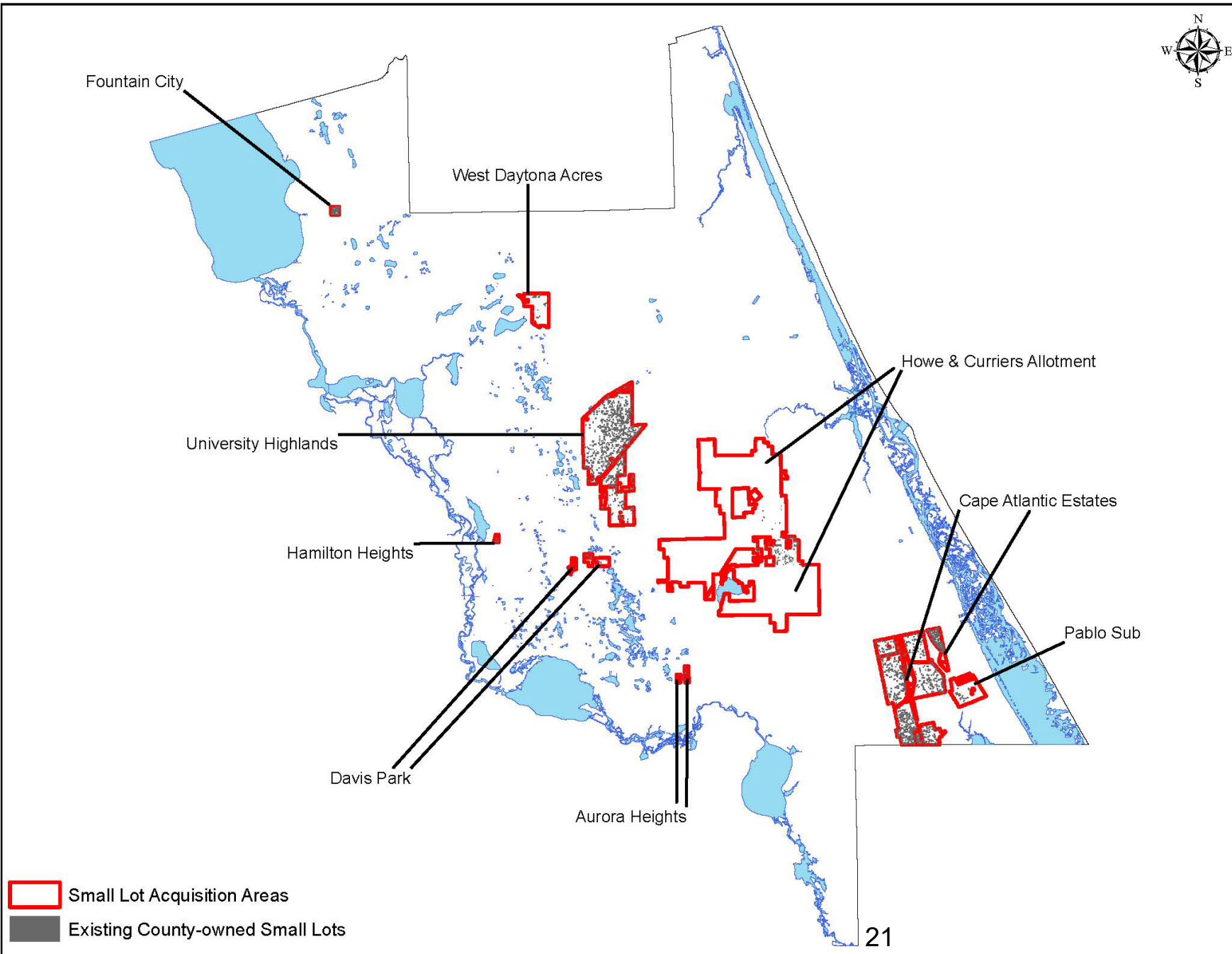
Small Lot Acquisition Program: Data

- 9 primary antiquated subdivisions
- 1,525 parcels purchased
- 123 parcels donated
- 2,519 acres acquired
- \$1,631,211 total cost
- **\$647.56 per acre**



Small Lot Acquisition Program:

Targeted Subdivisions



Description of Small Lot Acquisition Program

Section 8. 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. The Just/Market Value of the parcel as published by the Volusia County Property Appraiser will appraisal may form the basis of any offer to purchase said property.

Small Lot Acquisition Program:

Recommended Language



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

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Urban Parcel Discussion

- What is the conservation and resource-based recreation purpose of an urban parcel acquisition program?

Discussion Points:

1. Acquired with partner government or land trust with shared title.
2. Partner manages parcel subject to land management plan, consistent with conservation values, approved by County.
3. Could the parcel be developed or restored to improve water quality?
4. Could the parcel conserve a scenic highway or byway?



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

4. Old Business

- Review final revised primary criteria from 6/11/21 meeting



Revised Primary Criteria for Discussion

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY

3. **TABLED**: Is the property within Priority 1, 2 or 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (i.e. the Florida Wildlife Corridor) or the County's Environmental Core Overlay?



Revised Primary Criteria for Discussion

WATER RESOURCES

- 4. **TABLED**: Does the property have the potential for water resource (potable water) development?

