

Agricultural Strategy Goals & Values: Acquire conservation easements on agriculturally significant lands in order "to protect water resources, rural economy, contribute to local food security, and promote open, scenic space."

Paynes Prairie Additions*
The Family Garden (Browns Organic Farm LLC)
12/3/2025

Project Score	Range	Site Visit Date
6.78 of 10.00	Very Good (6-7 points)	11/24/2025
Size (ACPA Acres)		Just (Market) Value (Land + Improvements, tax assessed value)
20		Just Value Per Acre
		\$461,850
		\$23,092
Parcel Number	Acreage (ACPA)	Land + Ag Market Value
16223-000-000	10	Land Value Per Acre
16223-008-000	10	\$428,400
		\$21,420
		Primary Operation(s)
		Fruit and Vegetable Production; Organic Production Research; Education
USDA Land Capability Classification	Primary Characteristic	GIS Ag Suitability Model Assessment
Class 1	High productivity potential; few limitations, suitable for a wide range of crops and continuous row cropping	N/A
Predominant Soil Series	Major Uses & Features	In a Springs Priority Focus Area?
Tavares, Millhopper series	Crops; Well-drained, loamy	No
National Commodity Crop Productivity Index	Significance	Archaeological Sites
Average of 0.40	Valuable for Alachua County	0 recorded on site, 0 in 1 mile
Zoning	Future Land Use	Other/Natural Communities
Agricultural (A)	Estate (0.5 du/ac); Comp Plan	Condition
ACF Project Area Score	*Not in an ACF Project Area; closest to parcels in Paynes Prairie	
Strategic Ecosystem Score	N/A - Not in a Strategic Ecosystem	
Outstanding Florida Waters	No Outstanding FL Waters within 1 mile	

Overall Description:

Browns Organic Farm LLC, known locally 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). The farm business was established in 2011, and the land was purchased in 2014 by Jordan and Diwa Brown. The farm's stated goal is to "grow tasty and healthy fruits and vegetables as respectfully and honorably as we can." The Family Garden has been certified USDA Organic since 2015, follows Best Management Practices, and holds unique status as one of the few farms recognized by the Agricultural Justice Project in the Southeast United States as Food Justice Certified (FJC). To summarize, FJC is a food label for farms, food businesses, and retailers focused on fair labor and trade practices. It was developed in part by farm workers and farmers who help oversee the

certification program. Third-party evaluations have affirmed FJC as a “gold standard” for fair trade practices in food and farming.

As a diversified vegetable farm focused on serving local markets, The Family Garden’s sales have been driven primarily 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, which Brown helped to establish, the farm has supplied 60+ 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 proven thus far to be tolerant to citrus greening, remarkable both for this region and the Southeast as a whole. Brown plants cover crops to build organic matter, reduce pests, and prevent disease. In the fall, he typically plants rye and oats and sun hemp or sudangrass in the summer.

A major resource that contributes to the land’s environmental significance for conservation and the farm’s productivity are its Class 1 soils. According to the USDA Land Capability Classification, Class 1 soils have very few limitations that restrict their use; they are nearly level, have little risk of erosion, and are deep, well-drained, and workable. These soils hold water well and are high in fertility, making them suitable for a wide range of crops and can be used for cultivated crops, cover crops, pastures, forests, and wildlife food. In past years, the farm collaborated with University of Florida researchers to study fertilizer interactions in its soils. By comparing organically grown and conventionally grown crops and examining variations in root systems and fertilizer migration around the root zone, the researchers were able to determine that organically grown crops on the farm maintained more fertilizer in the root zone of the plant, reducing fertilizer loss into deeper layers of soil and ultimately into the aquifer.

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 land is adjacent to Florence Recycling and Disposal, a construction and demolition landfill site that sorts and recycles materials including concrete, drywall, and other construction debris, and which is planned for closure between 2026 and 2027. The overall area has an abundant wildlife population, and the property is used as a crossing and feeding ground for deer and other animals, including resident and migratory birds. Sandhill crane and swallowtail kites pass through the property seasonally. Two breeding pairs of red shouldered hawks, abundant turkey, quail, other birds reside on the farm and its environs as well.

Though the farm is not adjacent to existing conservation lands, within a strategic ecosystem, or in an Alachua County Forever (ACF) Project Area, it is geographically closest to the Paynes Prairie Project Area. While the property does not hold any classified natural communities, existing land management practices support a variety of species. A tour of the farm revealed well-managed grounds, no visible solid waste on-site, and structures that serve farmers as well as visitors including a central packing shed.

At peak operation, the farm has employed up to 10 employees. Brown has also served as a mentor to beginning farmers and hosted numerous school groups over the years, reflecting the farm’s focus on building community. Brown’s long-term goal for the land is to keep it in agricultural production, maintain healthy, productive soils through organic practices, and continue to serve local markets. Brown has taken part in shaping Alachua County’s food system, including its farmers’ markets and planned food hub, and has participated in many interviews to share the benefits of organic agriculture and fair labor standards.

