



VOLUSIA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM
Environmentally Sensitive Land
Property Evaluation Criteria



The purpose of the following criteria is to inform the evaluation of property nominated for acquisition by willing sellers. To be eligible for consideration, a property must meet 10 of 19 criteria for fee-simple purchase and 5 of 19 criteria for less than fee (i.e., easement) purchase.

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. 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

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

WATER RESOURCES

6. 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?
7. Does the property contain or have frontage on a waterbody or is it within the 100-year floodplain?
8. 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?
9. Does the property have the potential to capture beneficial recharge, reduce water consumption within a springshed, or replace degraded freshwater supplies?



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ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

10. 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?
11. 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?
12. Does the property contain coastal or estuarine habitats or areas vulnerable to sea level rise by 2040?
13. Does the property contain high functioning or potentially high functioning wetland ecosystems?

PROVIDE RESOURCE BASED RECREATIONS LANDS

14. Does the property offer the potential for the establishment or enhancement of resource based public use opportunities, including Greenways, Blueways and trails?
15. Does the property have public right of way (roads or trails) accessing or abutting?
16. Does the property contain an archeological site or historical resources?

MANAGEMENT

17. Is the size, access, and location of the property appropriate for cost effective management or will it be managed by others?
18. Is there limited (<5% by ocular view) Florida Exotic Pest Council Category 1 invasive exotic plant coverage observed?
19. Is the percentage of uplands, water bodies, or wetlands requiring restoration minimal?