

SEMINOLE FOREVER ARC UPDATE

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

November 12, 2024

Seminole Forever Criteria and Application Review

Outline / Agenda

- Background / History
- Application and Criteria Process
- Next Steps
- Recommendations

Background / History

- The Seminole Forever program was approved in August 2023.
- The BCC appointed a seven-member Acquisition and Restoration Committee (ARC) November 14, 2023, to assist with developing criteria designed to prioritize potential acquisition projects.

ARC Member	Member Type	Start Date	Commissioner	District	Term (Years)
David Bear	Regular	11/14/2023	Bob Dallari	1	1
Beverly Evans	Regular	11/14/2023	Jay Zembower	2	2
Tim Jackson	Regular	11/14/2023	Lee Constantine	3	1
Jay Exum	Regular	11/14/2023	Amy Lockhart	4	2
Gabbie Milch	Regular	11/14/2023	Andria Herr	5	1
Phyllis Hall	At-Large	11/14/2023			2
Jeanette Schreiber	At-Large	11/14/2023			1

Background / History

First meeting held January 25, 2024, at Boombah Soldiers Creek Park

- Monthly schedule set for the calendar year.
- ARC's initial tasks included:
 - a. Assisting staff with developing an application.
 - b. Developing criteria for evaluating potential acquisition projects.

Application and Criteria Process

Application Development (February 2024 – May 2024)

- ARC and staff reviewed applications from similar land acquisition programs including Florida Forever, Volusia Forever, Sarasota County and Conservation Collier.
- ARC and staff developed an application based on the Seminole Forever ordinance and was vetted by the County Attorney's Office.

