



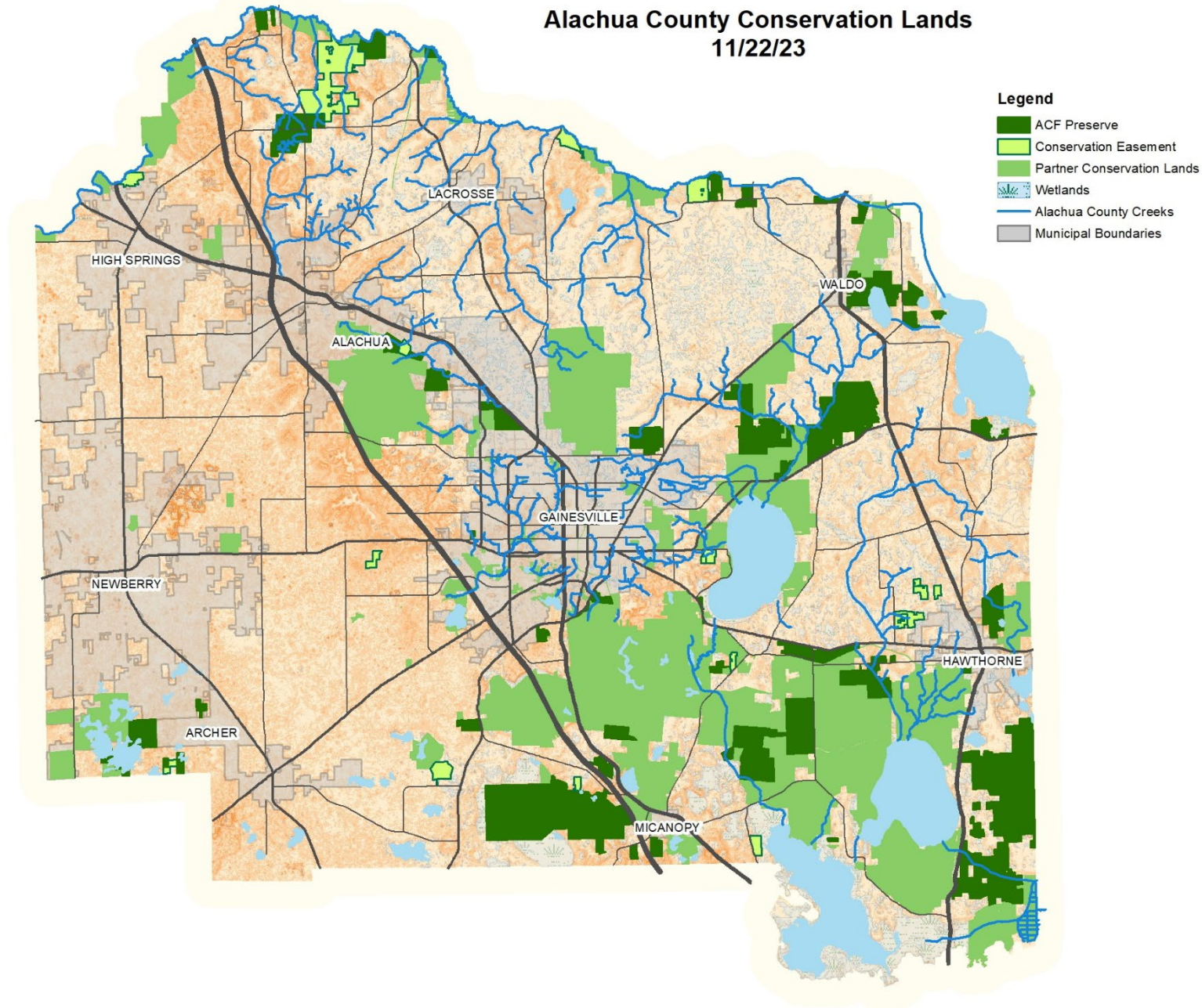
# **AGRICULTURAL LAND PROTECTION STRATEGY UPDATE**

**BOCC Special Policy Meeting  
12/5/2023**

**Andi Christman  
Land Conservation Program Manager**

# Alachua County Conservation Lands

11/22/23

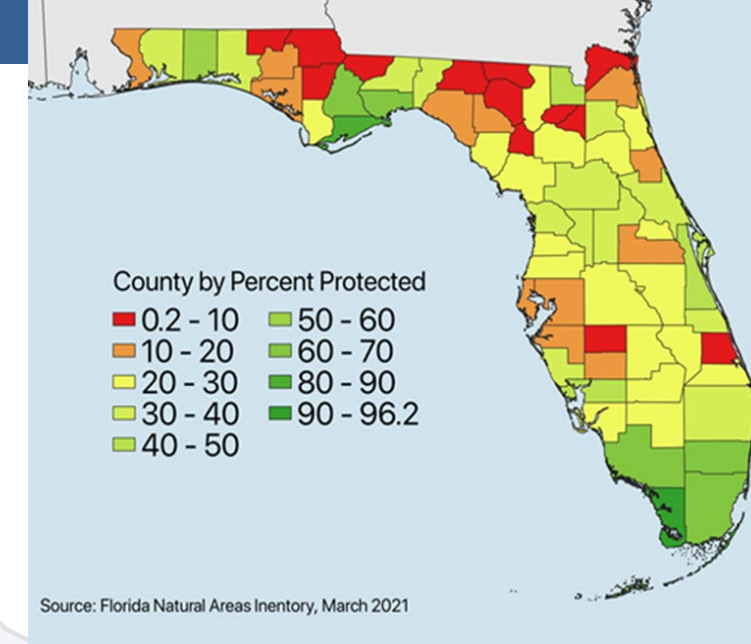


# ACF PROGRAM ESSENTIAL LEVELS OF PROTECTION

- **The 30 x 30 Target**

- Protecting 30% of land and water by 2030
- “the minimum commitment needed to protect essential ecosystem services and buffer against the worst impacts of climate change”
- 43,400 more acres need protection to conserve 30% of County (\$138M at current prices)

3



- **All efforts must include:**

- Corridors
- Wetlands and Water Resources
- Imperiled Species and Sites
- Diverse Habitats
- Agricultural Protection



