



## VOLUSIA FOREVER LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM NOMINATION FORM



### Program Overview:

Volusia Forever is a voter-approved and taxpayer-funded program established for the purpose of identifying, acquiring, and preserving environmentally sensitive, water resource protection, forests and farmlands, and outdoor recreation lands. Since 2000, the program has acquired over 40,000 acres of conservation land. Volusia County residents can access much of this protected land for passive recreation such as hiking, biking, paddling, wildlife viewing, and horseback riding.

### Application Cycle

The Volusia Forever Advisory Committee (“Committee”) will be accepting applications anytime throughout the year. Applications not received by the deadline will be considered in the next scheduled meeting. Volusia Forever is a willing seller program; as such, property owners who wish to nominate their property for review and potential acquisition should complete the attached application. The application may also be used by a citizen wishing to nominate any property in the county for acquisition, whether owned by that person or not. The Committee will use the information submitted by willing sellers to evaluate and sort the properties into high priority and low priority acquisition lists for Volusia County Council approval. Applications and supplemental materials as part of property owner’s submission will become the property of Volusia County and will not be returned.

### Instructions & Application Requirements:

In order for a property to be considered by the Committee, the following items must be completed:

1. Nomination Form
2. Willing Seller Form\*
3. Authorization to Enter Property Form\*

\* If the land is being nominated by someone other than the property owner this is not required at the time of application submission.

Applications should not exceed 10 pages of text, maps, surveys, photographs, letters, or other documentation provided for consideration at the time of nomination. Applications received after the deadline will be considered in the next property evaluation cycle and process. For questions about the application form or land acquisition process contact:

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**Please use this form to nominate property for consideration for acquisition in accordance with the terms set forth in the Volusia Forever program and associated criteria. This form may also be used by a citizen wishing to nominate property in the county for acquisition, whether owned by that person or not.**

**ARE YOU THE PROPERTY OWNER?** *(If not, please be aware this is a willing seller program)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

### **A. YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**I am nominating this property for consideration as** (please select one or more of the choices below):

☐ Environmentally Sensitive Lands

This designation is for lands that possess significant natural resource value or ecological importance. These lands often provide habitat for endangered species, offer important hydrological functions (like wetlands that filter water), or serve as valuable open space. Nominating a property as Environmentally Sensitive Land suggests it warrants special consideration for conservation or protection due to its environmental attributes.

☐ Working Forest and Farmlands

This designation applies to properties that are actively used for the production of forest products or agricultural goods. Nominating a property as Working Forest and Farmlands highlights its economic contribution through these ongoing activities, as well as its potential for long-term sustainable resource management. This category often considers the balance between economic use and environmental stewardship within a working landscape.

*\*\*Applicants can select one or both of these options if the property meets the criteria for either or both categories. This allows for recognition of properties that have both significant environmental value and ongoing agricultural or forestry uses.*

### **B. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:**

**Same as above?**

☐ Yes

☐ No



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**Name of Property Owner:**

**Address:**

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:**

**Email:**

### C. PROPERTY INFORMATION

**Parcel Address/Location** *(if available)*:

**Full Parcel Identification Number(s):**

**Size of parcel (in acres):**

**Asking Price:**

**I would like this property to be considered for** (please select one or more of the choices below):

☐ Fee Simple Purchase

Selecting this option means you are nominating the property for **outright acquisition** by the Volusia Forever program. If the property is selected and the purchase is completed, the County (or another designated entity) would become the full legal owner of the land. This typically allows for the greatest degree of public access and management for conservation or recreational purposes, consistent with the goals of the Volusia Forever program.

☐ Conservation Easement Purchase

Choosing this option means you are proposing that the Volusia Forever program purchase a **conservation easement** on the property. A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between the landowner and a conservation entity (like the County) and binds future landowners to the easement terms. It restricts certain types of development and land uses on the property in order to protect its conservation values (e.g., natural habitat, open space, water quality). The **landowner retains ownership** of the property and can continue to use it in ways that are consistent with the terms of the easement. The landowner may sell their interest in the property, with the buyer subject to the conservation easement.

☐ Agricultural Easement Purchase

Selecting this option means you are nominating the property for the purchase of an **agricultural easement** by the Volusia Forever program. Similar to a conservation easement, an agricultural easement is a legal agreement that restricts non-agricultural development on the land to protect its agricultural viability. This helps to ensure the land remains available for farming in the future. The **landowner retains ownership** and can continue agricultural operations, subject to the terms of the easement. This option focuses specifically on preserving working farmlands and supporting the local agricultural economy.



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### D. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the character of the parcel(s) (e.g., wetlands, swamps, scrub, pine forest, property configuration, topography, etc.) and approximate acreage of the individual land characteristics.

Briefly explain why this parcel(s) should be considered as eligible for purchase in the Volusia Forever Land Acquisition Program (*Please review and consider the [Environmentally Sensitive Land Criteria](#) and [Working Forest and Farmland Criteria](#)*).

List any known property encumbrances or encroachments. (Liens, leases, easements, deed restrictions, or boundary line encroachments from neighboring properties).

Please list known historical uses of the property. (Farm and crop type, cattle, manufacturing, timber production, mining, residential, or undeveloped)

### E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ATTACHMENTS *(supplemental documents to be submitted with the nomination form)*

- A vicinity map with sufficient information to locate the property in the field (i.e., roads, waterbodies, landmarks, etc.)
- A legal description, survey or map showing the boundaries of the property, existing streets, buildings, watercourses, easements, section lines and any deed restrictions or encumbrances.
- A copy of the existing designations on the applicable future land use and zoning maps (if available)<sup>2</sup>.
- A map with designation of the property on a topographic/elevation map (if available)<sup>1</sup>.
- Photographs representing the characteristics of the property.
- Any additional information that may be beneficial for committee consideration.
- If applying under the forests and farmlands program, please provide copies of the farm or ranch succession plan and a copy of the agriculture or silviculture BMP enrollment form.

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Maps may be generated by visiting <https://www.volusia.org/services/growth-and-resource-management/planning-and-development/mapping-and-addressing/grm-interactive-map.shtml>