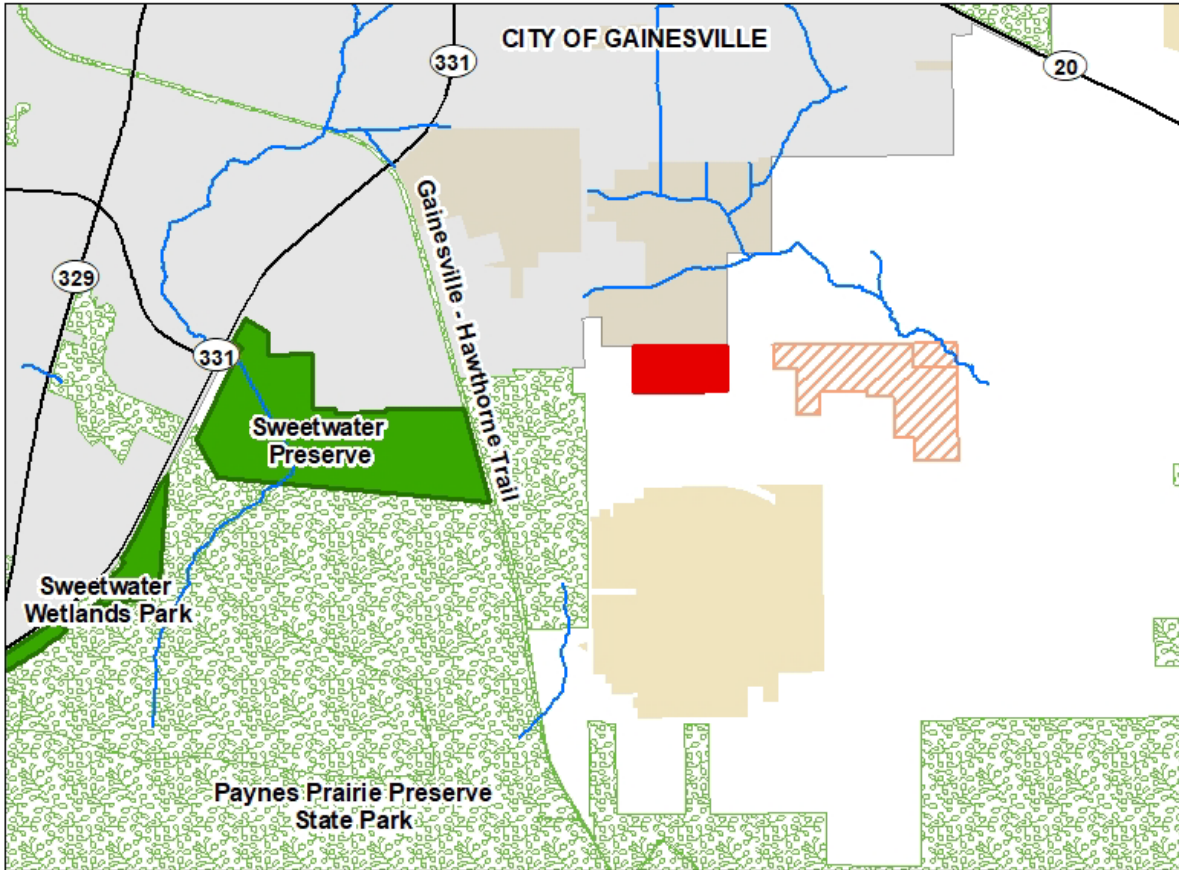
Based on this assessment and the landowners’ long-term vision, ACF Program staff have determined that The Family Garden aligns with the Agricultural Strategy’s goals and values.

ASER – Paynes Prairie Additions* - The Family Garden (Browns Organic Farm LLC) - 11/24/2025

Category	Criterion (Resolution Values) Guidance for 0-5 Point Scale: 0 = No points, 1 = Least beneficial, 2 = Less beneficial than average, 3 = Average, 4 = More beneficial than average, 5 = Most beneficial	Weight	Criteria Value Based on Site Inspection	Average Criteria Score	Average Criteria Score Multiplied by Relative Importance
(1) ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	A. Whether the property serves an important aquifer and groundwater recharge function;		5		
	B. Whether the property is in Santa Fe River or Watermelon Pond watershed, or watershed with existing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) area;		0		
	C. Whether the property serves an important flood management or mitigation function;		1		
	D. Whether the property enhances wildlife and open space corridors through proximity of other conservation lands; is in a Springs Priority Focus Area;		2		
	E. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for wildlife; state or federally listed species;		2		
	F. Whether the property contains productive soils as determined through crop productivity indices;		5		
	G. Whether the property contains important, Florida-specific geologic features such as caves, sinkholes or springs, ravines, lime rock outcrops, etc.;		1		
(2) SOCIAL AND HUMAN VALUES	A. Whether the owner(s) of property qualify as historically underserved or limited resource;		4		
	B. Whether the owner(s) of property are open to succession planning, land transfer, or land access;		5		
	D. Whether the property contributes to open green space, provides a municipal defining greenbelt, provides scenic vistas, or has other value from an urban and regional planning perspective;		3		
	E. Whether there is imminent threat of losing the social, historical 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 market conditions);		3		
(3) FARM AND RANCH OPERATION / MANAGEMENT VALUES	A. Whether the type of agricultural operation/s on the property forward the strategy mission and goals;		4		
	B. Whether the farm sells products that are consumed within Alachua or neighboring counties;		5		
	C. Whether the landowner purchases feed, equipment, repair services, etc. for farm operation locally?		5		
	D. Whether the landowner is offering a significant portion of the farm for inclusion in the easement;		5		
	E. Whether the landowner of the property is involved in day-to-day management of the operation;		5		
	F. Whether the property is enrolled in the FDACS BMP program or similar EQIP or CSP programs. If not, does the landowner agree to enroll in an applicable BMP program designed to reduce nutrient and water inputs prior to closing on an agricultural conservation easement with Alachua County;		5		
	G. Whether the property is engaged in management practices aimed at reducing nutrient and water inputs or practice regenerative agriculture principles? i.e. cover cropping, reduced tillage, soil testing, etc.;		5		
	H. Whether the landowner is willing to write or contract, or already has a farm management plan in place addressing wildlife habitat value, water, soil and nutrient conservation;		5		
AVERAGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND HUMAN, AND FARM AND RANCH OPERATION / MANAGEMENT VALUES				3.68	
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA SET IN THE OVERALL SCORE		1.5			5.37
(4) PARTNER EASEMENT ACQUISITION / COST SHARE VALUES	A. Whether there is potential for purchasing the property with matching funds from municipal state, federal, or private contributions;		3		
	B. Whether the overall resource values justify the potential cost of acquisition;		2		
AVERAGE FOR PARTNER EASEMENT ACQUISITION / COST-SHARE VALUES				2.50	
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA IN SCORE		0.5			1.25
TOTAL SCORE					6.78



