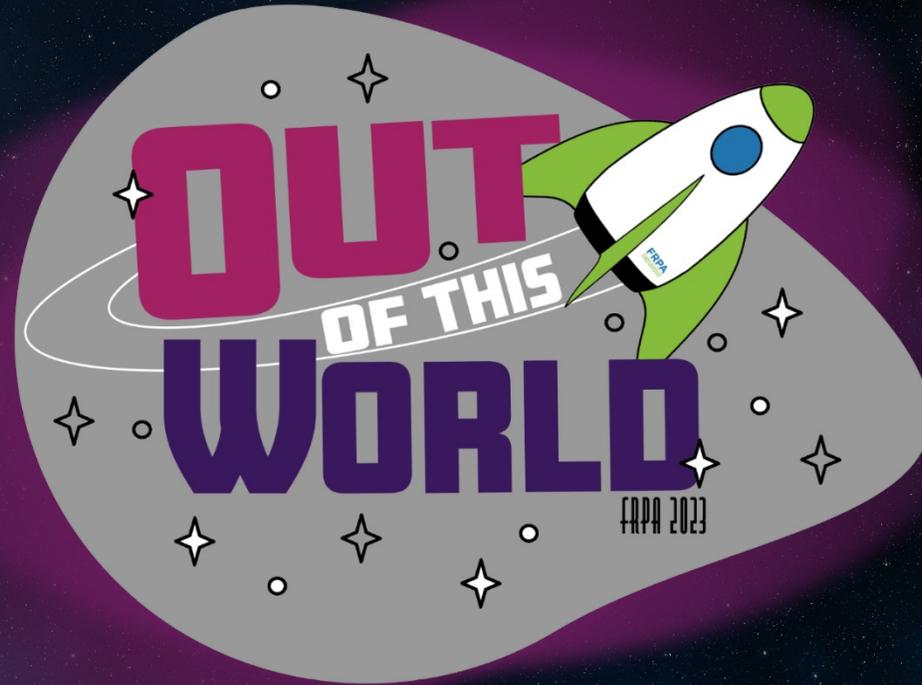


Welcome to the 2023 FRPA Conference!

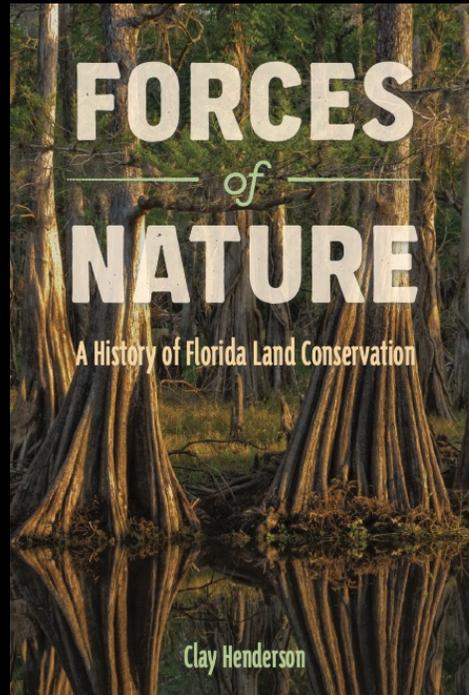


August 28 - 31, 2023 | Orlando, FL



How Florida Became a State of Parks



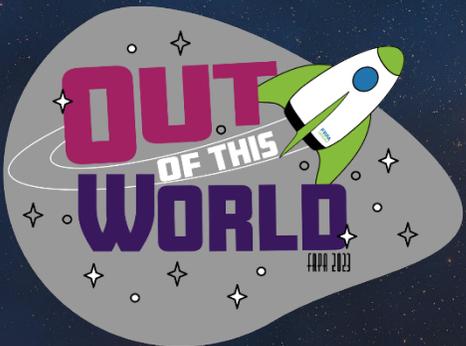


Clay Henderson

www.clayhendersonauthor.com

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Florida has created over 11 million acres of parks and preserves over the last century.**
- 2. Florida has the best state park system in the nation.**
- 3. Over 500 local parks have been established in the last 30 years.**



Over the last century, Florida assembled eleven million acres of national/state/local parks and preserves, more than any other state.

The nation's first wildlife refuge was established in Florida.

Everglades Nation Park is a World Heritage Site

Florida State Parks are considered among the best in the nation.

Over 600 local parks have been created in recent years under the Florida Communities Trust program.

in 2023, the Florida Legislature appropriated over \$1 billion for land conservation.





Florida is like no other place on earth!

1300 miles of coastline

7800 Lakes

27 First Magnitude Springs

The Everglades

Florida Keys

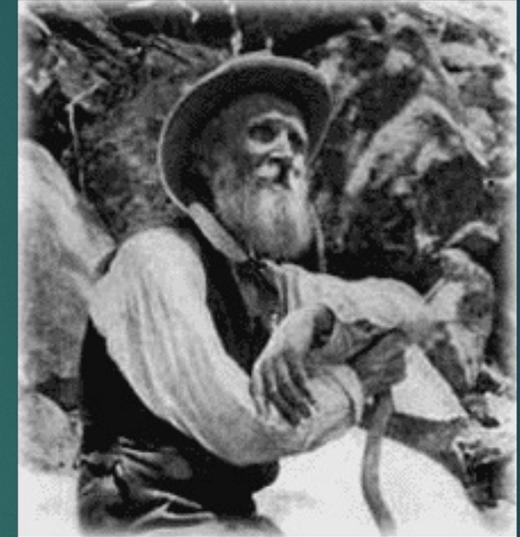
Florida's natural beauty inspired the birth of the modern environmental movement



William Bartram 1774
Florida exploration
inspired Thoreau,
Emerson, Humboldt,
Coleridge, Wordsworth



John James Audubon
Florida tour in 1832
inspired wildlife
conservation and
establishment of the
Audubon Society



John Muir

John Muir 1866 trek
through Florida marked
the beginnings of
ecology. His work
inspired creation of the
National Park System

Places visited by Bartram, Audubon, and Muir are now National and State Parks, Forests, and Refuges

Timucuan Ecological and Historic
National Preserve
Castillo de San Marcos National
Monument
Washington Oaks State Park
Bulow Creek State Park
Tomoka State Park
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge
DeLeon Springs State Park
Everglades National Park
Canaveral National Seashore
Indian Key Historic State Park

Key West National Wildlife Refuge
Dry Tortugas National Park.
Haw Creek Preserve State Park
Amelia Island
Bahia Honda State Park
Blue Springs State Park
Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge
Hontoon Island State Park
Paynes Prairie State Preserve
Key West National Wildlife Refuge
Ocala National Forest

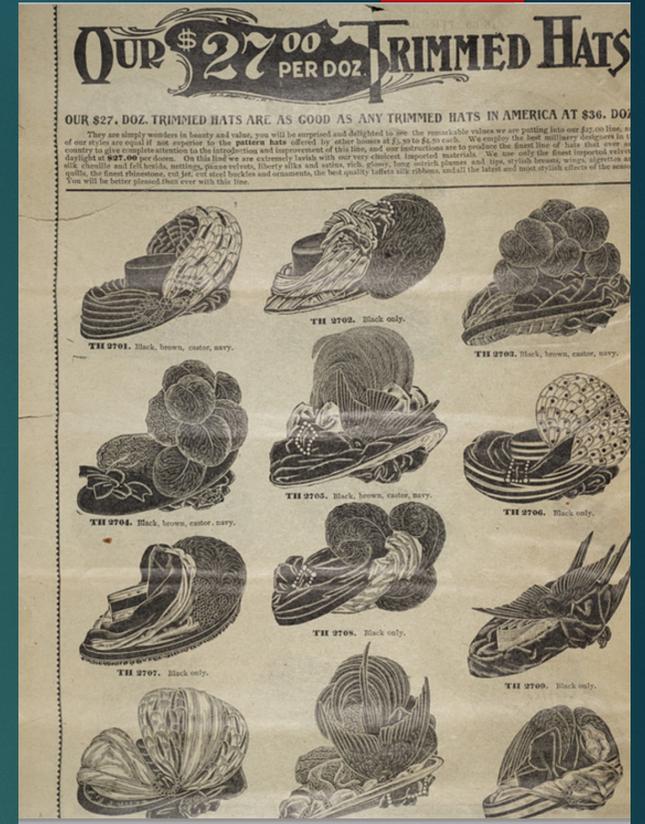


Feather Wars 1890s

90% of Florida's wading
Birds were killed



Guy Bradley, Audubon warden
Monroe County Deputy
Murdered 1905.



