

Kissimmee River

Polk, Osceola, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties

Area within planning boundary footprint	~ 116,317 acres
District fee-simple ownership and Right-of-Way fee interest	~ 95,914 acres
Other public fee-simple ownership	~ 1827 acres
Area under other regulatory restriction (conservation easement, platted preserve area, etc.)	~ 1508 acres

Site Overview

Historically, the Kissimmee River meandered over 103 miles within a one to two mile wide floodplain. The floodplain, approximately 56 miles long, sloped gradually to the south from an elevation of about 51 feet at Lake Kissimmee to about 15 feet at Lake Okeechobee; falling an average of about 4 inches in elevation over each mile of the river. The historic floodplain was covered by approximately 35,000 acres of wetlands. A fluctuating hydroperiod, along with the undulating topography of the floodplain, a meandering river channel, oxbows, and natural discontinuous sand banks, enhanced and maintained habitat diversity, including the mosaic of intermixed vegetation types.

In 1948, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate construction of the Central & Southern Florida Project for flood control and protection. In 1954 the Kissimmee River portion of the project was authorized. Between 1962 and 1971, the meandering river was transformed into a 56 mile-long, 30 foot deep, 300 foot-wide canal (C-38 canal). Excavation of the canal and deposition of the resulting spoil eliminated approximately 35 miles of river channel and thousands of acres of floodplain wetland habitat. The floodplain was transformed into a series of impounded reservoirs (Pools A-E) with water levels regulated by six water control structures (called S-65s). Several thousand acres of land were acquired during this time, generally on the north side of each of the S-65 structures, to accommodate the impoundments.

The Kissimmee River Restoration Act was passed in 1976 and kicked-off the initial studies and planning for the restoration of the river. The Save Our Rivers program, created in 1981, was infused with dedicated funds from the documentary stamp tax in 1985, from Preservation 2000 in 1990. Between 1985 and 2000 the Save Our

Rivers program acquired 49,000 acres in 290 land transactions to support the restoration of the river. Laboratory studies and field demonstrations were conducted throughout the 1980s. A recommended plan was developed, and The Kissimmee River Restoration Project was authorized by Congress in the 1992 Water Resources Development Act as a joint partnership between the District and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The project was designed to restore over 40 square miles of river/floodplain ecosystem including 43 miles of meandering river channel and 27,000 acres of wetlands. To complete the restoration it was necessary to acquire sufficient rights in the land within the 100-year floodplain.

Assessment Units

Pool A: KICCO and Blanket Bay

This area involved some of the earliest acquisitions for the river. An early demonstration project to support the full river restoration occurred over a portion of this site.

Kissimmee Prairie

The District acquired the parcels within the river floodplain, and partnered with the State of Florida to acquire the native prairie outside of the floodplain. The District shares the title of the land outside the floodplain with the State.

Kissimmee River Restoration Area

The portion of the river that is being restored through the back-filling of the C-38 canal and the decommissioning of the Pools B, C, and D. The lands within the 100-year floodplain have been certified to the Army Corps of Engineers as being dedicated to and available for the river restoration.

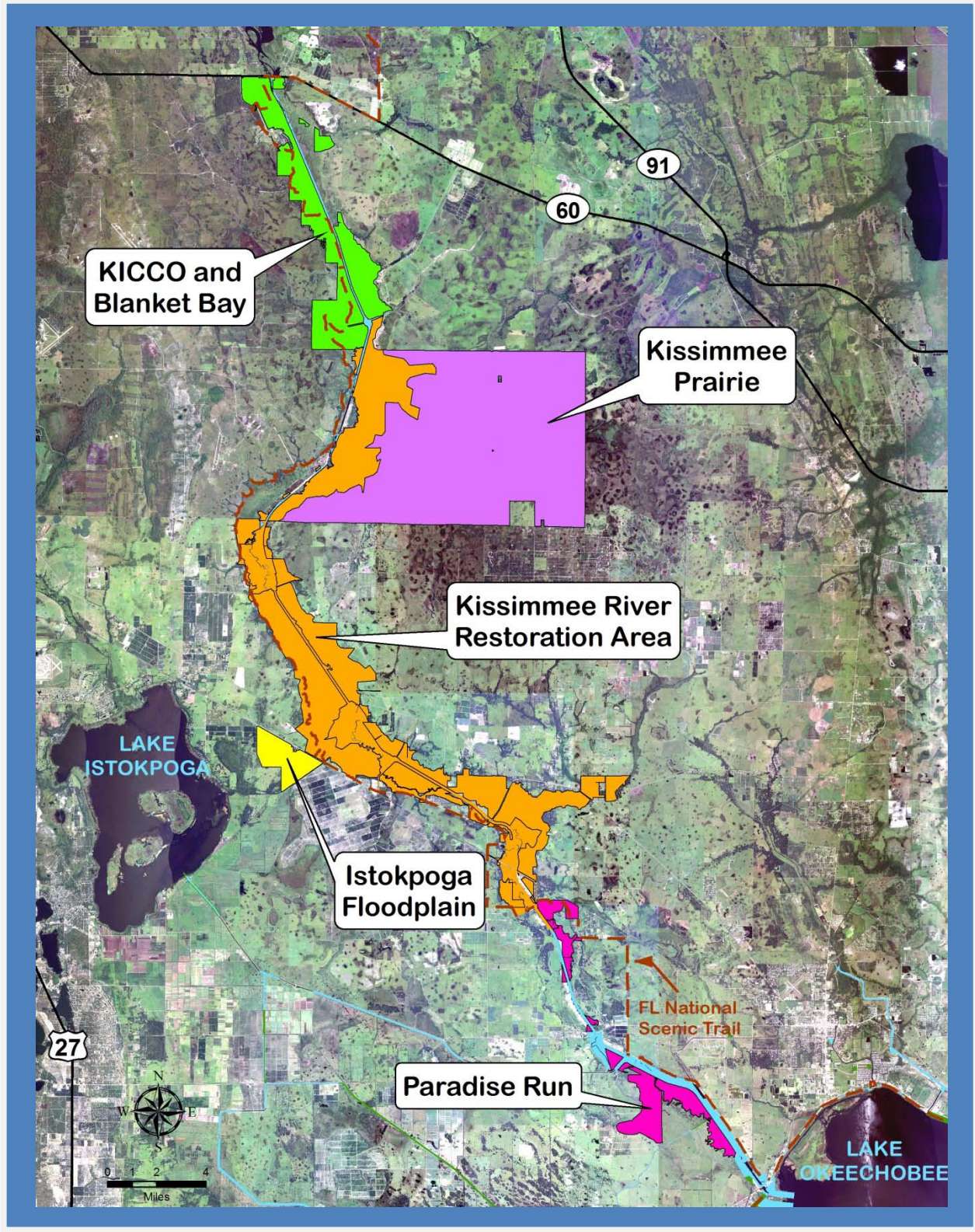
Istokpoga Floodplain

The floodplain of the Kissimmee River extended into the southern end of this large parcel. The parcel acquired was much larger than that which was needed to cover the floodplain. The area is currently under a cattle lease.

Pool E and Paradise Run

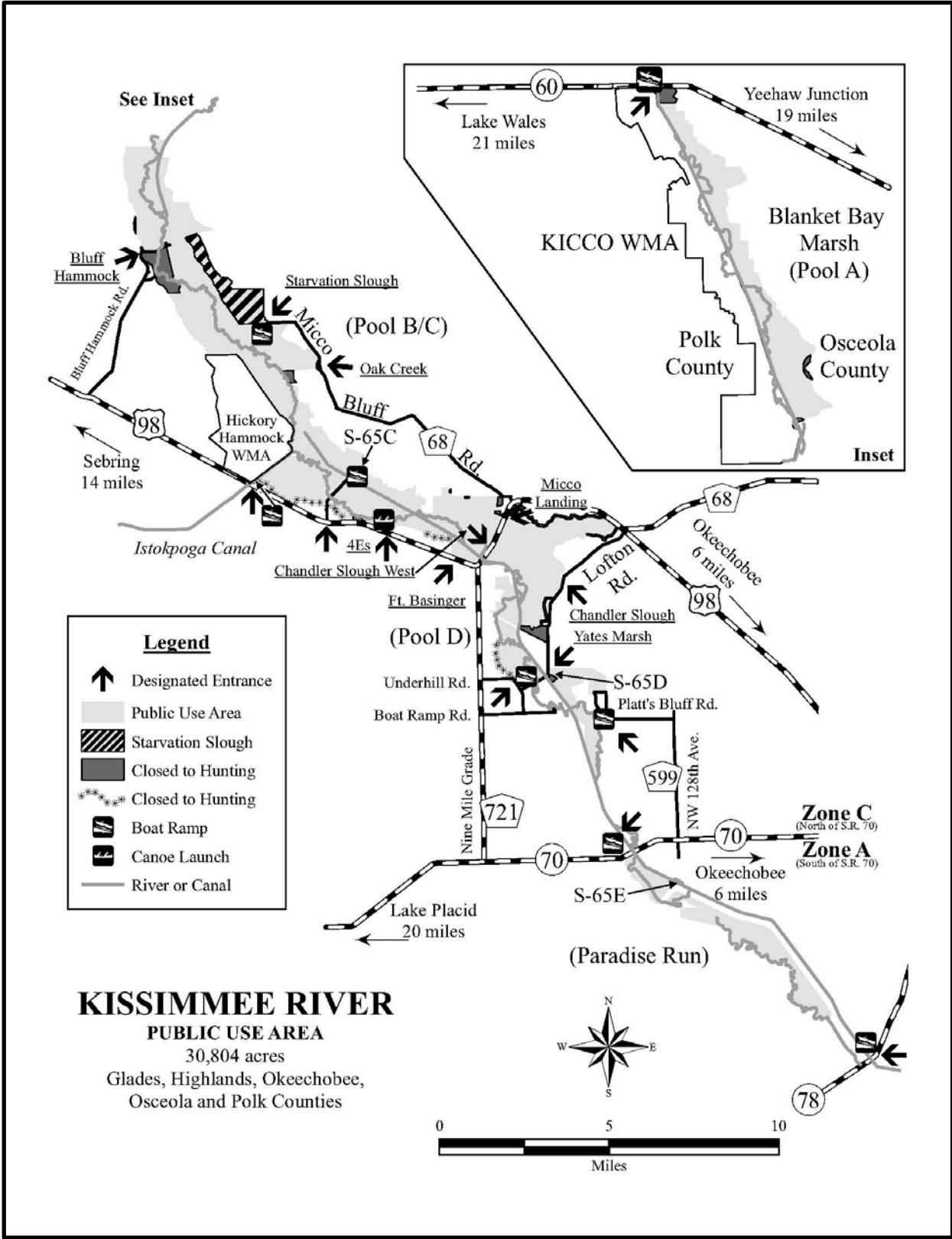
This area lies down-stream of the restoration area, and north of Lake Okeechobee. The land in this area is a mix of land that was necessary for flood control during the development of the C-38 canal and the Pool system, and land that was acquired under the Save Our Rivers program.

Kissimmee River Map

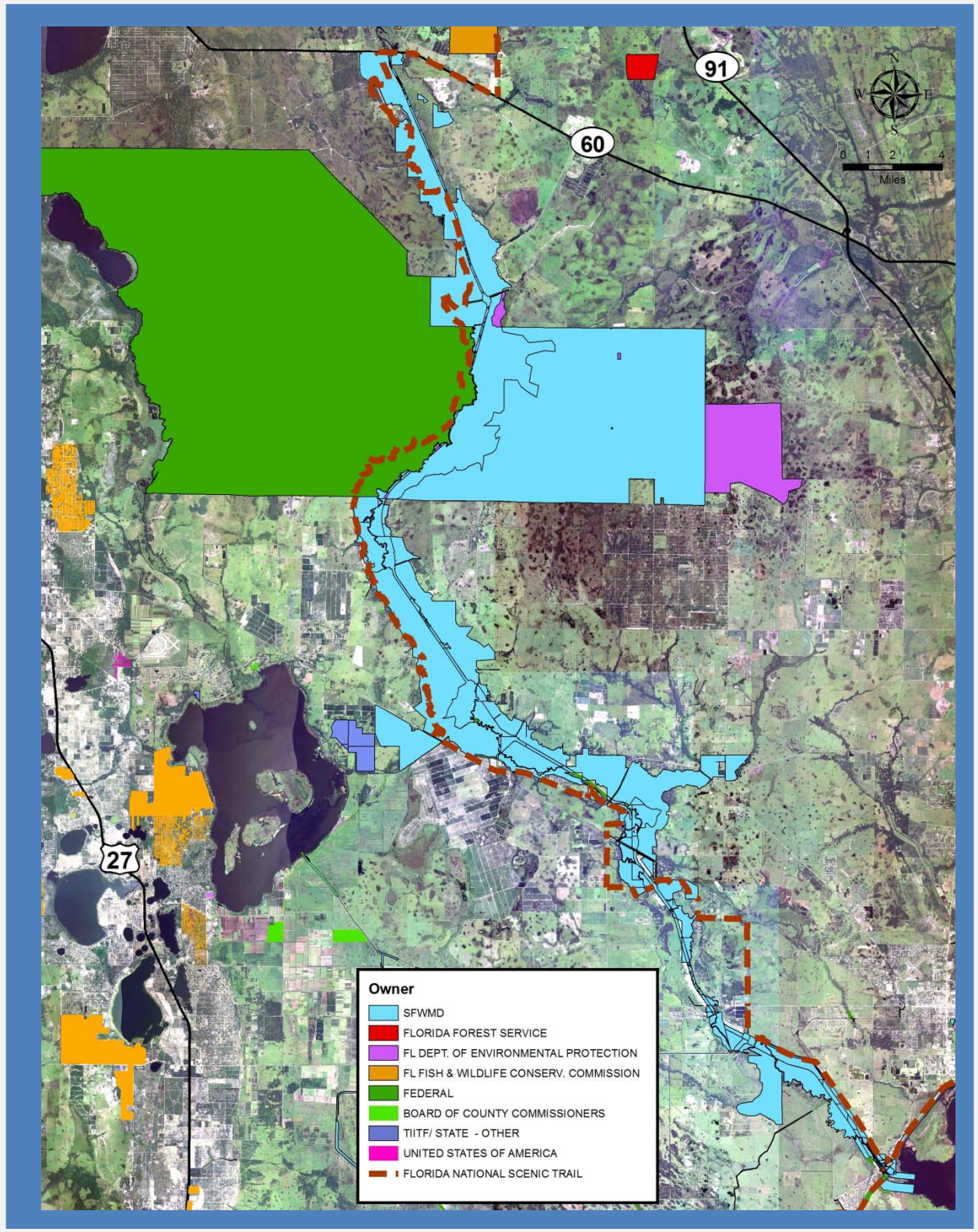


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Kissimmee River
FWC Hunting and Public Use Map



Kissimmee River Area Public Land
 (based on county ownership records)



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Kissimmee River

Assessment Unit: KICCO and Blanket Bay

Core Mission Values

This area involved some of the earliest acquisitions for the river restoration while the planning for the project was in its infancy. An early demonstration project to support the feasibility of the river restoration occurred over a portion of this site. This area lies outside of the portion of the river floodplain that will be backfilled, but was necessary to acquire because of the upstream impact from increased flows from the Chain of Lakes to the restored river. The over-drained marshes in blanket bay and KICCO have significant restoration potential that could support water quality, water supply, flood control, and natural systems restoration.

Other Resource Value

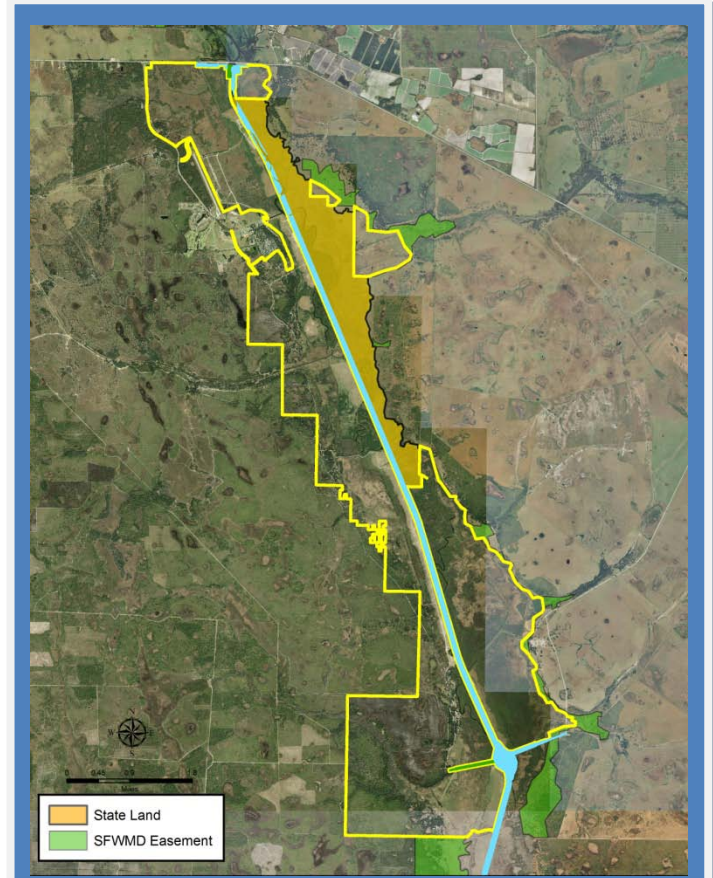
KICCO contains a large area of flatwoods on the south end, many scattered oak hammocks, several cypress sloughs, marshes, wet prairie, and dry prairie. The site shares a border with the Avon Park Air Force Range. Endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers may be found in the flatwoods. The dry prairie could potentially support the endangered grasshopper sparrow if they become more widely established within Avon Park. KICCO is named after the Kissimmee Island Cattle Company that once had a small company town on the site, so the site has value as a historic site as well.

