



Alachua County

Alachua County Forever's Barr Hammock Butler Conservation Easement



Purchase Date: May 7, 2012
Seller: Alvin C. Butler Family Trust
Purchase Price: \$218,560 Size: 75 acres Cons. Ease
0.36 acres Fee Simple

- The Butler Tract is on the northern rim of the Barr Hammock Levy Prairie Project -- the largest ACF preserve at 5,700 acres, and is located in southern Alachua County, west of Micanopy.
- This project acquired a conservation easement that will buffer the Barr Hammock Preserve. In addition, the Butler Family agreed to sell a 0.36-acre parcel that includes the levee over which the public will have recreational access around the eastern lobe of the Levy Prairie tract.
- Barr Hammock Preserve, which includes Levy Prairie, was acquired with funds from Alachua County, Florida Communities Trust, a North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Acquisition of the Butler conservation easement was funded 50% by the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.
- The Butler tract's conservation values include: a portion of the historical shoreline and hammock associated with Levy Prairie; numerous small wetlands scattered throughout the uplands; mesic hammock within southernmost parcel; wildlife habitat throughout; habitat for Sandhill cranes; helps protect water quality, recharge and filtration functions.
- The Easement allows continued cattle ranching and limited timber management
- This is the forty-fourth acquisition by the ACF program, the 10-conservation easement, and the sixteenth acquisition using the Wild Spaces and Public Places Surtax, approved by the voters in 2008 to extend the ACF Program.

ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER MISSION

Approved in November 2000 by the voters, to acquire, improve and manage the county's environmentally sensitive lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Program Notes

- ✓ Alachua County Forever responds to public nominations.
- ✓ Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted under Alachua County Forever.
- ✓ Projects evaluated by staff and the Land Conservation Board.
- ✓ Criteria include protection of water resources, habitats, species, social value, manageability, and the economics of the acquisition.
- ✓ The County Commission approves acquisition projects.
- ✓ County can acquire property outright or certain rights through less-than-fee mechanisms such as conservation easements.
- ✓ Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals.
- ✓ Program funded by \$29 million in voter-approved bonds and \$15 million in Sales Surtax.
- ✓ Program actively seeks state, federal and private grants.
- ✓ Properties are managed as preserves.
- ✓ Resource-compatible, passive recreation is encouraged on sites where appropriate.



For more information:

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Alachua County Commission

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