1901 Audubon Model
Law passed in Florida.
Banned possession of a dead
Non-game bird.



Theodore Roosevelt
Came to Tampa Bay as part of the Cuban Expeditionary Force in 1898

[COPY]

WHITE HOUSE

March 14th, 1903.

It is hereby ordered that Pelican Island in Indian River in section nine, township thirty-one south, range thirty-nine east, State of Florida, be, and it is hereby, reserved and set apart for the use of the Department of Agriculture as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.

Theodore Roosevelt.



**Theodore Roosevelt
Pelican Island 1903
America's first national wildlife refuge**

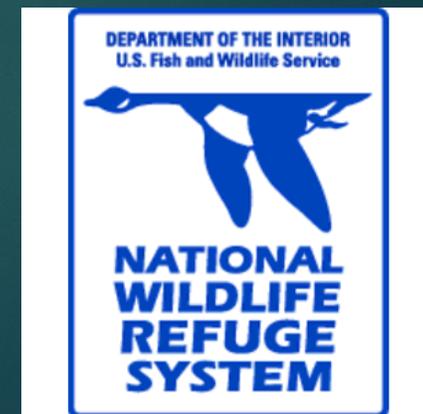


Theodore Roosevelt
And John Muir

Pelican Island
Passage Key
Indian Key
Key West Islands
Dry Tortugas
Pine Island
Matlacha Pass
Palma Sola
Island Bay
Ocala National Forest
Choctawhatchee National Forest
Ponce de Leon Inlet

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Legacy

Ten Executive Orders
Conserved one million
Acres of Florida



Royal Park Hammock State Park Florida's first state park 1915



Florida Federation
of Women's Clubs



May Mann Jennings

Saving the Everglades



President-elect Franklin Roosevelt
Tours Florida Bay prior to inauguration

A map of Florida showing the Everglades National Park area. The map is titled "Proposed Everglades National Park" and shows the "Maximum Boundary" and "Proposed Boundary" of the park. The map includes labels for various Florida counties: Charlotte, Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach, Collier, Broward, and Dade. It also shows the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The map is dated 1930 and includes the text "COMMERCIAL PHOTO ENGRAVING CO. 29 W. 11th Street Miami, Florida".

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
ALBANY, N. Y.

September 25, 1930

Dear Mr. Coe:
"I am glad that the Everglades National Park project is getting on so well. I can tell you that, knowing this country at first hand, I am very hopeful that it can be preserved for the nation for all time."
Very sincerely yours,
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Issued by
The Everglades National
Park Association, Miami, Fla.
and Washington, D. C.



Ernest Coe
"Father of the Everglades"

FDR pushed to establish Everglades National Park
Congress authorized in 1934
Contingent upon state purchase of lands





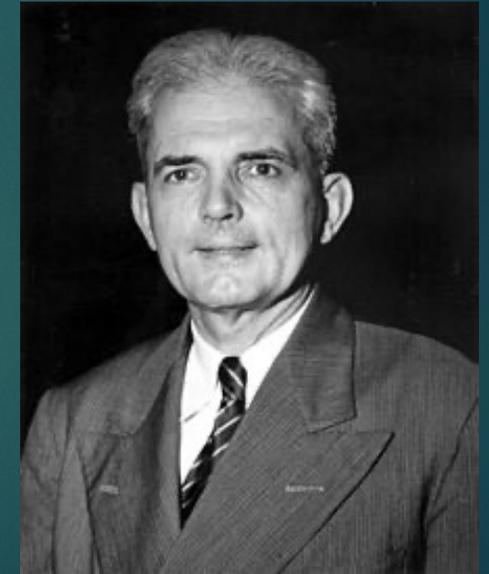
Marjorie Stoneman Douglas



Dedication of Everglades National Park
December 6, 1947

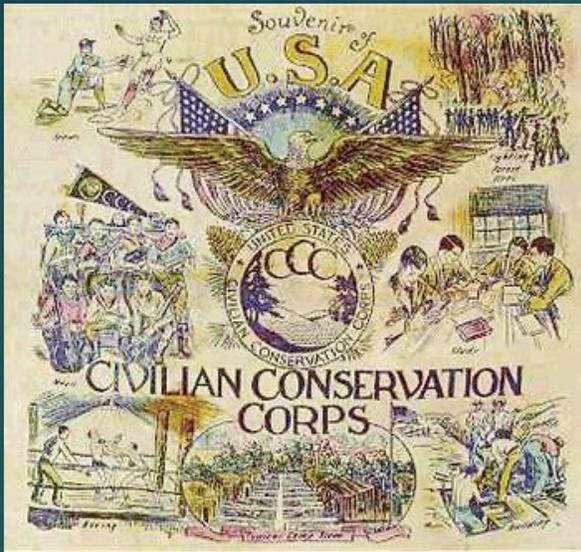


President Truman and
John Pennekamp, first
Chair of State Parks Commission



Senator Spessard Holland





Birth of the State Park System

- Highland Hammock
- Gold Head Branch State Park
- Myakka River State Park
- Hillsborough River State Park
- O'Leno State Park
- Fort Clinch State Park Keystone
- Tomoka State Park
- Torreya State Park
- Florida Caverns State Park
- Ravine Gardens State Park



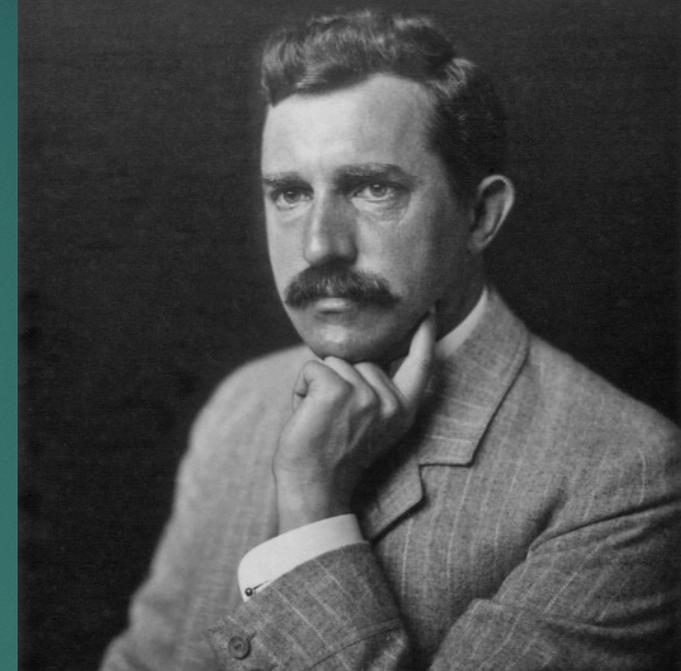
FDR and the CCC

Emergency Conservation Works Act 1933 Civilian Conservation Corps

**50,000 "CCC boys" put to work in Florida
To build state parks and state forests.**



Highland Hammock State Park
Florida's First State Park
Donated by Roebling Family
Built by the CCC



John Roebling

National Forests of Florida

Ocala National Forest T. Roosevelt 1908

Osceola National Forest Herbert Hoover 1931

Apalachicola National Forest FDR 1938

1.2 million acres

1400 miles of trails

85,000 acres of wilderness.