Blanket Bay is largely owned by the State, but the District owns more than 2,000 acres on the south end. The area is primarily an over-drained marsh. The area is currently being used as a pre-restoration control against which the restoration of the river further downstream is being measured.

Management Issues

Both KICCO and Blanket Bay are under cattle leases. Blanket bay is primarily owned by the State, but there are a few District-owned parcels towards the eastern and southern end.

Management of the area involves prescribed fire, large-scale mechanical vegetation management, exotic species control, and facility maintenance.



Pool A, KICCO lies on the west side of the river and Blanket Bay is on the east of the river. District Right-of-Way fee interest is in blue.

Public Use and Recreation Value

KICCO has been established as a Wildlife Management Area and the area is open to hunting at certain times of the year under FWC public use regulations. Boating, fishing, tent camping, picnicking, and hiking are popular activities. The Florida National Scenic Trail goes through KICCO. There is a picnic shelter in Blanket Bay.

KICCO Photos



A prescribed fire in the flatwoods in KICCO., habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers.



After a prescribed fire. The southern KICCO plant communities resembling neapolitan ice cream: a cypress slough at left, pine flatwood at center, and dry prairie at right. (27° 39' 47"N, 81° 09' 39"W)

KICCO Photos



Large scale mechanical vegetation management must be employed in areas of KICCO that are over-drained in order to maintain habitat quality.



Northern KICCO: pine flatwoods from State Road 60 (left, to the left of the road, 27° 48' 15"N, 81° 12' 36"W); and the over-drained river floodplain next to the C-38 Canal, looking south (right, 27° 47' 42"N, 81° 11' 55"W) where invasive woody species must be treated (through prescribed fire, herbicides, and heavy equipment) to support marsh and wet prairie plants.

KICCO Historic Town, Wildlife Management



A computer model showing the KICCO company town as it would have appeared in the 1920s.



The pinelands in KICCO have been used to re-locate displaced bald eagles from the greater Orlando area

KICCO: Florida National Scenic Trail



The Florida National Scenic Trail runs through KICCO, and is maintained by Florida Trail Association volunteers. Here a group of volunteers assembles and installs a bridge over Tick Island Slough. The materials for the bridge was purchased by the District.

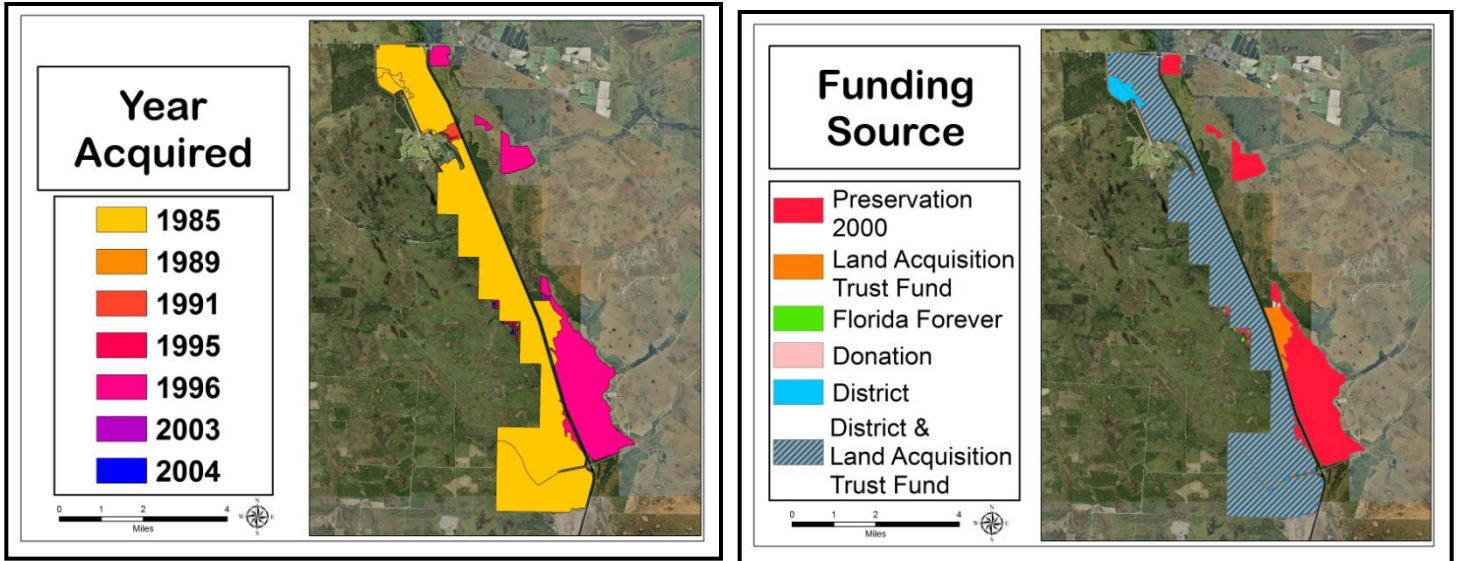
Blanket Bay Photos



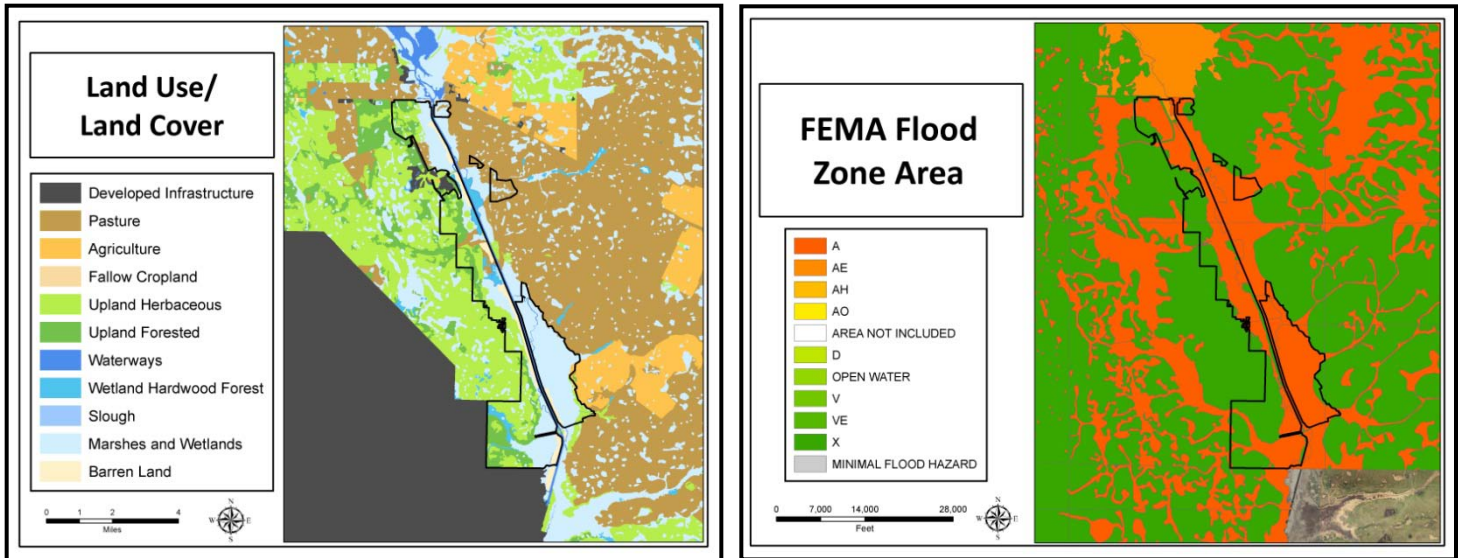
Blanket Bay is a nearly treeless over-drained marsh. A photo looking south from State Road 60 (left), the picnic shelter accessible by boat from the C-38 canal (right), an aerial view of the southern end of the site (below, 27° 41' 20"N, 81° 08' 44"W).



KICCO and Blanket Bay: Land Acquisition



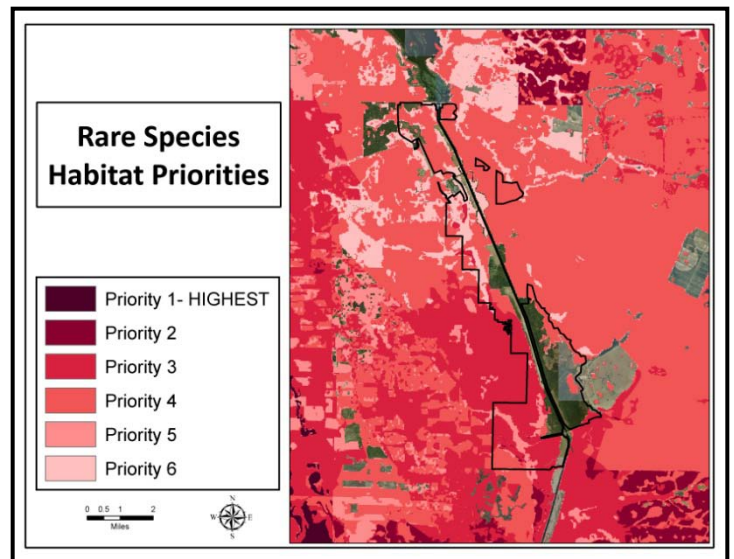
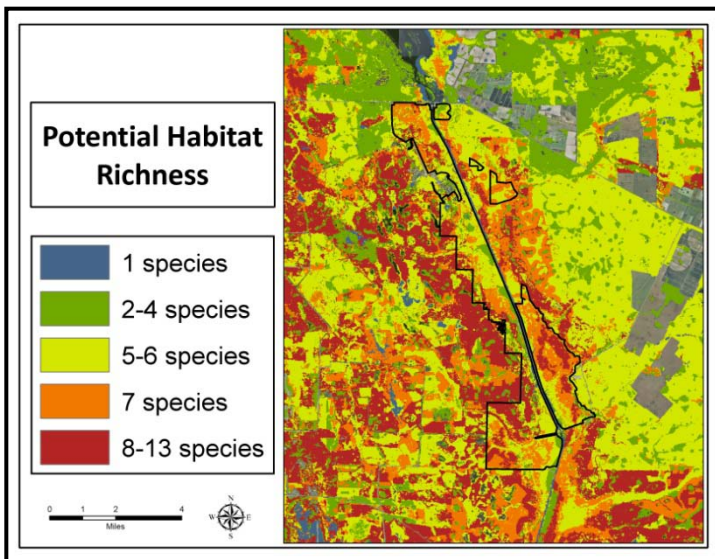
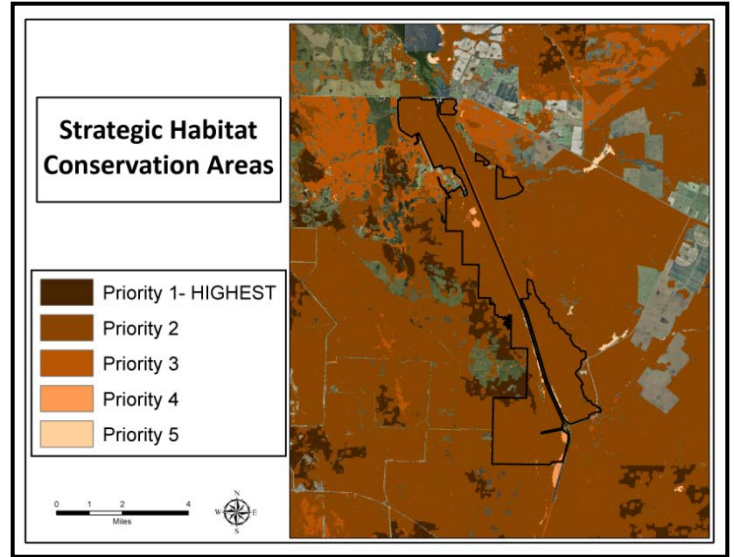
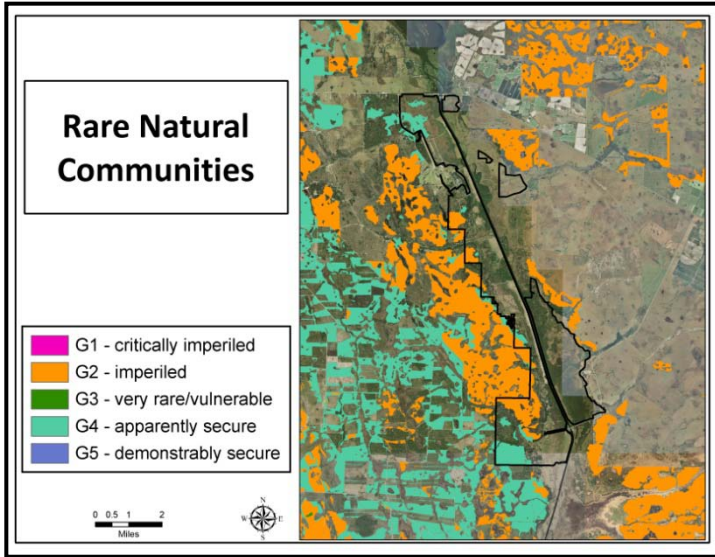
KICCO and Blanket Bay: Land Character



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**KICCO and Blanket Bay: Land Character
(Continued)**



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Kissimmee River

Assessment Unit: Kissimmee Prairie

Core Mission Value

The District acquired the portion of the prairie within the floodplain as the northernmost stretch of the Kissimmee River restoration. The District and the State jointly acquired, and share title to, the vast native prairie system east of the floodplain. The State is the sole-owner of a large strip on the far eastern portion of the site. The expansive landscape of sloughs and prairies serves a significant water supply function, and the portion that lies within the floodplain supports the Kissimmee River Restoration.

Other Resource Value

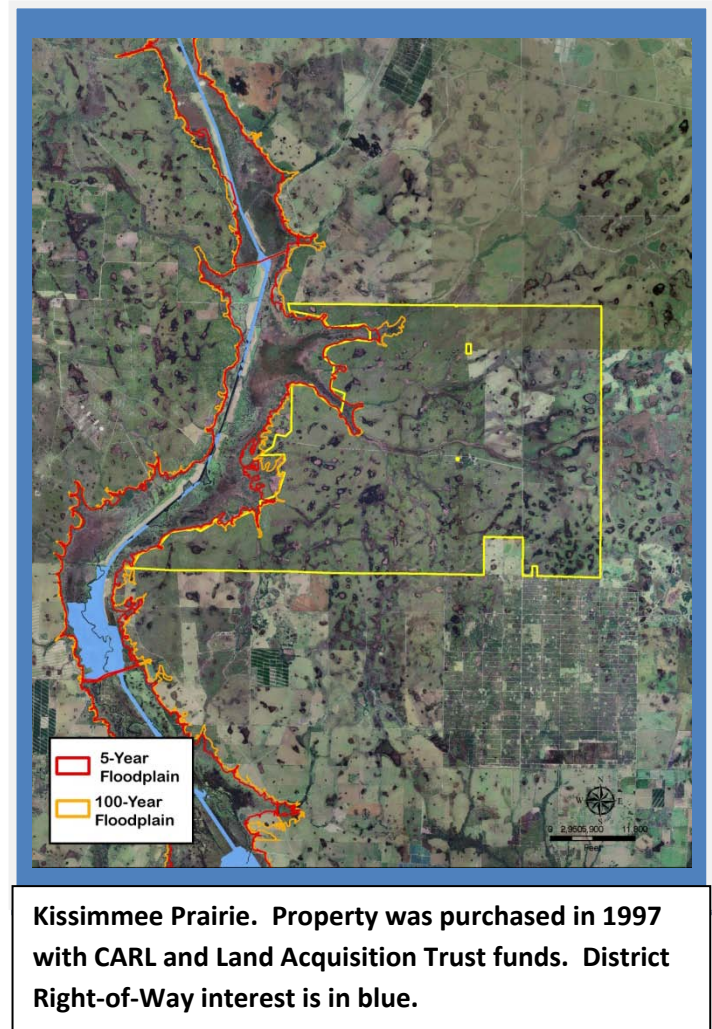
The Kissimmee Prairie contains major expanses of several flavors of wet and dry prairie. They range from the rare to the very rare. The site supports a plant biodiversity (average number of species per square meter) that is among the highest found in North America. The endangered grasshopper sparrow's core range is within this prairie system.