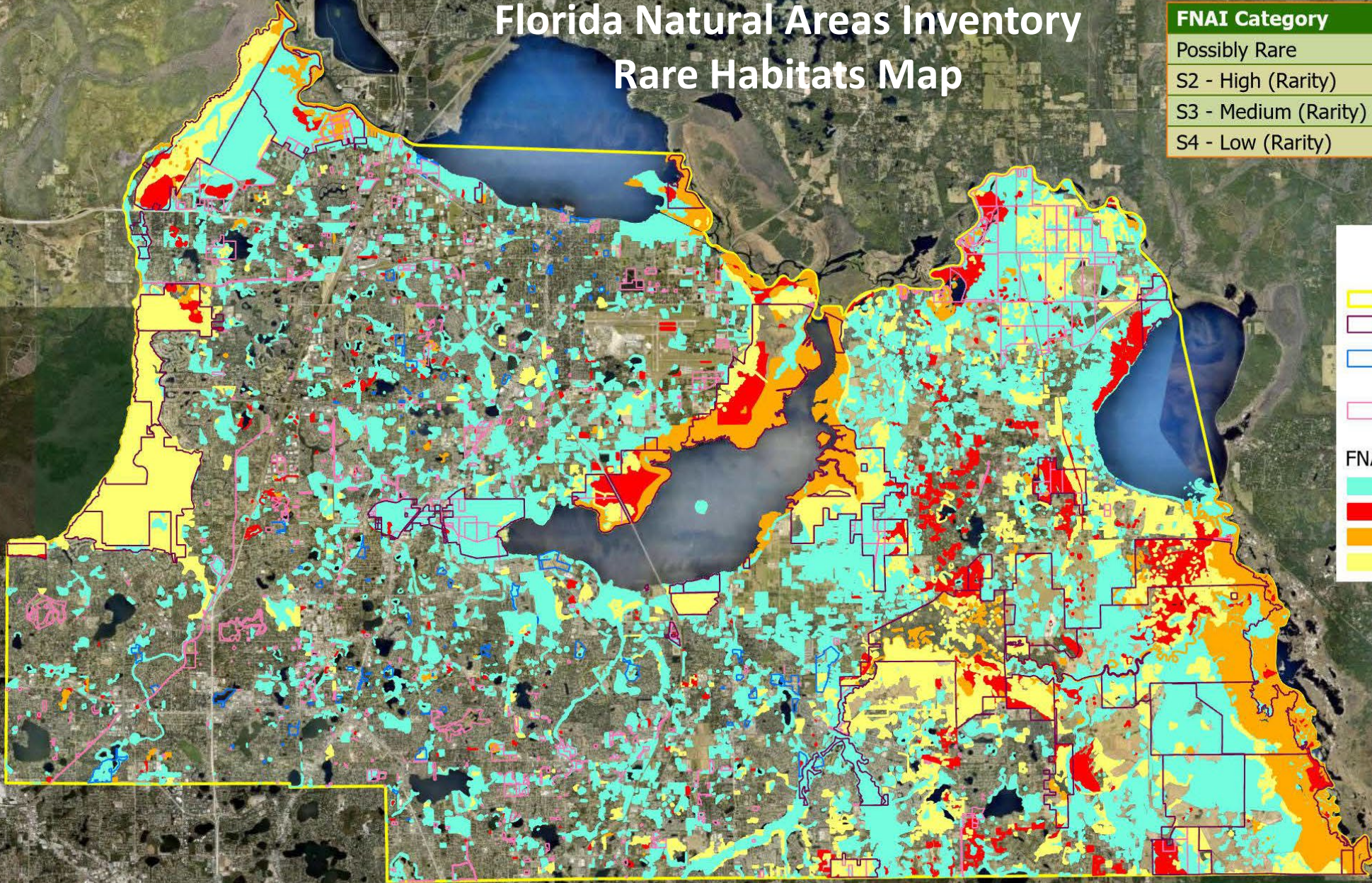
Application and Criteria Process

Criteria Development (May 2024 – October 2024)

- ARC invited staff from Polk County's Environmental Lands Program and Volusia County's Volusia Forever Program to discuss their programs' process used to develop the criteria for vetting properties.
- ARC reviewed criteria from other programs, including the Seminole County Natural Lands Program.
- An interactive map was developed by staff to assist with providing a visual aid for the Seminole Forever criteria.
- A final draft of the criteria was approved at the October 23, 2024, ARC meeting and vetted by the County Attorney's Office.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory Rare Habitats Map

FNAI Category	Total Acres
Possibly Rare	45,073
S2 - High (Rarity)	11,360
S3 - Medium (Rarity)	12,959
S4 - Low (Rarity)	46,346



