

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



**Five-Year
Land Acquisition Plan**
2001

Southwest Florida Water Management District

**Five-Year
Land Acquisition
Plan
2001**

If a disabled individual wishes to obtain the information contained in this document in another form, please contact Cheryl Hill at 1-800-423-1476, extension 4452; TDD ONLY 1-800-231-6103; FAX (352)754-6877.

Table of Contents

Introduction and History	1
Save Our Rivers	1
Preservation 2000	1
Florida Forever	3
Selection and Evaluation Process	5
Less-Than-Fee Acquisitions	10
Partnerships	13
Surplus Lands	16
Land Use/Management Activities	17
Management Planning	17
Land Use Implementation	18
Management Implementation	20

Land Acquisition Priorities	26
Alafia River Watershed	28
Hillsborough River Watershed	30
Lake Wales Ridge Watershed	32
Little Manatee River Watershed	34
Manatee River Watershed	36
Myakka River Watershed	38
Peace River Watershed	40
South Coastal Watershed	42
Springs Coast Watershed	44
Tampa Bay/Ancote River Watershed	46
Withlacoochee River Watershed	48
 Appendices	 50

Figures and Tables

Land Selection, Evaluation and Acquisition Procedure (<i>Figure 1</i>)	6
SWFWMD Conservation Lands (<i>Table 1</i>)	8
Conservation Easements (<i>Table 2</i>)	12
Save Our Rivers/Preservation 2000 Acquisition Activity Report (<i>Table 3</i>)	15
SWFWMD Potential Surplus Lands (<i>Table 4</i>)	16
Land Management Projects (<i>Table 5</i>)	24
SWFWMD Land Acquisition Priorities (<i>Figure 2</i>)	27
Alafia River Watershed (<i>Figure 3</i>)	29
Hillsborough River Watershed (<i>Figure 4</i>)	31

Lake Wales Ridge Watershed (Figure 5)	33
Little Manatee River Watershed (Figure 6)	35
Manatee River Watershed (Figure 7)	37
Myakka River Watershed (Figure 8)	39
Peace River Watershed (Figure 9)	41
South Coastal Watershed (Figure 10)	43
Springs Coast Watershed (Figure 12)	45
Tampa Bay/Anclote River Watershed (Figure 11)	47
Withlacoochee River Watershed (Figure 13)	49

Introduction and History

Section 373.139, Florida Statutes, authorizes the governing boards of the water management districts to acquire the fee or other interest in lands necessary for flood control, water storage, water management, conservation and protection of water resources, aquifer recharge, water resource and water supply development, and preservation of wetlands, streams, and lakes.

As will be described in this report, through the course of its local and regional water management activities, the District has undertaken the acquisition of lands in an effort to meet its statutory obligations.

Lands acquired by each of the state's five water management districts are required to be managed and maintained, to the extent practicable, in such a way as to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreational purposes, and restoration and protection of their natural state and condition. A detailed description of land use and management activities on District-owned lands is described later within this report.

Florida statutes also require the water management districts to file a five-year plan of acquisition with the Legislature and the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) annually. This district considers its "Five-Year Plan" a long range (i.e., 10- to

15-year) plan for the acquisition of lands necessary for water management purposes.

Save Our Rivers

In 1981, the Florida Legislature established within the DEP the Water Management Lands Trust Fund (WMLTF), commonly known as the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program, as a non-lapsing fund for the acquisition of lands in accordance with Section 373.59, Florida Statutes.

The WMLTF provides that monies from the fund shall also be used for land management, maintenance, capital improvements and payments in lieu of taxes to qualifying counties. Funds may also be used to implement Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans approved in accordance with Sections 373.456 and 373.459, Florida Statutes.

Preservation 2000

In June of 1990, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Preservation 2000 Act (Section 259.101, Florida Statutes). The Legislature declared that, "Imminent development of Florida's remaining natural areas and continuing increases in land values necessitate an aggressive program of public land acquisition during

the next decade to preserve the quality of life that attracts so many people to Florida.”

“Acquisition of public lands should be based on a comprehensive assessment of Florida’s natural resources and planned so as to protect the integrity of ecological systems and to provide multiple benefits, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, recreation space, and water recharge areas. Governmental agencies responsible for public land acquisition should work together to purchase lands jointly and to coordinate individual purchases within ecological systems.”

For the water management districts, Preservation 2000 broadened the scope and criteria of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. It required proceeds of bonds deposited in the Preservation 2000 Trust Fund pursuant to the Act be spent only on projects which meet at least one of the following criteria:

- ❖ A significant portion of the land in the project is in imminent danger of development, in imminent danger of loss of its significant natural attributes, or in imminent danger of subdivision which will result in multiple ownership and may make acquisition of the project more costly or less likely to be accomplished;
- ❖ Compelling evidence exists that the land is likely to be developed during the next 12 months, or appraisals made during the past five years indicate an escalation in land value at an average rate that exceeds the average rate of interest likely to be paid on the bonds;

- ❖ A significant portion of the land in the project serves to protect or recharge groundwater and to protect other valuable natural resources or provide space for natural resource based recreation;
- ❖ The project can be purchased at 80% of appraised value or less;
- ❖ A significant portion of the land in the project serves as habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species or serves to protect natural communities which are listed by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as critically imperiled, imperiled, or rare, or as excellent quality occurrences of natural communities; or
- ❖ A significant portion of the land in the project serves to preserve important archaeological or historical sites.

Provisions of the Preservation 2000 legislation directed the districts to describe the manner in which groundwater and recharge protection are considered in acquisition. The SWFWMD’s *Land Acquisition Site Identification Model*, originally developed in 1990, is composed of five major model components (water supply protection, water quality protection, flood protection, natural systems protection, and management and acquisition considerations). Four maps included in these major model components relate to groundwater. Furthermore, groundwater is addressed within each watershed description included later in this report.

The 1997 Florida Legislature directed the State's Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council and the water management districts' Governing Boards to commission a study "to ensure that future acquisitions preserve those resources in the greatest need of protection." Specifically, the study was to determine the following:

- ❖ What ecological resources are inadequately represented in the State's and each water management district's public land inventory and which approved projects can best fill the needs identified;
- ❖ Significant natural areas and watersheds which can be conserved by using less-than-fee techniques;
- ❖ For projects in which an acquisition has been completed, the minimal lands needed to be acquired for resource protection and effective management;
- ❖ Projects with significant historical or archaeological importance; and
- ❖ The best method of completing the Florida Preservation 2000 program to ensure that the program achieves its mission.

The District completed the above-mentioned study in October of 1997, entitled *Southwest Florida Water Management District Preservation 2000 Remaining Needs and Priorities*. Through the study, the District identified and prioritized over 609,000 acres for potential acquisition through the Save Our Rivers and Preservation 2000

programs. This included nearly 260,000 acres of P2000 priority lands, 209,000 acres of SOR priority lands and 140,000 acres identified for future evaluation. See the study for further details. Since completion of the study, the District has annually reviewed all projects proposed for acquisition to determine whether or not land acquisition would still be warranted.

To date, the District has protected nearly 359,000 acres of land.

Florida Forever

In 1999, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Forever Act which is the successor program to P2000. Like P2000, the Florida Forever program will provide \$3 billion over ten years (\$300 million annually). Thirty-five percent, or \$105 million annually, will be allocated to the water management districts for land acquisition, SWIM, water resource development, water supply development and restoration. At least 50 percent of the WMD allocation must be spent on land acquisition. Of the \$105 million provided to the water management districts, the SWFWMD will receive 25 percent, or approximately \$26 million annually.

The SWFWMD has budgeted its first year's allocation of Florida Forever funds for acquisition of lands in Hillsborough County near the Alafia River. Once acquired, the lands will be used by Tampa Bay Water, a regional water supply authority, for the Tampa Bay

Regional Reservoir. The reservoir, designed to store high water river flows, is projected to provide up to 66 million gallons of water per day to the citizens of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

The Preservation 2000 program's primary focus was on acquiring land for conservation and preservation. Florida Forever focuses not only on land conservation and preservation through acquisition, but also on water resource development, restoration, and recreation in both rural and urban settings.

In order to guide the implementation of the Florida Forever program for the state's water management districts, and to facilitate the preparation of an annual evaluation of the success of the program, Section 373.1995, Florida Statutes, directed that a set of goals and measures developed by the water management districts be forwarded to

the Secretary of the DEP and on to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) for approval. The *Water Management Districts Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures* report is included as Appendix A.

In creating the Florida Forever program (Section 259.105, Florida Statutes), the Legislature has required each water management district to develop an annual Florida Forever Program Five-Year Workplan. These plans must integrate Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans, Save Our Rivers plans, stormwater management plans, water body restoration projects and other projects that would assist in meeting the goals of the Florida Forever program. The water management districts are required to submit their initial workplans to the Secretary of the DEP by June 1, 2001. The Secretary will submit the workplans to the Legislature.

Selection and Evaluation Process

Five major water resource themes were developed as part of the District's land acquisition site identification process to identify study areas within the District for further, more definitive evaluation. These components are as follows:

- ❖ Water quality;
- ❖ Water supply protection;
- ❖ Flood protection;
- ❖ Natural systems protection; and
- ❖ Management and acquisition considerations.

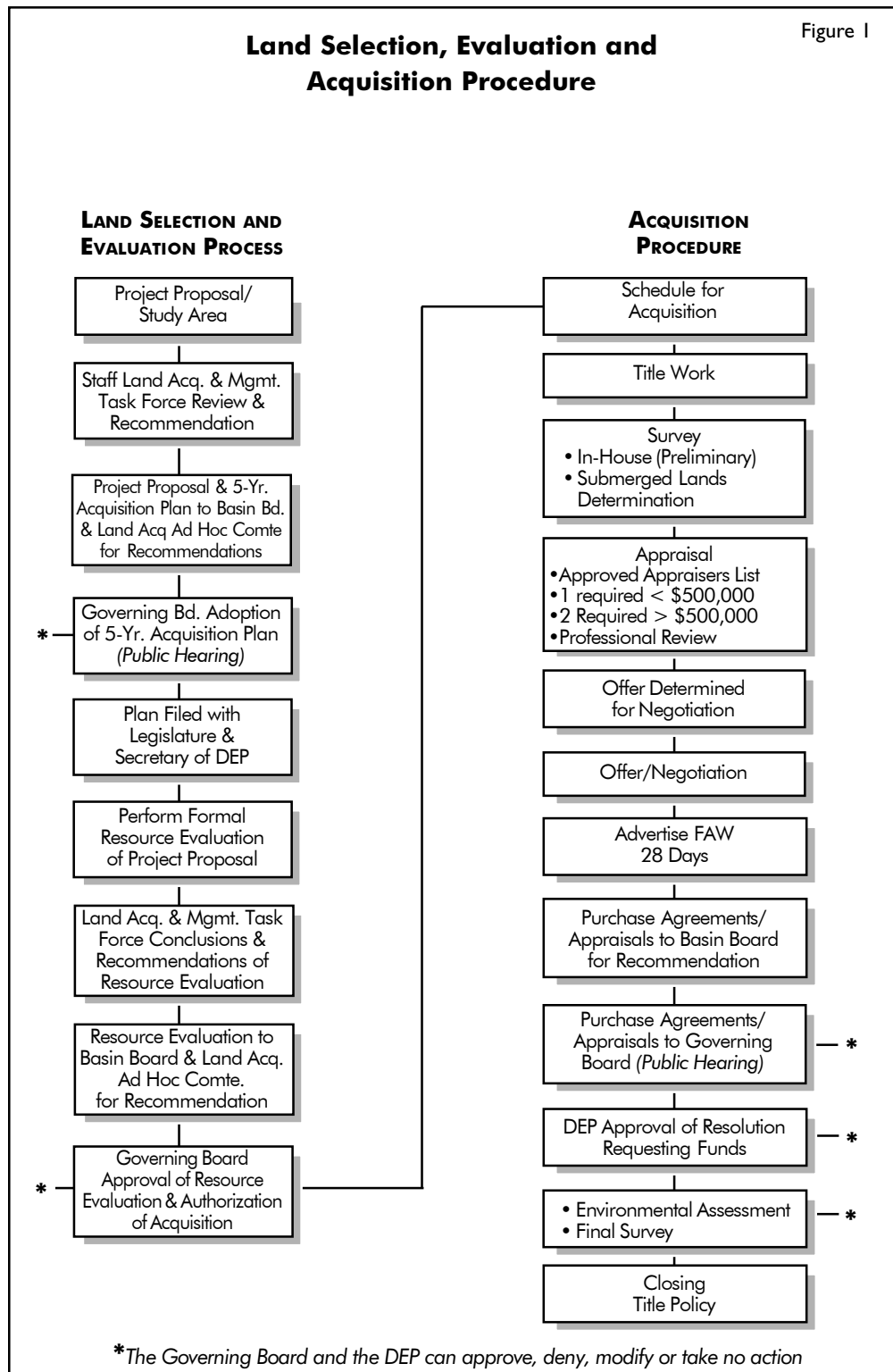
Though recreational value is not a criterion for evaluating lands for water management purposes, the District acknowledges that Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, requires that lands acquired by the District be made available for general public natural resource-based recreational purposes, to the maximum extent possible. Chapter 62-402, FAC, further states that the level and types of public use shall be based on the environmental sensitivity and recreational suitability of the natural resources present. District lands are made available for recreational activities, provided such activities will not conflict with the purposes for which the lands were acquired.

In addition to allowing passive recreational use of its lands, the District has entered into a number of cooperative

partnerships (See Appendix B, *Recreational/Hunting/Environmental Education Cooperative Agreements*) with local and state governments, and private not-for-profit entities, to enhance recreational opportunities on District-owned lands. Over two million individuals enjoyed these jointly managed sites in 2000.

The water management components and/or criteria outlined above play an important role in the protection of the water and land-related resources. Using these criteria, project proposals are received through September 15 of each year. If a proposal appears to meet the land acquisition criteria, it will be included in the land acquisition plan as a study area. After inclusion in the Plan, study areas are formally evaluated to determine if they meet the objectives of the District's land acquisition programs. Figure 1, *Land Selection, Evaluation and Acquisition Procedure* is a flow diagram depicting the District's selection and evaluation process.

The project resource evaluation report is formulated at the interdepartmental level and is then submitted to the Staff Land Acquisition and Management Task Force, comprised of senior management and technical staff representing a wide range of expertise within the District. The Task Force reviews the evaluation and formulates its conclusions and recommendations. During the evaluation process, staff often finds it necessary, from a water



resource standpoint, to increase, decrease or otherwise modify the size of the study area.

Once the report is completed, it is submitted for review and recommendations to the Basin Board in which the project is located and then to the Land Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of one member from each Basin Board within the District.