Current Use, Management Issues

The floodplain is part of the Kissimmee River restoration project. The entire site has been established by the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park by the Florida Park Service. Prairies are highly fire dependant and the application of frequent fires is critical to the health and integrity of the prairies.

Public Use and Recreation Value

The public use and recreation is managed by the Florida Park Service. The site offers RV, primitive, and equestrian camping. Hiking and wildlife viewing is popular. Numerous local and regional astronomy clubs regularly visit the site to enjoy some of the darkest night skies available on the U.S. east coast.



Kissimmee Prairie Photos



An aerial view of the prairie (left), and polygala blooming (right), and oak hammock (bottom left) and three other views of the prairie

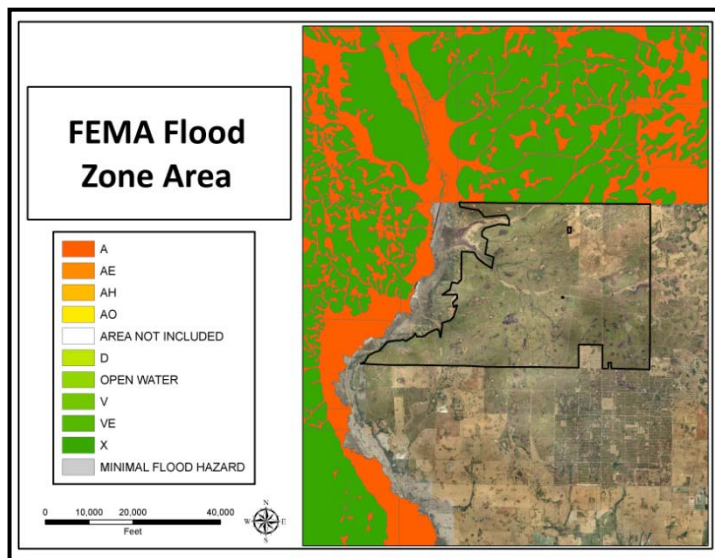
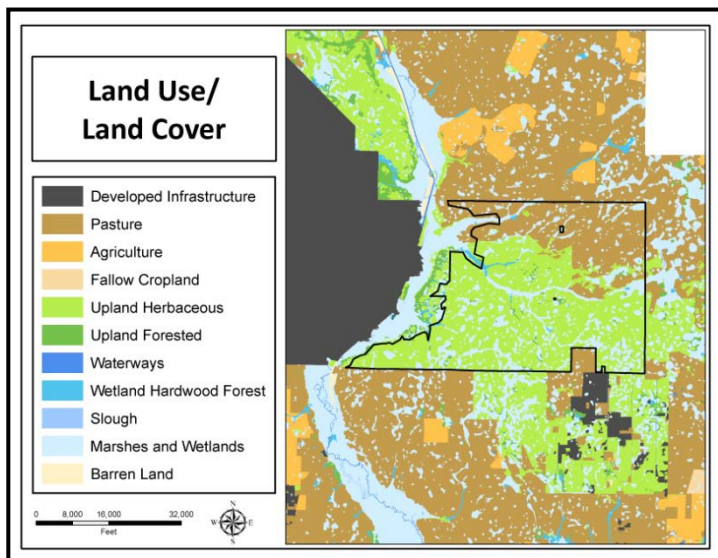


Kissimmee Prairie, Photos



Kissimmee Prairie is highly valued by sky watchers for its dark skies; a photo taken from a telescope at the park, (above left, from <http://jmo.jasonbrownonline.com/astrophotos/m31-m32-m110>), and an endangered grasshopper sparrow being examined (right).

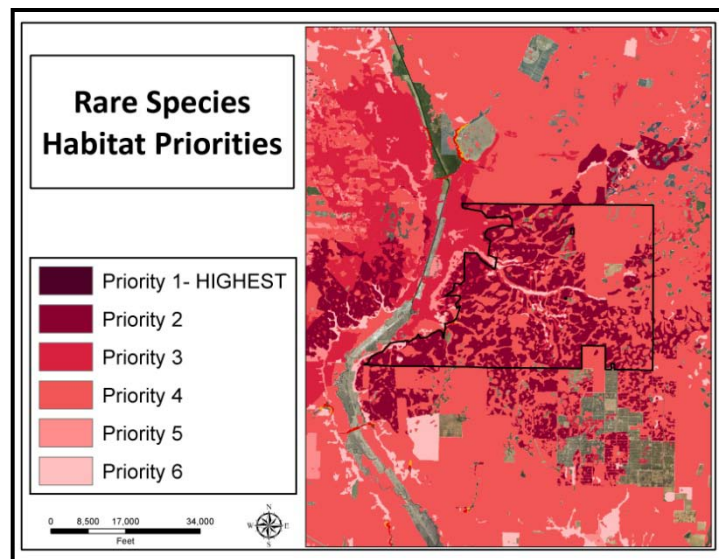
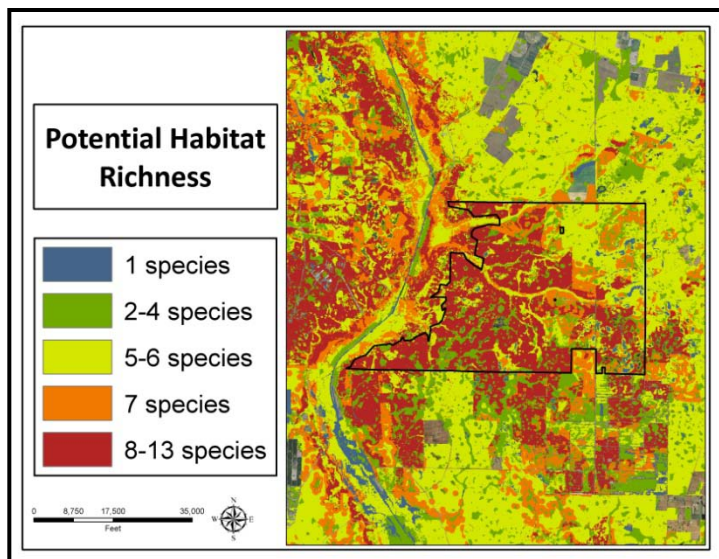
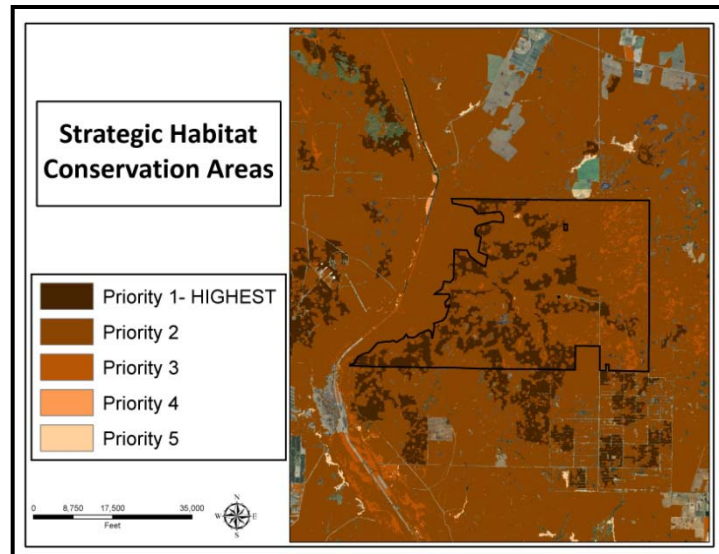
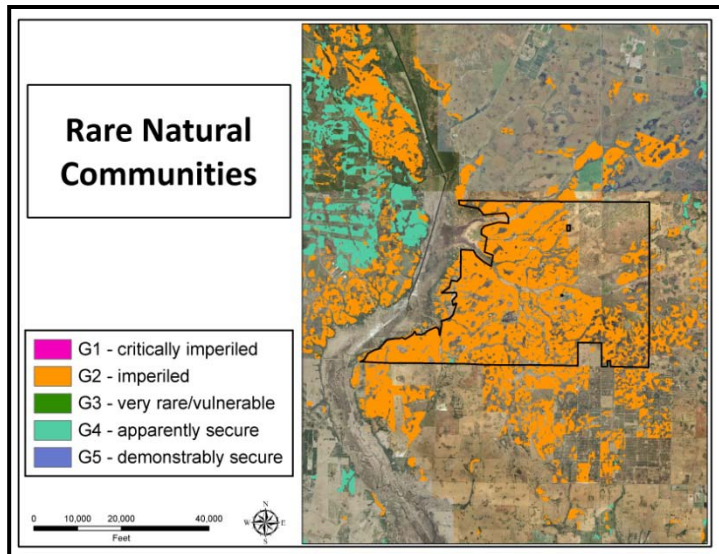
Kissimmee Prairie: Land Character



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**Kissimmee Prairie: Land Character
(Continued)**



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Kissimmee River
Assessment Unit: Kissimmee River
Restoration

lane boat ramp and picnic facility located at the Istokpoga Canal and U.S. 98.

Core Mission Value

The Kissimmee River Restoration has been central feature of the District’s core mission since the District was created in 1973. The Kissimmee River Restoration Act was passed in 1976 by the Florida Legislature, setting in motion the restoration program that has reclaimed tens of thousands of acres of floodplain wetlands while providing many new recreational uses, and expanding the body of science and state of technology in riverine systems restoration. The lands within the 100-year floodplain have been certified to the Army Corps of Engineers as being dedicated to and available for the river restoration. This restoration project broadly encompasses all of the District’s core mission functions with significant contributions to flood control, natural systems restoration, water quality, and water supply.

Other Resource Value

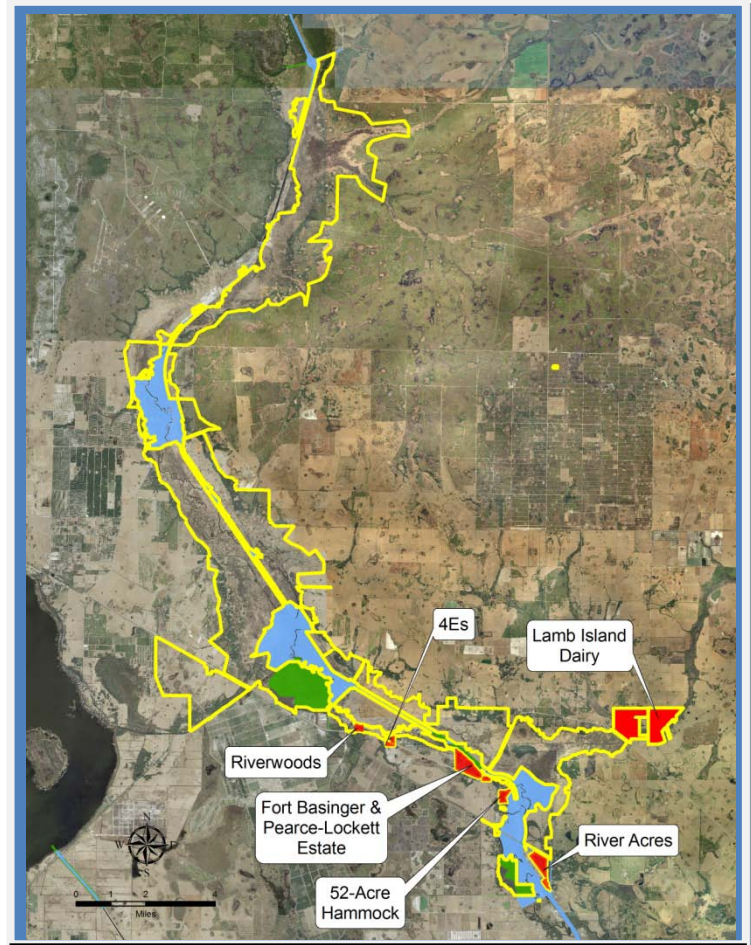
The 100 year floodplain, the point on either side of the river to which the District sought to acquire the rights necessary to implement the restoration, is generally two miles wide and includes the river channel, oxbow lakes, marshes, and wet prairies surrounded by pockets of cypress and a large fringing oak hammock. Landward of the hammock may be small areas of oak scrub, dry prairie, or pine flatwoods.

Current Use, Management Issues

The area is undergoing restoration and is being managed in its natural state and condition. Exotic species control is a very significant management challenge in the area. Much of the floodplain is inaccessible by ground vehicle or by vessel. Old World Climbing fern, Peruvian primrose willow, and several exotic grasses have invaded the area, the control of which has proven to be a considerable challenge.

Public Use and Recreation Value

The river area has been established by FWC as a Public Use Area and is open to hunting at certain times of the year under FWC public use regulations. Boating, airboating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, tent camping, picnicking, hiking, and equestrian use are popular activities. The Florida National Scenic Trail goes through the area, in a north-south orientation. The District has equestrian and tent camping available at the Hickory Hammock Equestrian Campground, and primitive camping at several other points along the river. As an adjunct feature to the river restoration the Army Corps constructed, and the District manages, a two-



Kissimmee River Restoration. District fee-simple ownership is within the yellow boundary, but the area also includes right-of-way fee interest in blue, and easement in green.

Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos



The Kissimmee River, prior to channelization



Massive flooding in the 1940s that prompted Congress to authorize the Central & Southern Florida Project for flood control and protection



The river during channelization in the 1950s and 60s (left), boating in the straightened and channelized river (right)

Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos



The channelized river drained tens of thousands of acres of floodplain wetland, which were converted to improved cattle pasture



The planning of the restoration project was aided by the construction of a large scale-model of the river in a huge tank in a lab at Univ. of California, Berkley.

Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos



The major construction work for the restoration is being completed by contractors for the U.S. Army corps of engineers, it involves re-establishing the historic river channels, removing water control structures, and backfilling the C-38 canal that has diverted the waters of the floodplain since the 1960s.



Demolition of a major control structure that had been used to regulate water levels in the artificial Pools (left); and the former location of the structure following floodplain restoration (right).

Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos

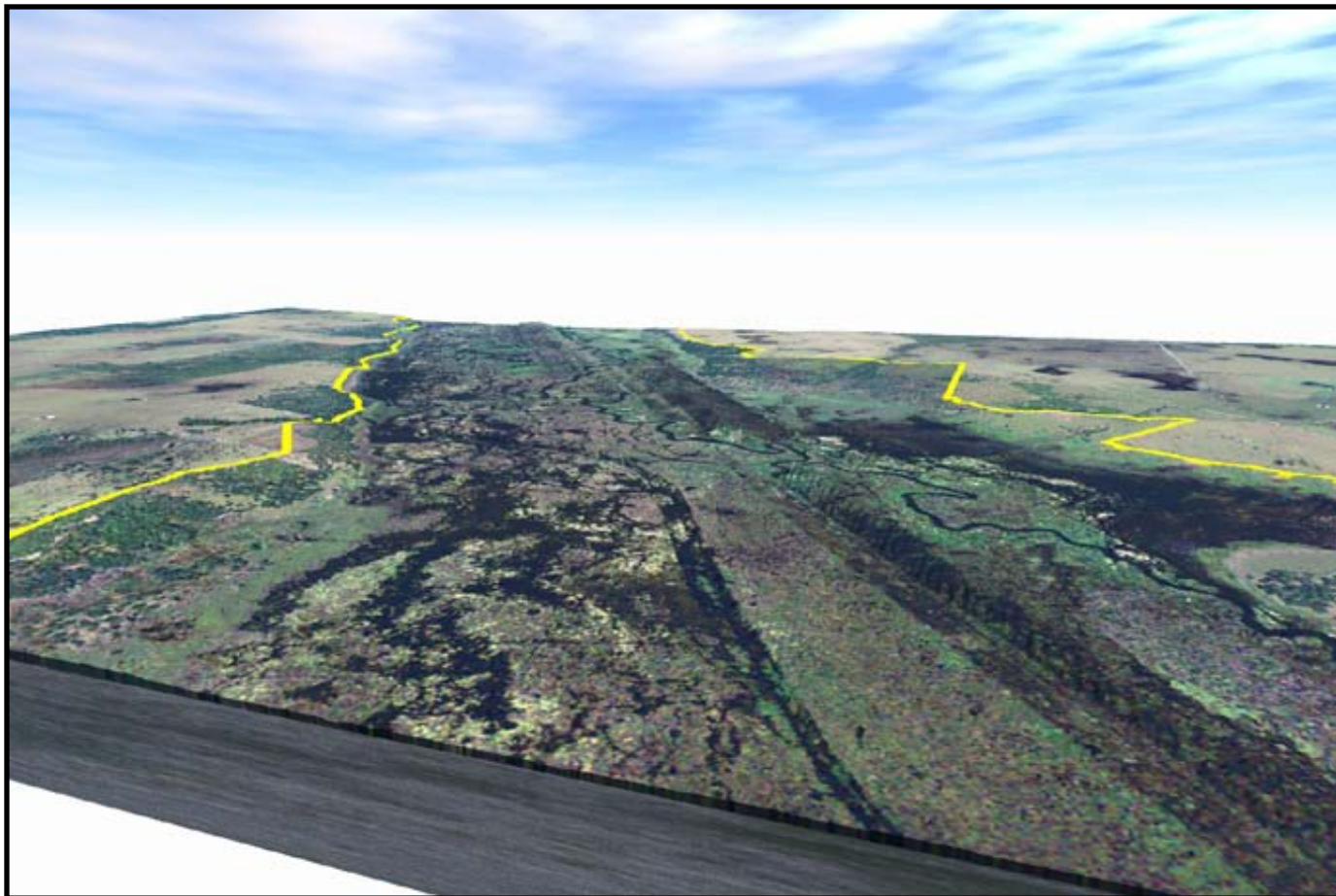


The drained floodplain, pre-restoration (left); and the post-restoration floodplain (right)



The natural floodplain, pre-channelization in 1955 (left); and the post-restoration floodplain in 2009 (right)

Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos



A computer-generated cross section of the marshes and fringing hammocks of the river floodplain, showing topographic relief (above); and a view from the center looking towards the edge of the floodplain (below). The floodplain is generally 2 miles wide and is bounded by oak hammocks, cypress, or wet prairies. Landward of these transitional plant communities may be dry prairie, scrub, or pine flatwoods.