# CORRIDOR-BASED STRATEGY

## Santa Fe River Corridor

- Santa Fe River
- Hornsby Springshed

## Florida Wildlife Corridor

- Lakes Santa Fe and Alto
- Austin Cary Flatwoods
- Lochloosa Creek & Slough

## Southern Corridor

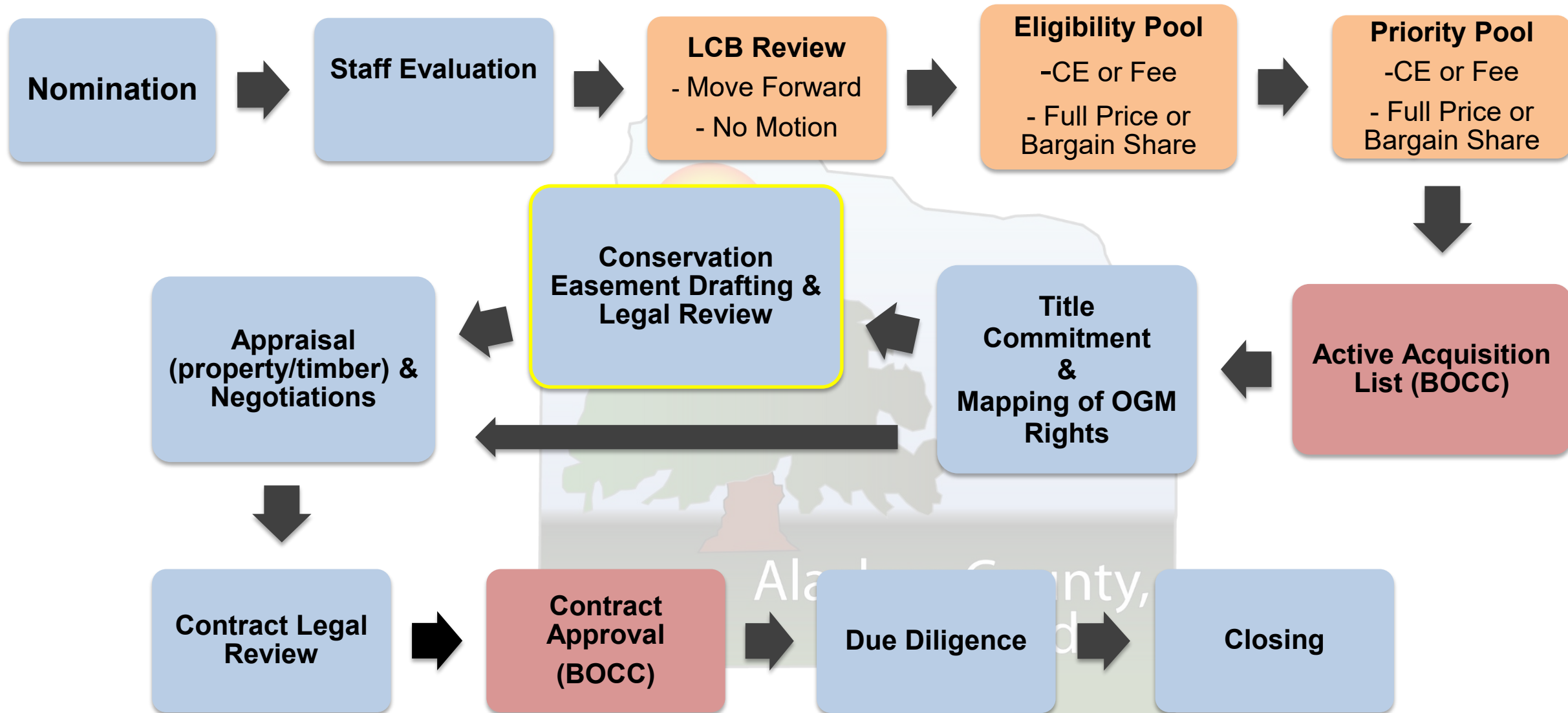
- Barr Hammock
- Watermelon Pond

## Agriculture Protection Strategy

- Strengthening all Corridors
- Water Quality & Recharge
- Local Food Production



# ACF Land Acquisition Process



# AGRICULTURAL LAND PROTECTION STRATEGY

## PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- Study: Year 1-2 (*Initiated September 2023*)
  - Status –Development of strategy framework is underway
    - Mission statement, goals
    - Ranking Matrix & Scoring criteria
    - GIS-based Strategic Agricultural Lands Ranking model
    - Draft Resolution and County Process
    - Estimate scope of staff and equipment needs for implementation
    - Framework for constitution of Advisory Board
    - Framework for matching county resources with partner conservation programs
    - Develop Economic Impact Report for implementation
    - Stakeholder engagement and citizen outreach
- Acquisition of Easements: Year 3-10





# ACF Matrix Scoring Question Categories

- ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN VALUES
  - Protection of water resources
  - Protection of natural communities and landscapes
  - Protection of plant and animal species
  - Social Human Values
- ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT VALUES
  - Management Issues
  - Economic/ Acquisition Issues