Fern Hammock Springs



Choctawhatchee National Forest

Outdoor Conservation Act of 1963

Created Land Acquisition Trust Fund
Funded by the "bikini tax"
Later by severance tax on phosphate



Sponsored by
Freshman legislator
Lawton Chiles



Ney Landrum: Staff Director
Committee on Recreation and Development
State Parks Director 1971-1989



State Parks created
With funds from the
1963 \$20 million Bond Issue



Wekiva 1969



Sebastian Inlet 1969



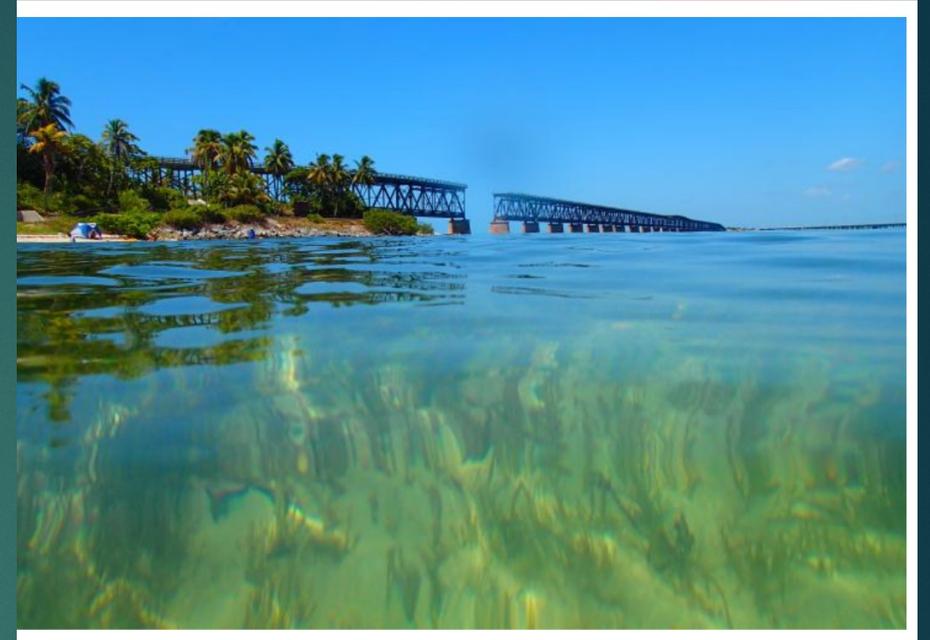
Bill Baggs 1966



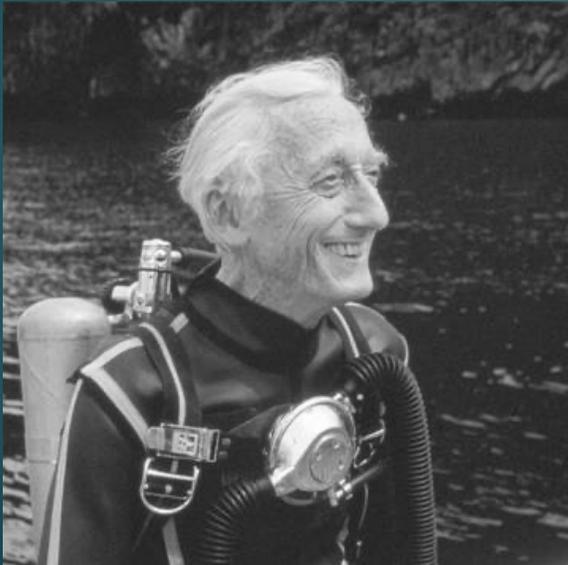
St. George Island 1963



Blue Spring



Florida Keys
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
Bahia Honda State Park
Long Key State Park
Indian Key State Preserve

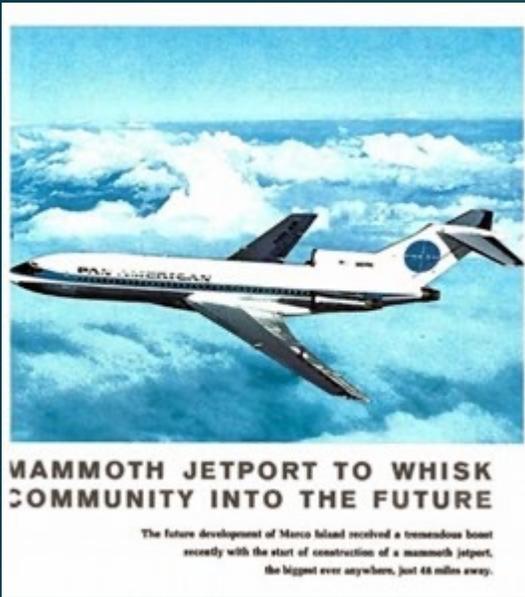


ten Mermaids - The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau



THE FORGOTTEN MERMAIDS

Jacques Cousteau
Blue Springs 1972
Led to establishment of state park



Marjory Stoneman Douglas



Joe Browder

Everglades Jetport 1970



Gov. Claude Kirk



Nathaniel Reed

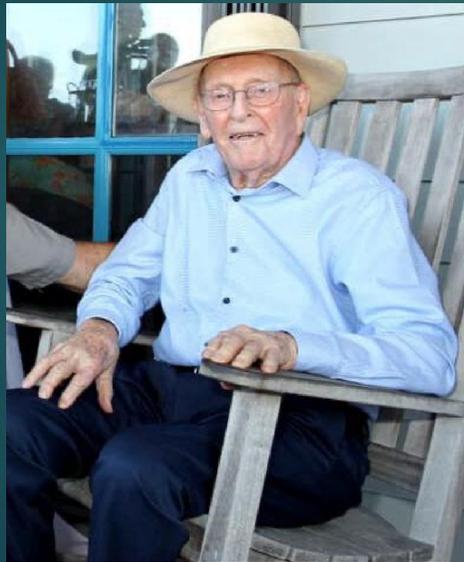


Big Cypress National Preserve

NPS photo



Sir Lancelot Jones



Lloyd Miller "Father of Biscayne National Park"



Biscayne National Park

NPS photo

National Wildlife Refuges in Florida

1903	Pelican Island		
1905	Passage Key	1979	Lower Suwannee
1908	Island Bay	1980	Crocodile Lakes
1908	Matlacha Pass	1983	Crystal River
1908	Key West	1989	Florida Panther
1908	Pine Island	1991	Archie Carr NW
1920	Caloosahatchee	1993	Lake Wales Ridge
1930	St. Marks	1996	Ten Thousand Islands
1938	Great White Heron	2012	Everglades Headwaters
1945	Sanibel now Ding Darling		
1951	Loxahatchee		
1951	Pinellas		
1957	National Key Deer Refuge		
1963	Merritt Island		
1964	Lake Woodruff		
1968	St. Vincent		
1969	Hobe Sound now Nat Reed		
1971	St Johns		
1974	Egmont Key		

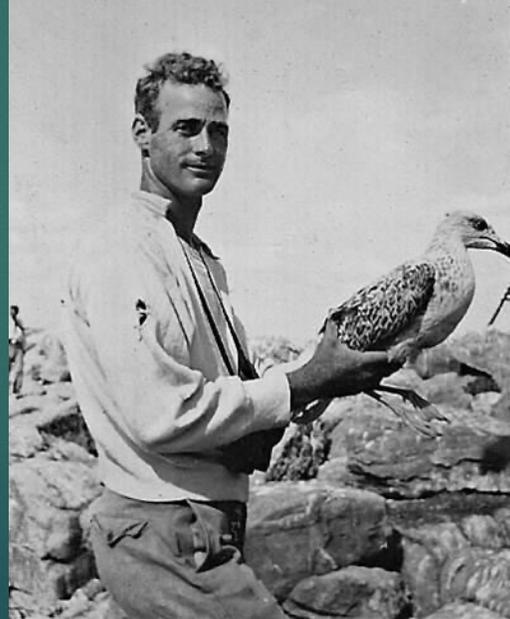




Sanibel NWR established by President Harry Truman and expanded through Duck Stamp program established by Ding Darling. The refuge is among the most Visited refuge in the country.



Merritt Island NWR established through agreement With NASA and includes 63,000 acres of Kennedy Space Center. Allen Cruickshank led the effort to Establish the refuge.

