



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 26-00050

Agenda Date: 1/13/2026

Agenda Item Name:

Addition of Land Conservation Projects to the Alachua County Forever Active Acquisition List – Ag. Easement Category

Presenter:

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Description:

Staff requests the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve the addition of the following land conservation projects to the Alachua County Forever (ACF) Active Acquisition List, agricultural easement category. The staff recommendation is based on the addition of these properties to the Priority Pool by the Agricultural Land Conservation Board (ALCB) as outlined in Resolution 2025-99.

Recommended Action:

Approve the addition of the following property or properties on the Active Acquisition List, agricultural easement category:

1. Paynes Prairie Additions – Brown’s Organic Farm LLC (Full Price List)
2. Paynes Prairie Additions – Siembra Farm with Flairy Farm Parcel (Full Price List with Siembra Farm designated as keystone parcels)

Prior Board Motions:

None

Fiscal Note:

Paynes Prairie Additions – Browns Organic Farm (Agricultural Conservation Easement) - Cost Estimates:

Total estimated cost for acquisition and 10-year stewardship (Agricultural Conservation Easement): \$483,850

The current annual property tax revenue of all the project parcels is: \$481.68

Paynes Prairie Additions – Siembra Farm with Flairy Farm parcel (Agricultural Conservation Easement) - Cost Estimates:

Total estimated cost for acquisition and 10-year stewardship (Agricultural Conservation Easement): \$180,045

The current annual property tax revenue of all the project parcels is: \$1,433.38

Purchase and annual monitoring will be funded from the Wild Spaces and Public Places surtax.

Additional details can be found in Exhibits 2 and 3.

Strategic Guide:
Environment

Background:

Paynes Prairie Additions – Browns Organic Farm LLC:

Browns Organic Farm LLC, operating as The Family Garden, is a 20-acre property consisting of two parcels (16223-000-000 and 16223-008-000) and has been nominated for an agricultural conservation easement with Alachua County Forever (ACF) by the landowners. On December 3rd, 2025, the Agricultural Land Conservation Board (ALCB) placed the property in the Priority Pool. Located in unincorporated eastern Alachua County, the farm is surrounded by other small farms and sustainability-oriented businesses as well as a handful of residences. The farm was established in 2011, and the land was purchased in 2014 by Jordan and Diwa Brown. The farm was certified USDA Organic in 2015 and follows Best Management Practices. A diversified operation serving local markets, the farm's sales have been driven by Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares purchased by local residents, farmers' markets, and wholesale accounts including local restaurants and institutions. Through the Farm to School program, the farm has also supplied Alachua County Public Schools. The farm has produced an array of specialty fruit and vegetable crops including strawberries, citrus, leafy greens, melons, and root crops. The farm's citrus trees currently have a productive crop that has shown thus far to be tolerant to citrus greening. Brown plants cover crops to build organic matter, reduce pests, and prevent disease. A major resource that contributes to the land's significance for conservation and the farm's productivity are its Class 1 soils, which are suitable for a wide range of crops. The property is adjacent to the Paynes Prairie Additions – Siembra Farm.

Paynes Prairie Additions – Siembra Farm with Flairy Farm parcel:

Siembra Farm is a 40-acre property consisting of three parcels (16107-200-011, 16107-200-012, and 16106-000-000) and has been nominated for an agricultural conservation easement with Alachua County Forever (ACF) by the landowners. Added to the Siembra Farm parcel for this project is the 10.2 acre parcel (16107-200-013) currently owned by Flairy Farm which was evaluated with Siembra Farm and is included in the Siembra Farm agricultural conservation easement project. On January 7, 2026, the Agricultural Land Conservation Board placed the three Siembra Farm Parcels in the Priority Pool together with the Flairy Farm parcel and recommended the Siembra Farm parcels be designated as keystone parcels on the Active Acquisition List. This keystone designation will make the Flairy Farm parcel easement acquisition dependent upon the Siembra Farm being protected. The landowner intent is that the parcels would be combined under one ownership with an easement established on the combined four parcels. The farm business was established in 2010 and is owned by Cody Galligan and Veronica Robleto. Located partially within southeast Gainesville, and partially within unincorporated Alachua County, the farm produces a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs with a stated goal of prioritizing "soil enhancement and natural resource preservation as key tenets" of their production practices. The farm was Certified Organic for many years and recently ended their certification to save on annual inspection fees, though the farmers state that their growing methods have not changed. They also maintain compliance with Best Management Practices. Siembra Farm's sales are driven primarily by local markets and virtually all of their produce is sold within Alachua County. They currently operate a 130+ member CSA. Their regular farmers' markets include: Grove Street Farmers Market, Haile Farmers Market, and the Alachua County Farmers Market. They employ 7 full-time employees and intend to pursue an easement to ensure that the land remains in sustainable, regenerative agricultural production in perpetuity. The property is adjacent to the Paynes Prairie Additions - Brown's Organic Farm. Additional information can be found in the attached evaluations. (Exhibit 1)

General:

The staff recommendation is based on the addition of this property to the Priority Pool by the Agricultural Land Conservation Board as outlined in Resolution 2025-99. 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.”

Policy 5.0 Human-Related Resources within the Conservation and Open Space Element, states “Agricultural and silvicultural lands which have value for historic or natural resources conservation, recreation, or open space purposes shall be identified and, based upon willing landowner participation, may be included as part of the County’s land conservation program.”