



Lake Alto Preserve - Larry Korhnak

Alachua County Commission

Mike Byerly, Chair
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Susan Baird
Charles S. Chestnut, IV
Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson
Acting County Manager
Richard A. Drummond

Environmental Protection Dept.

Chris Bird, Director

Mission Statement

To acquire, manage, and improve environmentally significant lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and to provide natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.



Barr Hammock - Mac Stone

Vision and Values

Alachua County Forever will be a conscientious, innovative, progressive leader in land conservation and use acquisition, stewardship, and funding development practices to preserve the environmental integrity of Alachua County and improve the quality of life for current and future generations.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Alachua County Forever
408 W. University Ave., Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: 352.264.6800
Email: landconservation@alachuacounty.us
Website: www.alachuacountyforever.us



Alachua County Forever



Gator in Alachua Sink - Mac Stone

Saving the Heart of Alachua County



"What is the extinction of the Condor to a child who has never known a wren?"

— Robert M. Pyle

What is Alachua County Forever?

A land acquisition program. In November 2000, voters approved a 1/4-mil property tax to fund up to \$29 million to create the Alachua County Forever Program. So far, Alachua County Forever and its partners have been able to protect over 21,000 acres through a combination of land purchases, conservation easements and land donations. Two-thirds of the \$96 million cost was leveraged from our private and governmental partners.

A land stewardship program. The portfolio of preserves is managed to enhance and maintain its ecological function. We provide compatible outdoor recreation for a wider variety of users. We have been able to leverage almost eight dollars for each local dollar invested and half of the acreage the County purchased is managed by a partner.

A success. As the photos attest, Alachua County Forever has achieved all three referendum goals: the protection of water quality, wildlife habitats and providing natural areas for resource-based recreation. That success led to the approval in 2008 of the Wild Spaces & Public Places referendum authorizing an additional \$15 million in conservation funds. This Program has made, on our common behalf, the most important investment of all – to protect forever our natural heritage.



Barr Hammock Owl
- Mac Stone

The real dirt

Alachua County Forever responds to nominations of land from the public. The County can neither nominate land nor condemn land. To date, the public has nominated over 240,000 acres of land - about one-third of the County – for consideration.

The average property owner's investment in Alachua County Forever is about \$30 per year — the price of a couple of pizza dinners — for 20 years. The investment contributes to the protection of over \$96 million in environmentally significant lands.

In addition to the tax and the state and federal partnerships, Alachua County Forever has benefitted from the generosity of private donors who gave both land and cash. Such donations may qualify for property tax breaks and federal income tax benefits.

At Cofrin Park – Dan Rountree



Mill Creek – Larry Korhnak



At Watermelon Pond – ACF Staff



River Styx – Michael Drummond



Santa Fe River – ACF Staff