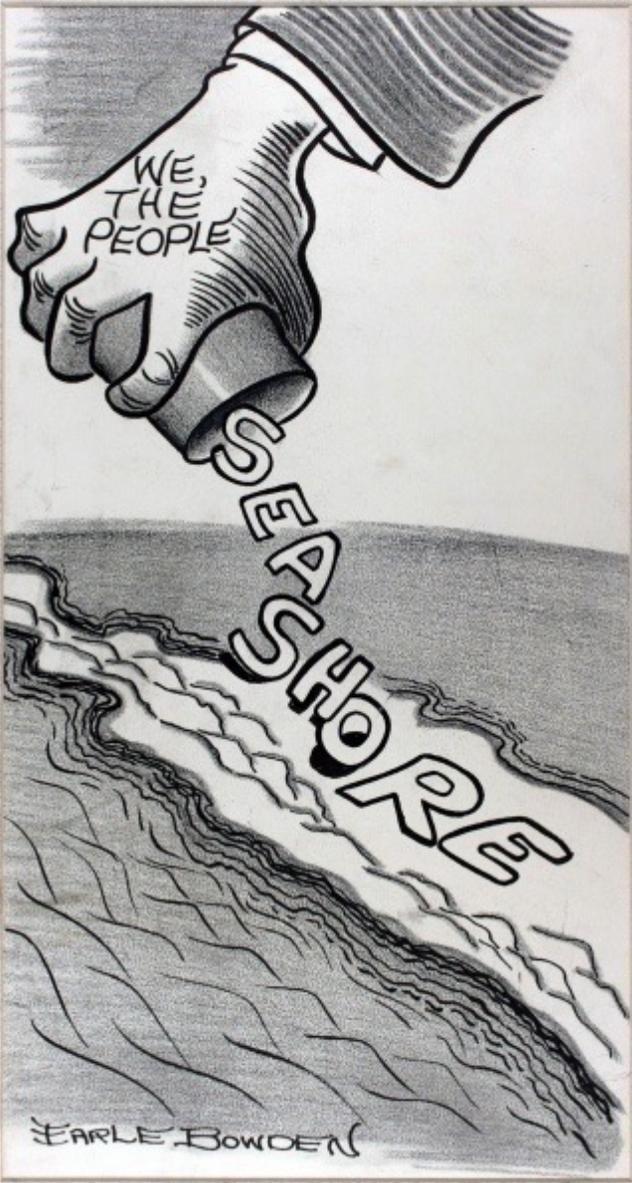


National Seashores



Artist Doris Leeper was the driving force
Behind establishment of Canaveral National Seashore

NPS photo

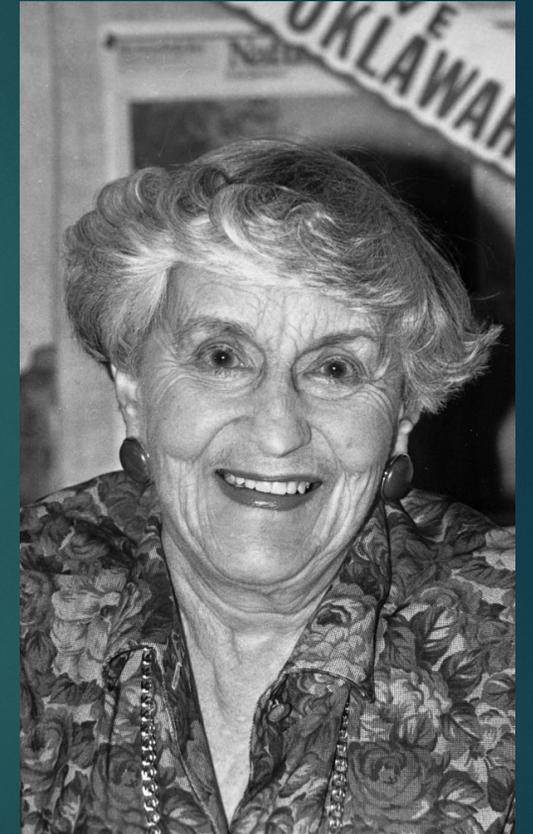


J. Earle Bowden editorial cartoons
For Pensacola News-Journal push
Public opinion for establishment
Of Gulf Islands National Seashore.

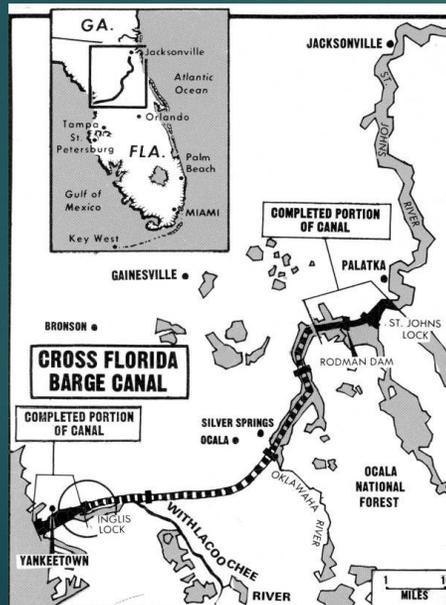




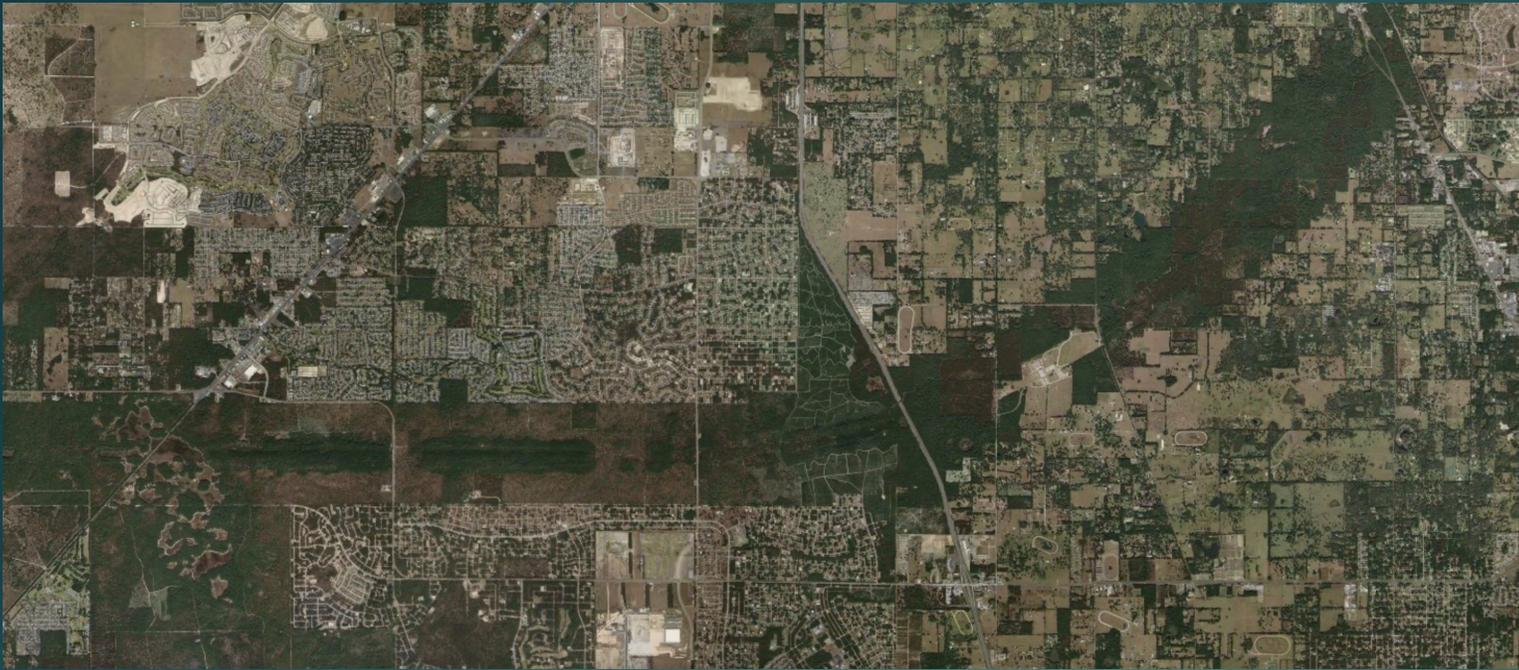
Cross Florida Barge Canal



Marjorie Carr



From Boondoggle to Greenway



Marjorie Harris Carr
Cross Florida Greenway
70,000 acres
110 miles long
St. Johns River to Gulf