REPA - Project Name - Project Element - Date				
CATEGORY	Criterion	WEIGHTING	Enter Criteria Value Based on Site Inspection	Average Criteria Score Multiplied by Relative Importance
(I-1) PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES	A. Whether the property has geologic/hydrologic conditions that would easily enable contamination of vulnerable aquifers that have value as drinking water sources;		0	
	B. Whether the property serves an important groundwater recharge function;		0	
	C. Whether the property contains or has direct connections to lakes, creeks, rivers, springs, sinkholes, or wetlands for which conservation of the property will protect or improve surface water quality;		0	
	D. Whether the property serves an important flood management function.		0	
(I-2) PROTECTION OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPES	A. Whether the property contains a diversity of natural communities;		0	
	B. Whether the natural communities present on the property are rare;		0	
	C. Whether there is ecological quality in the communities present on the property;		0	
	D. Whether the property is functionally connected to other natural communities;		0	
	E. Whether the property is adjacent to properties that are in public ownership or have other environmental protections such as conservation easements;		0	
	F. Whether the property is large enough to contribute substantially to conservation efforts;		0	
	G. Whether the property contains important, Florida-specific geologic features such as caves or springs;		0	
	H. Whether the property is relatively free from internal fragmentation from roads, power lines, and other features that create barriers and edge effects.		0	
(I-3) PROTECTION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES	A. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species or species of special concern;		0	
	B. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for species with large home ranges;		0	
	C. Whether the property contains plants or animals that are endemic or near-endemic to Florida or Alachua County;		0	
	D. Whether the property serves as a special wildlife migration or aggregation site for activities such as breeding, roosting, colonial nesting, or over-wintering;		0	
	E. Whether the property offers high vegetation quality and species diversity;		0	
	F. Whether the property has low incidence of non-native invasive species.		0	
(I-4) SOCIAL AND HUMAN VALUES	A. Whether the property offers opportunities for compatible resource-based recreation, if appropriate;		0	
	B. Whether the property contributes to urban green space, provides a municipal defining greenbelt, provides scenic vistas, or has other value from an urban and regional planning perspective.		0	
AVERAGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN VALUES				0.00
(II-1) MANAGEMENT ISSUES	A. Whether it will be practical to manage the property to protect its environmental, social and other values (examples include controlled burning, exotics removal, maintaining hydro-period, and so on);		0	
	B. Whether this management can be completed in a cost-effective manner.		0	
(II-2) ECONOMIC AND ACQUISITION ISSUES	A. Whether there is potential for purchasing the property with matching funds from municipal, state, federal, or private contributions;		0	
	B. Whether the overall resource values justifies the potential cost of acquisition;		0	
	C. Whether there is imminent threat of losing the environmental, social or other values of the property through development and/or lack of sufficient legislative protections (this requires analysis of current land use, zoning, owner intent, location and		0	
AVERAGE FOR ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT VALUES				0.00
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA SET IN THE OVERALL SCORE		0.667		0.00
TOTAL SCORE				0.00

