



WHAT WILL YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY BE?

All projects listed here are priorities on the Florida Forever list and are eligible for Water and Land Conservation Amendment funds.



"Couple of Wood Storks," by Larry Goodwin (Flickr)

Pumpkin Hill Creek

Water quality, wading bird rookeries

The growth of the city of Jacksonville and its outlying developed areas has reduced natural lands in Duval County to a fraction of their original extent. Preserving the remaining 10,600 acres of the Pumpkin Hill Creek project would help protect water quality in both the Nassau and St. Johns Rivers. It would also create a buffer for the St. Johns River Marshes Aquatic Preserve—supporting an important commercial and recreational fishery, protecting wading bird rookeries, and providing public opportunities to fish, hunt, hike, and canoe. More than 40 percent of the project has yet to be protected.

Counties: Duval



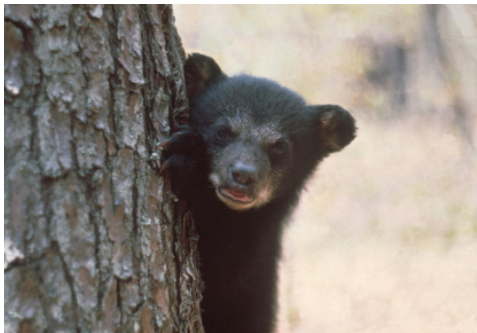
"Fishing the Tolomato River," by John Dawson (Flickr)

Northeast Florida Blueway

Wetlands protection, manatees, wildlife corridor

The Northeast Florida Blueway would protect wetlands and marshes along both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway, the Tolomato and Matanzas rivers, and several tributaries, from the Duval County line south to the Flagler County line. Connecting existing natural areas would form a conservation corridor along the north-south waterway, connecting habitat important to wildlife, including the Florida black bear, manatee, and roseate spoonbill. The project also serves as a vital connection in Florida's statewide network of Greenways and Trails, providing more outdoor recreational opportunities accessible to residents of nearby urban areas. Forty-six percent of lands that comprise the Blueway have yet to be protected.

Counties: Duval, Flagler, St. Johns



"Bear Cub Peaking Around Tree," Florida Fish & Wildlife (Flickr)

Northeast Florida Timberlands & Watershed Reserve

Water quality, wetlands protection, rare wildlife habitat, wildlife corridor

Completion of this project would preserve a 150,000-acre contiguous belt of forest stretching from the Osceola to the Ocala National Forest. Restoration of the area's mosaic of wetlands, cypress and hardwood swamps, and sandhills—which is the core purpose of the project—would help protect water supply for growing Northeast Florida communities while also preserving habitat for rare wildlife, including the Florida Black Bear and Gopher Tortoise. Nearly 90,000 acres (61 percent) of the project remain unprotected.

Counties: Clay, Duval, Nassau



By Jason Flom

Baldwin Bay / St. Mary's River

Old growth forest, wildlife habitat and corridor, outdoor recreation

The Baldwin Bay/St. Marys River project would preserve intact old growth forests, which support a wide variety of plants and animals. Old growth forests are increasingly rare and preserving this forest will create a protected corridor between Cary State Forest and Jennings State Forest, connect to the Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail, and increase recreational opportunities, including cycling, horseback riding, and hunting in some areas. To date, none of the 9,500 acres comprising the project have been protected.

Counties: Duval, Nassau



Photo by Dotti Hydue

Volusia Conservation Corridor

Drinking water supply, wildlife habitat and corridor, threatened species

In its current form, the corridor is a mosaic of pine flatwoods, cypress domes, basin swamps, and agricultural lands separating the growing Atlantic coastal area from the ever expanding suburbs stretching out from Orlando. Completion of this project would protect wildlife habitat and wetlands stretching from Tiger Bay State Forest to the marshes of the St. Johns River, which are critical to meeting the region's current and future drinking water needs. The corridor would also provide outdoor recreation opportunities, from cycling to freshwater fishing and hunting. Twenty-three percent of the project's 79,000 acres remain unprotected.

Counties: Flagler, Volusia