Ultimately, the report and its recommendations are submitted to the District Governing Board for their consideration. Once a project is approved for acquisition by the Governing Board, the District's Land Acquisition Plan is amended accordingly.

In addition to the Ad Hoc Committee's review of the resource evaluation reports, the Committee reviews the Land Acquisition Plan from a District-wide perspective in order to formulate recommendations to the Governing Board.

As part of the *Preservation 2000 Needs and Priorities* report and annually thereafter, each project area was examined to determine which projects or individual parcels included in the Land

Acquisition Plan could be deleted, reduced in size, combined, or modified. Then approved project areas were further scrutinized to determine their appropriateness for acquisition utilizing less-than-fee simple techniques. This year, lands within the land acquisition plan have been divided into two categories which are briefly described below:

❖ **Projects Authorized for Acquisition:** This category contains projects for which a resource evaluation report has been completed or those projects included in the original legislation creating the Save Our Rivers program. The projects in this category have been authorized for acquisition by the Governing Board.

❖ **Study Areas:** This category includes proposed projects scheduled for formal evaluation. If the Governing Board approves acquisition of a study area after its formal evaluation and authorizes acquisition, the project area will also be designated for fee simple and/or less-than-fee acquisition.

Table 1, *SWFWMD Conservation Lands*, identifies all District-protected conservation lands, acquired through the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000 and other District land acquisition programs.

SWFWMD Conservation Lands as of November 15, 2000

Table I

PROJECT	COUNTY	LANDS ACQUIRED FEE	LANDS ACQUIRED LTF
Alafia River Corridor	Hillsborough/Polk	4,361	1,577
Annettella Hammock	Hernando/Citrus	1,191	
Bowlegs Creek	Polk		
Bright Hour Watershed	DeSoto		31,989
Brooker Creek Headwaters	Hillsborough	1,039	
Brooker Creek Preserve	Pinellas	1,619	
Charlie Creek	Highlands		
Charlie Creek Addition	Hardee/Polk		
Charlotte 1	Charlotte		
Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve	Charlotte	7,529	
Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Swamps	Citrus/Hernando	5,679	
Cork Prairie	Pasco		
Cypress Creek	Pasco	7,393	789
Flying Eagle	Citrus	11,343	91
Green Swamp	Polk/Lake/Sumter/Pasco	110,500	24,202
Gum Slough	Marion/Sumter	6,326	1,820
Hálpata Tastanaki (Marion 1)	Marion	8,110	
Hidden Lake	Pasco	589	
Hillsborough River Corridor	Pasco	265	81
Homosassa River	Citrus		
Horse Creek	DeSoto/Hardee/Manatee		
Jack Creek	Highlands	1,286	
Jerry Lake	Pinellas	81	
Lake Hancock	Polk		
Lake Manatee Lower Watershed	Manatee	7,932	
Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter	9,911	
Little Manatee River	Hillsborough/Manatee	7,050	
Lower Cypress Creek	Hillsborough		
Lower Hillsborough FDA	Hillsborough	15,926	38
Lower Peace River	DeSoto/Hardee	1,988	
Lower Manatee River Floodway	Manatee		
Marion/Levy 1	Marion/Levy		
Myakkahatchee Creek	Sarasota		4,548
Myakka Prairie	Sarasota	8,249	
Myakka River	Sarasota	3,993	
Myakka State Forest	Sarasota	8,043	
Panasoffkee/Outlet	Sumter	806	
Pasco 1	Pasco		
Potts Preserve	Citrus	9,432	
Prairie/Shell Creek	DeSoto/Charlotte		
RV Griffin Reserve	DeSoto/Sarasota	5,839	93
Sawgrass Lake	Pinellas	390	
Starkey	Pasco	18,899	114
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem	Tampa/Manatee/Hillsborough	1,635	
Tatum Sawgrass	Manatee/Sarasota		
Two-Mile Prairie	Citrus	2,900	
Upper Hillsborough	Polk/Pasco/Hillsborough	9,961	967
Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed	Polk	297	
Upper Peace River	Hardee/Polk		
Upper Myakka River Watershed	Manatee	2,357	
Weekiwachee Riverine System	Hernando/Pasco	9,510	
Total		292,448	66,307

LANDS APPROVED FEE	LANDS APPROVED LTF	STUDY AREA	GRAND TOTAL	APPROXIMATE COST
29,870			35,808	\$6,051,986
10,807	687		14,157	6,124,131
		15,750	15,751	
	19,261		51,250	11,638,594
			1,039	2,511,957
			1,619	11,104,266
7,116	2,587		9,703	
	5,590	30,291	35,881	
		8,628	8,628	
			7,529	6,671,702
			5,679	8,479,080
527			527	
56			8,238	17,517,381
277			11,731	7,666,369
26,820	43,604		205,126	70,336,092
13,215	5,416		26,777	7,335,619
1,968			10,078	13,576,196
			589	1,354,608
438	479		1,261	225,000
		906	906	
		43,442	43,442	
			2,446	1,528,808
			81	554,516
6,417			6,417	
11,046			18,978	10,538,609
2,319			12,230	8,244,957
27,002			34,052	8,767,526
		8,943	8,943	
			15,964	12,140,950
39,317			41,305	4,173,960
7,462			7,462	
		19,336	19,336	
667	6,073		11,288	2,273,050
			8,249	9,522,072
24,781			28,774	4,835,312
			8,043	4,662,192
576			1,382	1,509,999
	26,923		26,923	
633			10,065	12,847,957
14,521	10,626		25,147	
9,191	15,967		31,090	5,309,770
			390	2,042,332
2,785			21,799	9,331,325
16,712			18,347	2,890,436
		4,914	4,914	
			2,900	2,828,914
	13,029		22,957	7,205,823
1,625			1,9232	382,134
15,812			15,812	
2,117	2,611	3,230	10,315	2,099,889
6,517			16,027	22,996,086
280,551	152,853	135,439	927,599	\$307,279,598

Less-Than-Fee Acquisitions

Florida's rapid growth is placing increasing pressure on its remaining natural areas. This situation, among others, has prompted the District to seek additional resource protection techniques to augment its highly successful land acquisition program. In July of 1995, the District Governing Board adopted *Alternative Methods of Land Acquisition*, which explains and identifies less-than-fee acquisition techniques.

"Less-than-fee" refers to a group of techniques which involve the acquisition of limited interests in property, as opposed to outright, or fee simple, purchase. Conservation easements are the best known example. By purchasing such an easement, the District obtains and retires certain rights from the landowner, such as the right to erect structures, mine, clear vegetation, or conduct other activities inconsistent with the conservation and protection of natural resources on the property.

Less-than-fee methods provide several benefits to the District. Since only part of the "bundle of rights" associated with a property is acquired, resource protection is less costly, enabling the protection of more land with limited funds. Because less-than-fee lands continue in private ownership, they remain on the local property tax rolls. Additionally, the District does not incur the costs of land management, since management remains the responsibility of the landowner.

Potential disadvantages of less-than-fee methods include less control over the use and management of properties, the need to monitor and enforce less-than-fee agreements, the possibility of divergent goals when properties are sold, and fewer opportunities for long-term restoration and public access for recreation.

Less-than-fee techniques are a promising supplement to, not a replacement for, fee simple land acquisition. Pristine lands with the most sensitive natural resources or complex management needs will continue to be targeted for fee simple purchase. Each unique project should be evaluated and its resource protection needs identified, so that the appropriate tool, whether fee or less-than-fee, may be applied.

Generally, less-than-fee methods are used when resource protection benefits can be obtained without fee simple ownership, when intensive land management or restoration is not necessary, and when the cost to the public is reasonable. The aforementioned report recommends a procedure to evaluate acquisition projects and designate "core" areas most critical to protect hydrological and ecological functions. Core areas would normally be acquired in fee simple, while adjacent buffer areas, certain river corridors, and linkage corridors between two core areas would be targeted for less-than-fee acquisition. Details are included in *Alternative Methods of Land Acquisition*. Another scenario where District the

utilizes less-than-fee acquisition methods is when lands targeted for purchase have been identified for fee simple protection, but the landowner will not sell their land outright, but would sell certain rights to their land. In these instances, the District would acquire the lands in less-than-fee; as some protection is preferred to no protection.

Appraisal Methodology

The District has adopted supplemental appraisal standards for less-than-fee acquisitions. Details are included in *Alternative Methods of Land Acquisition*, mentioned earlier.

Since the 1960s, the District has acquired less-than-fee simple interests in lands for various purposes such as flowage easements, structure sites, mineral rights, etc. Table 2, *Conservation Easements*, identifies lands for which the District has acquired conservation easements since 1996.

The District is currently pursuing acquisition of five parcels of land covering approximately 17,000 acres utilizing these alternative techniques.

Conservation Easements as of November 15, 2000			Table 2
PROJECT	COUNTY	ACREAGE	COST
Alafia River	Hillsborough	1,497	0
Alafia River	Hillsborough	80	0
Bright Hour Watershed	DeSoto	28,274	\$10,338,365
Bright Hour Watershed	DeSoto	3,715	1,300,229
Cypress Creek	Pasco	789	976,250
Flying Eagle	Citrus	91	0
Green Swamp	Lake	937	560,862
Green Swamp	Lake	994	545,067
Green Swamp	Lake	86	42,485
Green Swamp	Pasco	191	149,064
Green Swamp	Pasco	1,756	1,792,397
Green Swamp	Pasco	226	274,584
Green Swamp	Polk	453	473,015
Green Swamp	Polk	77	60,507
Green Swamp	Polk	81	69,053
Gum Slough	Marion & Sumter	1,820	0
Hillsborough River Corridor	Pasco	81	0
Myakkahatchee Creek	Sarasota	4,548	2,273,050
Myakka River	Sarasota	15	0
RV Griffin Reserve	DeSoto	93	0
Upper Hillsborough	Hillsborough	741	413,021
Upper Hillsborough	Pasco	1,756	1,792,397
TOTAL		48,301	\$21,060,345

Partnerships

Section 259.101(2)(c) of the Florida Preservation 2000 Act states that, “governmental agencies responsible for public land acquisition should work together to purchase lands jointly and to coordinate individual purchases within ecological systems.”

To that end, when evaluating lands for potential acquisition or acquiring lands, the District coordinates with appropriate governmental entities. A number of counties within the District, including Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Marion, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota have various funding mechanisms to acquire environmentally sensitive lands. The District has worked with many of these counties to cooperatively or jointly purchase lands.

The District also enters into partnerships with the State, through its Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program.

Another avenue for partnerships is the State’s greenways initiative. The District works with the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Greenways and Trails, and local greenway groups such as the Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force, to assist in the development of state, regional and local greenway networks. The concept of a statewide greenways system was enunciated in the

report of the Florida Greenways Commission in 1994. It consists of a series of protected natural areas, open spaces and connecting corridors managed for conservation and/or recreational purposes. This was expanded in the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council’s Five-Year Implementation Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System in the September 1998 report to the Governor and Legislature (Connecting Florida’s Communities with Greenways and Trails). As part of the Florida Forever legislation, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council was created.

These ideas mesh well with the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever programs. In fact, for nearly 20 years the District has been protecting important conservation lands and riverine corridors, as well as providing for recreational trails, through these programs. The District will continue to seek opportunities to advance the goal of a statewide greenways network. The District will work with advocates for greenways projects to establish partnerships when the goals of land acquisition for water management overlap with those of establishing greenways.

Examples of successful land acquisition partnerships include:

- ❖ Joint acquisition with Hillsborough County’s Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program of lands

within the Alafia River Corridor, Brooker Creek Headwaters, Little Manatee River, Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area and Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem projects, totaling over 12,000 acres. In each of the partnerships, the purchase price was shared equally by the County and the District. The District holds title to the lands and the county manages the lands;

- ❖ Joint acquisition with Hernando County's Environmental Lands Acquisition Program of 588 acres of land in the Weekiwachee Preserve project. The purchase price was split equally with the District holding title. Recently, the District and the County amended their agreement to provide that the County's portion of the land acquisition cost be utilized for recreational amenities for the project;

- ❖ During 1995, the District and the State, through its CARL program, jointly purchased and jointly holds title to over 9,900 acres of land within the Myakka State Forest and Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve projects within Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, respectively. The State and the District also jointly acquired lands within Two-Mile Prairie. The Two-Mile Prairie and Myakka State Forest lands are managed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

Services' Division of Forestry and the DEP's Division of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) manages the Charlotte Harbor lands. Most recently, the District again partnered with the CARL program to jointly purchase additional lands within the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve, which is also managed by the CAMA.

- ❖ The District jointly acquired lands with Polk County within the Alafia River Corridor project. This partnership provided for title to the lands to be held jointly and the County providing land management. Currently, the District and County staff's are in the process of negotiating for the purchase of the first parcel of land within the Lake Hancock project.

- ❖ The District's newest land acquisition partnership is with Sarasota County. This partnership agreement covers lands within the Myakka River watershed in Sarasota County. Table 3 is the District's *Save Our Rivers/Preservation 2000 Acquisition Activity Report*, which, in addition to identifying all lands purchased with Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever funds, indicates which lands were purchased with contributions by the District's land acquisition partners.