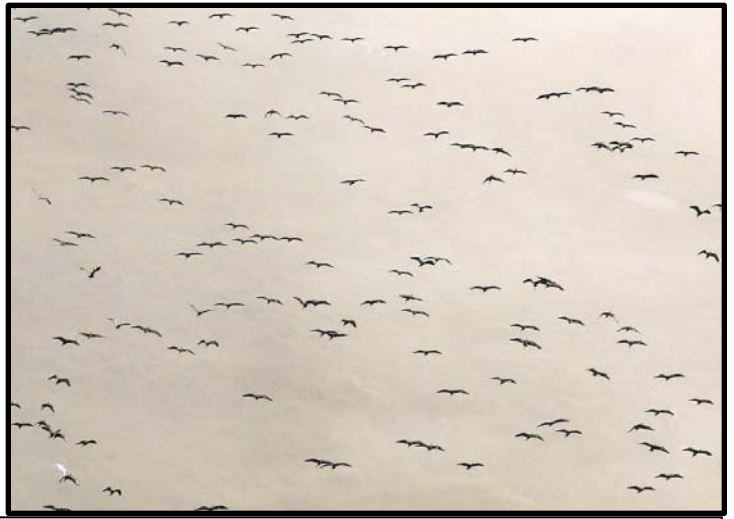
Kissimmee River Restoration, Photos



A portion of the river channel with overhanging oaks (top left), a dry prairie restoration area just outside of the floodplain (top right), a prescribed fire within a floodplain (middle left), and in a scrub outside of the floodplain (middle right), and a panorama of a wet prairie on the inside fringe of the floodplain (bottom).



The Phase I restoration area.



A large flock of Ibis in the restoration area.



Swallowtail kites along the restoration area.



Pelicans and wading birds in the restoration area



Typical of the oak hammock that fringes the floodplain



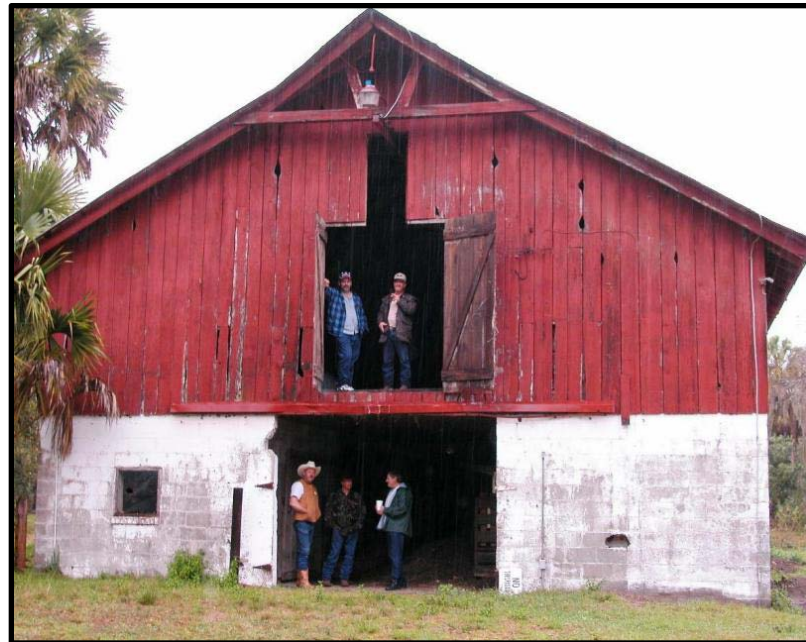
Tricolored heron chicks in the phase I restoration area

Kissimmee River Restoration, Public Use



Fishing on the river (top left), a tour boat showing the river restoration (top right), a Florida Trail Association volunteer clearing a portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail (middle left), a bridge crossing on the Florida National Scenic Trail (middle right), hiking at Hickory Hammock (far left), and a District trailhead (left).

Kissimmee River Restoration, Public Use



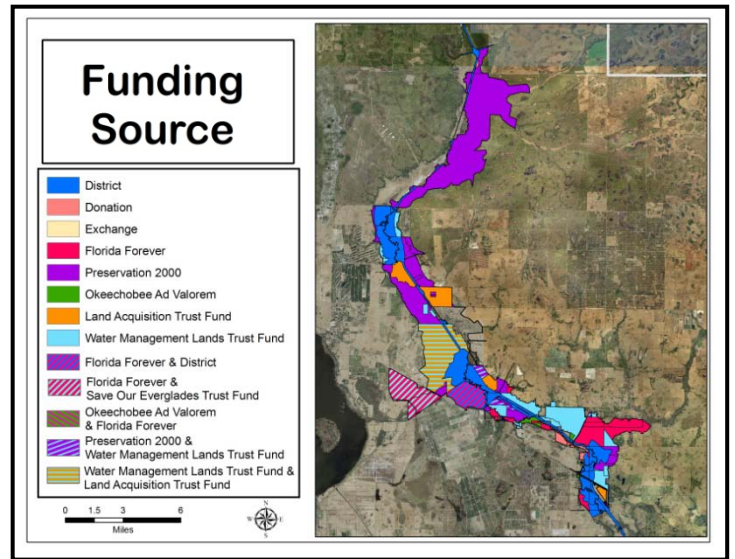
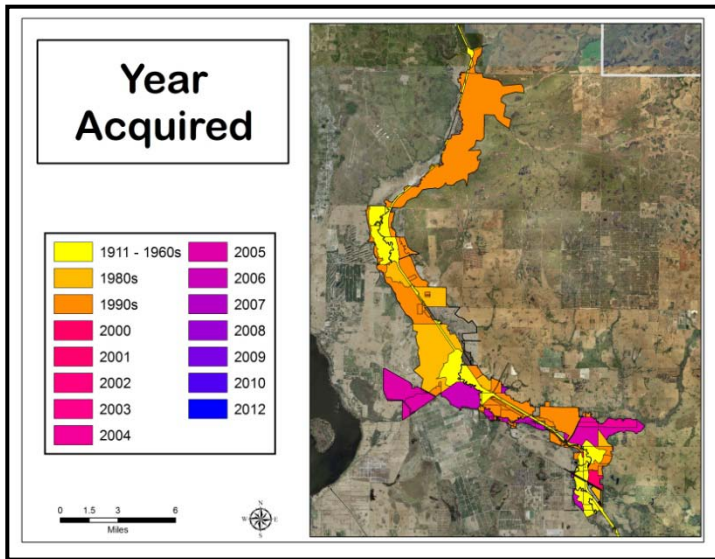
Public use at the District's Hickory Hammock Equestrian Campground

Kissimmee River Restoration, Public Use

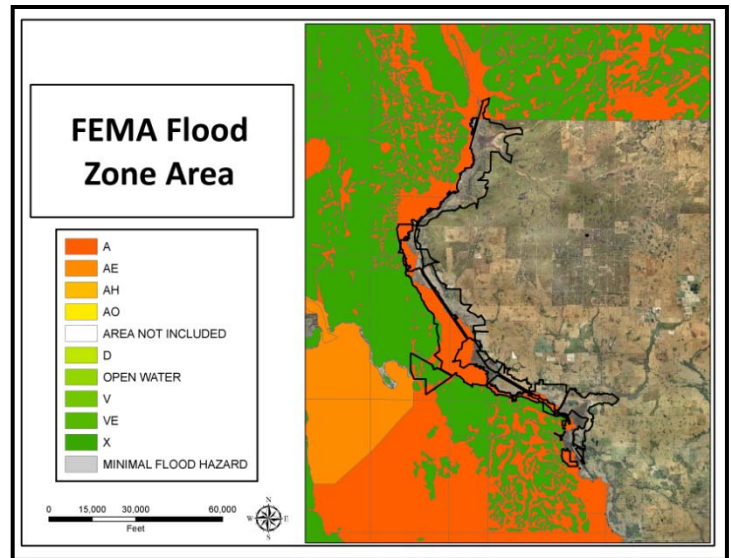
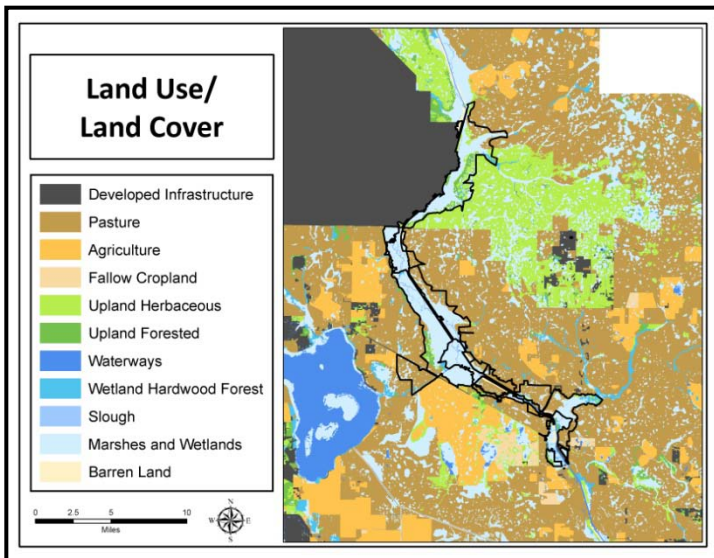


Photos from the District's Istokpoga Canal boat ramp area that features picnic areas, restrooms, a wooden airboat ramp and a two-lane boat ramp. This facility provides easy access to the restored river.

Kissimmee River Restoration: Land Acquisition



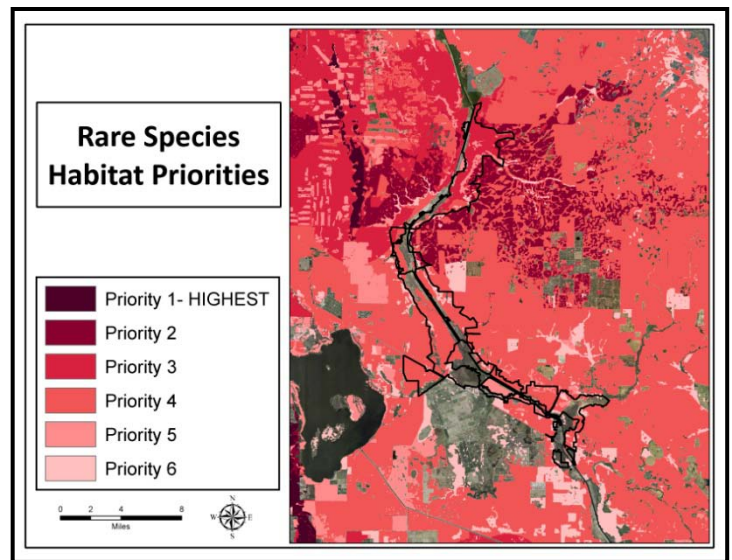
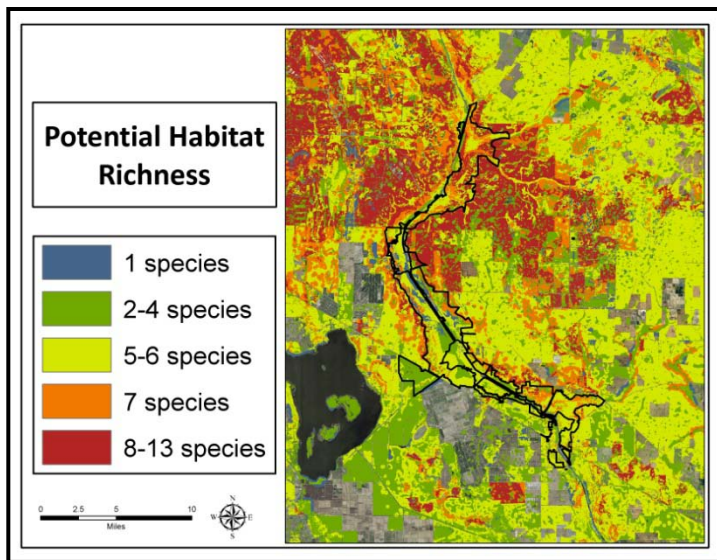
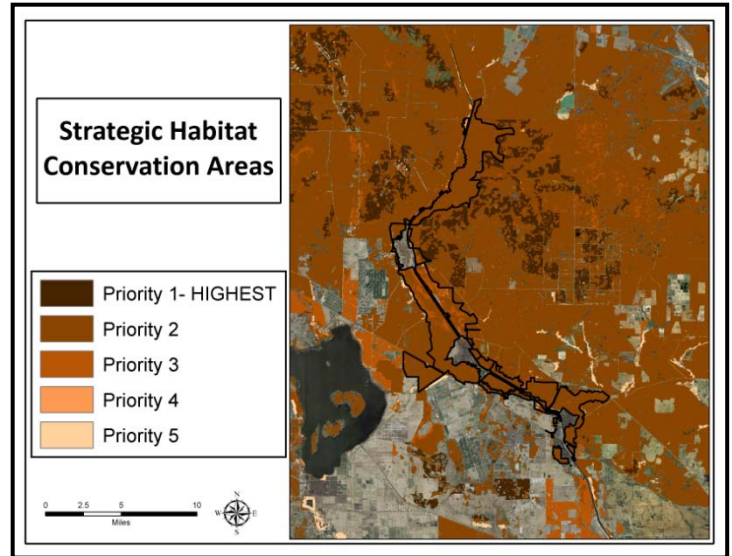
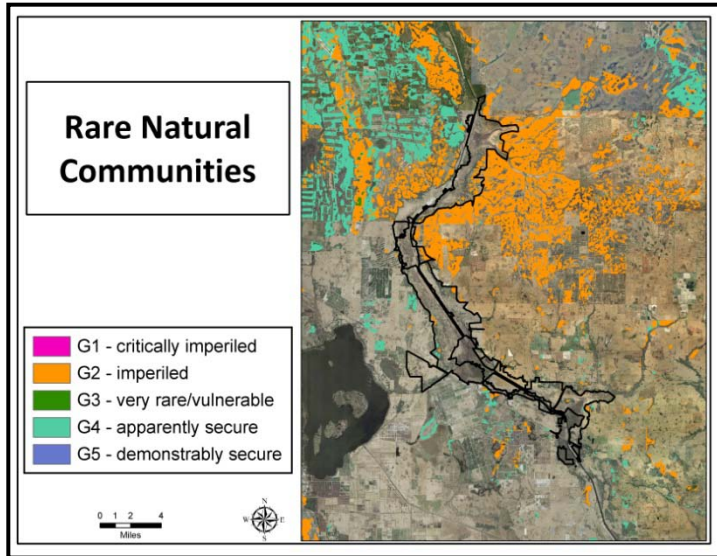
Kissimmee River Restoration: Land Character



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**Kissimmee River Restoration: Land Character
(Continued)**



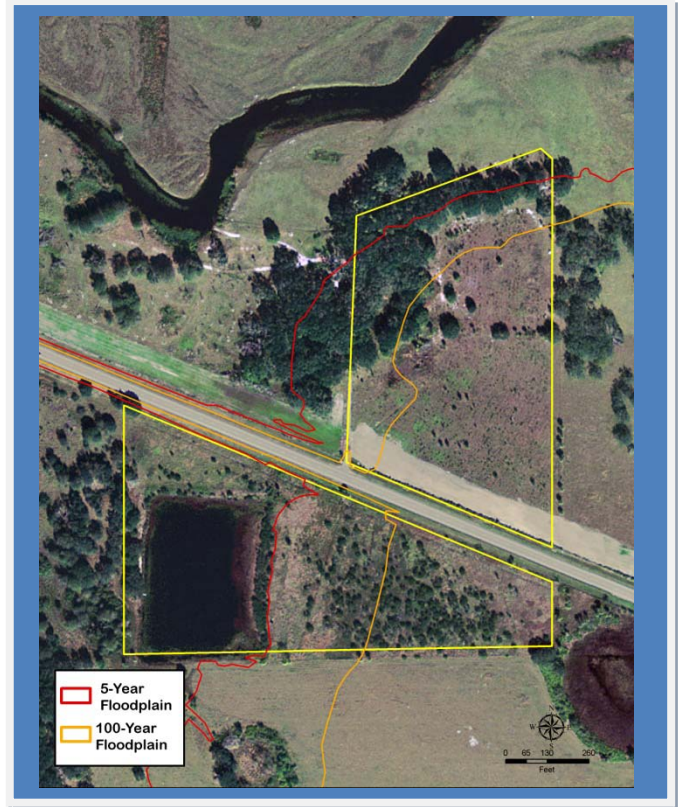
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Kissimmee River Restoration Individual Parcel Assessments

4Es, South of Highway 98

Purchased in 1997 with funds from the Water Management Trust Fund, this is a small portion of a larger parcel that is effectively cut-off from the larger property by U.S. 98. The site is covered by invasive and exotic shrubs and trees. There is a small pond at the west end of the property. There are no public use facilities on the site.



