

# Alachua County Florida

## A Proclamation

### Declaring November 7, 2025, as “Alachua County Forever Day” in Alachua County, Florida

**Whereas,** on November 7th, 2000, Alachua County citizens and voters created the Alachua County Forever program by passing the Alachua County Forever bond referendum, generating funds to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands; and

**Whereas,** the acquisition of these environmentally significant lands provides opportunities for both existing residents and future generations to enjoy wild and scenic areas and provides opportunities for public recreation and wildlife habitat as well as opportunities to maintain good surface water quality by using appropriate lands for their natural stormwater cleansing abilities; and

**Whereas,** on November 8, 2002, the Alachua County Forever program protected the first county conservation land, the 1,194-acre Lybass Beech Forest near Alachua, now known as Mill Creek Nature Preserve; and

**Whereas,** on November 4th, 2008, voters of Alachua County approved the creation of the first “Wild Spaces and Public Places” surtax, a 2-year, half cent sales tax, continuing the critical land conservation work, and funding park improvements; and created the Registry of Protected Public Places, to further protect County-owned conservation lands; and

**Whereas,** on November 8th, 2016, voters approved the renewal of the “Wild Spaces and Public Places” surtax, as an 8-year, half-cent sales tax; and

**Whereas,** on November 8, 2022, voters passed the “Wild Spaces and Public Places” surtax for the third time, providing a 10-year sales tax with ½ cent for land conservation and park improvements, and ½ cent for road improvements and other community infrastructure; and

**Whereas,** recognizing that over the past 50 years, Alachua County has lost over 50% of its farmland, a strategy to protect farmlands was added to the Alachua County Forever Program in 2024; and

**Whereas,** 2025 celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alachua County Forever program, marked by the program’s 108<sup>th</sup> environmentally significant land acquisition, and now protecting over 36,000 acres and providing public access to 23 nature preserves, management areas, and parks.

**Now, therefore,** through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of the Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim November 7, 2025, as “Alachua County Forever Day” in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, A.D., 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.K. “Jess” Irby, Esq., Clerk