Save Our Rivers/Preservation 2000

Table 3

Acquisition Activity Report Inception through November 15, 2000

PROJECT	No.	ACREAGE	PARTNER	PARTNER FUNDS	SOR/P2000 FUNDS	PURCHASE PRICE
Alafia River Corridor	11	5,938.5	Hillsborough/Polk Co.	\$6,051,986.25	\$6,051,986.25	\$12,103,972.5
Annettella Hammock	583	1,239.9		0.00	6,332,573.60	6,332,573.60
Bright Hour Watershed	2	31,988.83		0.00	11,638,594.43	11,638,594.43
Brooker Creek Headwaters	7	1,039.48	Hillsborough County	2,109,648.25	2,109,648.25	4,219,296.50
Brooker Creek Preserve	12	1,619.86		0.00	11,104,265.65	11,104,265.65
Charlotte Harbor	4	7,528.83	State of Florida (CARL)	3,335,851.16	3,335,851.16	6,671,702.31
Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps	4	5,678.84		0.00	8,479,080.00	8,479,080.00
Cypress Creek	14	4,448.17	Hillsborough River Basin	85,496.60	8,560,421.40	8,645,918.00
Flying Eagle	12	11,453.35		0.00	7,666,369.40	7,666,369.40
Green Swamp	253	64,253.77	Green Swamp Basin	61,409.94	62,577,217.55	62,638,627.49
Gum Slough	5	8,145.89		0.00	7,335,619.00	7,335,619.00
Hálpata Tastanki (Marion 1)	4	8,110.64		0.00	13,576,195.50	13,576,195.50
Hidden Lake	1	588.91		0.00	1,354,608.00	1,354,608.00
Hillsborough River Corridor	3	346.09		0.00	225,000.00	225,000.00
Jack Creek	20	1,285.64		0.00	1,528,808.08	1,528,808.08
Lake Manatee Lower Watershed	2	7,931.95		0.00	10,537,326.00	10,537,326.00
Lake Panasoffkee	8	9,911.39		0.00	8,244,957.00	8,244,957.00
Little Manatee River	15	7,049.58	Hillsborough County	2,616,567.50	3,926,575.10	6,543,142.60
Lower Hillsborough FDA	4	988.91	Hillsborough County	1,148,722.00	1,332,000.00	2,480,722.00
Lower Peace River Corridor	1	1,987.60		0.00	4,173,960.00	4,173,960.00
Myakka Prairie	1	8,248.75		0.00	9,522,072.00	9,522,072.00
Myakkahatchee Creek	1	4,548.01		0.00	2,273,049.92	2,273,049.92
Myakka River	2	3,992.76		0.00	4,835,312.00	4,835,312.00
Myakka State Forest	1	8,043.39	State of Florida (CARL)	4,662,191.50	4,662,191.50	9,324,383.00
Panasoffkee/Outlet Tract	3	805.55		0.00	1,509,999.01	1,509,999.01
Potts Preserve	5	9,431.48		0.00	12,847,956.57	12,847,956.57
RV Griffin Reserve	1	5,931.62		0.00	5,309,770.05	5,309,770.05
Sawgrass Lake	1	51.10	Pinellas-Anclote River Basin	155,000.00	620,000.00	775,000.00
Starkey/Starkey Addition	10	13,557.99	Pinellas-Anclote River Basin	517,807.00	6,120,743.03	6,638,50.03
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem	5	1,635.11	Hillsborough Co./State of Fla (CARL)/Tampa Port Auth	1,490,436.03	2,890,436.03	4,380,872.05
Two-Mile Prairie	1	2,899.64	State of Florida (CARL)	2,828,913.75	2,828,913.75	5,657,827.50
Upper Hillsborough	8	5,954.30		0.00	6,338,743.28	6,338,743.28
Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed	2	297.28		0.00	382,134.00	382,134.00
Upper Myakka River Watershed	1	2,357.21		0.00	2,099,889.00	2,099,889.00
Weekiwachee Preserve	24	9,509.55	Hernando County	145,485.00	22,850,600.50	22,996,085.50
TOTAL	1,031	258,799.86		\$26,321,706.60	\$269,493,708.69	\$289,280,919.07

Surplus Lands

Over the past year, District staff has undertaken an analysis of its landholdings to determine which lands may no longer be needed for the purposes for which they were acquired and could be declared surplus. Table 4, *SWFWMD Potential Surplus Lands*, indicates those parcels of land that staff has initially identified for potential surplus.

Once staff has completed its analysis, it is anticipated that the list will then be presented to the Staff Land Acquisition and Management Task Force for further refinement. After Task Force review, the potential surplus parcel list will then be presented to each affected Basin Board for a recommendation to be forwarded to the Governing Board. Ultimately, staff will present the potential surplus parcel list to the Governing Board, requesting that the appropriate parcels on the list be declared surplus.

Table 4

SWFWMD Potential Surplus Lands			
Project	County	Number of Parcels	Acres
Flying Eagle	Citrus	2	54
Green Swamp	Lake & Pasco	2	7
Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter	6	27
Panasoffkee/Outlet	Sumter	1	6
Lower Hillsborough	Hillsborough	3	68
Potts Preserve	Citrus	3	12
Tampa Bypass Canal	Hillsborough	19	75
Total		37	249

Land Use/Management Activities

The District's policy relating to the use and management of District-owned lands is contained in Governing Board Policy 610-3. Included in that policy is a series of statements which indicate the degree to which various activities are allowed on these lands and overall guidelines for the use and management of these lands. Florida Statutes also guide the use and management of the District's lands. Section 373.1391, Florida Statutes, states "Lands titled to the governing boards of the districts shall be managed and maintained, to the extent practicable, in such a way as to ensure a balance between public access, general public recreational purposes, and restoration and protection of their natural state and condition.

District activities directed at achieving this level of management can be categorized into three general approaches: management planning; land use implementation; and management implementation. Each is briefly described below.

Management Planning

Included in the board policy is a directive that plans shall be prepared for the use and management of each of the District's properties. As of this writing, nearly all of the District's land use plans have been completed or are underway, which

covers 94 percent of the District's landholdings requiring plans (i.e., projects in which the "core" acquisitions are not complete are not included). A series of research projects has been completed for the purpose of developing a consistent and comprehensive approach to development of the plans. These include research designed to:

- ❖ identify successional trends on agriculturally altered lands;
- ❖ identify and protect archaeological resources;
- ❖ gauge public attitudes and needs for recreational activities on District-owned lands;
- ❖ identify and outline protection needs for significant ecological resources; and
- ❖ measure the impact of noise on wildlife populations and recreational usage.

The results of these research efforts and the directives contained in the Governing Board policy were integrated into a document entitled: *Guidelines for the Completion of Site Specific Plans for the Use and Management of District-Owned Properties*. These guidelines provide a systematic, coordinated approach to land use planning for publicly owned lands. Special protection areas are identified for each property. Protection of these areas, which include wetlands, floodplains, archaeological and ecological resources,

and flood control facilities, takes precedence over other uses of the land. Activity zones are also delineated on the basis of accessibility by motorized vehicles. Activities of similar intensity are clustered in common locations to avoid disturbance due to mixing of incompatible land uses. Finally, a management philosophy is defined based on the proportion of each property within the influence of motorized vehicles and on its remoteness from population centers. This philosophy guides the resource protection strategy most appropriate for the character of the area and also dictates the types of recreational activities which are most appropriate.

Land Use Implementation

In accordance with Florida Statutes, access for passive use of District-owned lands is encouraged. As the District continues to acquire land, the diversity and number of land use requests for these lands increases. Coordination with appropriate governmental agencies to ensure and develop public recreational use areas becomes vital.

A key element of land use implementation includes the monitoring of public and private uses to ensure the protection of the District's lands.

To that end, the District enters into agreements with other public entities to provide adequate management of the land, water and wildlife resources, and

recreational opportunities. Recreational opportunities are encouraged on lands where they are compatible with the purposes for which the lands were acquired. In most instances, the District requires that those entities adequately fund, develop, operate and maintain recreational amenities and fund resource management needs where appropriate. For example, the District has entered into agreements with the Cities of Clearwater, Oldsmar and Temple Terrace; and Citrus, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota and Sumter Counties for the construction, operation and maintenance of 15 park sites. The District also enters into agreements with law enforcement officers to provide security patrol on these lands.

Public awareness of the critical need to protect, conserve and preserve water resources within the State of Florida is of primary concern to the District. For this reason, the District has promoted the use of its lands for environmental education programs to raise awareness. To date, the District has entered into agreements with Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties and/or their respective school boards for environmental education programs to be offered to children in their counties.

Additionally, the District has entered into agreements with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that allow hunting and fishing within the Green Swamp, Green Swamp West, Upper Hillsborough, Flying Eagle, Gum Slough (Carlton-Half Moon), Potts Preserve and Lake Panasoffkee projects.

Agreements for scientific study with various research organizations have also been negotiated to assess natural resources on the District's lands.

In response to the continued existence and protection of endangered species in the State of Florida, the District is aware that some of its lands could provide suitable habitat to further the success of endangered native species breeding programs. The Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, has negotiated the use of District lands in the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve for establishment of a breeding program and facility. The District acknowledges the significant benefits that these programs will achieve and will assist to further these efforts where appropriate.

As Florida grows in population and development pressures increase, the need for expansion and construction of roads, utility lines and other services grows. Many utility improvements, including water, sewer, gas and electric lines have been constructed on District lands. Requests for public facilities not associated with District functions or approved recreational facilities are considered where not inconsistent with a property's management plan; compatible with the natural ecosystem and resource values of the property; the proposed use is appropriately located on the property; where due consideration is given to the use of other available lands; the using entity reasonably compensates the

district for such use; and the use is consistent with the public interest.

To meet the District's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program initiatives and objectives, the District identifies areas of disturbed District-owned lands that can be utilized for and contribute to the treatment and management of storm-water.

Consistent with the Save Our Rivers program, the District has acquired lands essential to the protection and development of potable water supplies. Accordingly, the District has entered into agreements for protection and development of water supply wellfields, which serve the public in various counties. Properties that have been developed as water supply sources include Cypress Creek, Starkey, Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area and RV Griffin Reserve.

In summary, a major portion of the District's lands have been leased to counties, other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations for a myriad of uses including, but not limited to, campgrounds, hiking trails, urban and wilderness parks, environmental education centers, water supply facilities, youth sports complexes, wildlife management areas, natural resource research and resource management. This includes over 200 land use agreements and the issuance of some 3,000 temporary land use permits per year.

Management Implementation

The principal efforts under the heading of management implementation are: habitat protection and wildlife conservation; resource monitoring; prescribed burning; restoration; exotics control; wildlife management; timber management; fencing and fence maintenance; and road and bridge maintenance of District-owned lands. The remainder of this section briefly describes each activity.

Habitat Protection and Wildlife

Conservation — Through its acquisition of extensive natural areas including river floodplains, hardwood swamps, marshes, hammocks, pine flatwoods and other native habitats, the District holds management and stewardship responsibilities over lands of regional and local importance to native plant and animal populations, many of which are rare, threatened or endangered.

A key element in maintaining the present and long-term wildlife values of these areas requires that management planning and implementation efforts recognize the need to maintain habitat integrity, diversity, quality and productivity. Therefore, the District's primary management implementation efforts are designed to maintain natural ecological process while minimizing habitat disruptions and alterations.

Resource Monitoring — In order to maintain habitat diversity and integrity, it is essential for land managers to have sufficient information about key plant and animal populations on the lands and

how they function and interact within the landscape. To this end, in 1996 the District implemented an expanded resource monitoring program. In this program, staff investigate key plant communities on the lands to discover the existence of key plant and animal populations to determine the overall condition of the community. Once discovered, more detailed monitoring of the populations are conducted periodically to gauge their health and response to management treatments. This knowledge, combined with review of the latest scientific information on management methods, assures that land management strategies are achieving the highest level of natural systems function.

Prescribed Burning — Periodic fire is a natural element of native Florida ecosystems. The District uses prescribed burning as a tool for a variety of land management purposes including reduction of hazardous brush buildup, habitat enhancement, encouragement of natural pine regeneration and site preparation for restoration projects.

The District's prescribed burning program includes natural systems such as pine flatwoods, sand hills, scrub and fresh water marshes. All natural communities are burned during the proper times of year and at a frequency that most closely mimics the natural fire process. During fiscal year 2000, the District burned approximately 12,000 acres.

Restoration — The primary goal of the District's restoration program is to reestablish natural plant and animal communities on those lands that have

been disturbed or impacted by past land uses such as logging and agriculture.

In fiscal year 1994, District Procedure 61-10, *Natural Systems Restoration* was adopted. The procedure defines the District's approach in future restoration efforts and criteria by which staff will identify and prioritize sites for restoration. This process has resulted in a ten-year natural systems restoration plan. Active implementation of restoration commenced in 1998.

To date, the District has initiated restoration on approximately 8,500 acres of altered systems, including pine flatwoods and xeric scrub communities. In 1999 the District and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed the Cypress Creek off-site mitigation project. This project, the second such cooperative effort between the District and FDOT, was designed to compensate for road expansion projects. This project entailed the restoration of freshwater marshes through the backfilling of rim ditches and regrading and revegetation of filled pine flatwoods communities on the 465-acre site. Another FDOT mitigation project was initiated in fiscal year 1999 which includes hydrologic restoration through ditch filling and plugging on the Upper Hillsborough property.

Staff continues work on a restoration project in the Green Swamp West property which will entail hydrologic restoration by filling ditches and the restoration of approximately 400 acres of improved pasture back to longleaf pine sandhill community. Completion is scheduled for fiscal year 2003.

Exotics Control — The invasion of native plant communities and ecosystems by exotic, nonnative plant and wildlife is widely recognized as one of the primary threats to the environmental integrity of Florida's remaining natural areas. Some District-owned lands have been invaded by exotic species such as cogon grass, Brazilian pepper, skunk vine, melaleuca and tropical soda apple. Rooting damage by the overpopulation of feral hogs is an ongoing problem as well.

In fiscal year 1994, District Procedure 61-9, *Control of Exotic Flora and Fauna on District-Owned Lands*, was adopted to guide staff in the control of exotics invasions. Through this program, staff identifies and documents infestations, and prescribes and coordinates the appropriate control treatments. In fiscal year 1996, the District initiated a coordinated effort among the five water management districts to develop a prototype for a state-wide exotic plant control plan. The resulting document, *Exotic Plant Invasion on Florida's Water Management District Lands*, includes recommended strategies for a comprehensive approach to the statewide exotic plant problem.

In fiscal year 1999, the District began studies to test the feasibility of biological control for skunk vine, a serious invasive exotic plant in central Florida. The two-year study was completed in fiscal year 2001 and the potential for development of biological control agents for skunk vine in the near future appears promising.

Wildlife Management — This program includes the identification and documentation of certain key wildlife species on or near District-owned lands, and implementation of management strategies to assure quality habitat and the proliferation of those species, and the control of nuisance or exotic species.

Approximately 35 percent of the lands under the District's stewardship are under Wildlife Management Area (WMA) status in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). On these lands, the hunts afford some measure of feral hog and game species population control. On other District lands such as the Green Swamp West and Potts Preserve projects, several highly successful special hog control hunts have been conducted. In 1997, staff conducted a District-wide assessment of those District lands that hold the potential for public hunts. Using detailed criteria established by staff, these lands were ranked as to the degree of need for wildlife population management hunts and their ability to sustain public hunts. The key wildlife populations were surveyed on the top-ranked lands to gather data on population size, demographics and vigor.

Timber Management — In 1994, the District Governing Board directed staff to evaluate all available alternative sources of land management funding to assure that in the long term, the management of

District lands has reliable, sustainable funding not solely reliant upon the Water Management Lands Trust Fund or other public sources that were not inviolate. One obvious future funding source being developed is the sustainable management of planted pine timber on District-owned lands.

The timber management program entails the establishment of timber management zones (TMZs) on altered sites, such as pastures, to be managed for long term revenue generation. To implement this new initiative, staff is conducting a four-phased developmental process. In phase one, all existing planted pine sites on District lands were identified and inventoried to obtain standing timber volumes. Phase two entailed the identification of altered sites on District lands that have potential for future TMZs. For this site selection process, staff developed and applied a set of detailed ranking criteria. Phase three will entail a final screening process to determine those sites which will be most profitably managed as TMZs while maintaining the landscape scale ecological function and diversity. A ten-year timber management plan, which will direct the implementation of the new program, was completed in December 1997. Implementation began in 1998. Timber harvests have generated almost \$865,000 during the first three years of the program.