Paynes Prairie Additions* - Browns Organic Farm Location Map

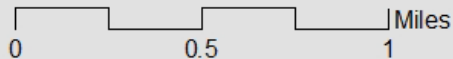


Legend

- Brown Parcels (20 ac)
- ACF Preserve
- Partner Conservation Lands
- ACTIVE ACQUISITION
- Municipal Boundaries
- ACF Project Areas
- Alachua County Creeks



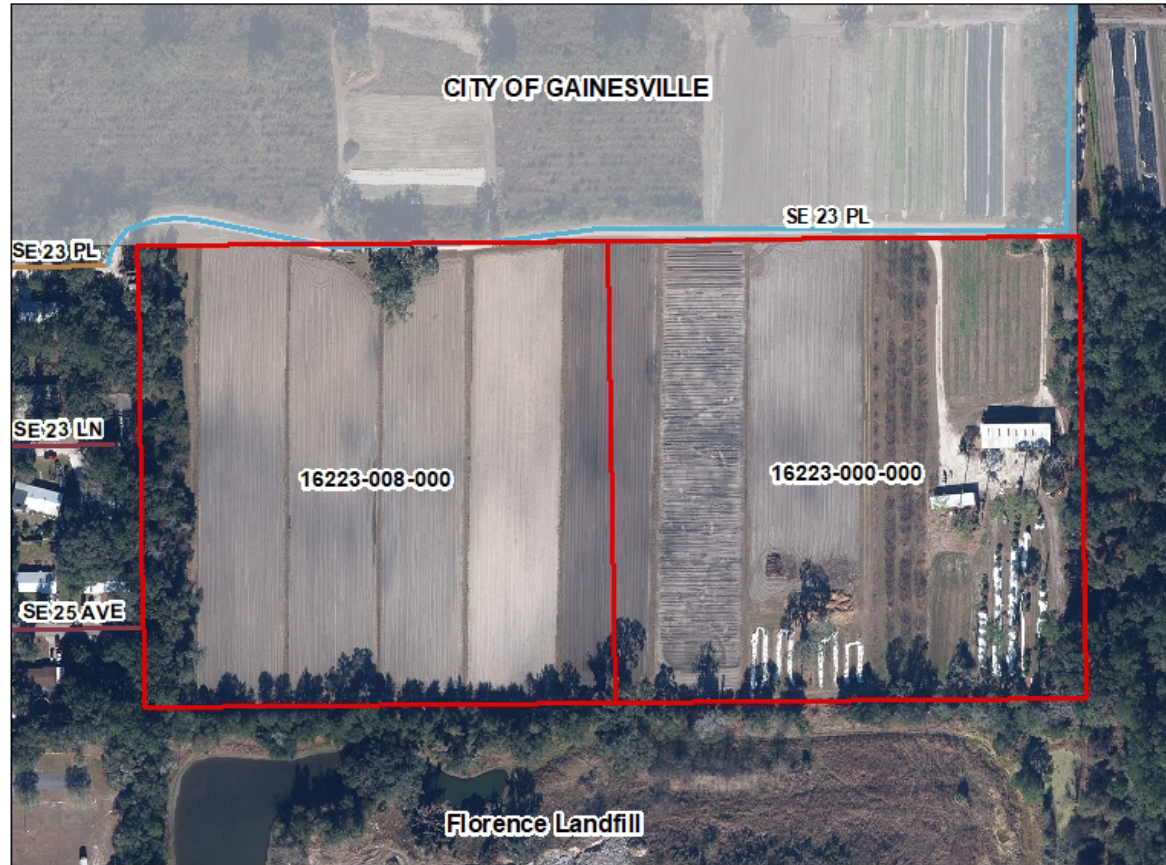
*Property is geographically closest to this ACF project Area, but it is not within the original boundary