Environmentally Endangered Lands



Gov. Reubin Askew

ELMS1

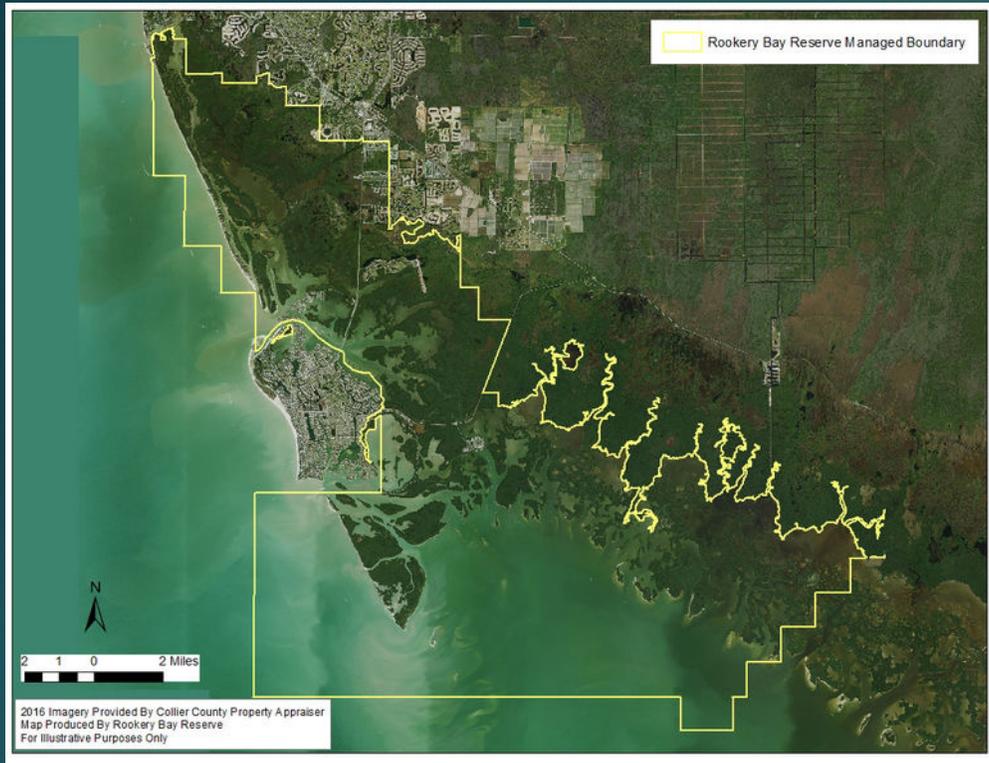
Land and Water Conservation Act 1972

Land Conservation Act 1972

Linkage between land conservation and growth management

\$200 million for purchase of "Environmentally Endangered Lands"

\$40 million for state parks



Rookery Bay and Fakahatchee Strand were early priorities



Governor Bob Graham

**Save Our Everglades
Save Our Coasts
Save Our Rivers**

Conservation and Recreational Lands



Graham and Marjory Stoneman Douglas



Photo: Audubon of Florida

Save Our Everglades

Beginning the Kissimmee River Restoration was the important task of Save Our Everglades

Save Our Rivers



Suwannee River
Brown Tract

Northwest Florida WMD

Wakulla Springs 2 888 acres

Escambia River floodplain 17 998 acres

Choctawhatchee River floodplain 35.198 acres

Apalachicola River floodplain 35.509 acres

Suwannee River WMD

Suwannee River Buffer Lands 150,000 acres

St. Johns River WMD

St. Johns Headwaters: 165,000 acres

South Florida WMD

Green Swamp 125,000 acres

SFWMD

Water Conservation Areas 217.429 acres

Save Our Coasts



73 miles of coastline preserved
73,000 acres

Coastal State Parks

Henderson Beach

Amelia Island

Lover's Key

Grayton Beach

Don Pedro Island

Avalon



Big Bend 1986

Purchase by TNC from Buckeye Cellulose

60 miles of coastline

75,000 acres

Largest conservation purchase at the time

TNC became largest landowner on Gulf Coast



George Willson TNC



Photo: CCA

CARL

Conservation and Recreation Lands 1979

Division of State Lands

Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council

“to conserve and protect environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands that contain native, relatively unaltered flora and fauna representing a natural area unique to or scarce within a regional of Florida.”

North Key Largo Hammocks



Wekiva





**Governor Bob Martinez Preservation 2000
1990**

“I believe Preservation 2000 will do more to protect our environment, to protect Florida we all know and love, than anything else we can do”



1.8 million acres preserved!
17 new state parks
13 new state forests

Preservation 2000
10 year \$3 billion program

\$300 million per year

\$150 million CARL

\$90 million Save Our Rivers

\$30 million Florida Communities Trust

\$26 million forests, parks, wildlife mgt

\$3.9 million Rails to Trails

P2000-17 new state parks

Fanning Spring
Troy Spring
Deer Lake
Curry Hammock
Seabranh
Catfish Creek
Letchworth Mounds
Kissimmee Prairie
Alafia River
Kissimmee Prairie
Bald Point
Camp Helen
Charlotte Harbor
Cockroach Bsy
Lake June in Winter
Tarkiln Bayou
Topsail Hill



Fran Mainella
Florida Parks Service Director 1989-2001
National Park Service Director 2001-2005





Topsail Hill State Preserve



14 State Forests

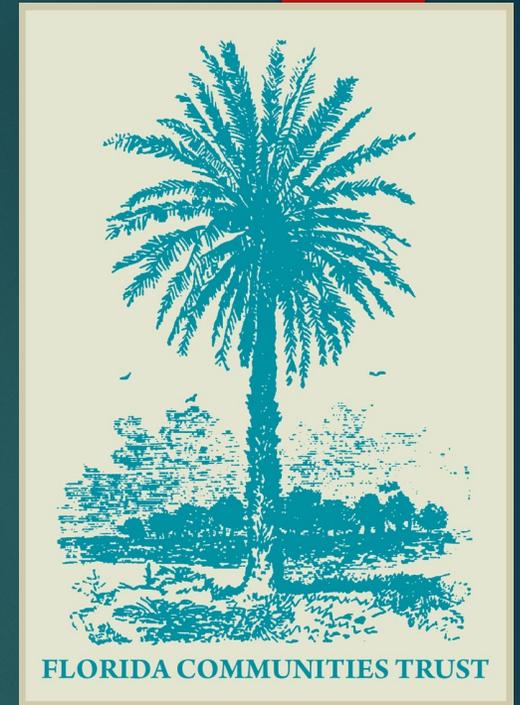
Carl Duval Moore State Forest
Etoniah Creek State Forest
Goethe State Forest
Jennings State Forest
Lake George State Forest
Lake Talquin State Forest
Big Econ State Forest)
Myakka State Forest
Okaloacoochee State Forest
Picayune Strand State Forest
Point Washington State Forest
Ross Prairie State Forest
Tate's Hell State Forest
Wakulla State Forest



Cedar Point Jacksonville



Deering Estate Addition Dade County



Florida Communities Trust
628 Grants
523 local parks



Split Oak Orange County



Princess Place Flagler County



Rails to Trails

Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail
Pinellas Trail
Withlacoochee State Trail
Jacksonville-Baldwin Trail
Timpoochee Trail