Fencing and Fence Maintenance — In order to delineate the District's property lines, deter trespass/vandalism and

protect the integrity of the environmental resources, most major District land holdings are fenced upon acquisition. The District presently maintains approximately 300 miles of fence. On average, the District constructs and/or replaces 20 miles of fence annually.

Road and Bridge Maintenance — In order to ensure access to its various land holdings, the District maintains a network of unpaved grades and woods trails in excess of 500 miles in length. Activities involved in keeping these roads passable include filling, grading, mowing,

culvert repair and replacement and maintenance of 16 bridges.

Management, Maintenance and Capital Improvements — The Water Management Lands Trust Fund (WMLTF) has provided monies for the districts' management, maintenance and capital improvement costs since 1986. During fiscal year 2000, the District spent approximately \$3.3 million to manage its lands. Table 5, *Land Management Projects*, reflects those projects for which the Governing Board may request to utilize such monies.

Land Management Projects			Table 5
PROJECT	COUNTY	ACRES	MAP PAGE
Alafia River Corridor	Hillsborough & Polk	5,938	29
Annettliga Hammock	Hernando	1,191	45
Bright Hour Watershed	DeSoto	31,989	41
Brooker Creek Headwaters	Hillsborough	1,039	47
Brooker Creek Preserve	Pinellas	1,619	47
Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve	Charlotte	7,529	39, 41, 43
Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Swamps	Citrus & Hernando	5,679	45
Cypress Creek	Pasco	8,182	31
Flying Eagle	Citrus	11,454	49
Green Swamp	Lake, Polk, Pasco & Sumter	134,702	31, 49
Gum Slough	Sumter & Marion	8,146	49
Hálpata Tastanaki (Marion 1)	Marion	8,110	49
Hidden Lake	Pasco	589	45
Hillsborough River Corridor	Pasco	346	31
Jack Creek	Highlands	1,286	33
Lake Manatee Lower Watershed	Manatee	7,932	37, 39
Lake Panasoffkee	Sumter	9,911	49
Little Manatee River	Hillsborough & Manatee	7,050	35, 37
Lower Hillsborough FDA	Hillsborough	15,964	31
Lower Peace River	DeSoto	1,988	41
Myakkahatchee Creek	Sarasota	4,548	39
Myakka Prairie	Sarasota	8,249	39
Myakka River	Sarasota	3,993	39
Myakka State Forest	Sarasota	8,043	39, 43
Panasoffkee/Outlet Tract	Sumter	806	49
Potts Preserve	Citrus	9,432	49
RV Griffin Reserve	DeSoto	5,932	39, 41
Sawgrass Lake	Pinellas	390	47
Starkey/Starkey Addition	Pasco	19,013	45, 47
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem	Hillsborough & Manatee	1,635	43, 47
Two-Mile Prairie	Citrus	2,900	49
Upper Hillsborough	Pasco & Polk	10,928	31, 49
Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed	Polk	297	33
Upper Myakka River Watershed	Manatee	2,357	39
Weekiwachee Preserve	Hernando	9,510	45
TOTAL		358,755	

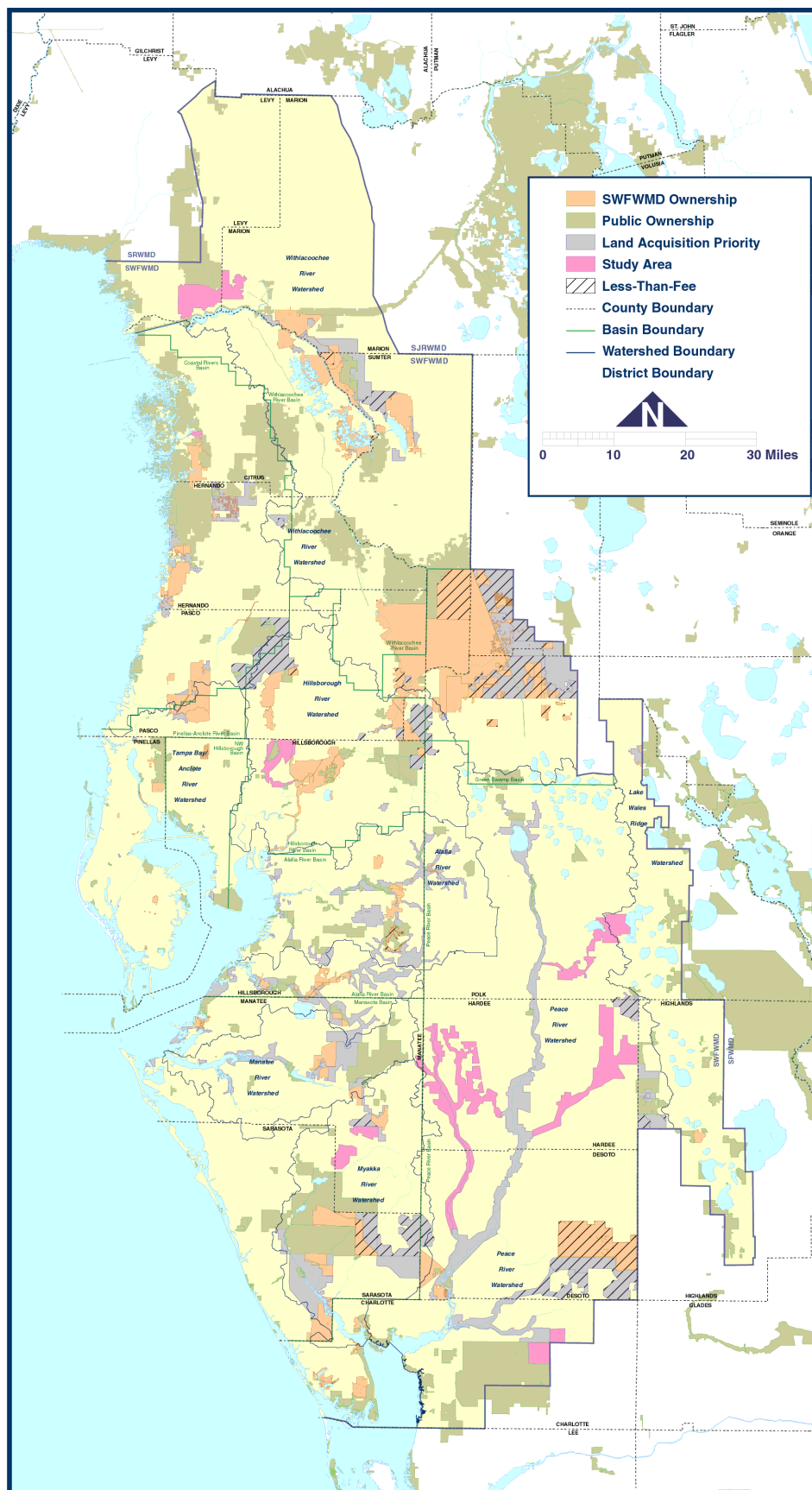
Land Acquisition Priorities

This section includes watershed summaries together with maps of the watersheds showing the general location of existing and proposed land acquisition projects (Figures 2–14).

The maps included with the watershed summaries are only a *general depiction* of project areas and may not reflect the exact boundaries of individual parcels to be acquired within a particular project. The exact boundaries are refined during the negotiation and boundary survey process.

The Five-Year Land Acquisition Plan is intended to be dynamic in order to allow flexibility both in the lands selected for acquisition and to permit negotiations simultaneously with numerous property owners within the projects listed. Such a plan will assure the most effective and expedient utilization of available funds.

Figure 2



Alafia River Watershed

Extending over portions of Hillsborough and Polk Counties, the watershed of the Alafia River encompasses approximately 460 square miles. The river flows from east to west, discharging into Hillsborough Bay in the northeastern portion of the

watershed, residential development has significantly altered the land. Moving upstream, the central portion of the river's watershed is characterized by a mixture of both rural lands and urban development. Further upstream along the north side of

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	5,756	1,496	0
Land Acquisition			
Priority	34,640	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	0
TOTAL	40,396	1,496	0

Tampa Bay system. Approximately 25 miles upstream from the mouth of the river, two major tributaries, the North Prong and South Prong, come together to form the main stem of the Alafia River. The North Prong originates in a freshwater swamp south of Mulberry in Polk County and flows westerly through Hillsborough County. The headwaters of the South Prong originate in Hookers Prairie in

the North Prong, agricultural lands dominate the landscape while the south side has been more extensively altered by past and current mining. Past mining activities have also had a major impact along the South Prong. Future mining within the headwaters region of the South Prong will continue to significantly change this region of the watershed. Natural lands (unaltered uplands and wetlands) exist mainly along the river as well as some of the tributaries within the eastern half of the watershed.

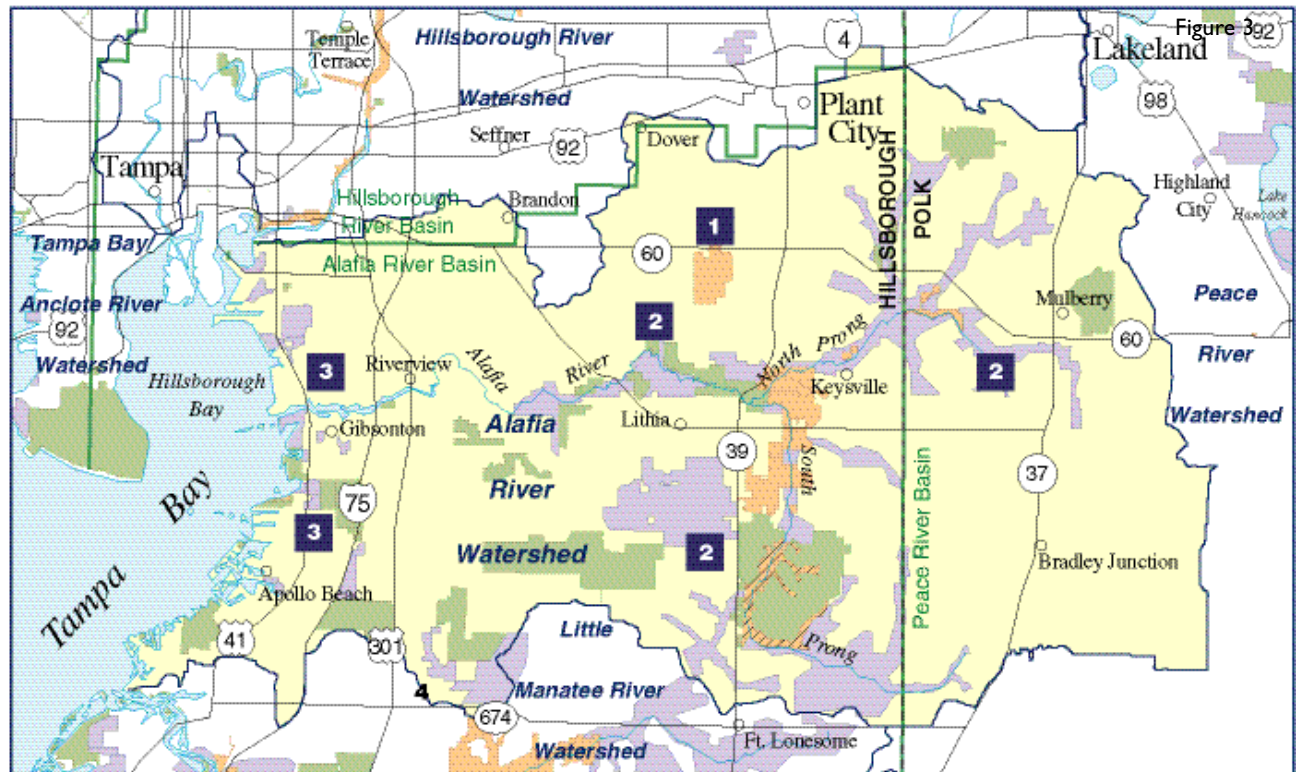
PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Alafia River Corridor		✓	✓	✓
Little Manatee River		✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓	✓	✓
Medard Reservoir		✓	✓	

Three land acquisition projects are identified within the Alafia River watershed. The largest project area consists of a corridor (buffer) of natural uplands and wetlands along

western Polk County. The South Prong flows southwesterly before gradually turning northward to join the North Prong near Aldermans Ford Park.

The landscape within the Alafia River watershed has been shaped and altered by urban/suburban development, agriculture and phosphate mining. Within the western (downstream-most) portion of the

much of the river, including the North Prong and South Prong and the headwaters regions. This project connects with the Little Manatee River project to the south, creating a contiguous riverine greenway. The remaining two projects include the Medard Reservoir area, a former mine site located in the north-central portion of the watershed, and lands along the eastern shore of Tampa Bay, south of the river's mouth which include estuarine wetlands and associated uplands.



- 1 Medard Park
- 2 Alafia River Corridor
- 3 Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem
- 4 Little Manatee River

Hillsborough River Watershed

The Hillsborough River Watershed extends over portions of three counties, including much of the northeastern quarter of Hillsborough County, a large area of central Pasco County and a small portion of northwestern Polk County. The

the Green Swamp, the Hillsborough River flows 54 miles southwesterly into Hillsborough Bay in Tampa. The Hillsborough River Watershed reflects a wide variety of land uses and conversions of natural lands, principally as a result of

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	36,389	1,611	0
Land Acquisition Priority	1,143	29,061	0
Study Areas	0	0	8,943
TOTAL	37,532	30,672	8,943

urban, suburban, commercial, industrial and agricultural development. A majority of the land within the watershed is considered developed (60

watershed incorporates parts of Tampa, Lakeland, Dade City, Plant City, the community of Land O' Lakes, and the entire municipalities of Zephyrhills and Temple Terrace.

percent). Natural undeveloped lands (uplands and wetlands) throughout the watershed comprise the remaining 40 percent. The upper reaches of the Hillsborough River include the most extensive and contiguous areas of natural lands remaining within the watershed.

