



Alachua County

Alachua County Forever's Phifer Hill Preserve



The Gainesville-Hawthorne State Rail-Trail

Purchase Date: December 15, 2009
Seller: Roberts Land & Timber
Purchase Price: \$1,170,864 **Size:** 324 acres

- The Phifer Hill property is located halfway between Gainesville and Hawthorne just south of CR 2082 close to the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Rail Trail (GHSRT).
- The property also buffers the 27,400-acre Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area, owned by Plum Creek and the St. Johns River Water Management District.
- Phifer Flatwoods is a critical link in a regional wildlife corridor that runs north-south between the Ocala National Forest and the Okefenokee Swamp.
- This corridor is used by large mammals, such as the Florida black bear; by migratory birds; and has a diversity of plant life in its mosaic of uplands and wetlands.
- Property will be managed as a preserve adding to the amenities available to users of the GHSRT. A trailhead is envisioned at CR 2082 for bicyclists and hikers to access the trails. Drivers will be able to park at the County's Phifer Flatwoods Preserve, walk or bike the 3 miles to the trailhead.
- This is the fourth acquisition using the Wild Spaces and Public Places Surtax, approved by the voters in 2008 to extend the ACF Program.

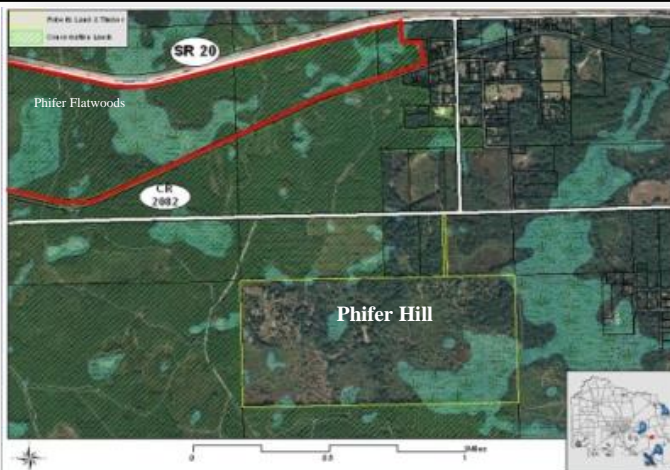


ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER MISSION

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

Cynthia Moore-Chestnut, Chair
 Lee Pinkoson, Vice-Chair
 Paula M. DeLaney
 Rodney J. Long
 Mike Byerly

Administration

Randall H. Reid, County Manager
 Chris Bird, Environmental Protection Dept. Director