Riverwoods

This was a small neighborhood that was acquired because it fell within the floodplain of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. There are many large oak trees on site, and most of the houses remain on site. The houses that are within the floodplain are scheduled for demolition. The District uses the parcel as a staging area for field work, for laboratory facilities, and for boat and equipment storage. The District also has a contract with the Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies to provide field support for District restoration evaluation studies. Additionally, they provide significant support for District outreach such as logistics and pontoon boat support for District tours of the restoration area and for onsite meetings.

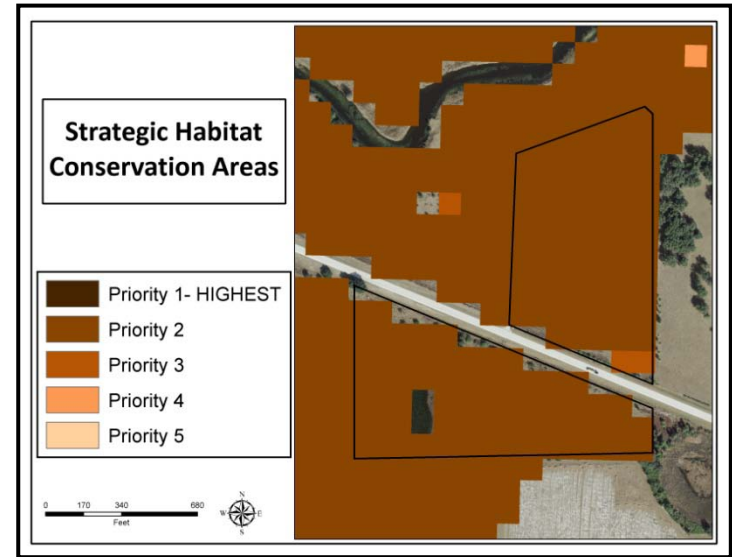
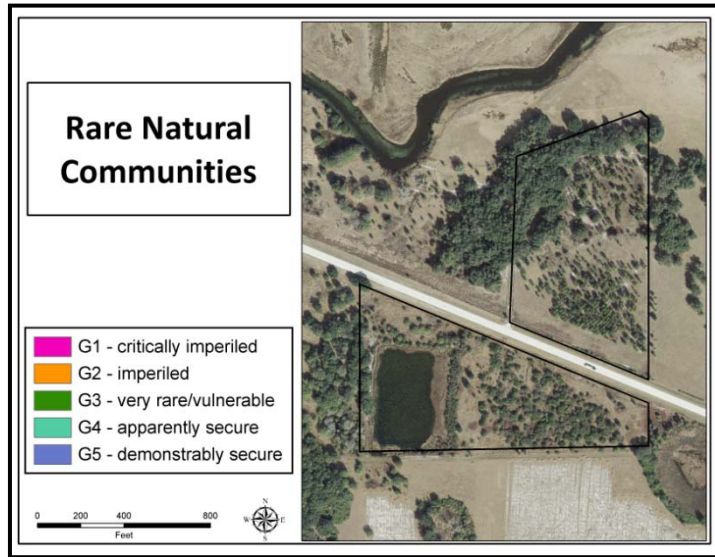
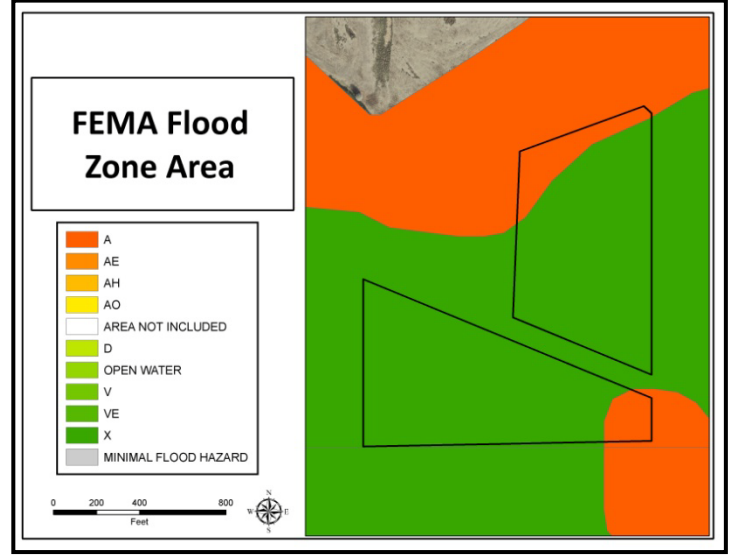
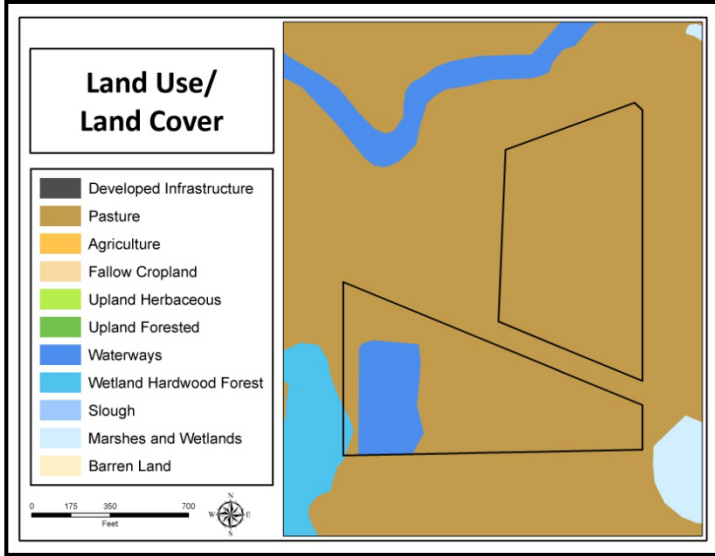


4Es, South of Highway 98, Photos

The portion of the 4E's property that is isolated south of U.S. 98. The site has a substantial amount of Brazilian pepper and other invasive shrubby plants.



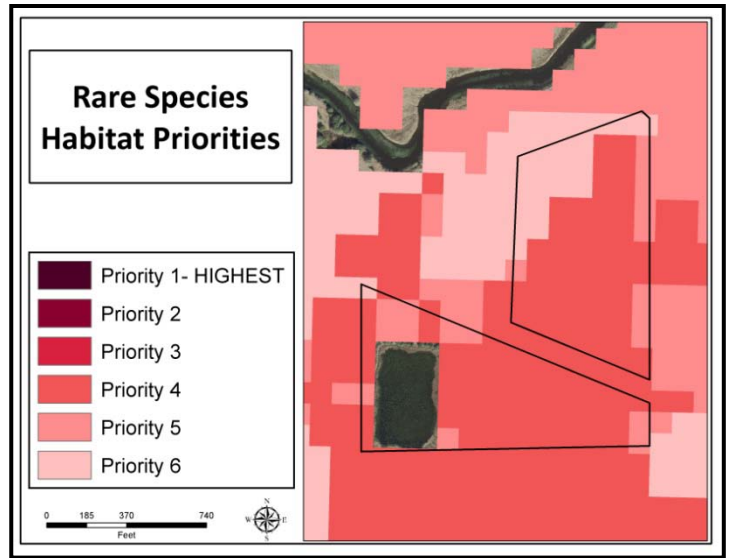
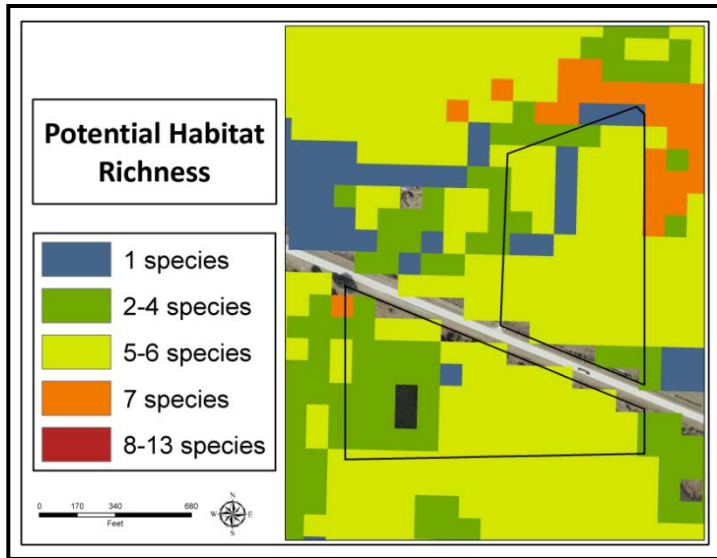
4Es, South of Highway 98: Land Character



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4Es, South of Highway 98: Land Character
(Continued)



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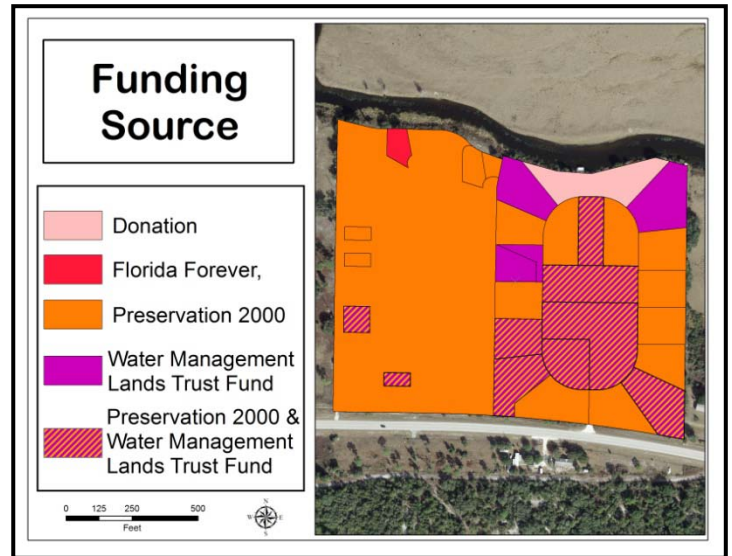
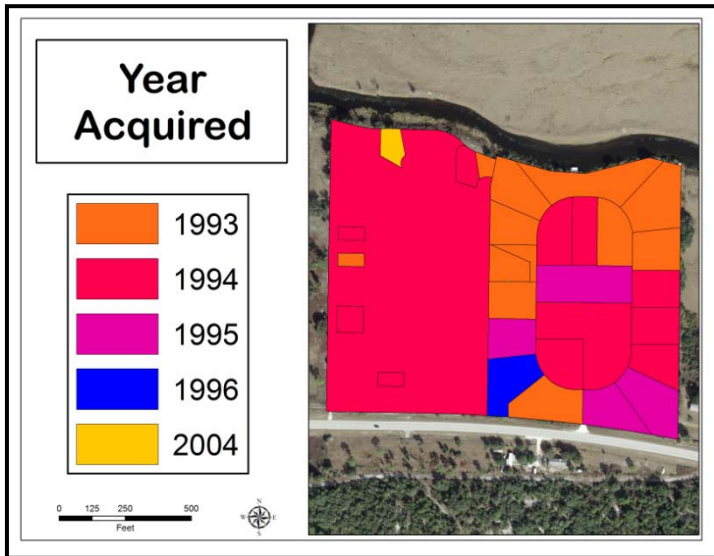
Riverwoods, Photos



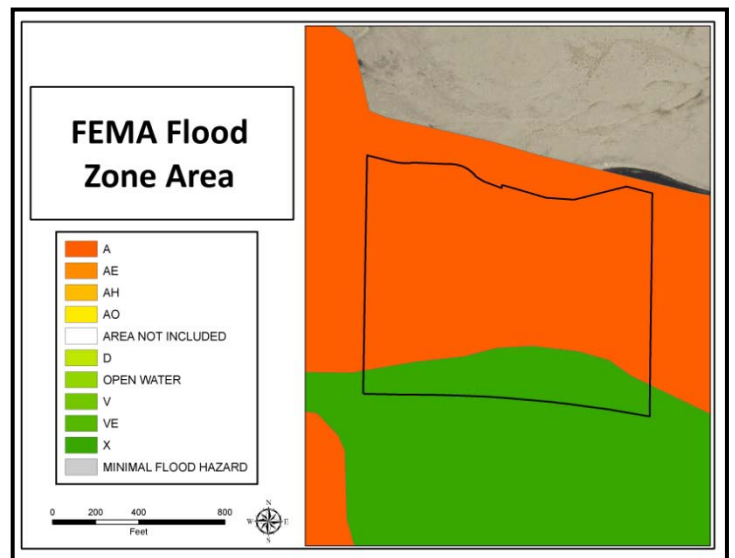
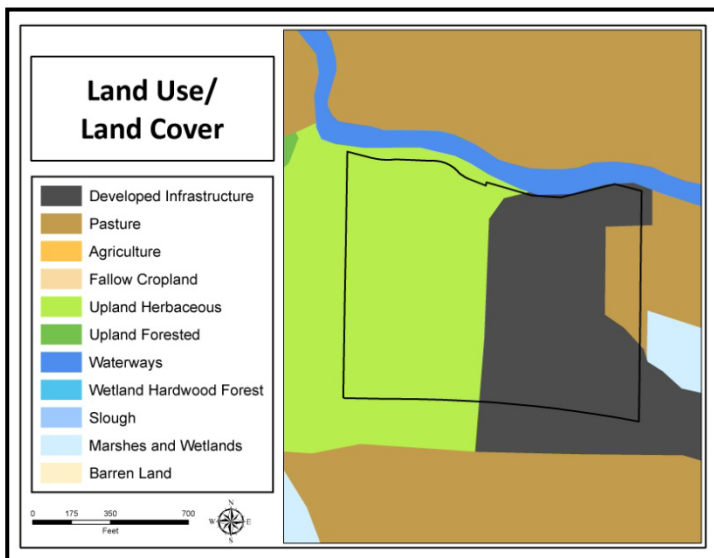
The Riverwoods facility