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Paynes Prairie Additions* - Browns Organic Farm Parcel Map

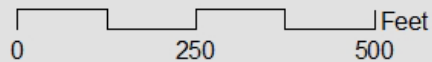


Legend

-  Brown Parcels (20 ac)
-  Municipal Boundaries
- Roadway Classification**
-  Private, Unincorporated
-  Public, County Maintained
-  Public, Not County Maintained



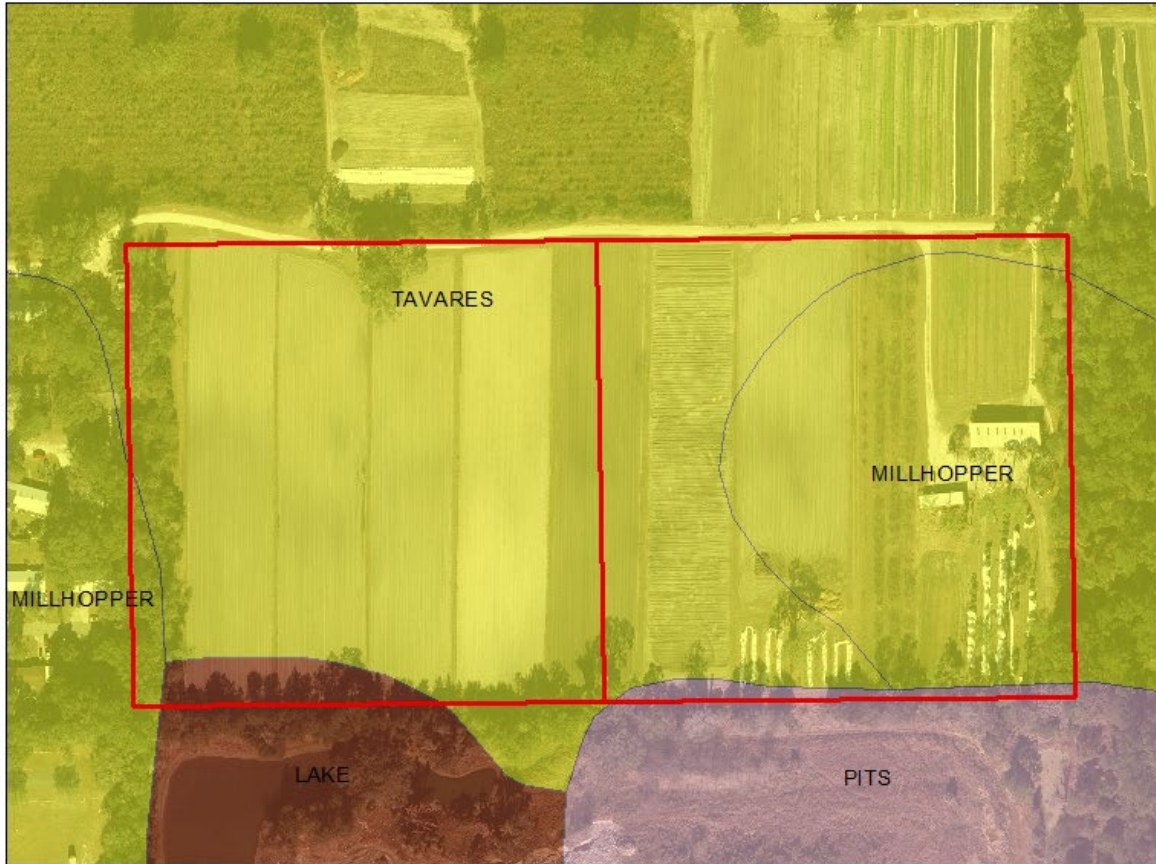
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Paynes Prairie Additions* - Browns Organic Farm Parcel Map

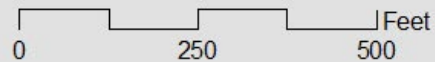


Legend

- Brown Parcels (20 ac)
- Soil Drainage**
- PITS
- EXCESSIVELY DRAINED
- MODERATELY WELL DRAINED



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Agricultural Strategy Goals & Values: Acquire conservation easements on agriculturally significant lands in order "to protect water resources, rural economy, contribute to local food security, and promote open, scenic space."

