



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.



By Mark Long

Indian River Lagoon Blueway

Estuary habitat, manatees, fisheries, outdoor recreation

Completion of this project would preserve and improve natural communities within the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in North America. One-third of the country's manatee population lives in the Indian River, which is also important for many migratory birds. Protecting the Blueway would help buffer five aquatic preserves from coastal development—supporting important commercial and recreational fisheries, protecting wading bird rookeries, and providing public opportunities to fish, hike, and canoe. Seventy-two percent of the project area has yet to be protected.

Counties: Brevard, Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, Volusia



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

Pine Island Slough

Water quality, wetlands protection, wildlife habitat, rare species

Like a river of grass, this slough filters water that slowly flows through it and into the Kissimmee River. This freshwater, inland marsh provides habitat and food for the whooping crane, snail kite, and many other sensitive species. This project would protect nearly 49,000 acres from development and conserve it for the enjoyment of generations to come. Protecting Pine Island Slough would create one of the largest conservation networks in the state, protected by a partnership of agencies and each accessible to the public. None of the Pine Island Slough project has been protected.

Counties: Osceola, Indian River



Florida Scrub Jay by Mwanner (Wikipedia)

Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem

Wildlife habitat, ecosystem preservation

Scrub habitat is a special place where only the hardiest of species can survive. In Florida, scrub ecosystems are the remnants of ancient islands where species evolved over time, which accounts for the multitude of endangered and diverse species found in these communities. Because these areas are higher and drier than most areas of Florida, much of Florida's scrub has been converted into orange groves and residential developments. Within the Brevard Coastal Scrub Ecosystem project are a few of the last remaining scrub habitats in Florida's Space Coast. The rapid encroachment of housing developments is likely to completely eliminate any unprotected scrub and adjacent flatwood communities of Brevard County in the very near future.

Counties: Brevard



Corbett Wildlife Management Area
By Kim Seng (Flickr)

Pal-Mar

Wildlife habitat, recreation

Pal-Mar is one of the largest and best natural communities in the interior of southeast Florida where undeveloped land is rare. Protecting these flatwoods and marshes will insure habitat for several rare species, including the snail kite, Florida sandhill crane and the little blue heron. Preserving this area will link J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area with Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Acquisition of this land will provide recreational opportunities to the community, including hiking, bicycling, camping and hunting. To date only one-third of the 33,000 acres have been protected.

Counties: Martin, Palm Beach