Gen. James A. Fleet State Trail
West Orange Trail
Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail
Legacy Trail
East Central Florida Rail Trail



rails-to-trails

Florida National Scenic Trail

30 YEARS OF TRAILBLAZING IN FLORIDA

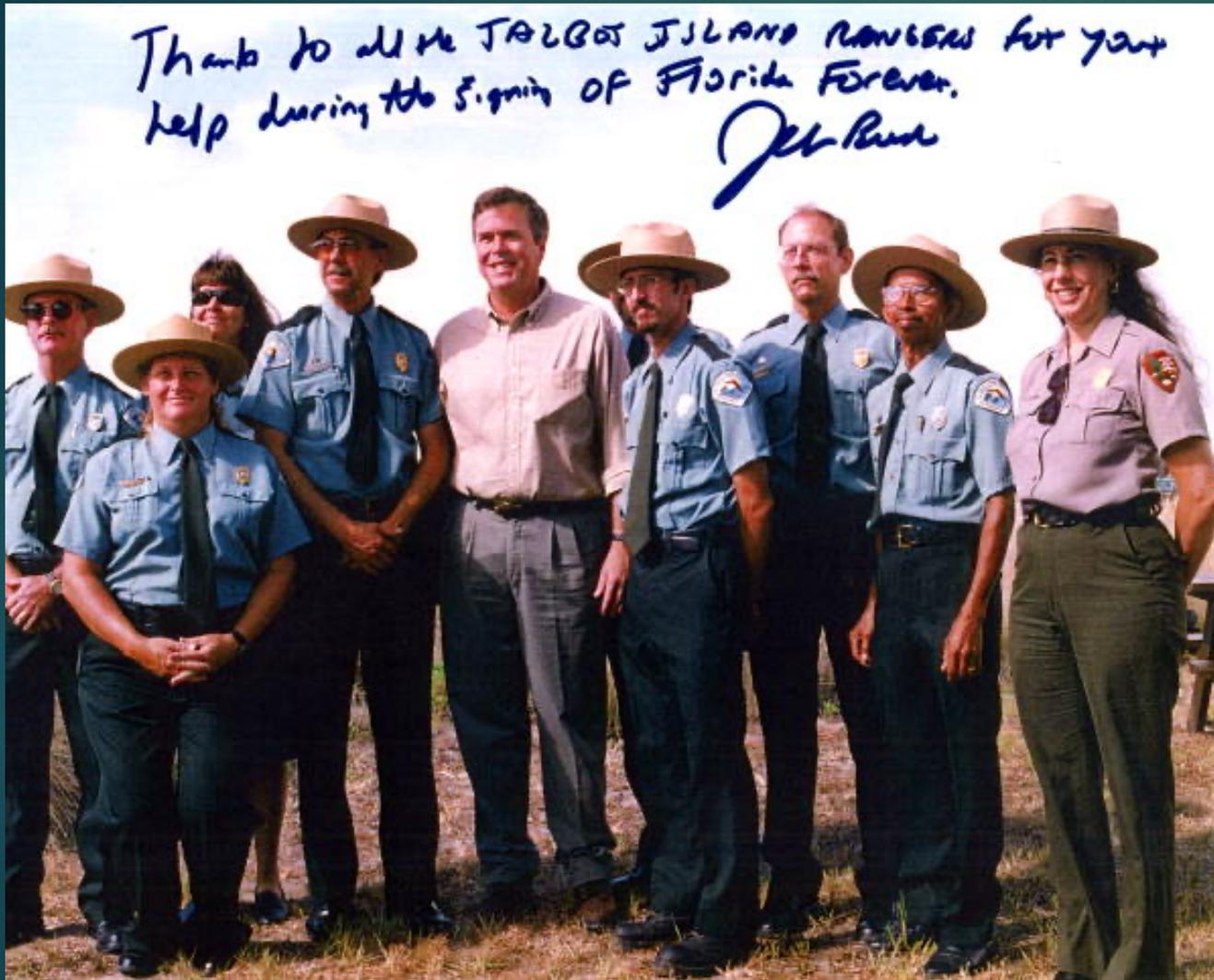


1500 miles



Jim Kern





Conservation Amendment
Passes 72% of vote 1998

Gov. Bush makes Florida Forever
A priority in 1999

\$300 million per year for 10 years

\$105m for large scale projects

\$105m for WMDs

\$72m for Fla. Communities Trust

\$4.5 each to Parks, Forests, FWC

\$4.5m for Greenways/Trails



Mayor John Delaney

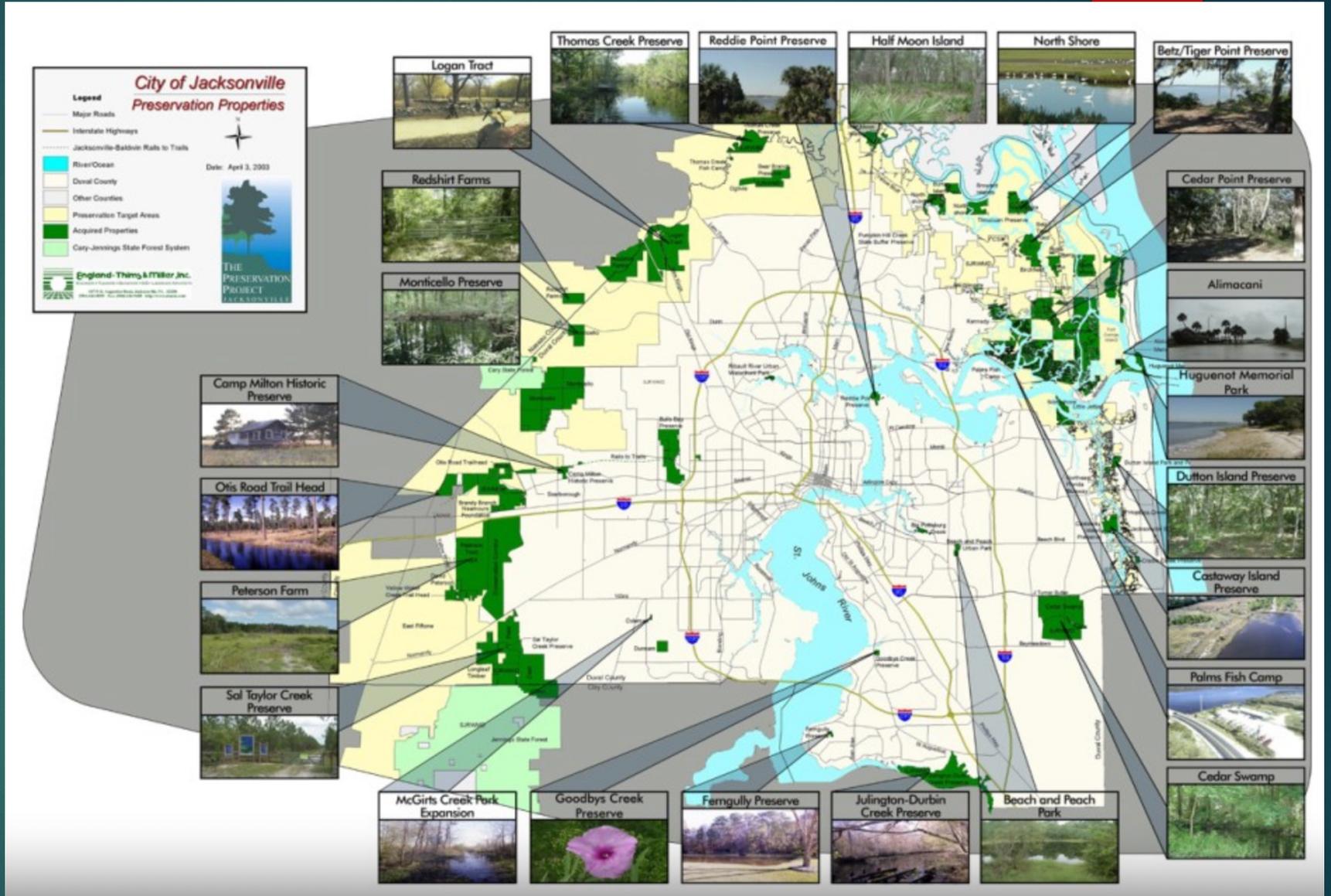
**City of Jacksonville
Preservation Properties**