Paynes Prairie Additions*
Siembra Farm with Flairy Farm parcel
01/07/2026

Project Score	Range	Site Visit Date
7.01 of 10.00	Excellent (7-8 points)	12/18/2025
Size (ACPA Acres)		Just (Market) Value (Land + Improvements, tax assessed value)
50.37		Just Value Per Acre
		\$238,395 (S + F)
Parcel Number	Acreage (ACPA)	Land + Ag Market Value
16106-000-000	20	Land Value Per Acre
16107-200-111	13.1	\$113,645 (S + F)
16107-200-012	7.04	Primary Operation(s):
16107-200-013	10.23	Fruit and vegetable production, cut flowers, education
USDA Land Capability Classification	Primary Characteristic	GIS Ag Suitability Model Assessment
Class 2	Moderate to high productivity potential; few limitations, suitable for a wide range of crops	N/A
Predominant Soil Series	Major Uses & Features	Other/Natural Communities
Tavares, Millhopper series	Crops; Well-drained, loamy	N/A
National Commodity Crop Productivity Index	Significance	ACF Project Area Score
Average of 0.40	Valuable for Alachua County	N/A
Zoning	Future Land Use	*Not in an ACF Project Area; closest to Paynes Prairie
16106-000-000 - Residential Single Family (R-1A)	Low Density (1-4du/acre)	Strategic Ecosystem Score
16107-200-011 - Single Family	See Policy 1.3.2.1(a) of the Comprehensive Plan	N/A
16107-200-012 - Single Family	Single Family Residential (0-8du/ac)	Outstanding Florida Waters
16107-200-013 - Single Family	Single Family Residential (0-8du/ac)	N/A
		Archaeological Sites
		*0 recorded on site, 0 in 1 mile

Overall Description:

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 by the landowners. An adjacent 10-acre farm (16107-200-013), Flairy Farm, has also been nominated by its landowners as an addition to this proposed easement project. Siembra Farm was established in 2010 and is owned by Cody Galligan and Veronica Robleto. Galligan owns the two parcels of 7 and 13 acres, while Galligan and Robleto own the 20-acre parcel. The co-owners of Flairy Farm are a former long-time employee of Siembra Farm and local farmer, Jennifer Speedy, and James Longanecker. Speedy currently operates Flatwoods Flowers and a small orchard. The two co-owners wish for their property to be considered for approval as part of this nomination.

Siembra Farm produces fruit, vegetables, and herbs in Southeast Gainesville 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 but ended their certification recently to save

on annual inspection fees of upwards \$3,000, though the farmers state that their growing methods have not changed. They maintain compliance with Best Management Practices. The farmers are especially committed to practices that support pollinators, such as leaving natural areas uncultivated, growing pollinator-friendly cover crops, and strip-tillage, a conservation farming method that disturbs only narrow rows where seeds will be planted.

The farm produces upwards 100 varieties of crops including leafy greens, sweet potatoes, squashes, radishes, persimmons, among many other crops, as well as medicinal herbs such as ashwagandha. The farmers rely on rainwater and rainwater-fed irrigation and use cover crops to build soil organic matter. The farm spends an estimated \$150,000 annually on tools, equipment, repairs, and inputs, with most of their spending in Alachua County. Their major cover crops include two varieties of rye, buckwheat, and iron clay pea. The farm's sales are primarily driven by local farmers' markets, and virtually all of their produce is sold within Alachua County. They also operate a 130+ member CSA, which they aim to grow by 50 more members. The farm also supplies local restaurants, which currently include Alpin, Bingo, and Humble Wood Fire. Siembra Farm employs 7 full-time farmers and places an emphasis on fair wages, profit sharing, and shared management. In their words: "We practice horizontal management in order to distribute responsibility more evenly amongst employees than typical hierarchical work structures. This redistribution reduces burnout for everyone."

The farm is neighbored by other small farms and a handful of residences. Existing land management practices support at least transient use by a variety of species. The property is used as a crossing and feeding ground for deer and other animals, including resident and migratory birds. Sandhill crane and swallowtail kites pass through seasonally. Red shouldered hawks, turkey, quail, other birds reside in the farm's environs. Natural communities onsite include blackwater stream and a mixed hardwood forest. Staff were only able to see a small portion of this area during the site visit. The northern part of the easternmost parcel (16106-000-000) does not appear to have been significantly cleared historically, based on aerial imagery dating back to 1938, and the landowners indicated that they plan to keep this section of the property in a more natural state into the future. Approximately 1,600 ft of Calf Pond Creek runs along the northern boundary on the property. On the western parcels, the streambed appears to have been altered into more of an agricultural ditch, but the portion on the easternmost parcel retains its natural character. This creek flows to the east terminating in Calf Pond approximately 0.65 miles southeast of the property. Other wetland features include a sinkhole pond in the southeast corner of the property, which is used as the water source for irrigating crops. A tour of the farm revealed well-managed grounds, no visible solid waste on-site, and several farm structures, including a new central barn currently under construction.

Though the farm is not adjacent to existing conservation lands, it is connected to other lands that are under consideration for agricultural and environmental conservation easements. It is not within a strategic ecosystem, but it is partially within the Paynes Prairie Additions ACF Project Area. It is a little over a mile from the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park boundary, but it is within a quarter mile of Boulware Springs City Park.