The Hillsborough River has its origin in the Green Swamp area of Pasco and Polk Counties, as do three other major rivers:

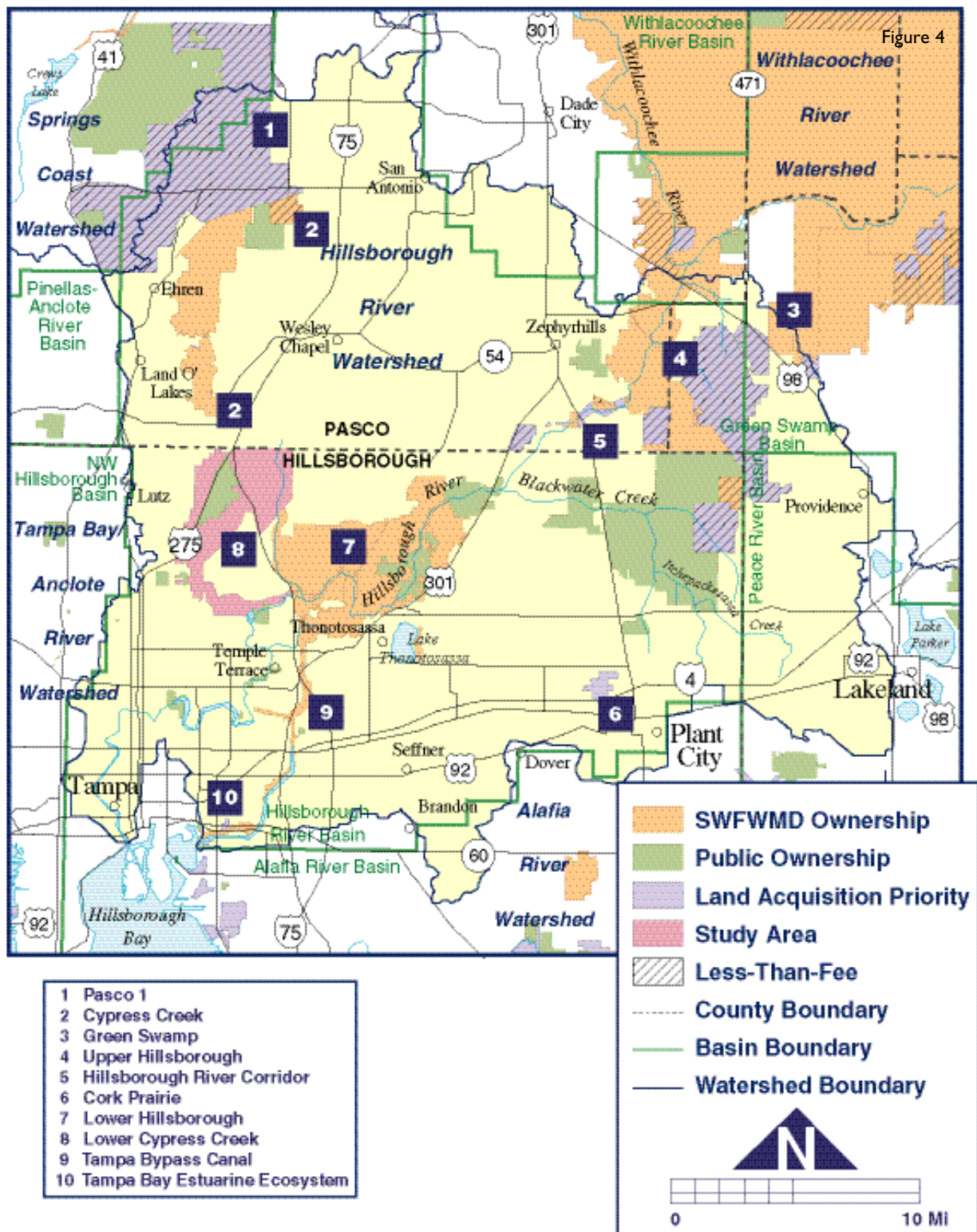
Land acquisition projects identified for the

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Pasco 1		✓	✓	✓
Cypress Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upper Hillsborough	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hillsborough River Corridor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lower Hillsborough	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lower Cypress Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bypass Canal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓	✓	✓
Cork Prairie		✓		✓
Green Swamp	✓	✓	✓	✓

Hillsborough River Watershed range from projects along the Hillsborough River which complete a protective greenway corridor connecting other public lands, as well as lands along some of the river's principal tributaries. Other projects target water resources

the Withlacoochee, Peace and Oklawaha. From the low-lying flatlands and swamps of

areas in the undeveloped portions of the watershed and others target water supply areas.



Lake Wales Ridge Watershed

The Kissimmee Ridge Watershed includes lands extending from central Polk County in the vicinity of Davenport and Haines City continuing southeasterly along Florida's Lake Wales Ridge highlands

surface water features of the region. Land use throughout the region is dominated by agriculture (cattle grazing, forestry and citrus). Urban and suburban development is common along many of the area's lakes

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	1,560	0	0
Land Acquisition			
Priority	1,625	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	5,269
TOTAL	3,185	0	5,269

to support year-round residents, winter tourists and recreational visitors. Natural areas include some of Florida's most unique and rapidly disappearing upland habitats: sandhills and scrub.

through the Lake Wales and Crooked Lake region, and into west-central Highlands County through the Avon Park, Sebring and Lake Placid areas. The Lake Wales Ridge is an undulating upland of well-drained sandy soils, that ranges in average

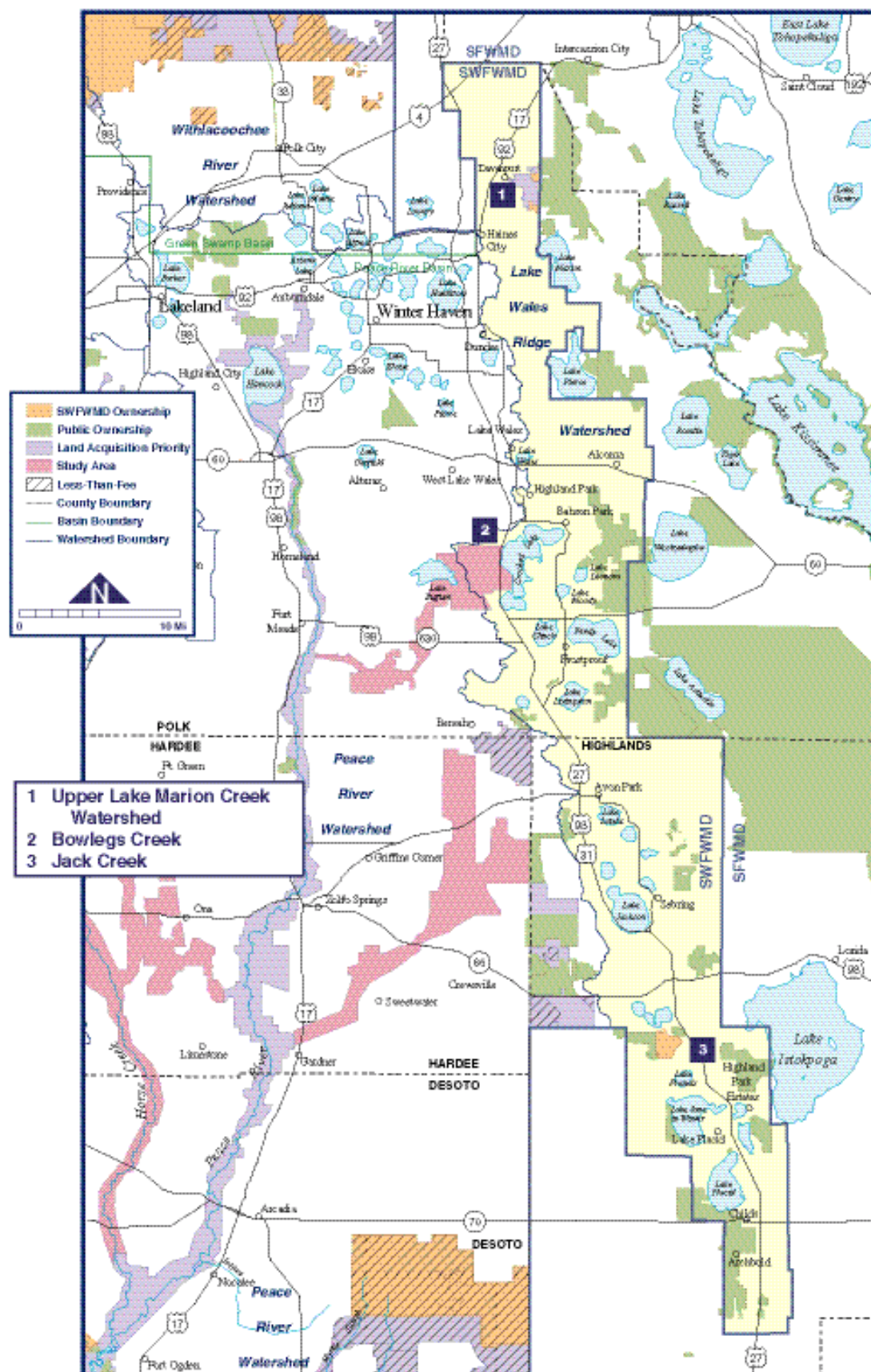
Two land acquisition projects are identified for the Lake Wales Ridge Watershed. They include: the Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed project which is a jointly

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed		✓		✓
Bowlegs Creek		✓		
Jack Creek		✓	✓	✓

managed area with the South Florida Water Management District as the lead agency and Bowlegs Creek (tributary to the Peace River).

elevation from 40 to 160 feet. The ridge forms the divide between the drainage basins of the Kissimmee and Peace Rivers. Many lakes and sinks have formed within the ridge and are the more prominent

Figure 5



Little Manatee River Watershed

The Little Manatee River is approximately 40 miles in length and has a contributing watershed of approximately 222 square miles. The river flows from east to west through southern Hillsborough and northern Manatee Counties before

common to the other rivers near Tampa Bay. However, development within the downstream portions of the river is increasing. Commercial and medium density residential development occurs between U.S. Highway 301 and Interstate

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	8,413	0	0
Land Acquisition			
Priority	29,038	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	0
TOTAL	37,451	0	0

discharging along the eastern shore of Middle Tampa Bay. The lower 10 miles of the river is tidal and consists of estuarine (brackish) habitats. Approximately 22 miles upstream from the mouth of the river, the river forks into two major tributaries, the North Fork and South Fork. Except for the most upstream portions of the river, the channel is usually well-defined, becoming narrow and well-incised along the North and South Forks. Because of the relatively pristine nature of

75. Between U.S. 41 and Tampa Bay is medium to high density development. Within the remainder of the watershed (eastern half), agriculture is the dominant land use along with scattered areas of rural development. Lands in natural cover (unaltered uplands and wetlands) exist mainly along the riverine corridor, including the North and South Forks up to the headwaters areas. Future phosphate mining along the North Fork of the river threatens to impact these natural uplands and wetlands. Lake Parrish, a large reservoir associated with the Florida Power and Light facilities located on the south side of the river, near the confluence of the North and South Forks, is a prominent feature of the watershed.

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Little Manatee River		✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓	✓	✓

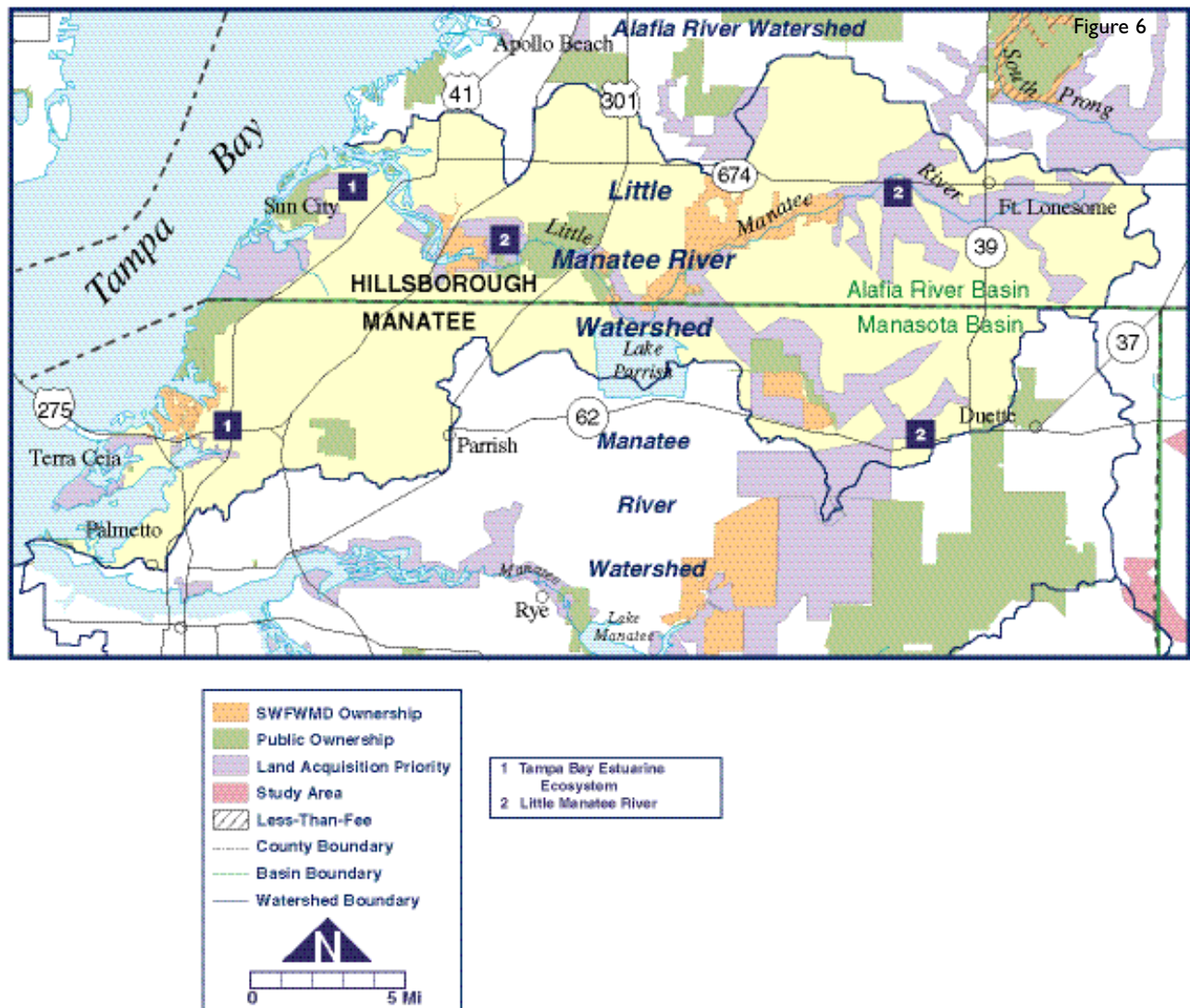
the riverine environment, the Little Manatee has been designated an Outstanding Florida Water. The lower portion of the river near the mouth is also included in the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve.

The Little Manatee River corridor has not experienced the intensity of development

acquisition project identified within the watershed. It is an expansive project area, consisting of riverine floodplain wetlands and upgradient uplands along the majority of the river's length. The project also provides a contiguous riverine greenway linkage with the Alafia River Corridor project to the north and the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed project to the south.