Legend

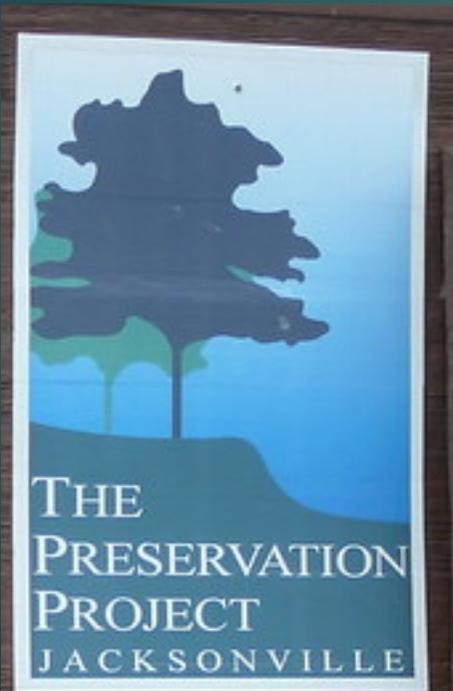
- Major Roads
- Interstate Highways
- Jacksonville-Baldwin Rails to Trails
- River/Ocean
- Duval County
- Other Counties
- Preservation Target Areas
- Acquired Properties
- City-Jacksonville State Forest System

Date: April 3, 2003

England-Thing & Miller, Inc.
THE PRESERVATION PROJECT JACKSONVILLE



Jacksonville Preservation Project





Syd Kitson



Bobcock Ranch Preserve
67,000 acres
2006 special appropriation
\$350 million

Local Bond Programs

Alachua
Brevard
Broward
Charlotte
Collier
Flagler
Hillsborough
Jacksonville
Indian River
Lake
Leon

Manatee
Martin
Miami-Dade
Osceola
Palm Beach
Pasco
Pinellas
Polk
Sarasota
Seminole
St. Lucie
Volusia

23 counties in Florida have voter approved Conservation acquisitions programs that total over \$15 billion.

Volusia
Sarasota
Pinellas
Alachua

Voters have approved bond measures three times



1986-2000-2020

PRESERVATION 2000

*Forever
Florida*

1 MILLION ACRES
CONSERVED

1991-2008
2.8 million acres
Protected

In 2008 the Great Recession brought Florida Forever to an abrupt end.

In 2011 Gov. Rick Scott was ready to close state parks
And sell off conservation lands.



Protesters at Washington Oaks State Parks



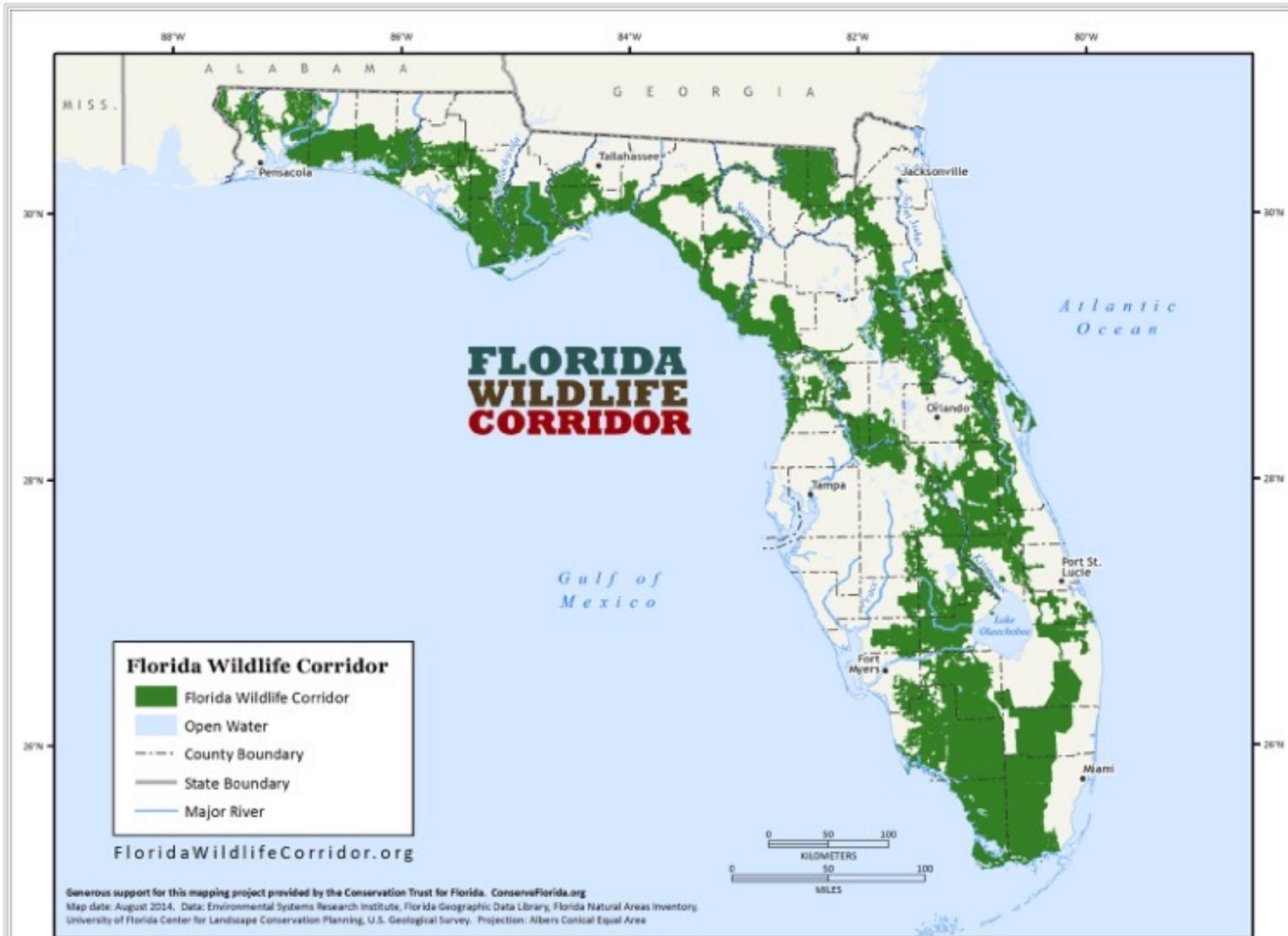
2014 Florida voters overwhelmingly approved the largest conservation finance program in our nation's history. \$23 billion for conservation.



Florida Legacy Act 2016
\$200 million for Everglades
\$50 million for springs
\$5 million for Lake Apopka