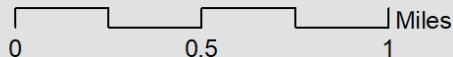
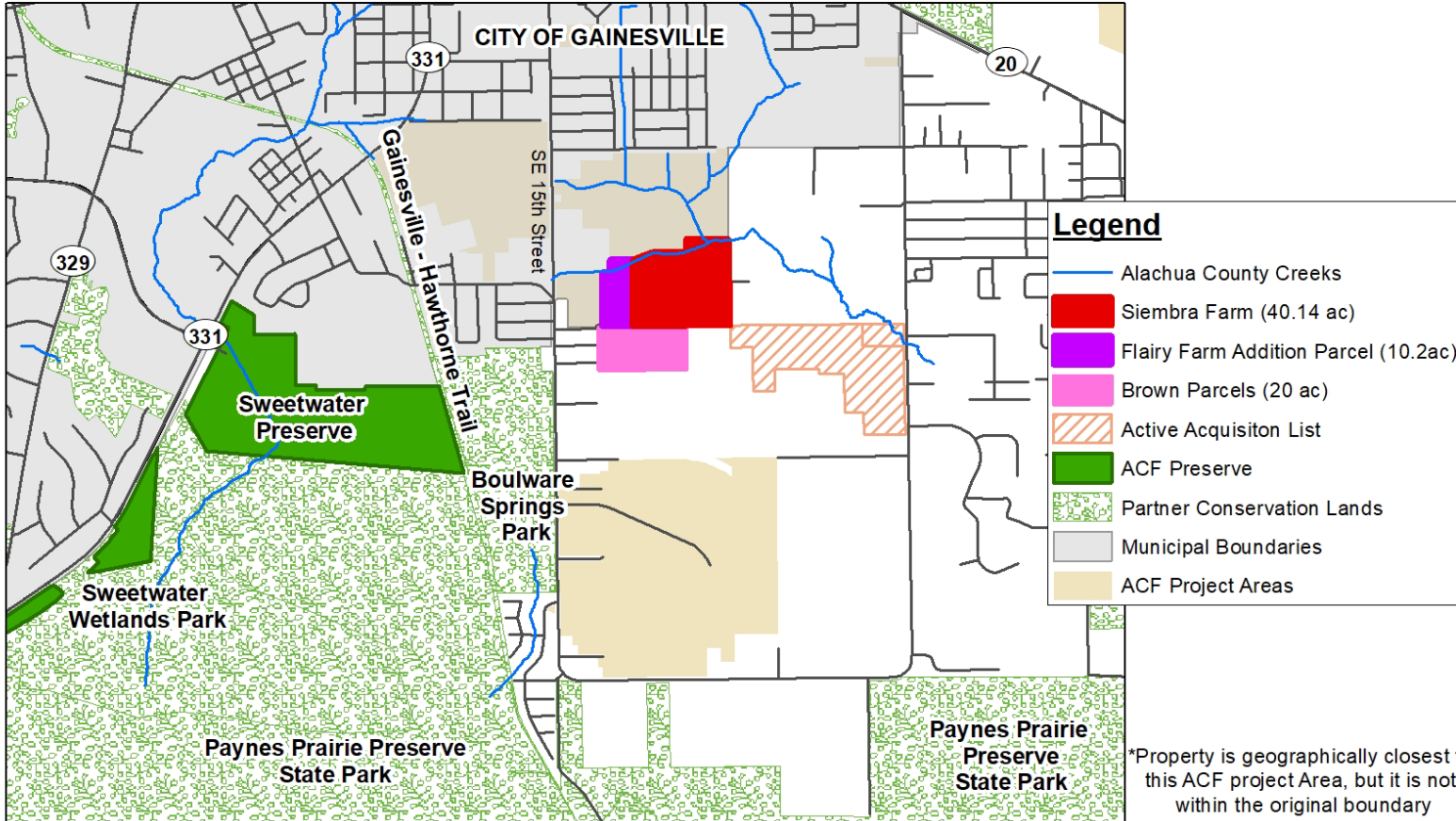
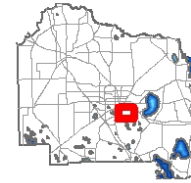
Based on this assessment and the landowners' long-term vision, ACF Program staff have determined that the proposed easement with Siembra Farm and Flairy Farm aligns with the Agricultural Strategy's goals and values.