Riverwoods: Land Acquisition



Riverwoods: Land Character

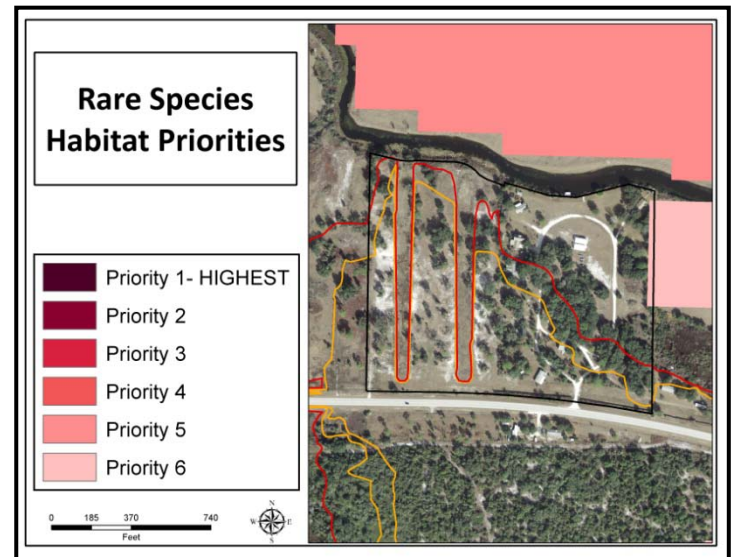
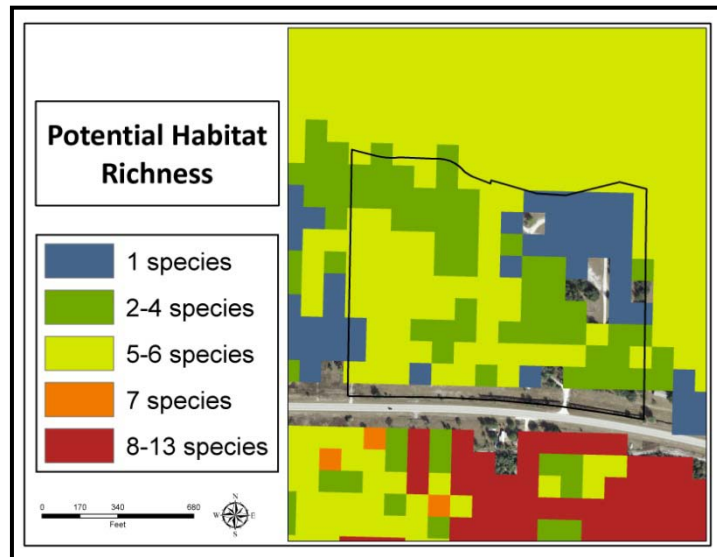
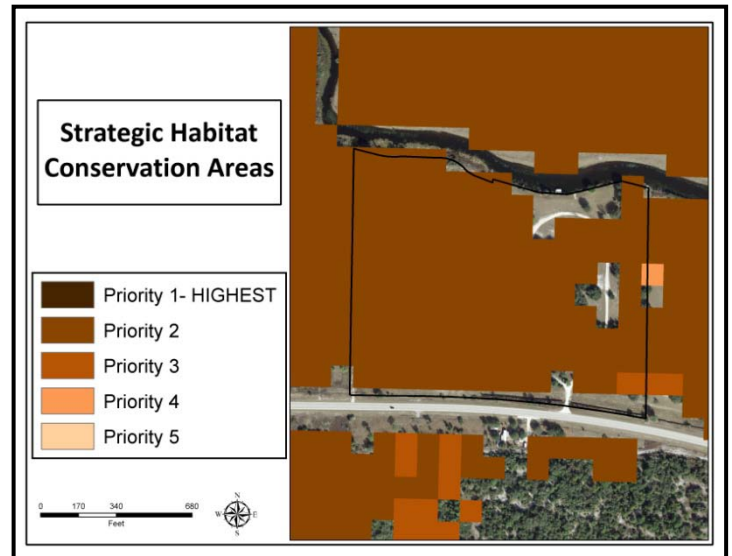


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Riverwoods: Land Character
(Continued)



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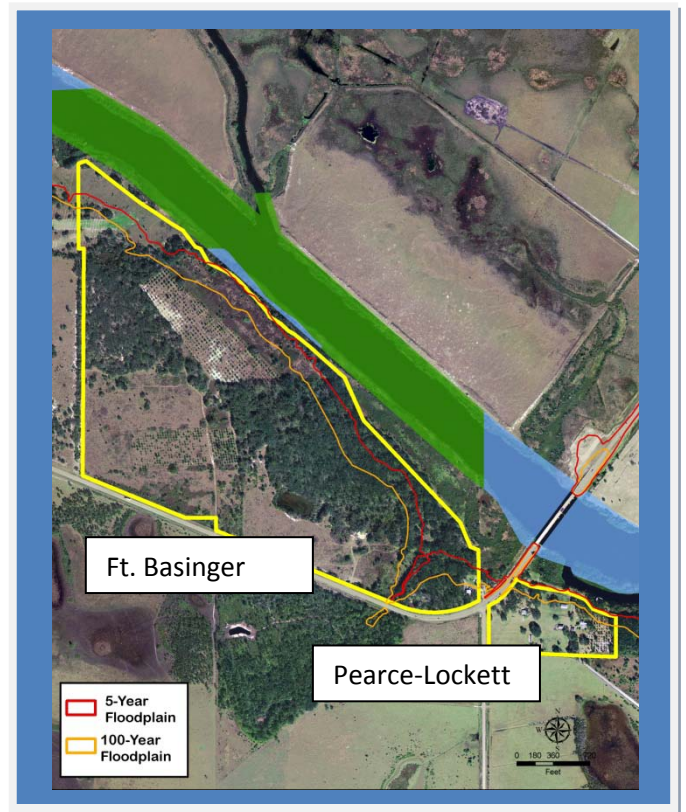
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Kissimmee River Restoration Individual Parcel Assessments (Continued)

Ft. Basinger, Outside the Floodplain

This area falls partially outside of the extent of floodplain that was necessary to acquire to support the restoration of the Kissimmee River. The property contained the single-room schoolhouse where Edna Pearce-Lockett taught as a young woman. The schoolhouse was moved to the Pearce-Lockett estate in 2005. The portion of the site that is outside of the floodplain is an area that the District has been restoring to a pine flatwood community. The site serves as a trailhead for the Florida National Scenic Trail, and for hunting and primitive camping access. The area is in the process of being made a receptor site for re-located gopher tortoises. Note – the original fort that was used during the Second Seminole War was spelled ‘Bassingier’.



Pearce-Lockett Estate

In 1993 the District acquired the Pearce-Lockett Estate through a donation as part of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. The site was donated by the family on the condition that it would be open to the public. Since this time the District has provided maintenance to sustain the property in its current condition. There have been several attempts to find a management partner for the site with the State, Highlands County, the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Initiative, the Center for Environmental Studies, the Isaac Walton League, and the U.S. fish and wildlife Service. The District and the Highlands County Parks Department cooperatively managed the site from 1997 until 2001. The Florida Park Service evaluated the property in 2002 and concluded that the site met or exceeded the qualifications for a State Park, but budget constraints prevented them from accepting title from the District.

The Pearce-Lockett Estate is historically significant, but is not designated as a State Historic Site. The majority of the

site is a State-registered archaeological site; it was once the permanent home to a community in the Belle Glade II period around 1800 years ago. A homestead was established in 1875 by Capt. John Mizell Pearce, a veteran of the Civil War and the Third Seminole War. He married into the family of the famous Southern poet Sydney Lanier; he and his wife had 10 children. John Pearce operated a steam boat along the Kissimmee River and later a ferry. He was also a deputy sheriff and a cattleman. John Pearce, his wife, and several other family members were laid to rest on site in a family cemetery that remains in good condition. His son, William, was instrumental in establishing the Ft. Basinger School (moved to the estate in 2004). Edna Pearce-Lockett taught at the Ft. Basinger School, she would later take over the homestead and cattle operation and be the third woman elected to the Florida House of Representatives.

Ft. Basinger, Outside the Floodplain, Photos



The Fort Basinger tract. The pineland restoration area (above) and the location of the old Fort Basinger School (below).

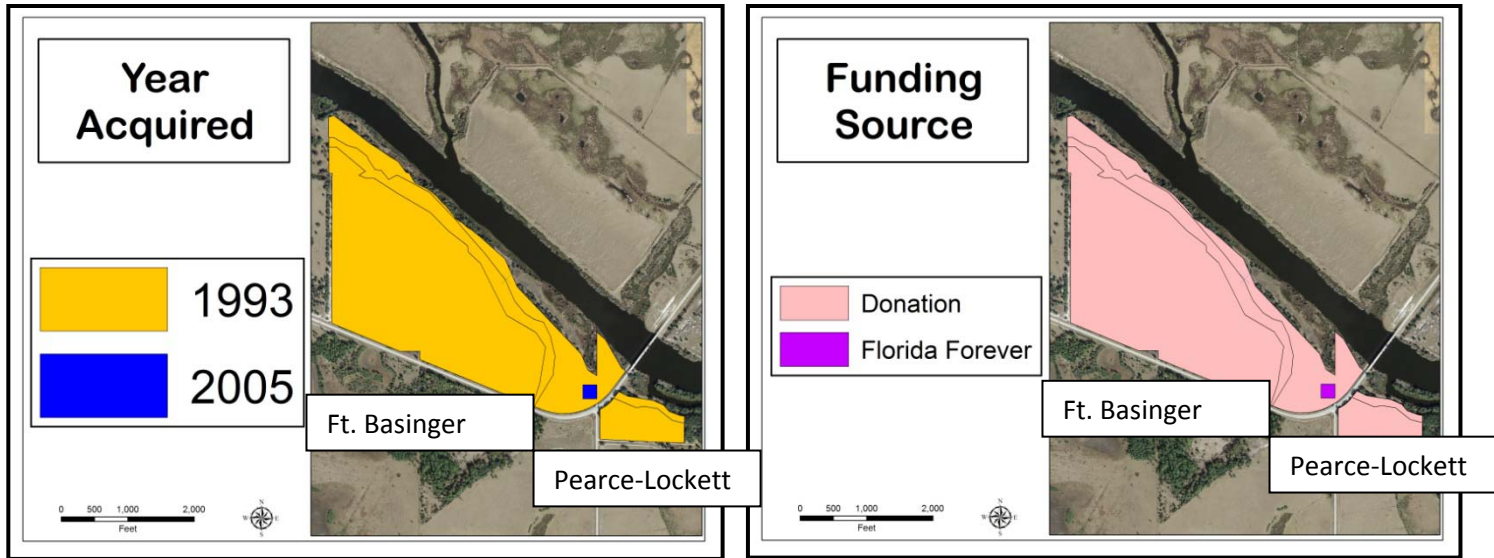


Pearce-Lockett, Photos

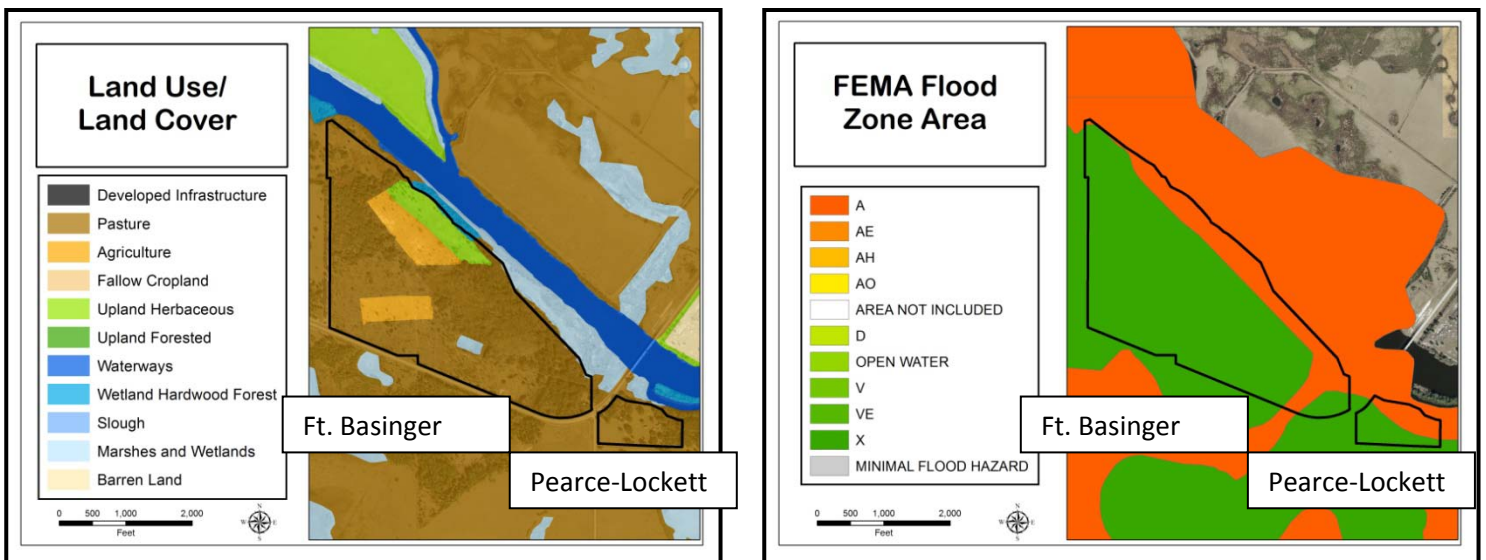


The Pearce-Lockett Estate. The old Fort Basinger school house (top left), small tool sheds (top right), an aerial view, looking towards the river (middle), and the main house (bottom).

Ft. Bassinger and Pearce-Lockett: Land Acquisition



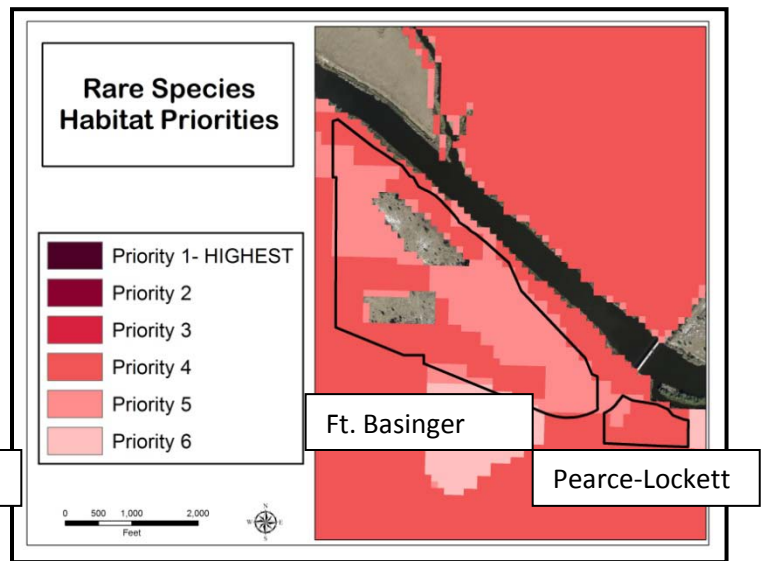
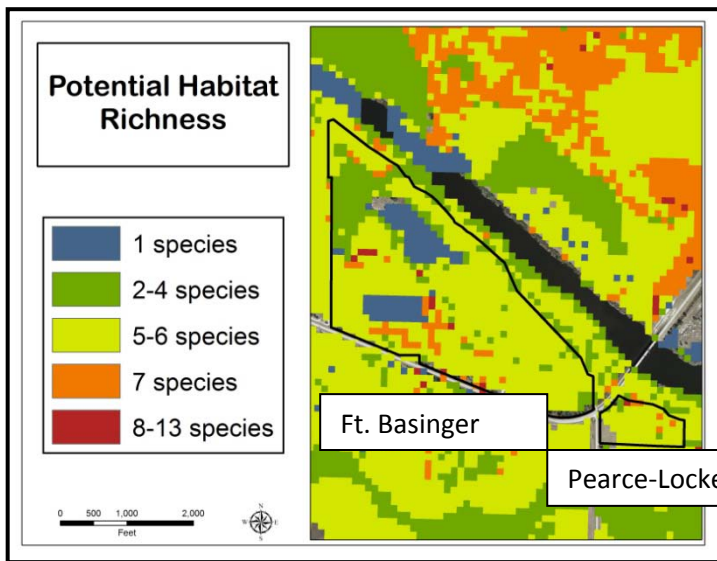
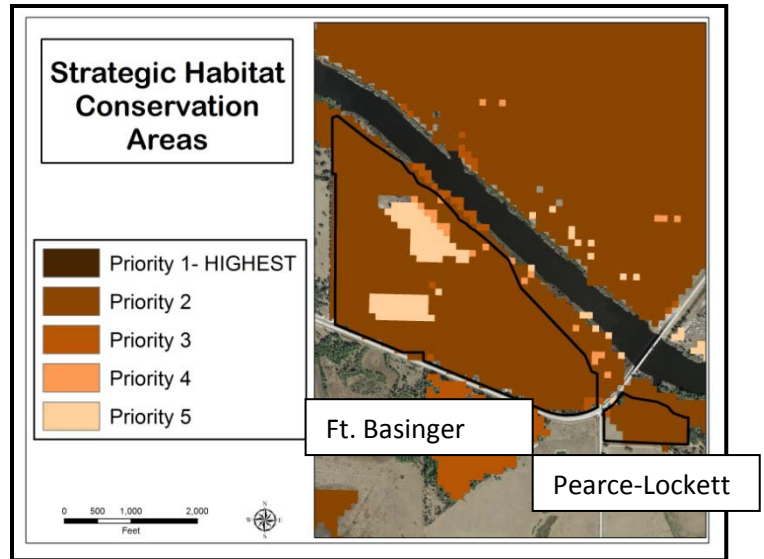
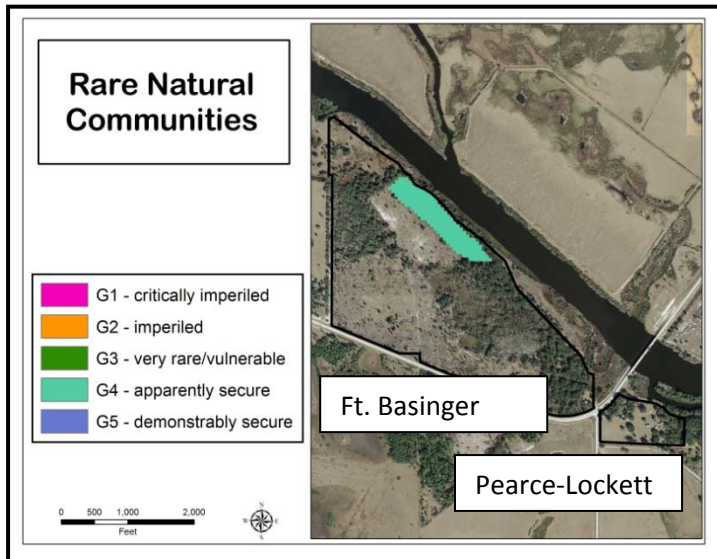
Ft. Bassinger and Pearce-Lockett: Land Character



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Ft. Basinger and Pearce-Lockett: Land Character (Continued)



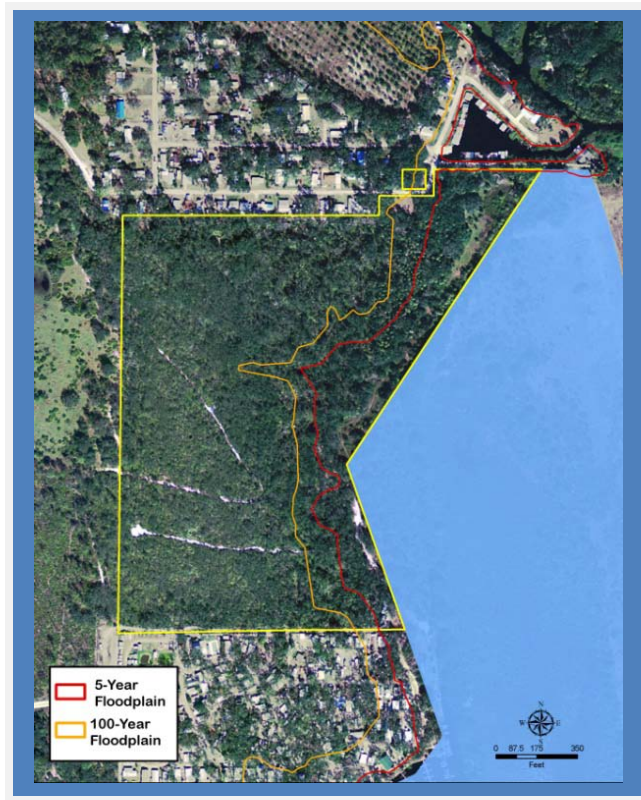
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**Kissimmee River Restoration
Individual Parcel Assessments
(Continued)**

52-Acre Hammock

This Oak Hammock area lies outside of the Kissimmee River floodplain. The site contains an oak hammock and archaeological sites. This area is open to the public for short walks and wildlife viewing, access is from the river..



