

Is Nature Your Neighbor?

The state of Florida has more than 1,200 public and private conservation lands (natural areas). These natural areas occur in every Florida county, and include:

State Forests, Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas



National Forests, Parks and Wildlife Refuges



City and County Parks & Environmental Lands



Water Management District Lands and Others

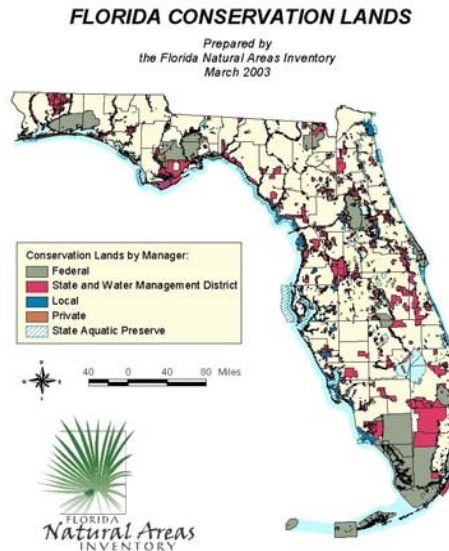


Conservation lands provide habitat for wildlife and native plants, clean water, clean air, recreation opportunities, and more.



Increasingly, human development occurs next to or near conservation lands, resulting in a range of impacts and interactions between humans and nature, and of humans on nature.

Your Neighborhood Conservation Lands



To learn more about conservation lands, invasive species, or prescribed fire in your area, contact:

Florida Forest Service

<http://www.floridaforestservice.com/>

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

<http://myfwc.com/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

www.dep.state.fl.us

USDA Forest Service

www.r8web.com

National Park Service

www.nps.gov/parks.html

National Wildlife Refuges

<https://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

Or your local City or County Government or Water Management District.

Images provided by: *Cindy Moncreif, FDACS-DPI, and Sally Jue, Florida Natural Areas Inventory*

WHEN NATURE IS YOUR NEIGHBOR



HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR TO FLORIDA'S CONSERVATION LANDS

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

Florida Forest Service

James R. Karels, Director

How to be a Good Neighbor to Nature

There are many simple things that you can do to help keep your local conservation lands healthy, including:

Fire Management

- ◆ Support the use of prescribed fire in land management. Prescribed fire is one of the most important land management tools available, and produces benefits to wildlife, native plants and ecosystems, and reduces wildfire risk
- ◆ Never leave fires unattended on your property. Take care not to cause wildfires through careless or accidental use of fire on your property (trash burning, etc.)
- ◆ Use FIREWISE landscaping techniques around your home or property.

http://www.floridaforestservice.com/wildfire/rx_guide.html

How to be a Good Neighbor to Nature (continued)

Invasive Exotic Pest Plant Species

- ◆ These are plants which are not native to your area and that establish wild populations, often damaging native species and ecosystems.

www.fleppc.org

- ◆ Use only non-invasive plants in your home landscaping.
- ◆ Remove invasive plants from your property or landscapes and properly dispose of the plant material.
- ◆ Never dump yard debris or trash in a conservation area. Many invasive plants can take root from cuttings or seeds.
- ◆ Educate your neighbors about the importance of removing invasive plants from landscapes.

How to be a Good Neighbor to Nature (continued)

- ◆ Never dump aquarium plants into local waterways or natural areas. These species can severely alter/damage native ecosystems.

Use of Conservation Lands

- ◆ Always use legal access points and trails to enter and use conservation lands and follow local regulations.
- ◆ Respect conservation land boundaries and don't encroach over your property line.
- ◆ Become a conservation land volunteer and participate in a range of rewarding opportunities.
- ◆ Do not transport firewood long distances; firewood can be a means of moving damaging insects and diseases.

www.dontmovefirewood.org