75. Between U.S. 41 and Tampa Bay is medium to high density development. Within the remainder of the watershed (eastern half), agriculture is the dominant land use along with scattered areas of rural development. Lands in natural cover (unaltered uplands and wetlands) exist mainly along the riverine corridor, including the North and South Forks up to the headwaters areas. Future phosphate mining along the North Fork of the river threatens to impact these natural uplands and wetlands. Lake Parrish, a large reservoir associated with the Florida Power and Light facilities located on the south side of the river, near the confluence of the North and South Forks, is a prominent feature of the watershed.

The Little Manatee River project is the primary land



Manatee River Watershed

Originating in the highlands of northeastern Manatee County near Duette, the Manatee River flows westerly approximately 60 miles before discharging to Tampa Bay near Bradenton. The river's watershed encompasses approximately 375 square miles and includes many tributary

four miles before discharging to Tampa Bay.

Portions of the lower watershed from the mouth of the Manatee River to Interstate 75, have been intensively developed by commercial and residential land uses. East

from I-75 to the Lake Manatee reservoir, areas of rural development and agricultural lands are common. The remainder of the watershed is

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	6,981	0	0
Land Acquisition Priority	24,501	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	0
TOTAL	31,482	0	0

creeks throughout its entire length. Two major tributaries, the North Fork and the East Fork drain the headwaters region and join northeast of the intersection of State Road 62 and State Road 37 to form the main stem of the Manatee River. Lake Manatee, an instream reservoir used as a potable water source for the coastal communities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties, is located approximately five miles below the confluence of the two

dominated by agricultural land uses, mainly improved pasture, with citrus groves and row crops.

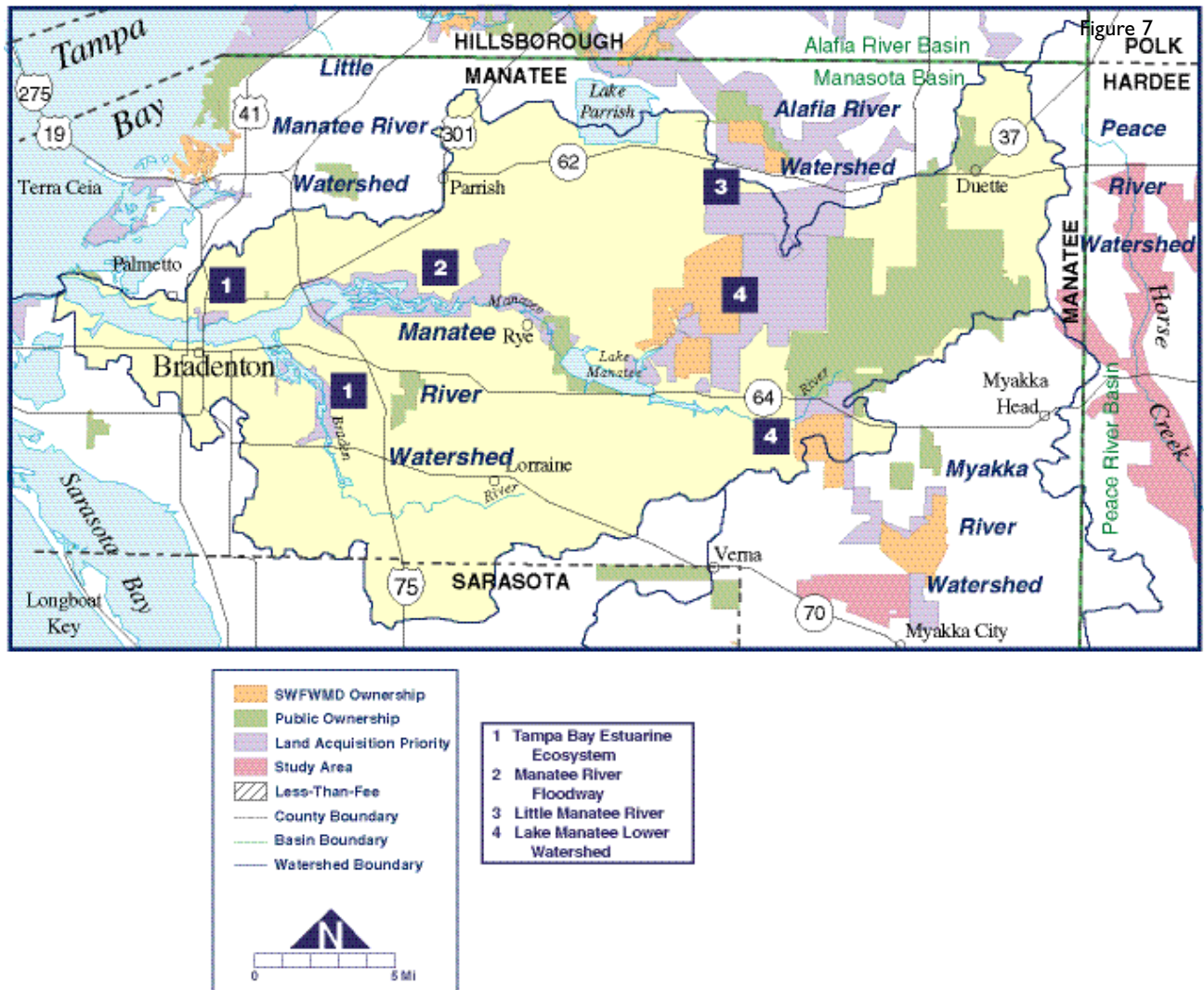
Four land acquisition projects have been identified within the Manatee River watershed. The largest is the Lake Manatee Lower Watershed project located within the river's headwaters region, west and contiguous with conservation lands owned by Manatee County. Preservation of these

lands will provide valuable protection of water quality conditions within the downstream potable water supply source (Lake Manatee), as well as protection of wildlife habitats.

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Lake Manatee Lower Watershed		✓	✓	✓
Little Manatee River		✓	✓	✓
Manatee River Floodway		✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓	✓	✓

forks. Further downstream, the river becomes estuarine several miles west of the confluence with Gamble Creek. A small river, the Braden River, joins the Manatee just south of the community of Ellenton, approximately seven miles west of Gamble Creek. From the Braden River confluence, the Manatee River flows approximately

This project area connects with the Little Manatee River project to the north, creating a contiguous riverine greenway. The third project is west, along the Manatee River, known as the Manatee River Floodway. The last area is part of the Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem project and includes natural uplands and wetlands along the lower half of the Braden River and the north side of the Manatee River near Palmetto.



Myakka River Watershed

The Myakka River Watershed extends over 550 square miles and includes lands in Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. The Myakka River flows nearly 66 miles from Myakka Head southwest to the

river, it is designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the Department of Environmental Protection. Myakkahatchee Creek is a main tributary of the Myakka River and supplies the Cities of North Port

and part of Port Charlotte with potable water.

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	24,895	4,997	0
Land Acquisition Priority	35,493	23,528	0
Study Areas	0	0	8,364
TOTAL	60,388	28,525	8,364

Land uses in the Myakka River Watershed are

Charlotte Harbor Estuary. Just downstream of Myakka Head, seven tributary creeks come together near Myakka City to form Flatford Swamp, a regionally important and unique surface water feature. Other important surface water features within the Myakka River Watershed include, portions of Tatum Sawgrass, Upper Myakka Lake

predominantly rural, except for the City of North Port and several “estate-type” residential subdivisions. Development of the region has generally been limited to agricultural activities including improved pasture and vegetable row crops. Uplands within the watershed consist of pine flatwoods, rangeland, scrubby flatwoods,

oak scrub, xeric hammock, mesic-hydric hammock, dry prairie and agricultural/developed lands. Wetlands include mixed hardwood swamps, freshwater marshes/wet prairies, saltwater marsh and mangrove swamps.

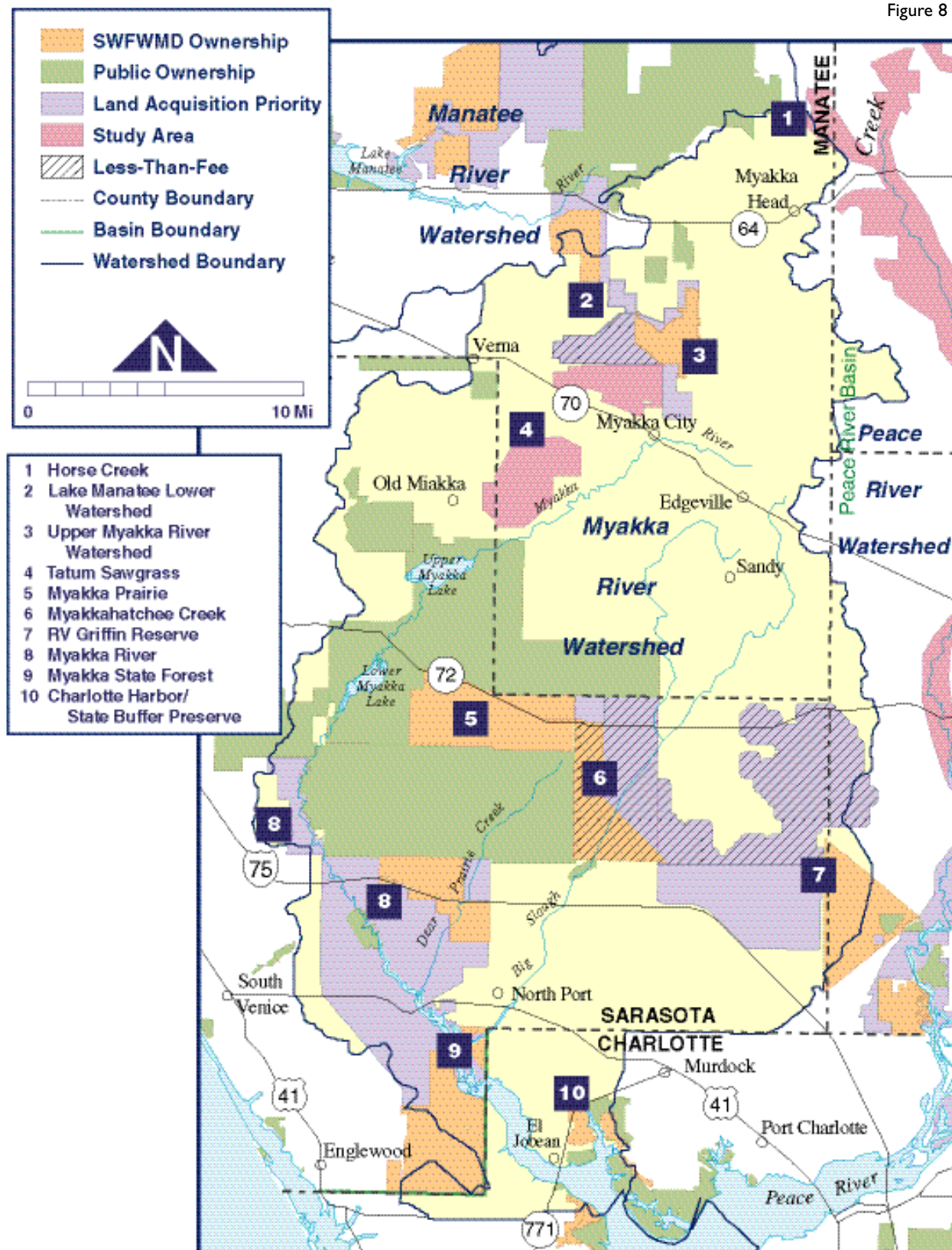
PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Horse Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake Manatee Lower Watershed	✓	✓	✓	✓
Upper Myakka River Watershed	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tatum Sawgrass		✓	✓	✓
Myakka Prairie	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myakka River	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myakka State Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myakkahatchee Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
RV Griffin Reserve	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Harbor/State Buffer Preserve		✓	✓	✓

and Lower Myakka Lake.

Much of the Myakka River has special protective designations. The 34-mile segment of the Myakka River in Sarasota County has been designated a Wild and Scenic River by the State of Florida. Together with the estuarine portions of the

Several land acquisition projects are identified for the Myakka River Watershed. They range from projects to preserve and protect natural areas, to projects important to natural systems restoration, water quality protection for Charlotte Harbor, and flood protection along the Myakka River.

Figure 8



Peace River Watershed

Encompassing approximately 2,350 square miles, the Peace River watershed is the District's largest watershed, totaling nearly 24

(Polk County) has been significantly and permanently changed by phosphate mining along both sides of the Peace River. Mining has

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	4,656	32,227	0
Land Acquisition			
Priority	83,292	39,191	0
Study Areas	0	29,773	62,333
TOTAL	87,948	101,191	62,333

resulted in a permanent loss of natural lands (uplands and wetlands) and has altered the near-surface geology.

Numerous creeks and percent of the entire District area. The headwaters of the Peace River originate in the Green Swamp located in central Polk County. Surface water from the headwaters region flows to Saddle Creek and Peace Creek which form the beginning of the Peace River channel at their confluence near Bartow. From the confluence, the river flows south approximately 105 miles through Polk, Hardee, DeSoto and Charlotte Counties before discharging to

small tributaries no longer exist or have been significantly changed, altering the natural drainage patterns along this portion of the river. Landscape changes within the remainder of this upper region have been the result of agriculture and urban development. Landscape changes within the lower two-thirds of the watershed within Hardee and DeSoto Counties are predominately the result of agriculture. Along the lower portion of the river in Charlotte County, urban development has

significantly altered the landscape. Only a relatively small proportion of the watershed remains in natural land cover.