The Pool D floodplain parcel

This water retention area was acquired because it falls within the topographic contours defining the Kissimmee River floodplain. The area is highly disturbed, over drained, and is densely filled with invasive and exotic shrubs. There is no practical public access.



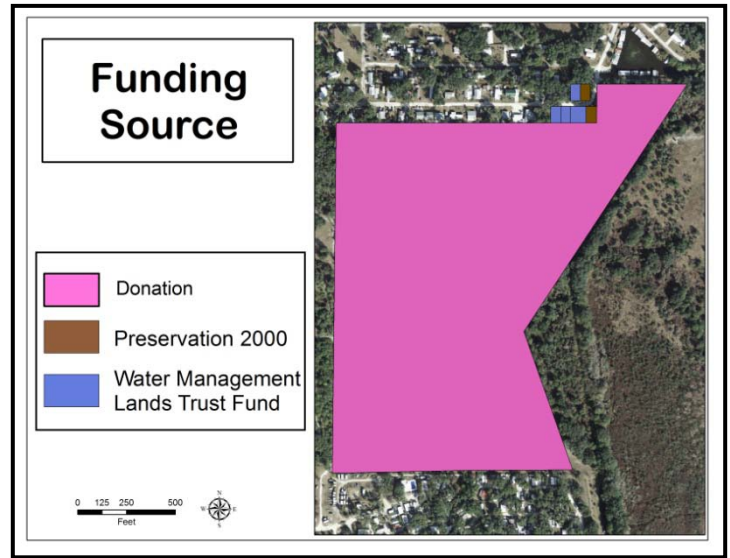
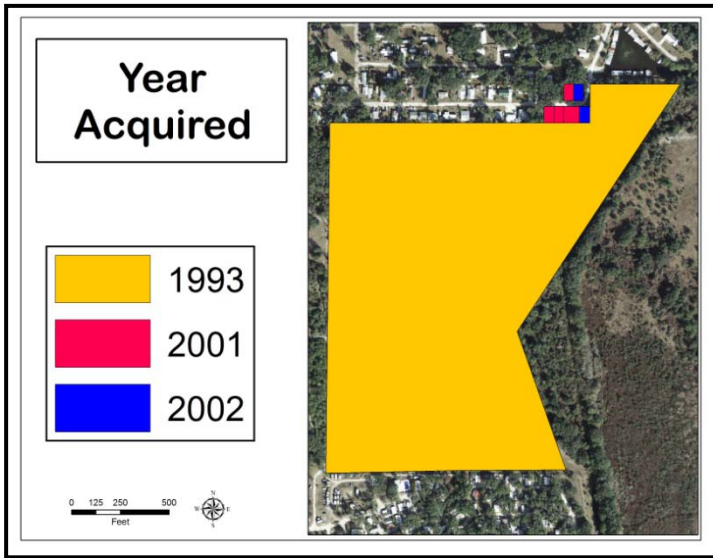
52 Acre Hammock, Photos



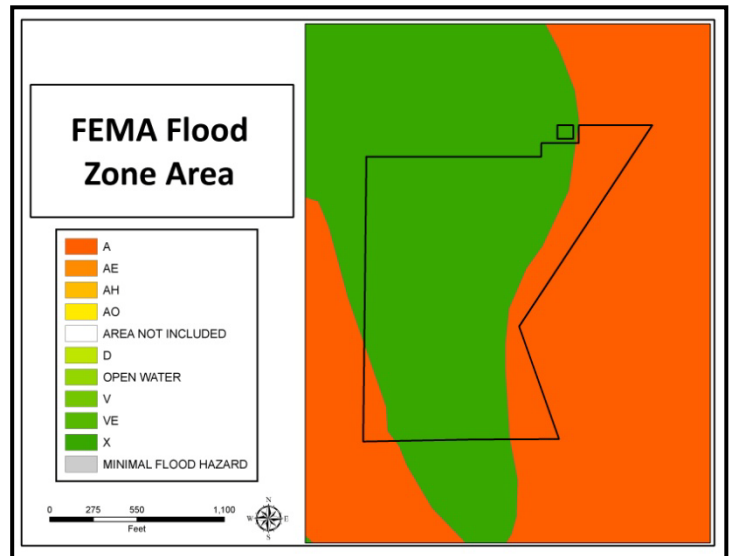
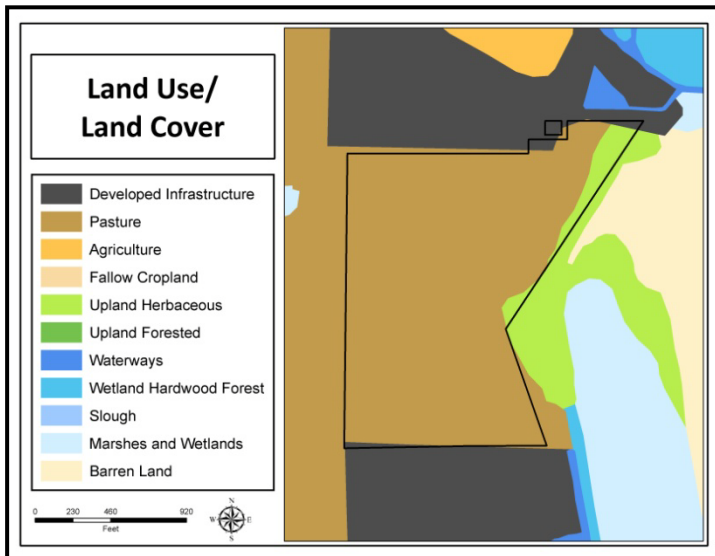
The 52 acre hammock parcel. From the western side (above) and an aerial photo looking west from the river (below).



52 Acre Hammock: Land Acquisition



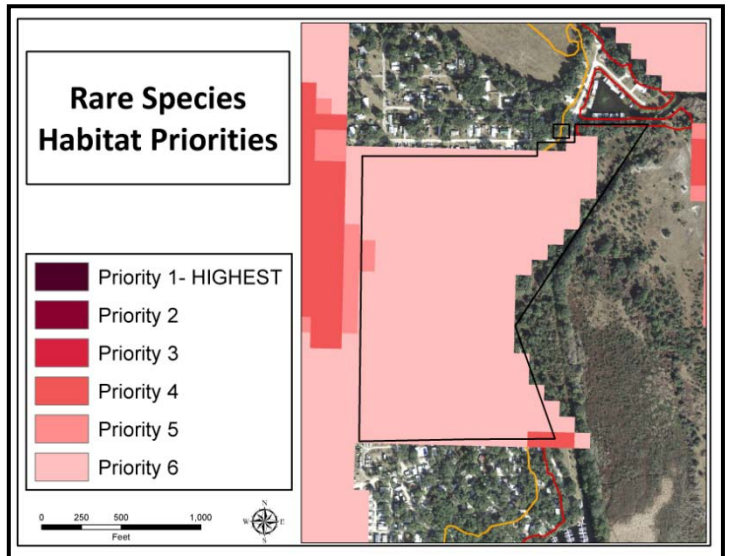
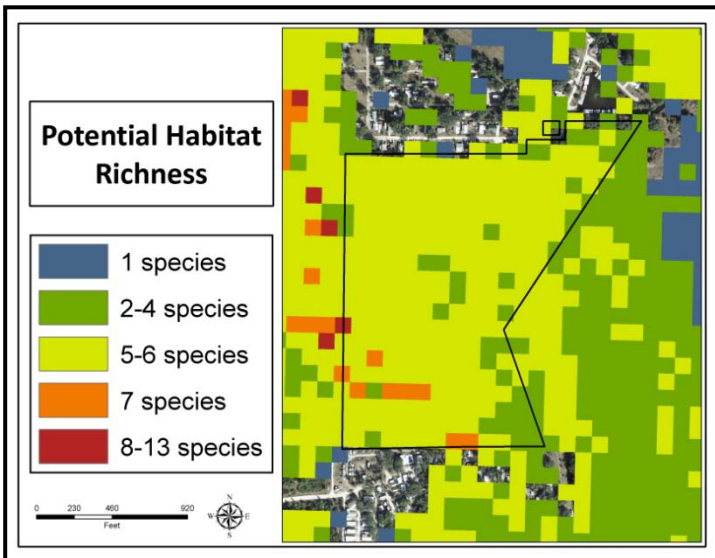
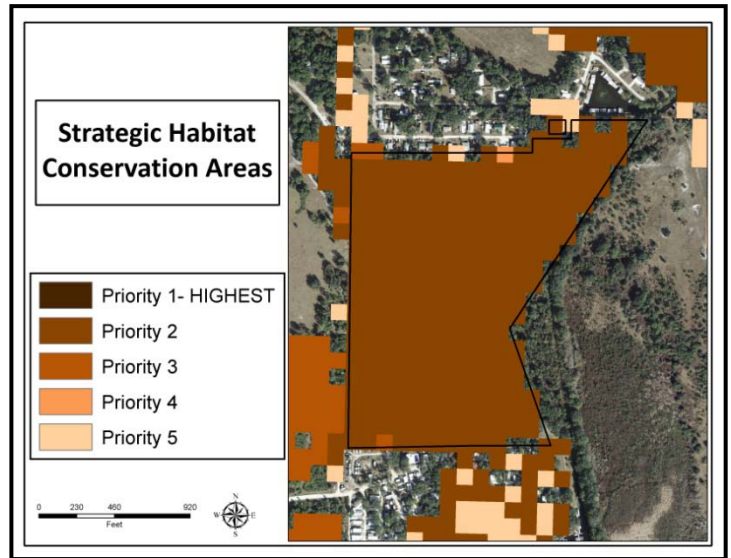
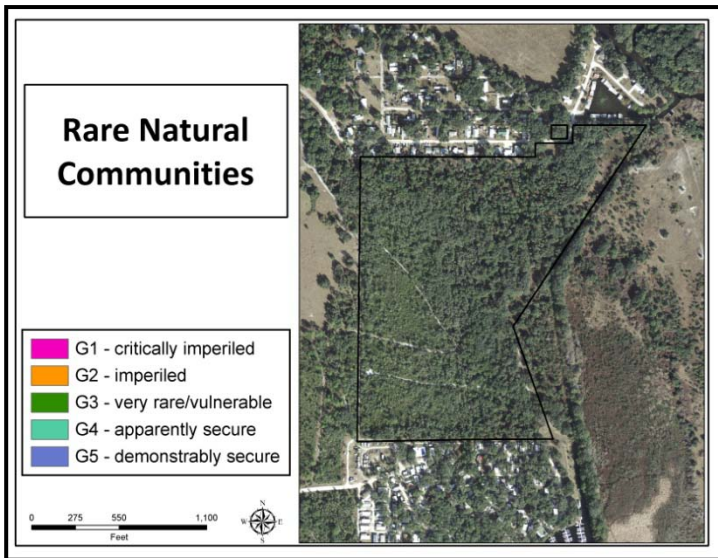
52 Acre Hammock: Land Character



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52 Acre Hammock: Land Character
(Continued)



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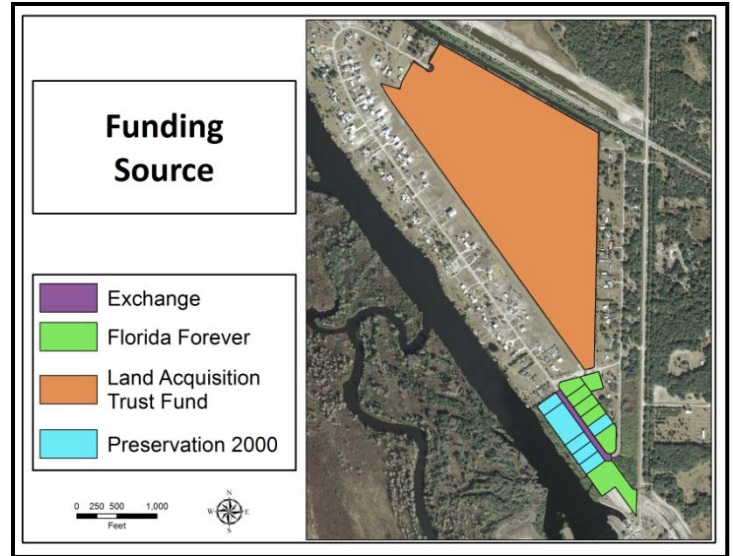
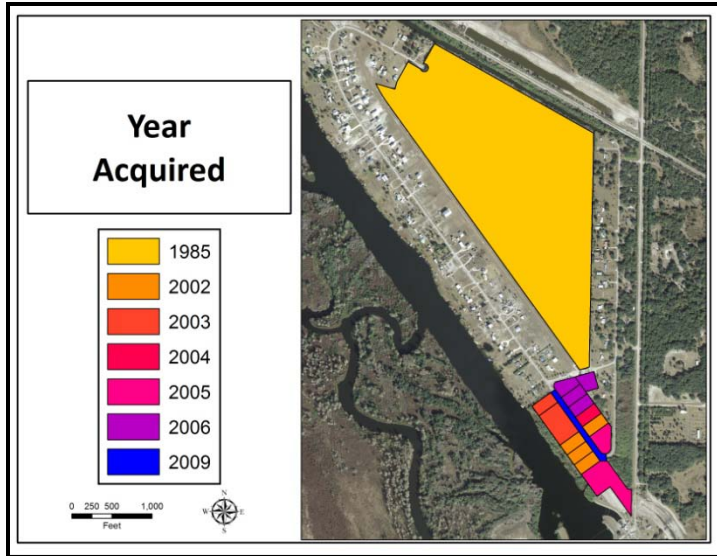
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The Pool D floodplain parcel, Photos