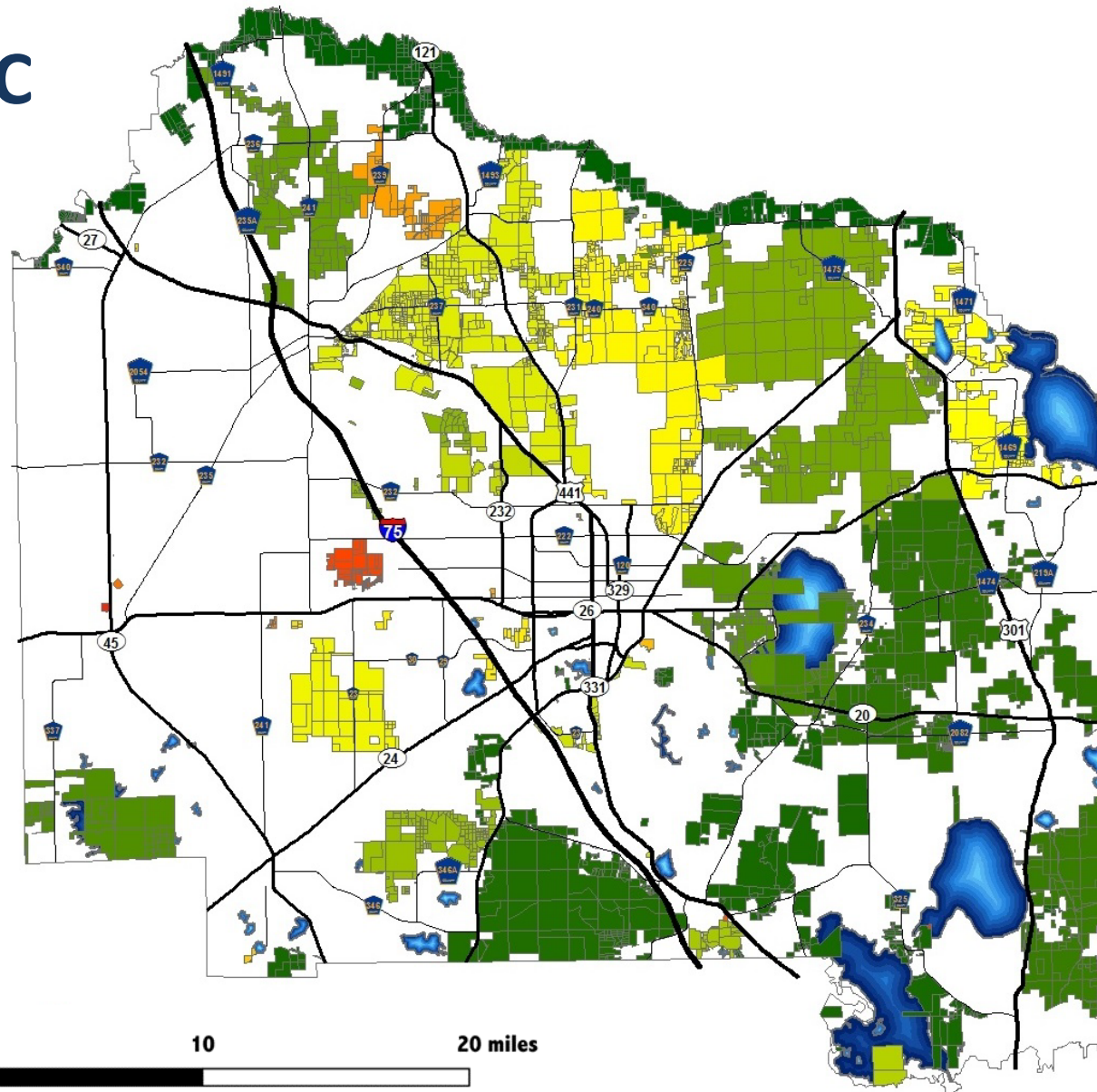
# GIS-BASED STRATEGIC AGRICULTURAL LANDS RANKING MODEL

Similar to Alachua County  
Forever Project Areas



0 10 20 miles

8



## Legend

### ACF Projects

#### REPA, projname

- 8.96, Santa Fe River
- 8.18, Lochloosa Forest-Levy Prairie Connector
- 7.96, Barr Hammock-Levy Prairie
- 7.87, Lochloosa Creek Flatwoods
- 7.73, Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods
- 7.51, East Newnans Lake
- 7.47, Watermelon Pond
- 7.42, Lake Forest Creek
- 7.4, Mill Creek
- 7.36, Austin Cary Flatwoods
- 7.29, Northeast Flatwoods
- 7.29, San Felasco Additions
- 7.18, Kanapaha Prairie
- 7.13, Lake Tusawilla
- 7.04, McCormick Island
- 6.98, Millhopper Flatwoods
- 6.98, Paynes Prairie Additions
- 6.93, Burnette Lake
- 6.93, Hickory Sink
- 6.87, Lake Santa Fe
- 6.58, Buck Bay Flatwoods
- 6.29, Gainesville Archipelago
- 6.22, Southeastern Bat Maternity Caves
- 6.07, High Springs Park
- 5.93, Lizzie Robinson
- 5.8, Renaissance Park
- 5.62, Sugarfoot Sink
- 5.38, Beville Creek
- 5.22, Hasan Flatwoods
- 5.02, T.L. Weeks-Oakey Woods Tract
- 4.93, Hartman-Mackey Tracts
- 4.29, Morningstar Ranch
- 3.5, City of Newberry Wellhead
- 3.49, N.E. Park Additions
- <Null>, Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve
- <Null>, Serenola Forest
- <Null>, Fletcher's Pine Hill Forest
- <Null>, Matheny Tract
- <Null>, Shotgun Hole
- CountyBoundary
- Lakes



# STAKEHOLDER CHARRETTE

11/28/23