Because the majority of the watershed has been altered, the remaining natural lands are important because they protect and preserve water

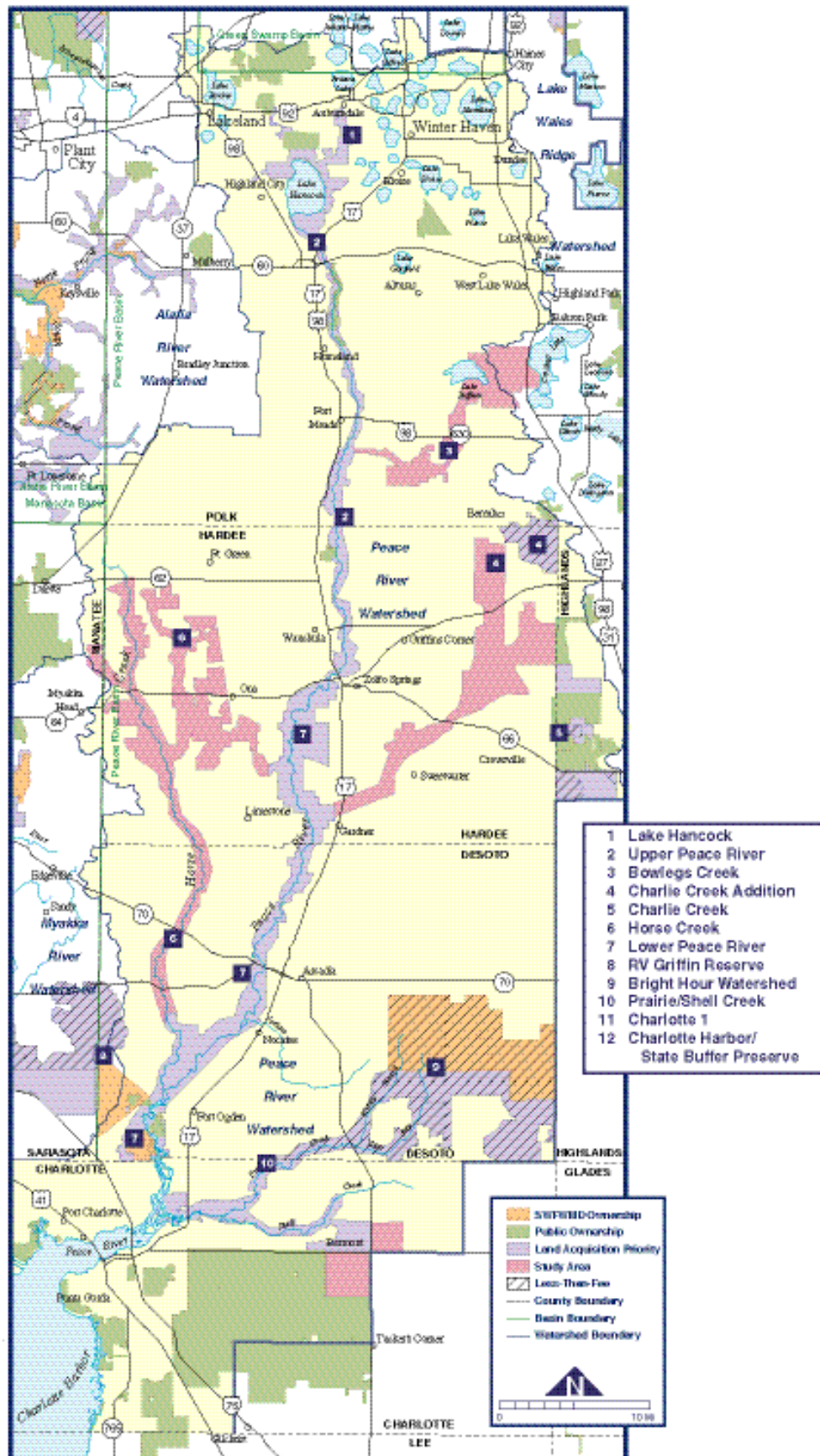
PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Lake Hancock		✓		✓
Bowlegs Creek		✓		
Upper Peace River	✓		✓	✓
Horse Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlie Creek		✓	✓	✓
Charlie Creek Addition		✓	✓	✓
Lower Peace River	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bright Hour Watershed	✓	✓	✓	✓
RV Griffin Reserve	✓	✓		✓
Prairie/Shell Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte 1		✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Harbor/State Buffer Preserve		✓	✓	✓

Charlotte Harbor on the Gulf of Mexico.

Extensive land cover alterations have occurred throughout the Peace River watershed. Over half of the northern one-third of the watershed

resources of the Peace River and provide habitat areas for wildlife. Several projects are identified within the watershed which include natural uplands and wetlands along the river, its major tributaries and tributary headwaters regions.

Figure 9



Southern Coastal Watershed

The Southern Coastal Watershed occupies the southwestern coastal portion of the District and includes lands in Manatee, for agricultural and residential uses are found within the Southern Coastal Watershed. Natural lands include large

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	9,535	0	0
Land Acquisition Priority	1,666	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	0
TOTAL	11,201	0	0

areas of pine flatwoods in the Lower Sarasota Bay watershed near Oscar Scherer State Park, coniferous forests in the upper

Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. The watershed extends from just north of Longboat Key near the mouth of Tampa Bay south to Gasparilla Sound and includes portions of the Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Sarasota Bay Estuary, Dona and Roberts Bay, and Lemon Bay. The watershed has a

portions of Forked, Godfrey and Oyster Creeks, along with areas of freshwater marshes in the upper portions of South Creek, Dona and Roberts Bay sub-basin, and the eastern portions of the Lemon Bay watershed.

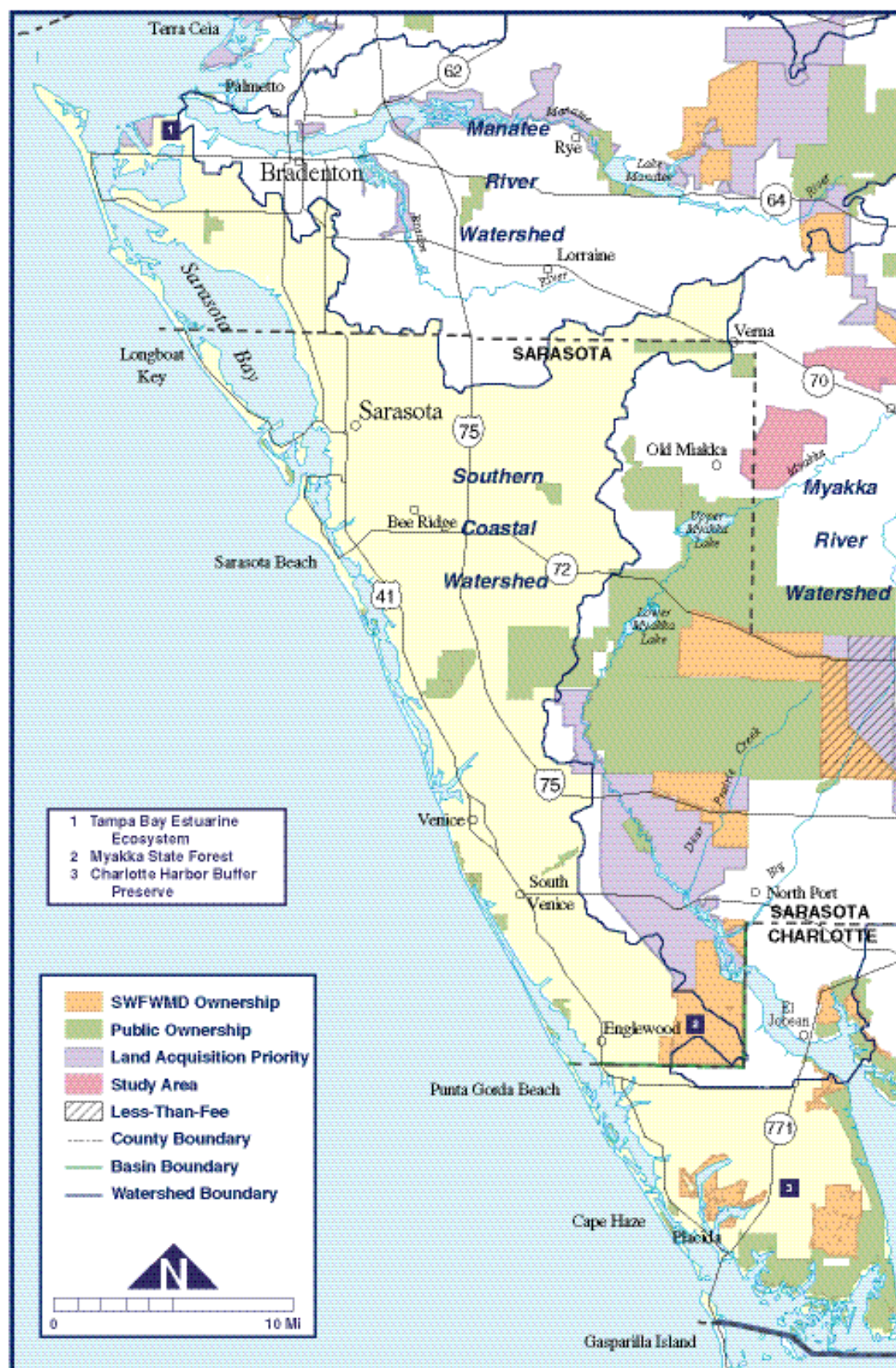
PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓		✓
Myakka State Forest		✓	✓	✓
Charlotte Harbor/Buffer Preserve		✓	✓	✓

One land acquisition project is identified for the Southern Coastal Watershed. The Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem project is

relatively high degree of coastal urbanization which strongly influences the quality of the surrounding natural lands. A variety of natural lands and lands converted

important to estuarine habitat restoration, water quality protection, and flood protection.

Figure 10



Springs Coast Watershed

The Springs Coast Watershed is somewhat unique because it includes extensive areas of relatively undeveloped coastline, estuaries, salt marshes and maritime

Watershed is noted for the clear waters of its spring-fed rivers: the Weekiwachee; Chassahowitzka; Homosassa and Crystal Rivers.

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	25,550	78	0
Land Acquisition Priority	18,432	11,671	0
Study Areas	0	0	928
TOTAL	43,982	11,749	928

Land development throughout the watershed is generally light to moderate with many areas of undeveloped natural lands and rural/agricultural

swamps along portions of three west-central Florida counties. The watershed extends from the Gulf of Mexico east over the western half of Pasco, Hernando and

lands. Rapidly increasing residential (suburban) development can be seen in many areas of Pasco County. Other prominent areas of suburban and

commercial development include a corridor along the east side of U.S. Highway 19 in both Hernando and Citrus Counties.

Six land acquisition projects are identified for the Springs Coast Watershed. They

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Homosassa River		✓	✓	✓
Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Swamps		✓	✓	✓
Annutteliga Hammock	✓	✓		✓
Weekiwachee Preserve		✓	✓	✓
Masaryktown Canal			✓	
Pasco 1	✓	✓		✓
Hidden Lake		✓	✓	✓
Starkey	✓	✓	✓	✓

Citrus Counties. Several rivers are noteworthy features of the watershed. In the southern portion of the watershed, the Pithlachascotee River (from its origin in Crews Lake) runs southwesterly towards the New Port Richey area. In Hernando and Citrus Counties, the Springs Coast

include additions to public conservation lands along the coastal swamps of the Weekiwachee River and additions to the Starkey project. Other projects range from the Annutteliga Hammock project to the Homosassa River project.

This map illustrates the Central Hillsborough River Watershed, detailing land ownership and various study areas. The map includes the following features:

- Land Ownership:**
 - SWFWMD Ownership (Orange)
 - Public Ownership (Green)
 - Land Acquisition Priority (Purple)
 - Study Area (Pink)
 - Less-Than-Fee (Hatched)
- Basins and Watersheds:**
 - Coastal Rivers Basin
 - Withlacoochee River Basin
 - Crystal River Basin
 - Chassahowitzka River Basin
 - Withlacoochee River Watershed
 - Coast Watershed
 - Tampa Bay/Anclote River Basin
 - Pinellas-Anclote River Basin
 - Hillsborough River Watershed
- Counties:** MARION, SUMTER, CITRUS, HERNANDO, PASCO, PINELLAS, HILLSBOROUGH.
- Key Locations:** Black Point, Long Point, Homosassa Springs, Chassahowitzka, Springs, Bayport, Indian Bay, Anclote, Port Richey, New Port Richey, Big Bayou Point, Anclote Keys, Tarpon Springs, Lutz, Ehren, Wesley Chapel, Land O' Lakes.
- Highways:** 19, 44, 98, 50, 41, 75, 52, 54, 279.
- Legend:**
 - 1 Homosassa River
 - 2 Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Swamps
 - 3 Annutteliga Hammock
 - 4 Weekiwachee Preserve
 - 5 Masaryktown Canal
 - 6 Pasco 1
 - 7 Hidden Lake
 - 8 Starkey
- Scale:** 0 to 10 Miles.
- North Arrow:** Indicated by a large 'N'.

Tampa Bay/Anclore River Watershed

The Tampa Bay/Anclore River Watershed area extends over lands surrounding the Tampa Bay system and portions of the Anclore River. The watershed area includes all of Pinellas County along with

associated with the cities of Tampa and St. Petersburg. Extensive areas of agriculture are predominate along southwestern Hillsborough County in the vicinity of Ruskin. The more prominent natural areas

remaining within the watershed are those associated with some of the watershed's water bodies. These lands include: coastal and estuarine areas along Tampa Bay

northwestern and southwestern portions of Hillsborough County, southwestern Pasco County and some coastal areas in Manatee County. The majority of the Tampa Bay/Anclore River Watershed can be characterized as urban and suburban with major industrial and commercial areas

and Cockroach Bay, and floodplains along portions of the Anclore River and Brooker Creek.

Two land acquisition projects are identified for the Tampa Bay/Anclore River

Watershed. One project, the Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem, consists of crucial habitat for restoration and water quality improvement of the Tampa Bay system. The second project contains additional lands within the Starkey project in Pasco County.