- 4. ***Alternative***: Does the property have the potential to capture beneficial recharge, reduce water consumption within a springshed, or replace degraded freshwater supplies?

Revised Primary Criteria for Discussion

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

- 4. **REVISIT**: Does the property contain high functioning or potentially high functioning wetlands?
- 4. ***Alternative***: Does the property contain high functioning or potentially high functioning wetland ecosystems?



Revised Primary Criteria for Discussion

PROVIDE RESOURCE BASED RECREATIONS LANDS

3. **TABLED**: Does the property likely contain significant historical, archaeological, and/or cultural resources?
3. ***Alternative***: Does the property contain an archeological site or historical resources?





Historical resource: Means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, object or other real or personal property of historical, architectural or archaeological value. These properties or resources may include but are not limited to monuments, memorials, Indian habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure troves, artifacts or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value

Archaeological site: Is any location that provides the context for and contains evidence of past human activity as confirmed by the presence of artifacts and/or features on or below the ground surface.

Cultural resource: Are resources that represent a culture or society, either past or present, and may include landscapes, structures, and/or archaeological sites. Typically, cultural resources that are protected are those from past cultures, such as colonial European and Native American, because these cultures are irreplaceable.

Revised Primary Criteria for Discussion

MANAGEMENT

2. **APPROVED, but need to REVISIT:** Does the amount of exotic/invasive species on the site endanger the structure and function of the natural communities?
2. ***Alternative:*** Is there limited (<5% by ocular view) Florida Exotic Pest Council Category 1 invasive exotic plant coverage observed?



What number of criteria should a parcel meet to be eligible for the acquisition for:

- Fee simple (purchase) acquisition?
- Less-than-fee (conservation easement) acquisition?



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

5. Public Participation
6. Advisory Committee Comments
7. Adjournment



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

- ~~5. Public Participation~~
- 6. Advisory Committee Comments
- 7. Adjournment



Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

- ~~5. Public Participation~~
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VOLUSIA FOREVER TENTATIVE TIMELINE

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Volusia Forever Advisory Committee
DRAFT FORESTS & FARMLAND CRITERIA
June 25, 2021

The parcel must be in area zoned for agricultural use at the time of application. Properties must meet a minimum ___ of criteria to be eligible for consideration.

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY

1. Is the property within 1 mile of other protected land whose purpose is to protect agricultural use or conservation?
2. Is the parcel within 1 mile of other agricultural operations and agricultural infrastructure?
3. Will the acquisition maintain the ecological link or habitat corridor between two or more otherwise unconnected existing conservation lands (conservation easement or public ownership)?

FURTHERANCE OF ACQUISITION EFFORTS

4. Will the acquisition further a project begun under previous or existing governmental land acquisition program?
5. 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 of the agricultural easement?

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

6. Will the easement area protect native habitat?
7. Does the property have known populations of State or Federal threatened (T) and endangered (E) animal species or State species of concern, or the parcel is located within Federal T & E designated Critical Habitat for a T& E species.

PROVIDE FOR PRESERVATION OF FARMLANDS

8. Will the acquisition protect prime, unique, and important soils as defined by USDA/NRCS?
9. Will greater than 50% percent of cropland, pastureland, grassland, and/or rangeland in the parcel be protected?
10. Does the parcel contain historical or archaeological resources that will be protected by the easement area?

MANAGEMENT

11. Does a farm or ranch succession plan or similar plan established to address farm viability for future generations exist?
12. Is the farm currently enrolled in a Best Management Practices program?

Volusia Forever Advisory Committee
REVISED PRIMARY CRITERIA
June 25, 2021

The purpose of the primary criteria is to inform decision-making and property eligibility for fee-simple or less-than-fee-simple acquisitions that substantially further the goals of the Volusia Forever Program. Properties must meet a minimum __ of criteria to be eligible for consideration.

PROXIMITY AND CONNECTIVITY

1. Is the property functionally adjacent to existing conservation land (conservation easement or public ownership) or a Volusia Forever eligible property?
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)?
3. **TABLED:** Is the property within Priority 1, 2 or 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (i.e. the Florida Wildlife Corridor) or the County's Environmental Core Overlay?

FURTHERANCE OF ACQUISITION EFFORTS

1. Will the acquisition further a project begun under previous or existing governmental land acquisition programs?
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?

WATER RESOURCES

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?
2. Does the property contain or have frontage on a waterbody or is it within the 100-year floodplain?
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?
4. **TABLED:** Does the property have the potential for water resource (potable water) development.

Volusia Forever Advisory Committee
REVISED PRIMARY CRITERIA
June 25, 2021

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

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?
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. Does the property contain coastal or estuarine habitats or areas vulnerable to sea level rise by 2040?
4. **REVISIT**: Does the property contain high functioning or potentially high functioning wetlands?

PROVIDE RESOURCE BASED RECREATIONS LANDS

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?
3. **TABLED**: Does the property likely contain significant historical, archaeological, and/or cultural resources?

MANAGEMENT

1. Is the size, access, and location of the property appropriate for cost effective management or will it be managed by others?
2. **APPROVED, but need to REVISIT**: Does the amount of exotic/invasive species on the site endanger the structure and function of the natural communities?
3. Is the percentage of uplands, water bodies, or wetlands requiring restoration minimal?