



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 25-00473**

**Agenda Date: 6/24/2025**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Addition of Land Conservation Projects to the Alachua County Forever Active Acquisition List**

**Presenter:**

Emily Uhlmann, Senior Planner – Environmental Protection Dept., (352) 275-2050

**Description:**

Staff requests the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve the addition of the following land conservation project to the Alachua County Forever Active Acquisition List. The staff recommendation is based on the addition of this property to the Priority Pool by the Land Conservation Board (LCB) as outlined in Resolution 22-066.

1. Santa Fe River – Brown (Boris and Aldith) (Full Price List)

Addition of this project to the Active Acquisition List, authorizes staff to: obtain title work and appraisals, negotiate price and terms with the owners, and execute purchase or option contracts. Any purchase contract or option will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the addition of the following property on the Active Acquisition List

1. Santa Fe River – Brown (Boris and Aldith) (Full Price List)

**Prior Board Motions:**

None

**Fiscal Note:**

**Santa Fe River – Brown (Boris and Aldith) (Fee Simple) - Cost Estimates:**

Total estimated cost for acquisition and 10-year stewardship: \$61,302

The current annual property tax revenue of all the project parcels is: \$658.67

Purchase and maintenance would be funded from the Wild Spaces Public Places surtax.

*Additional details can be found in Exhibits 3 and 4.*

**Strategic Guide:**

Environment

**Background:**

Santa Fe River – Brown (Boris and Aldith): On May 5, 2025, the Brown (Boris and Aldith) property was nominated to the Alachua County Forever Program (ACF) by a family member for consideration as a fee simple acquisition. The project includes one parcel (Alachua County Property Appraiser Tax Parcel Number 05306-0010-000) under a single ownership. On May 22, 2025, the Land Conservation Board (LCB) placed approximately 13-acre property in the Priority Pool.

The Brown property is in northern Alachua County, near the Union County boundary. The property is within the ACF Santa Fe River Project Area and the Santa Fe River Strategic Ecosystem, and it has road frontage on CR 239. Santa Fe River Preserve, which is managed by Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) is within half a mile to the northeast, across CR 239. The property is primarily bottomland forest in fair condition, with some successional hardwood forest in the southeast corner along CR 239. It was dry during the site visit, but onsite observations indicate that much of the property may be wet seasonally. A small amount of solid waste was found near the southeast corner, consisting mostly of old appliances and other household items. If acquired by the County, ACT has expressed interest in managing the site.

*Additional information can be found in the attached site evaluation. (Exhibits 1-2)*

The staff recommendation is based on the addition of these properties to the Priority Pool by the Land Conservation Board as outlined in Resolution 22-066. As with all Alachua County conservation lands, those accepted as fee-simple acquisitions, will go through the vetting process for the Registry of Protected Places.

**Comp Plan Reference:**

Policy 6.0 Land Conservation Program within the Conservation and Open Space Element, states “Establish and maintain a land conservation program for the purchase, preservation, and management of natural areas and open space to complement the regulatory approaches identified in other section of this element.”