2023 Amendments
\$100 million for Florida Forever
From Amendment 1

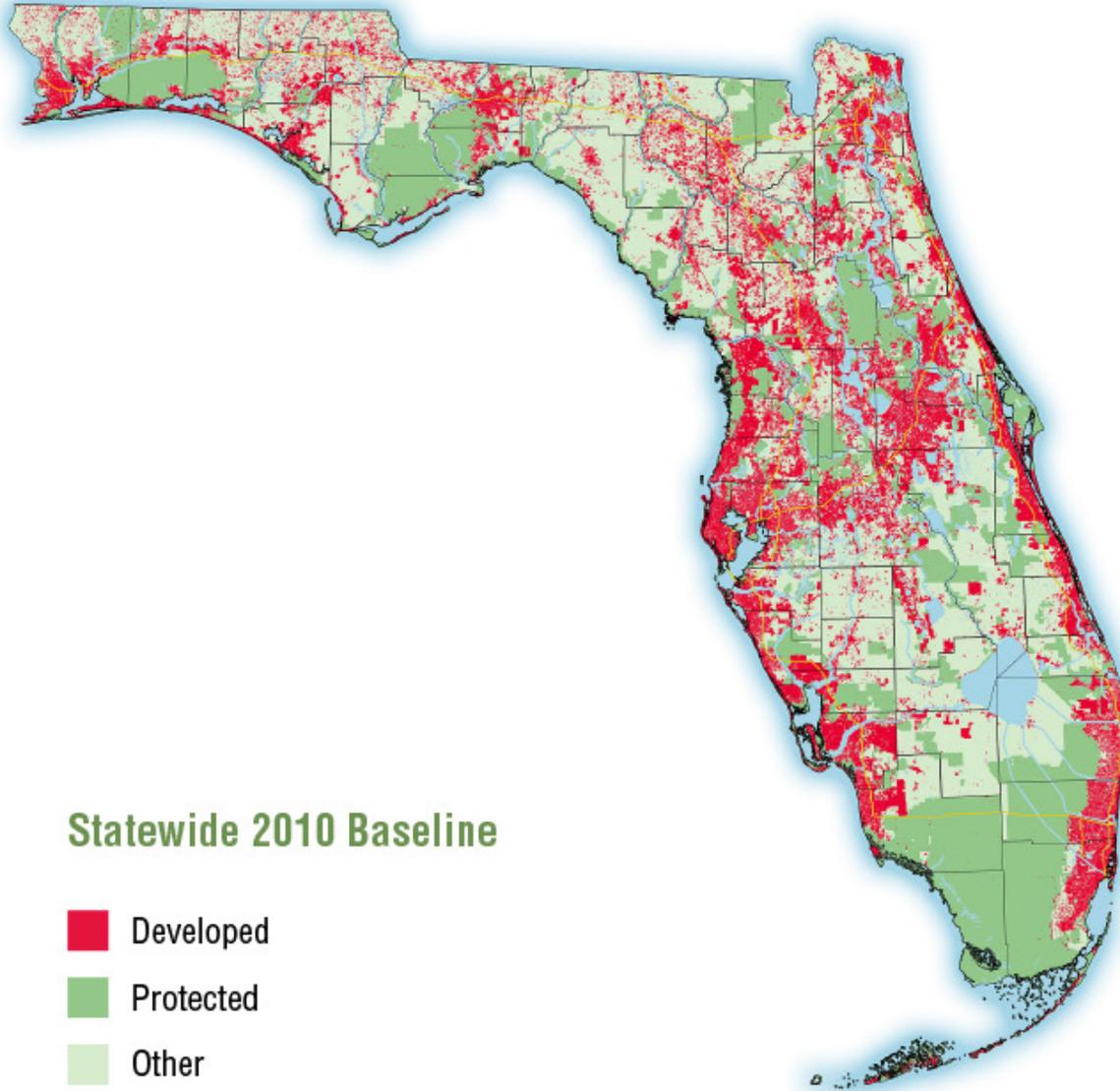




Florida Wildlife Corridor Act
 17 million acres
 11 million have been protected



Carlton Ward and the Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition



Statewide 2010 Baseline

- Developed
- Protected
- Other

Currently 10 million acres or 31% of Florida's land area is in Conservation.

Losing 100,000 acres per year





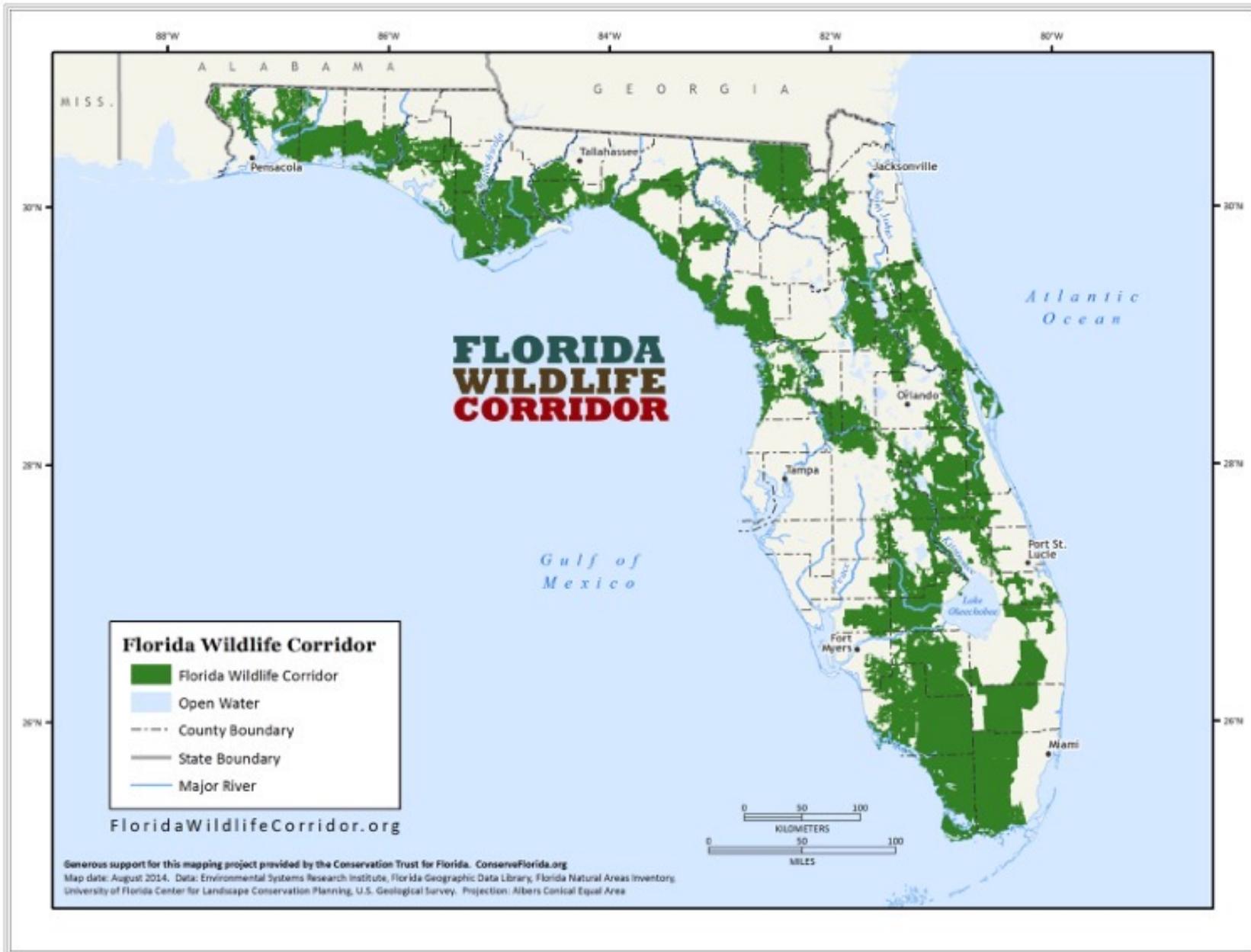
Florida Area: 34,721,280

**TIF Lands given away 19,000,000
55% of all Florida lands**

**Total Conservation lands 10,936,887
32% of all Florida lands**

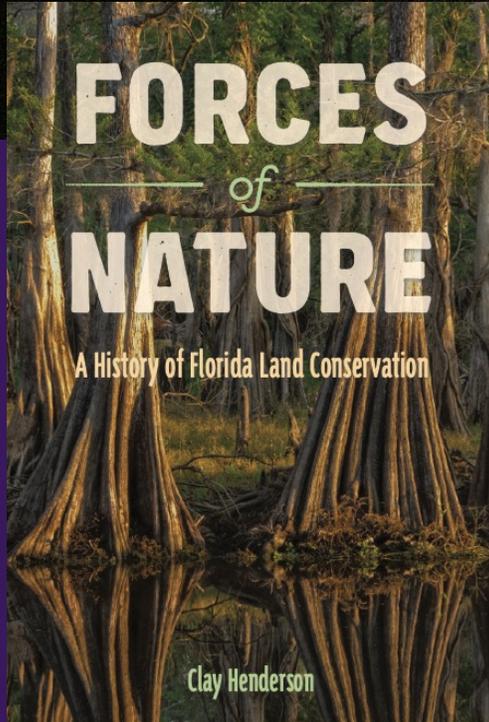
**Ecological Greenways Map
19,520,692. acres
56% of all Florida lands**

**The Nature Conservancy Map
15,970,406 acres
45% of all Florida**



Florida will need to
 Conserve at least 40%
 Of its land are to protect
 Its biodiversity.

Thank You!



ClayHenderson

www.clayhendersonauthor.com

Available through
University Press of Florida

FRPA
FLORIDA RECREATION
& PARK ASSOCIATION

For more information about the
Florida Recreation and
Park Association
visit frpa.org