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	13,976	124	0
Land Acquisition Priority	1,673	0	0
Study Areas	0	0	0
TOTAL	15,649	124	0

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Starkey	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tampa Bypass Canal	✓		✓	
Brooker Creek Headwaters		✓	✓	✓
Brooker Creek Preserve		✓	✓	✓
Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal			✓	
Jerry Lake		✓	✓	✓
Alligator Creek		✓	✓	✓
Sawgrass Lake		✓	✓	
Joe's Creek		✓	✓	
Tampa Bay Estuarine Ecosystem		✓	✓	✓



Withlacoochee River Watershed

The Withlacoochee River Watershed extends over approximately 2,100 square miles and includes portions of eight counties including Polk, Lake, Sumter, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Marion and Levy. The majority of lands within the watershed are relatively undeveloped and are characterized by forested and non-forested

The Withlacoochee River is designated an Outstanding Florida Water by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. All connected lakes and tributaries also are included in this protective designation. Lake Panasoffkee, the largest lake in Sumter County, is an important and unique surface

STATUS	FEE	LTF	UNDETERMINED
Acres Acquired	157,589	45,950	0
Land Acquisition Priority	45,087	49,409	0
Study Areas	0	0	19,333
TOTAL	202,676	95,359	19,333

water feature in the watershed. Another important surface water feature of the Withlacoochee River Watershed is Lake Tsala Apopka, a

wetlands, upland coniferous and mixed forest, rangeland, agricultural lands (improved pasture and cropland), mining and several urban centers. The Green Swamp, an expansive mosaic of wetlands and low lying uplands which forms the headwaters for the Withlacoochee River, is a predominant feature of the watershed in terms of hydrologic function and ecological significance. Over 307,000 acres of public lands are managed for the protection of natural systems in the

complex of open water lakes and freshwater marshes located in Citrus County. The Rainbow River (in southwest Marion County) is a spring-fed river of exceptional ecological and scenic value and an important tributary to the Withlacoochee River. It is located just upstream of Lake Rousseau in Citrus County near the town of Dunnellon. Downstream of the Rainbow River is Lake Rousseau, a man-made impoundment of the river created in 1909 near the town of Inglis, originally built

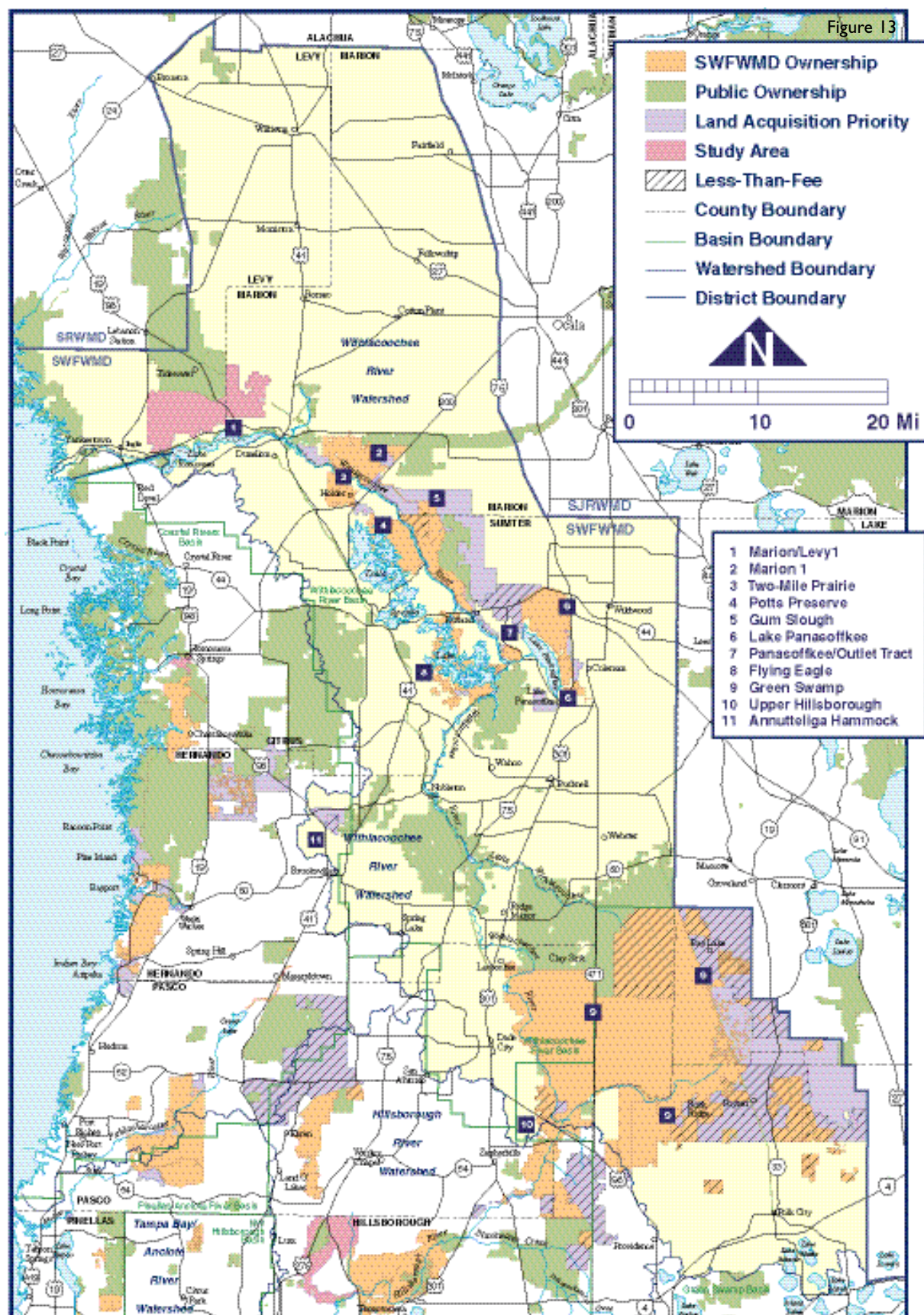
to produce hydroelectric power.

PROJECTS	IMPORTANCE TO WATER MANAGEMENT			
	WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOOD PROTECTION	NATURAL SYSTEMS
Marion/Levy 1		✓		✓
Marion 1		✓	✓	✓
Two-Mile Prairie State Park		✓	✓	✓
Gum Slough		✓	✓	✓
Potts Preserve		✓	✓	✓
Flying Eagle		✓	✓	✓
Lake Panasoffkee		✓	✓	✓
Panasoffkee/Outlet Tract		✓	✓	✓
Green Swamp		✓	✓	✓
Upper Hillsborough		✓	✓	✓

Several land acquisition projects are identified for the Withlacoochee River Watershed. They range from projects to preserve and protect natural areas along the river and

Withlacoochee River Watershed.

tributaries, to projects crucial to habitat restoration and water quality protection.



Appendices

Water Management Districts

Florida Forever Goals and

Performance Measures

(Appendix A) A1

Recreational/Hunting/Environmental

Education Cooperative Agreements

(Appendix B) A6

Appendix A

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS FLORIDA FOREVER GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The goals and measures in this document have been developed to guide the implementation of the Florida Forever program for the five water management districts. These goals and accompanying measures will be used to prepare an annual evaluation of the success of the program. Section 373.1995, Florida Statutes, directs that this set of goals and measures be forwarded to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection and on to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) for approval.

This document has been prepared jointly by the five water management districts working closely with the Florida Forever Advisory Council. It is based on a careful review of the goals and measures included in the original Florida Forever legislation and an evaluation of the outstanding priorities of the five districts for use of Florida Forever funds.

Each of the districts is designing its Florida Forever Work Plan (a separate statutory requirement) to meet the needs most pressing within that region of the State. Emphases vary between each district but all program expenditures will be designed to meet as many of the overall statewide goals as expressed in this document as practicable. Special note is made of the unique situation in south Florida where it is expected that most of the Florida Forever program revenues will be dedicated to implementing elements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. This is expected to skew the distribution of funding projects for the South Florida Water Management District and affect the extent to which other goals are met.

The Florida Forever program is anticipated to provide funding to address a significant number of water resource projects throughout the state over the coming decade. Land acquisition, restoration and water resource development projects will be accomplished to address priority needs for water management. These goals and measures will provide the framework to measure the accomplishments of the program statewide to demonstrate and account for the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

This report is organized as a list of five overarching goals for the water management district implementation of the Florida Forever program. Following each goal, a set of measures and an accompanying description of how that measure will be accounted are presented.

GOAL A
PROTECT, RESTORE, AND MAINTAIN THE QUALITY AND
NATURAL FUNCTIONS OF LAND, WATER, AND
WETLAND SYSTEMS OF THE STATE

Measure A1: Acres acquired that provide non-structural flood protection.

Description: Acres acquired in the 100-year floodplain as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, unless the WMD has better data.

Measure A2: Acres acquired for the purpose of implementing restoration or flood protection projects.

Description: Acres acquired for the purpose of constructing capital improvements to provide water quality, environmental or flood protection benefits.

Measure A3: Acres acquired that protect fragile coastal and estuarine shoreline resources.

Description: Acres acquired within detailed USGS subbasins classified as 'bay,' 'bayou,' 'lagoon,' or 'direct runoff to Gulf or bay,' or within remaining subbasins adjacent to the ocean or Gulf.

Measure A4: Acres acquired for protection of water resource-related natural systems.

Description: Acres acquired that are in natural land cover, as identified by the following FLUCCS codes: all 6000s (wetlands) and 4000-4399 (upland forests).

Measure A5: Acres acquired for water resource benefits that protect working landscapes such as ranches and silvicultural areas.

Description: Acres acquired of improved pasture, range land, and planted pines, as identified by FLUCCS codes 2110, all 3000s, and all 4400s, respectively.

Measure A6: Acres of land for which a hydrologic restoration or enhancement plan has been implemented.

Description: Acres of land for which the activities in a hydrologic restoration or enhancement plan have been carried out by the WMD.

Measure A7: Percentage of the estimated acres of WMD land that need to be restored to natural communities, for which a restoration plan has been implemented.

Description: Percentage of acres of disturbed district-owned lands for which the activities in a restoration plan have been carried out. Disturbed land is identified by the following FLUCCS codes: all 1000s (urban and built-up); all 2000s (agriculture) except 2130 (woodland pasture); and 7400 (disturbed land). Improved pasture is excluded from 'disturbed District-owned lands' if the WMD does not intend to restore it. Planted pine (4400s) is included only when purchased for restoration to its natural state, e.g., conversion of slash pine to longleaf.

Measure A8: Percentage completion of WMD-targeted capital improvements in SWIM plans, regional or master stormwater management plans, or other WMD restoration or flood protection plans.

Description: Percentage of each WMD capital improvement project that has been completed.

GOAL B

ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF WATER ARE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF NATURAL SYSTEMS AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE

Measure B1: Acres acquired that provide retention and storage of surface water consistent with regional water supply plans.

Description: Acres acquired and used to retain water in natural storage areas or reservoirs to meet needs identified in a WMD regional water supply plan.

Measure B2: Quantity of water made available through components of a regional water supply plan for which the WMD is responsible.

Description: Additional gallons of water available for use as a result of the implementation of WMD projects in a WMD regional water supply plan.

Measure B3: Acres acquired of ground water recharge areas critical to springs, sinks, aquifers, other natural systems, or water supply.

Description: Acres of recharge areas acquired in, for example, groundwater basins feeding springs, watersheds containing sinkholes, or wellhead protection areas where water withdrawals or pollutants associated with potential development could be significantly harmful to wetlands or groundwater quality.

GOAL C

INCREASE NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Measure C1: Acres acquired that are available for natural resource-based public recreation or education as measured in categories of relative degree of public access opportunities.

Description: Acres of WMD land in each category of the access classification system developed by the WMDs.

Measure C2: Number of new resource-based recreation or education facilities, by type, made available on WMD-owned land.

Description: Number of additional facilities of each of the following types provided: camp sites, miles of trail, parking areas, bathrooms, nature centers, kiosks, boat ramps, fishing piers, observation platforms, boardwalks, picnic areas.

GOAL D
WHERE IT ACCOMPLISHES WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION
AS A PRIMARY PURPOSE, INCREASE THE PROTECTION OF
FLORIDA'S BIODIVERSITY AT THE SPECIES, NATURAL
COMMUNITY, AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS

Measure D1: Acres acquired of Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (SHCAs).

Description: Acres acquired of land designated as SHCAs by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in their 1994 report, *Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System*.

Measure D2: Acres acquired of highest priority conservation areas for Florida's rarest species and communities.

Description: Acres acquired of land to be identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to protect Florida's rarest natural communities and species.

Measure D3: Acres acquired of significant landscapes, landscape linkages, and conservation corridors, giving priority to completing linkages.

Description: Acres acquired within the Ecological Network identified in the Florida Statewide Greenways System Planning Project.

Measure D4: Acres acquired of native ecosystems under-represented in public ownership.

Description: Acres acquired of natural community types of which less than 15% of their original amount is publicly owned, as defined in *Florida Preservation 2000 Program Remaining Needs and Priorities Addendum Report, 1997*, and to be identified by FWC, FNAI, Division of State Lands, or the WMD.

Measure D5: Number of landscape-sized protection areas that exhibit a mosaic of predominantly intact or restorable natural communities (>50,000 acres), established through new acquisition projects or augmentations to previous projects.

Description: Number of publicly owned conservation areas greater than 50,000 acres in size, achieved through a one-time acquisition of property or through acquisition of additions to existing public lands.

GOAL E

ENHANCE THE COORDINATION AND COMPLETION OF LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Measure E1: Acres acquired that contribute to the completion of acquisition projects begun prior to Florida Forever.

***Description:** Acres acquired within the boundaries of projects that were partially completed under Preservation 2000 or another prior acquisition program.*

Measure E2: Acres protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition.

Description: Acres of less-than-fee interest in land acquired by the WMD.

Measure E3: Number of shared acquisition projects among Florida Forever funding partners and partners with other funding sources; e.g., local governments and the federal government.

***Description:** Number of properties purchased jointly with other agencies, governments, or organizations such as private land trusts.*

Note: In all the Measures, 'acres acquired' means acquired by the WMD, and includes less-than-fee acquisitions.

Appendix B

Recreational/Hunting/Environmental Education Cooperative Agreements		
AREA	COOPERATING ENTITY	ANNUAL ATTENDANCE
Chassahowitzka River Campground	Citrus County	15,800
Wildlife Management Areas	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	
Flying Eagle		1,066
Half Moon		1,145
Upper Hillsborough		2,479
Green Swamp		23,976
Green Swamp West		2,723
Potts Preserve		430
Lake Panasoffkee		879
Wysong Park	Sumter County	300
Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve		
Withlacoochee River Park	Pasco County	85,235
Captive Breeding Program	Lowry Park Zoological Society	2,000
J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park	Pasco County	131,400
Edward Medard Park & Reservoir	Hillsborough County	500,000
Nature's Classroom	Hillsborough County School Board	12,500
Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Park		
Trout Creek Park	Hillsborough County	78,061
Flatwoods Park	Hillsborough County	130,317
Morris Bridge Park	Hillsborough County	57,867
John B. Sargeant Memorial Park	Hillsborough County	107,900
Dead River Park Site	Hillsborough County	5,216
Wilderness Trails Off-Road Loop	Wilderness Trails Association	19,065
Tampa Bypass Canal		
Veterans Memorial Park	Hillsborough County	80,738
Neighborhood Park	Hillsborough County	
Youth Sports Complex	City of Temple Terrace	125,600
Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve	Hillsborough County	Unknown
Little Manatee River	Hillsborough County	Unknown
Port Redwing	Hillsborough County	Unknown
Alafia River Corridor	Hillsborough County	Unknown
Alafia River Corridor	Polk County	Unknown
Canal Park	City of Oldsmar	109,650
Cliff Stevens Park	City of Clearwater	35,000
Sawgrass Lake Park & Environmental Education Center	Pinellas County and Pinellas County School Board	362,000
Brooker Creek Preserve	Pinellas County	Unknown
Weekiwachee Preserve	Hernando County	2,534
Myakka Prairie	State Division of Recreation & Parks	245,215
Two-Mile Prairie	State Division of Forestry	Unknown
Myakka State Forest	State Division of Forestry	Unknown
Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve	State Division of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas	Unknown
Terra Ceia	State Division of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas	Unknown
Halpata Tastanaki Preserve	State Office of Greenways & Trails	Unknown
Upper Lake Marion Creek Watershed	South Florida Water Management District	Unknown
Florida Trail	Florida Trail Association	Unknown
Green Swamp		
Green Swamp West		
Potts Preserve		
Upper Hillsborough		
TOTAL		2,139,114