

Comparison: Florida County Land Acquisition Programs

Jurisdiction	Program	What It Funds	Funding	Amount	Administration	Process	Acres Protected	Notes
Sarasota	Environmentally Sensitive Land Protection Program	Acquisition and protection of these lands ensures that environmentally sensitive nature and habitats will be there for future generations.	0.25 mil ad valorem	Ad valorem tax approved by voters with approval for bonding. Initial bond up to \$53 million (1999); second referendum up to \$250 million (2005). In FY18 (10/1/17) program generated just under \$13 million.	Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department	Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee. Public nominates.	35,000	They also acquire land through other means, including grants, donations, partnerships and conservation easements. Program authorized through 2029 and also includes neighborhood park land. Money generated on annual basis is used to pay down bond debt, for the maintenance fund, and the
	Neighborhood Parkland Acquisition Program	Create new recreational opportunities to showcase Sarasota County's natural environment and cultural heritage. The intent was to optimize opportunities and more efficiently acquire parklands and other open space for the increasing population while providing accessible facilities, diverse programs, increased water and beach access and connectivity within parks for pedestrians and bicyclists.	0.25 mil ad valorem	See above	Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department	Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee. Public nominates.		
Pasco	Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program	Protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands Connect natural linkages Conserve viable populations of native plants and animals Protect habitat for listed species Protect water resources and wetland systems Protect unique natural resources Enhance resource-based recreational opportunities Expand environmental education opportunities	Penny sales tax: Penny for Pasco. Started collecting in 2005 after a referendum.	Since 2005, \$56 million collected for the program. Every year, number is increasing in terms of revenue. In 2016, \$4.6 million, and 2017, \$4.8. In 2018, it's projected to be \$5 million.	Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department (Full-time employees equal 124, with an additional 88 seasonal employees hired annually.) Contact: Natural Resources Manager. Penny for Pasco money can't be used for management - they use grant funding and cattle lease money. Most management done by county.	Environmental Lands Acquisition Selection Committee (ELASC)	4200	They do a lot of partnerships. They focus on specific areas of county to preserve, not the entire county. They have an ecological wildlife corridor ordinance they work in tandem with. Willing seller program, regulation through ordinance, and they do have a couple easements. Prefer outright acquisition.
Osceola	Environmental Lands Conservation Program	Issue bonds to purchase nearly 3,300 acres of land for water resource protection, wildlife habitat, public green space, and resource-based passive recreation. Mission: To preserve the natural beauty of the county and to ensure that there will be natural lands and water resources for future generations.	Voter approved ad valorem increase	Sent email	Public Lands Manager and Public Lands Specialist, both housed in Community Development/Community Resources Division	Land Conservation Advisory Board	3,300	

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Orange	Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection) Program	Preserve and manage environmentally sensitive lands, protect water resource lands, provide quality passive outdoor recreational experience for existing and future generations	Public Service Tax Bonds, Conservation Trust Fund (wetland delineation and impact donations at first. Now it gets funds from environmental enforcement cases and County-owned mitigation bank credits they sell), general funds, and grants. Never had a voter referendum.	Conservation Trust Fund has \$4 million in it now - use it for land management activities. About \$400K per year for sale of mitigation bank credits. Orange County has spent \$90,618,478 on environmentally sensitive land acquisition and partners have spent \$141,297,178.	Environmental Protection Division. Average expenditure for the last 5 years on land management activities is \$248,950 per year. This figure does not include Capital Improvement Projects for the development and construction of amenities for the opening of the parcels to public passive recreational use.		22,708	Leverage partnerships to any extent possible, including for management and maintenance.
Seminole	Natural Lands Program	Purchase lands for the purposes of preservation, recreation and education	Referendum (1990)	Sent email	Leisure Services Department, Greenways and Natural Lands Division		6,600	Appears the program is no longer active for acquisition, just in management phase.
Indian River	Environmental Lands Program	Protect, preserve & sustain endangered ecosystems, including protected species Restore & enhance native habitats Preserve quality of life Protect groundwater quality and quantity Provide flood protection Protect historic and cultural resources Provide compatible recreation	Ad valorem tax bond referendum (Twice. First time in 1992)	1st time - up to \$26 million; 2nd time - up to \$50 million	Lands managed by Parks Division in General Services Department. Conservation Lands Manager and Conservation Lands Technician	Land Acquisition Advisory Committee	11,900	Committee sunset in 2010. In management phase. Partnership with management of some of the lands (this is true of other counties also). Some of land is in conservation easements (true of other counties also)
Alachua	Alachua County Forever	Environmentally significant lands and parks	1/2 cent sales tax. 2008 referendum. Readopted by referendum in 2016	In November 2000, voters approved a 1/4-mil property tax to fund up to \$29 million	Land Conservation Division within Parks and Conservation Lands Department. 10 Staff positions just within the division - Program Manager, Land Acquisition Coordinator, Environmental Specialists (Foresters, Prescribed Burn Experts, etc.)	Land Conservation Board reviews nominations based on criteria established by County Commission. Public nominates land, not County.	24,089	