ASER – Paynes Prairie Additions* - Siembra Farm - 12/18/2025

Category	Criterion (Resolution Values) Guidance for 0-5 Point Scale: 0 = No points, 1 = Least beneficial, 2 = Less beneficial than average, 3 = Average, 4 = More beneficial than average, 5 = Most beneficial	Weight	Criteria Value Based on Site Inspection	Average Criteria Score	Average Criteria Score Multiplied by Relative Importance
(1) ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES - PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	A. Whether the property serves an important aquifer and groundwater recharge function;		5		
	B. Whether the property is in Santa Fe River or Watermelon Pond watershed, or watershed with existing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) area;		0		
	C. Whether the property serves an important flood management or mitigation function;		3		
	D. Whether the property enhances wildlife and open space corridors through proximity of other conservation lands; is in a Springs Priority Focus Area;		2		
	E. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for wildlife; state or federally listed species;		3		
	F. Whether the property contains productive soils as determined through crop productivity indices;		5		
	G. Whether the property contains important, Florida-specific geologic features such as caves, sinkholes or springs, ravines, lime rock outcrops, etc.;		3		
(2) SOCIAL AND HUMAN VALUES	A. Whether the owner(s) of property qualify as historically underserved or limited resource;		4		
	B. Whether the owner(s) of property are open to succession planning, land transfer, or land access;		2		
	D. Whether the property contributes to open green space, provides a municipal defining greenbelt, provides scenic vistas, or has other value from an urban and regional planning perspective;		3		
	E. Whether there is imminent threat of losing the social, historical 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 market conditions);		4		
(3) FARM AND RANCH OPERATION / MANAGEMENT VALUES	A. Whether the type of agricultural operation/s on the property forward the strategy mission and goals;		5		
	B. Whether the farm sells products that are consumed within Alachua or neighboring counties;		5		
	C. Whether the landowner purchases feed, equipment, repair services, etc. for farm operation locally?		5		
	D. Whether the landowner is offering a significant portion of the farm for inclusion in the easement;		5		
	E. Whether the landowner of the property is involved in day-to-day management of the operation;		5		
	F. Whether the property is enrolled in the FDACS BMP program or similar EQIP or CSP programs. If not, does the landowner agree to enroll in an applicable BMP program designed to reduce nutrient and water inputs prior to closing on an agricultural conservation easement with Alachua County;		5		
	G. Whether the property is engaged in management practices aimed at reducing nutrient and water inputs or practice regenerative agriculture principles? i.e. cover cropping, reduced tillage, soil testing, etc.;		5		
	H. Whether the landowner is willing to write or contract, or already has a farm management plan in place addressing wildlife habitat value, water, soil and nutrient conservation;		5		
AVERAGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND HUMAN, AND FARM AND RANCH OPERATION / MANAGEMENT VALUES				3.84	
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA SET IN THE OVERALL SCORE		1.5			5.76
(4) PARTNER EASEMENT ACQUISITION / COST SHARE VALUES	A. Whether there is potential for purchasing the property with matching funds from municipal state, federal, or private contributions;		3		
	B. Whether the overall resource values justify the potential cost of acquisition;		2		
AVERAGE FOR PARTNER EASEMENT ACQUISITION / COST-SHARE VALUES				2.50	
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA IN SCORE		0.5			1.25
TOTAL SCORE					7.01



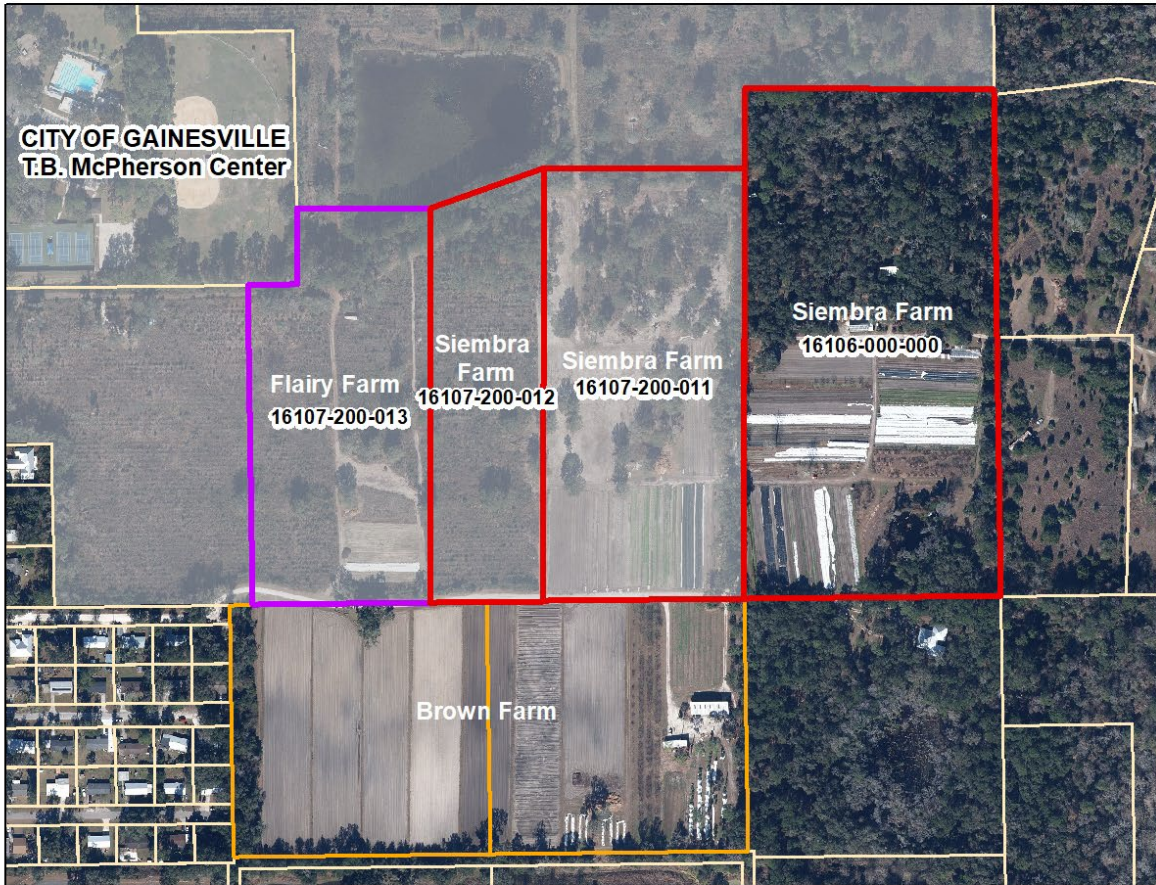
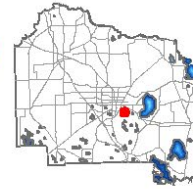
Paynes Prairie Additions* - Siembra Farm, Flairy Farm, and Browns Organic Farm Location Map



