

**Name:** Forgione, Donald

**Address:** 5780 SE 12th Lane, Gainesville, 32641

**Email:** Donald.forgione@gmail.com

**Board Name:** Land Conservation Board

**Primary Phone:**

3522143277

**Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::**

Attached

**Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:**

Attached

**What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:**

Attached

**Please Agree with the following statements:**

**I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:**

Yes

**Are you currently serving, or have you ever served, on an Alachua County advisory board? :**

No

**I do hereby attest that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:**

- 1. I have maintained good moral character throughout my personal and professional life.**
- 2. I have not engaged in any conduct or behavior that would reflect adversely on my honesty, integrity, or ethical standards.**
- 3. I have not been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty, fraud, or moral turpitude.**
- 4. I have adhered to all applicable laws and regulations in my personal and professional dealings.**
- 5. I strive to uphold the principles of fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my interactions.:**

Yes

**Time of Submission:** 08/19/25 3:43:50 PM

**Attachments**

- Donald\_Forgione\_Resume\_OnePage.pdf

# Donald Forgione

Executive Park & Land Management Leader  
Gainesville, FL | Donald.Forgione@gmail.com | (352) 214-3277

## SUMMARY

- 40+ years of leadership in **land management, conservation, and stewardship**.
- Directed **800,000+ acres of conservation lands** across 174 Florida State Parks.
- Expertise in **land acquisition review, prescribed fire, habitat restoration, invasive species control, and endangered species protection**.
- Recognized statewide and nationally for **resource stewardship and conservation leadership**.
- Past-President, **Florida Park Service Ranger Association**; advocate for land stewards and conservation professionals.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### CEO & Chief Inspiration Officer

Tailgate Talks with Donald Forgione | Gainesville, FL | 2017–Present

- Consultant and trainer for conservation professionals; emphasis on stewardship and leadership.
- Author, *The Ecotourism Provider's Handbook*; Host of *Tailgate Talks* podcast (100+ episodes).

### Park Manager

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park | Micanopy, FL | 2017–2021

- Managed **20,000 acres** of wetlands, uplands, and endangered species habitats.
- Directed resource programs including **prescribed fire, hydrologic restoration, invasive species control, and wildlife monitoring**.

### Director

Florida Park Service | Tallahassee, FL | 2010–2017

- Oversaw **174 parks and 800,000+ acres**; 20M annual visitors.
- Coordinated **land acquisition through Florida Forever** and led large-scale restoration and prescribed fire programs.

### District Manager

Florida Park Service | Gainesville, FL | 2005–2010

- Directed **40 parks/200,000 acres**; implemented longleaf pine and hydrologic restoration projects.
- Partnered with governments and nonprofits on **land acquisition and habitat protection**.

### Environmental Land Manager

Palm Beach County | Lake Worth, FL | 1998–2004

- Developed **resource management plans** for conservation lands.
- Led **ecosystem restoration, prescribed burns, exotic plant control**, and hydrological projects.
- Held **Public Pesticide Applicator License** in Natural Areas, Aquatic, and related categories.

## VOLUNTEER & TEACHING

- Adjunct Instructor, University of Florida (2018–Present) – Park Planning & Natural Resource Stewardship.
- Instructor, UF/IFAS Natural Areas Training Academy (NATA).
- Regent, State Park Leadership School (2022–2024).

## RECOGNITION

- Leadership Award for Outstanding Service – Florida Park Service Ranger Association (2025).
- Carlos M. Maxwell Award – Florida Park Service Ranger Association (2024).
- Distinguished Service Award – Florida Park Service (2021).
- Interpreter of the Year – Florida Park Service (2011).