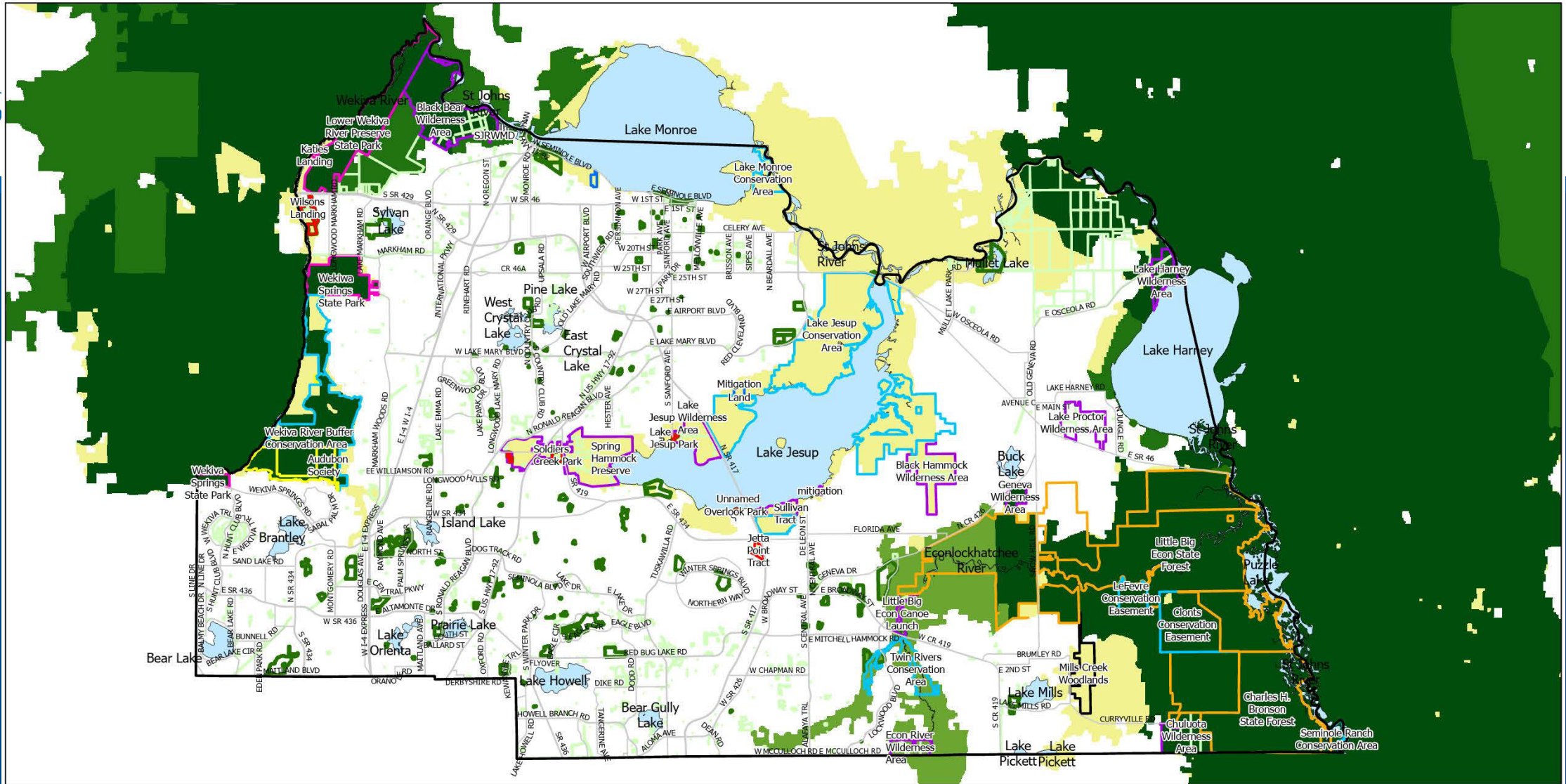
Legend

- County Boundary
- Preserved Lands
- Parks (City and County-owned)
- County Owned Lands (not including parks or preserves)

FNAI Category

- Possibly Rare
- S2
- S3
- S4





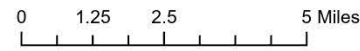
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Florida Ecological Greenway Network

Legend

County Boundary	Seminole County Parks
Florida Audubon Society	Florida Ecological Greenway Network Priority 1-5
Seminole County/BCC	Priority 1 - Critical Linkages
Seminole County/Natural Lands Program	Priority 2
Seminole County/Natural Lands Program	Priority 3
WaterBodies	Priority 4
	Priority 5



Overview of Criteria

1. **Vulnerability** to development.
2. **Diversity** of species and habitats.
3. **Connectedness** to other conservation lands.
4. **Potential uses** for passive recreation or environmental education.
5. **Existence of important water resources**, including whether the property protects or recharges groundwater, enhances the water quality, provides flood protection, protects the aquifer, or has high functioning wetlands.

Criteria – Special Considerations

- Size of Parcel
- Public Interest
- Cultural Resources
- Potential for Matching Funds or Partnerships
- Management Considerations

Next Steps

- Formally announce and initiate the application process to begin in November.
- Staff will contact the interested parties who have expressed interest in the program.
- Present the scoring on received applications during the FY 25/26 Budget preparation process to the BCC for consideration.
- Staff will continue with vetting of Marxan Conservation Planning tool to assist in future prioritization of land purchases to potentially help inform and guide the Seminole Forever 5-Year Acquisition Plan and aid in identifying partnerships.

Recommendations

- Motion to approve the Seminole Forever Application.
- Motion to approve the Seminole Forever Criteria developed by ARC.
- Appoint/Reappoint those ARC members who are under a one-year term at the December BCC meeting:

Current Appointee	Type of Nominee	Commissioner	District	Term (years)
David Bear	Regular	Bob Dallari	1	2
Tim Jackson	Regular	Lee Constantine	3	2
Gabbie Milch	Regular	Andria Herr	5	2
Jeanette Schreiber	At-Large			2