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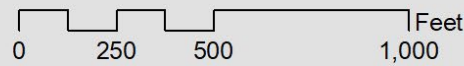
Paynes Prairie Additions* - Siembra Farm (with Flairy Farm addition) Soils Map



Legend

- Siembra Farm (40.14 ac)
- Flairy Farm Addition Parcel (10.2ac)
- Brown Parcels (20 ac)
- PublicParcels (PA)
- Municipal Boundaries

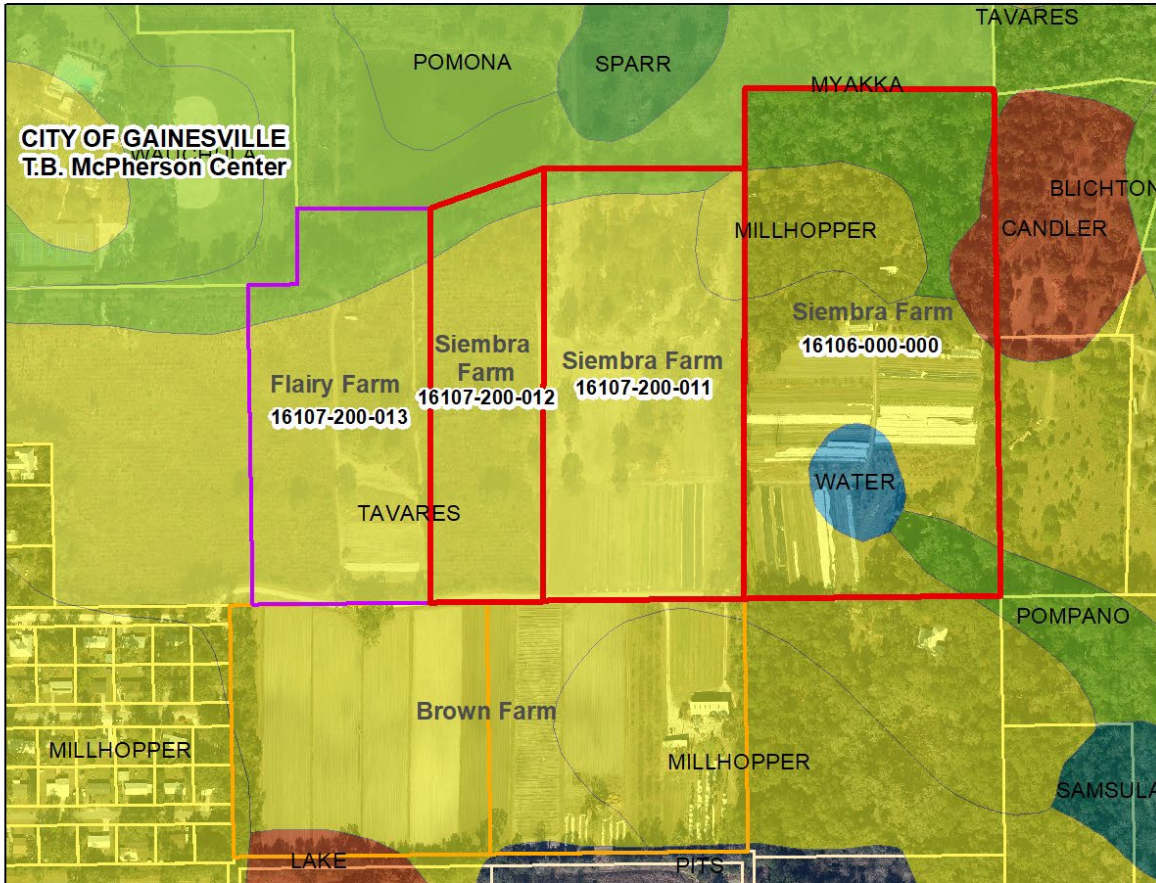
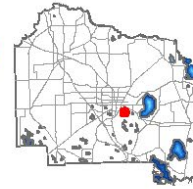
*Property is geographically closest to this ACF project Area, but it is not within the original boundary



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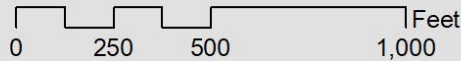
Paynes Prairie Additions* - Siembra Farm (with Flairy Farm addition) Soils Map



Legend

- Siembra Farm (40.14 ac)
 - Flairy Farm Addition Parcel (10.2ac)
 - Brown Parcels (20 ac)
- Soil Drainage**
- EXCESSIVELY DRAINED
 - MODERATELY WELL DRAINED
 - POORLY DRAINED
 - SOMEWHAT POORLY DRAINED
 - VERY POORLY DRAINED
 - WATER
 - PublicParcels (PA)
 - Municipal Boundaries

*Property is geographically closest to this ACF project Area, but it is not within the original boundary



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