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	Wild Spaces and Public Places	Environmentally significant lands and parks	1/2 cent sales tax. 2008 referendum. Readopted by referendum in 2016	The initial Wild Spaces and Public Places half-cent sales tax was voted for by the county in 2008 and started collecting revenue from Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010. In that lifespan, \$32,409,563 was collected countywide. In 2016, a renewed version of Wild Spaces and Public Places was approved by county voters. It began collecting money in January 2017. Under this latest plan, the collection will continue for eight years and bring in an estimated \$130 million.	Land Conservation Division within Parks and Conservation Lands Department. 10 Staff positions just within the division - Program Manager, Land Acquisition Coordinator, Environmental Specialists (Foresters, Prescribed Burn Experts, etc.)	Initially setup WPPS Citizens Oversight Committee. That was sunset and duties transferred to Land Conservation Board.		Interlocal agreement distributes portion of \$\$ to City of Gainesville. Gainesville has separate administration and selection process. The City began receiving revenues in late March of 2017, approximately \$484,000 per month, or \$5,808,000 per year for a total projection of \$46,464,000 by 2025.
Lake	Public Lands Management Program	Acquisition and improvement of land to protect drinking water, improve water quality of rivers and lakes, protect open space and provide recreation areas.	One-third millage for the County to issue \$36 million in bonds (2004)	Approximately \$33 million	Office of Parks and Trails	Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council	1818.5	Program was sunset in 2011 because it met accomplished goals.
Lee	Conservation 20/20	Environmentally-sensitive land acquisition and stewardship program in Lee County. This program preserves and protects environmentally critical land in Lee County for the benefit of present and future generations in Southwest Florida.	Initial referendum in 1996, reapproved in 2016 - general fund	Prior to 2016 referendum, the acquisitions fund had \$89 million dollars. Fund has a minimum \$40 million dollar balance requirement per ordinance.	Parks and Recreation Department, Land Management Division (22 employees)	Conservation Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee	Approximately 29,000	
Pinellas	Endangered Lands Program	Land acquisition for environmentally sensitive lands, beach access, parks	Initial ad valorem referendum in 1972. 1980s ad valorem referendums. C.1990 Penny sales tax (Pennies for Pinellas). Penny for Pinellas has been renewed by voters twice since then through 2020	Since 1972, \$3.3 billion	Parks and Conservation Resources Department - Managed Areas Division		5,226	
Broward	Land Preservation	Assessed, advised and managed the essential acquisition and protection of county lands (conservation lands, green space and open space); and, provided support to municipalities in their efforts to acquire, protect and manage undeveloped lands within their boundaries	Land conservation bond program	\$400 million+	Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division - Land Stewardship Program	No Board in place at this time - program sunsetted 2008. Land Stewardship Program manages properties and also manages grants for parks and conservation/preservation.	1100	Sunsetted 2008

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Collier	Conservation Collier	Acquisition, protection, restoration, and management of environmentally sensitive lands in Collier County for the benefit of present and future generations	0.25 mil ad valorem approved in 2002 and 2006 referendums	Sent email	Parks and Recreation Department	Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee	4,060	Expired in 2013
Hillsborough	Jan K. Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program	Acquiring, preserving and protecting endangered, environmentally-sensitive and significant lands in Hillsborough County.	1987 - BOCC approved Env Sensitive Lands ordinance which provided \$21 million over four year period to acquire ESL ; 1990 - approved up to \$100 million in bonds over 20 year period ; 2008 - voter referendum \$200 million in bonds	\$321 million+	Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department	ELAPP Committees: General Committees, Site Assessment Team, Site Selection Committee, Site Review Team, Site Management Team. Concerned citizens, land owners, community and civic associations, and government agencies can nominate sites for the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program.	61,000	
Charlotte	Conservation Charlotte	Protecting environmentally sensitive lands balances the impacts of future growth while buffering sensitive areas from encroachment. Environmentally sensitive lands perform free services for us, including: flood control, filtering our water resources, recharging our aquifer, cleaning our air, and providing open spaces and recreational opportunities. Without protecting environmental lands these services cost much more. Preserving our special places allows us to avoid future infrastructure costs, and helps to keep Charlotte County unique and beautiful.	2007 Voter referendum 0.20 mil tax increase and approve up to \$77 million in bonds. Tax levied for 20 years until 2027.	\$77 million+	Natural Resources Department - Land Management	Environmentally Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee. Public nominates. Meets quarterly.	2534	
Miami-Dade	Environmentally Endangered Lands Program	Acquisition, protection and maintenance of environmentally endangered lands	1990/92 referendums	Sent email	Department of Environmental Resources Management	Land Acquisition Selection Committee	20,700	Seeks matching funds and partners to acquire property

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Monroe	Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Land Authority	Conservation, recreation, and affordable housing	Taxes and fees received by the Authority consist of a surcharge on admissions and overnight occupancy at state parks in the unincorporated county in the amounts authorized by Florida Statutes section <u>380.0685</u> and a half-cent of the tourist impact tax charged on lodging in the Keys authorized by Florida Statutes section <u>125.0108</u> .	FY17-18 budget approx. \$14 million	Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Land Authority.	Authority's Governing Board is the Monroe County BOCC. They hold their meetings during regular BOCC meetings. A separate advisory committee, Land Authority Advisory Committee, makes recommendations regarding land acquisitions.		