





# Alachua County

## Alachua County Forever Program

### Partners

- Citizens of Alachua County who approved the Bond Referendum
- Citizens who submit nominations
- Citizens who volunteer their time to support the Program
- Ms. Gladys Gracy Coffin – an example of a landowner willing to protect their lands and leave an environmental legacy for future generations
- Alachua County Commission
- Land Conservation Board
- The City of Gainesville Commission
- The City of Gainesville Nature Operations Division
- The State Florida Communities Trust Program



Fall colors at Beville Creek

### Program Notes

- Alachua County Forever responds to nominations from the public.
- Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted under Alachua County Forever.
- Each project is evaluated by staff and the citizen Land Conservation Board using comprehensive 26-criterion matrix.
- Projects are scored on water resources protection, habitat protection, species protection, social value, manageability, economic and acquisition issues.
- The County Commission approves projects for negotiation.
- County can negotiate to acquire property outright or acquire certain rights through less-than-fee mechanisms such as conservation easements.
- Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals.
- Program acquisitions are funded through a \$29 million in voter-approved bonds, payable through a quarter-mill ad valorem property tax, levied for 20 years.
- Program actively seeks to leverage county funds through state, federal and private grants.
- Properties are managed as preserves under approved management plans that describe the appropriate uses and management strategies.
- Resource-compatible, passive recreation is allowable on sites where appropriate.

### ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER REFERENDUM

*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.*

### Alachua County Commission

Mike Byerly, Chair  
 Cynthia Moore-Chestnut, Vice-Chair  
 Lee Pinkoson  
 Penelope Wheat  
 Rodney J. Long

### County Manager

Randall H. Reid

### For more information:

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