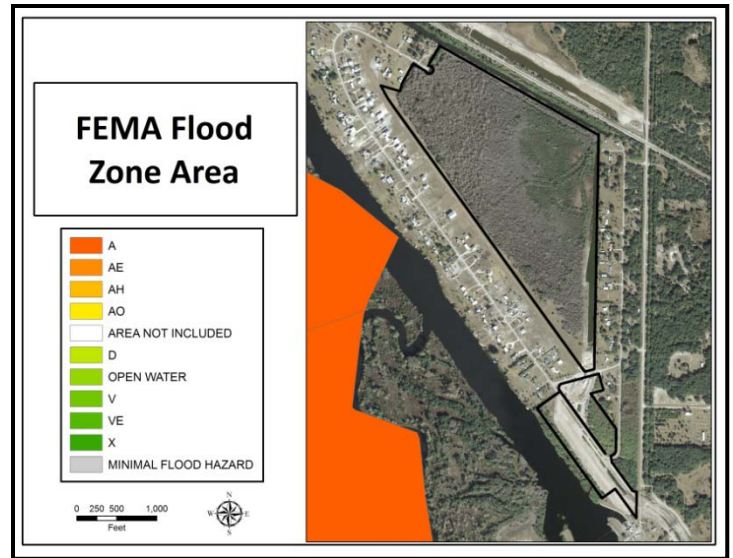
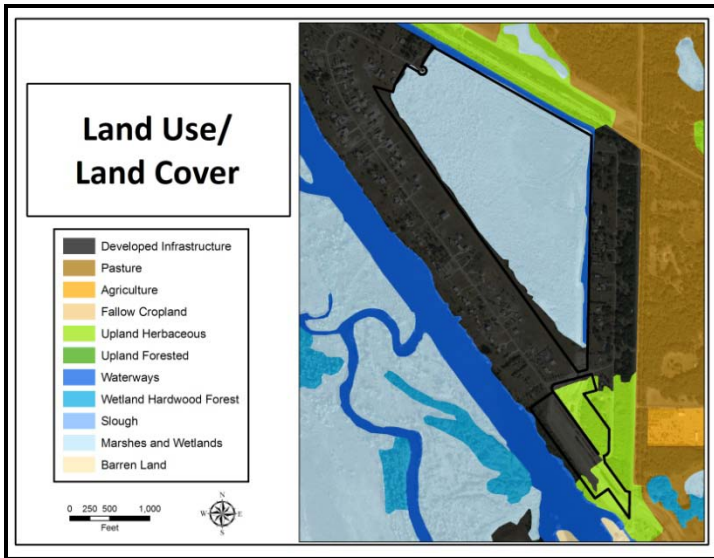


This parcel has a very thick cover of Brazilian pepper

The Pool D floodplain parcel: Land Acquisition



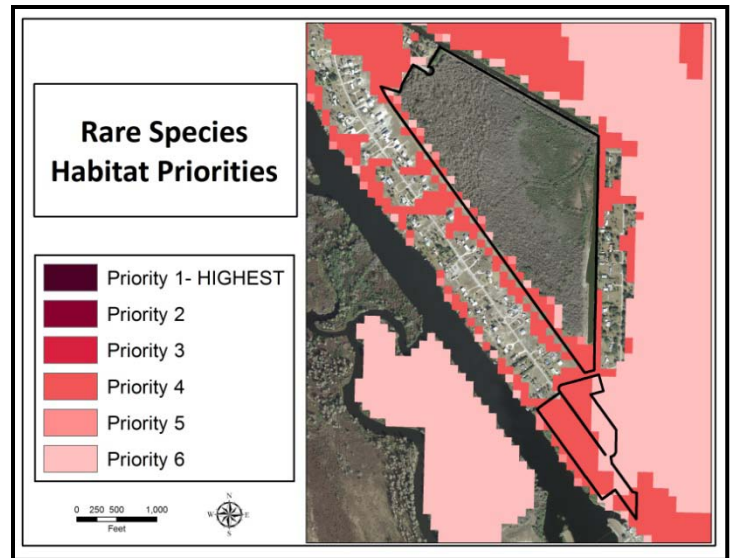
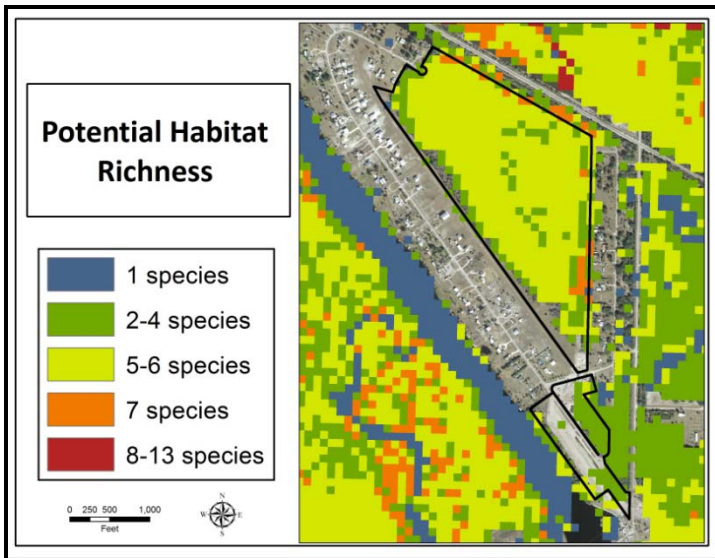
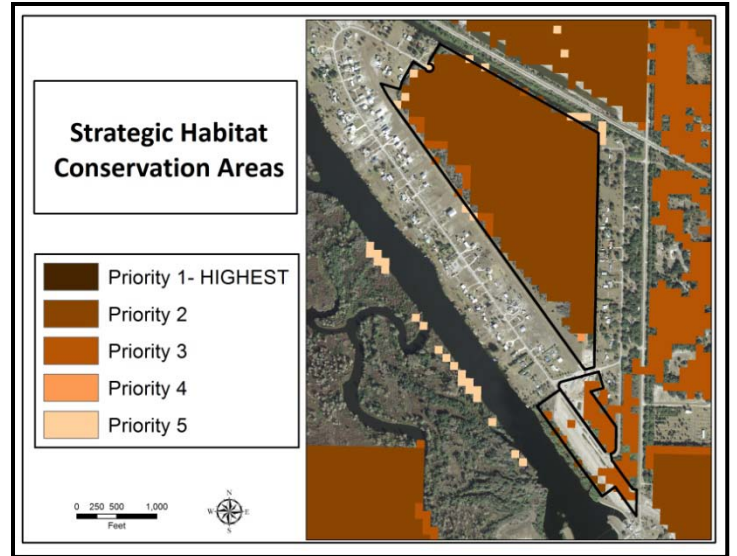
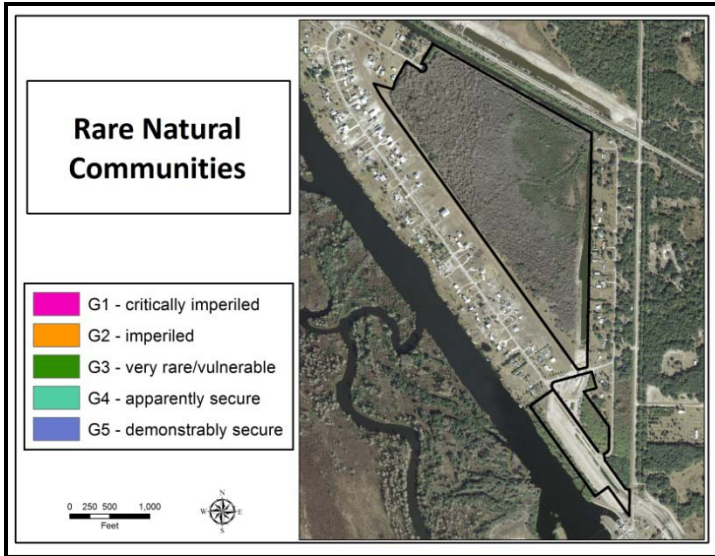
The Pool D floodplain parcel: Land Character



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The Pool D floodplain parcel: Land Character
(Continued)



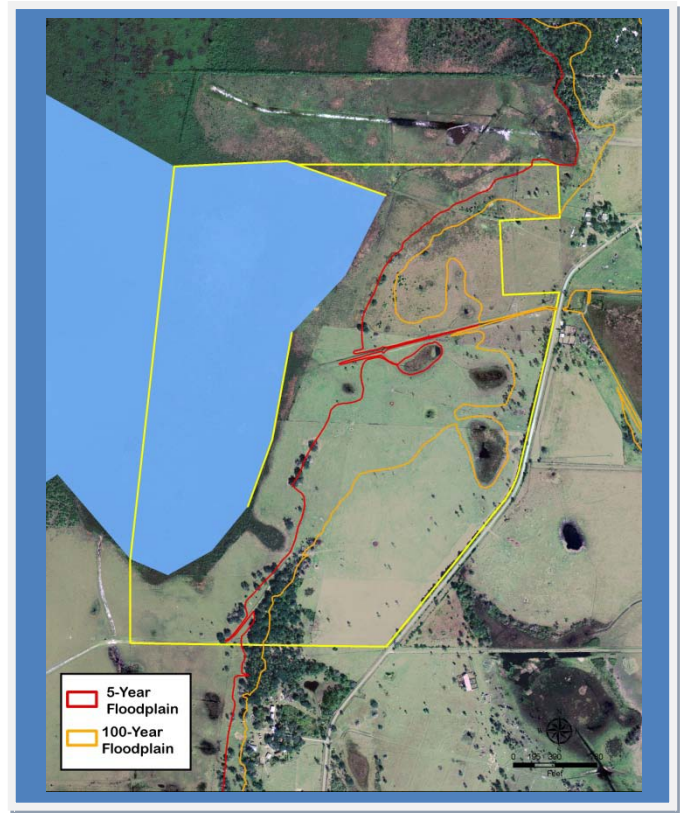
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**Kissimmee River Restoration
Individual Parcel Assessments
(Continued)**

Chandler Slough, Lofton Road frontage

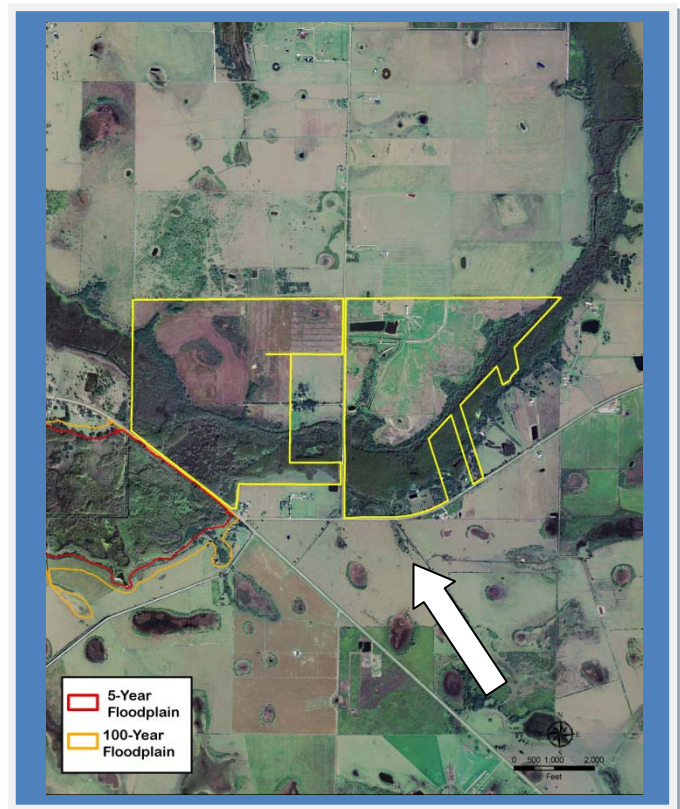
Chandler Slough was acquired because it largely falls within the Kissimmee River Floodplain. There is however a portion that falls outside of the floodplain along Lofton Road. This area is improve pasture. This portion, like the rest of Chandler Slough, is open to the public as part of the FWC public use area. Hiking, hunting, and camping are popular.



Lamb Island Dairy, CR 68 Residential Lots

These tracts were acquired because they contain a cypress swamp that connects to the Kissimmee River floodplain. The properties include residential lots to the south of the swamp and a dairy farm on the north side of the cypress. The dairy portion has been converted into a water quality treatment wetland by the District.

There are no planned uses for the small residential lots that lie between the swamp and County Road 68. There is an existing house on one of the lots. There are no developed public use facilities.

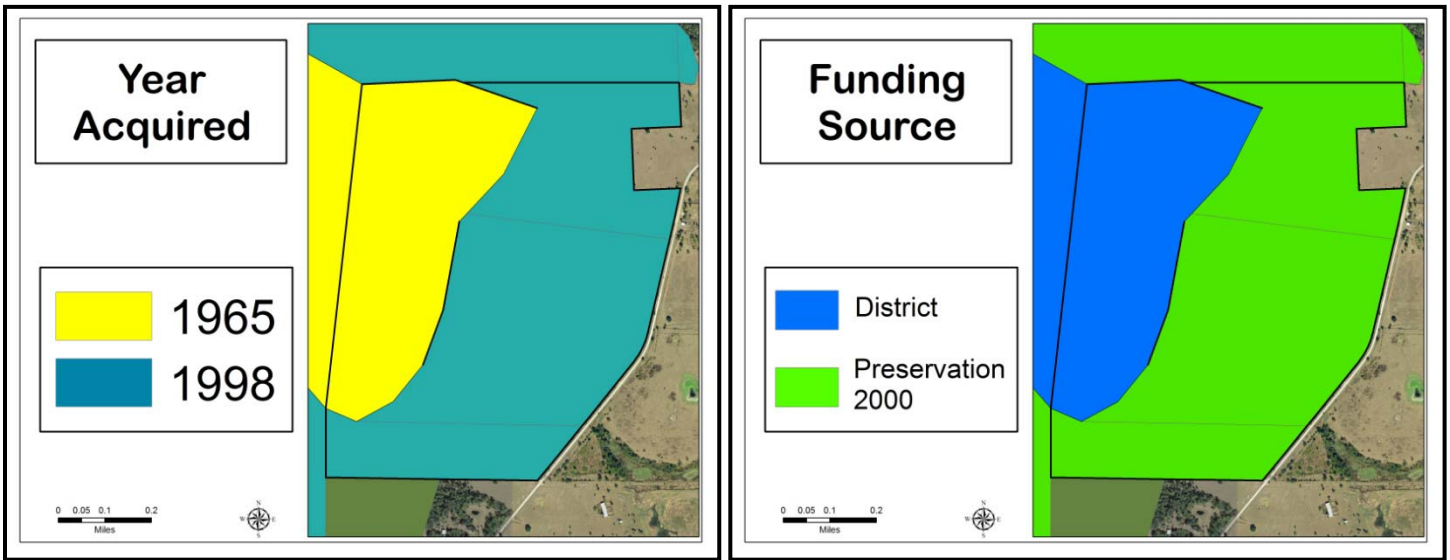


**Chandler Slough, Lofton Road Frontage,
Photos**

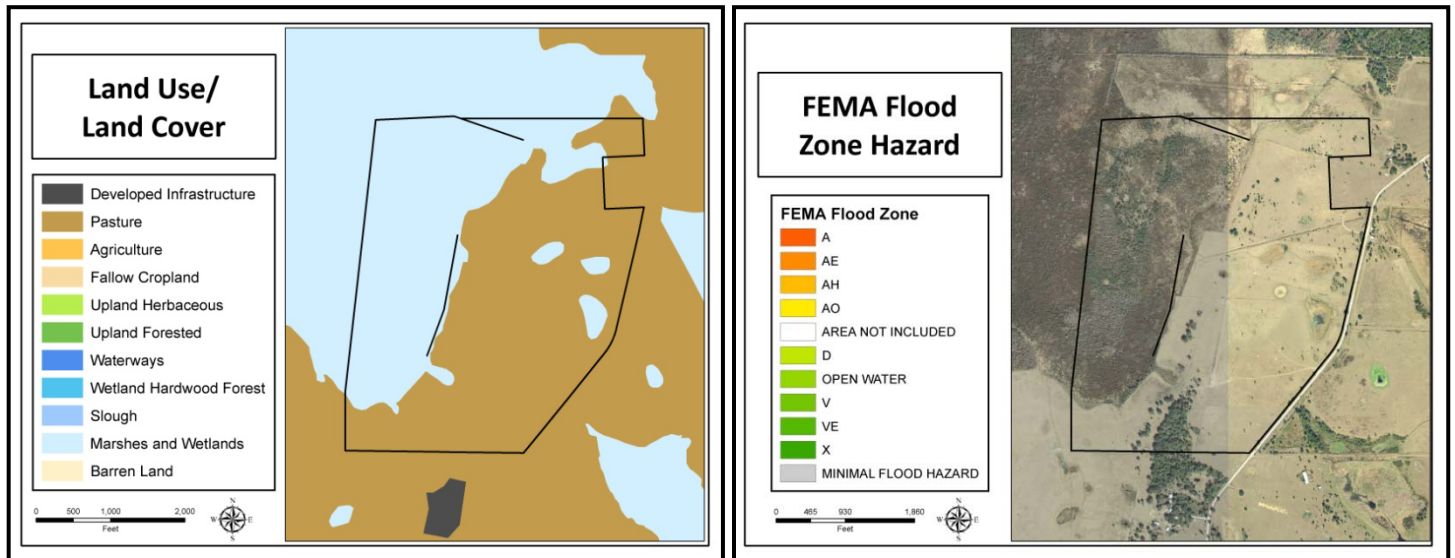


The Florida Trail entrance off of Lofton Road. This portion of Chandler Slough, that lies outside of the floodplain of the Kissimmee River, is improved pasture.

Chandler Slough, Lofton Road Frontage: Land Acquisition



Chandler Slough, Lofton Road Frontage: Land Character

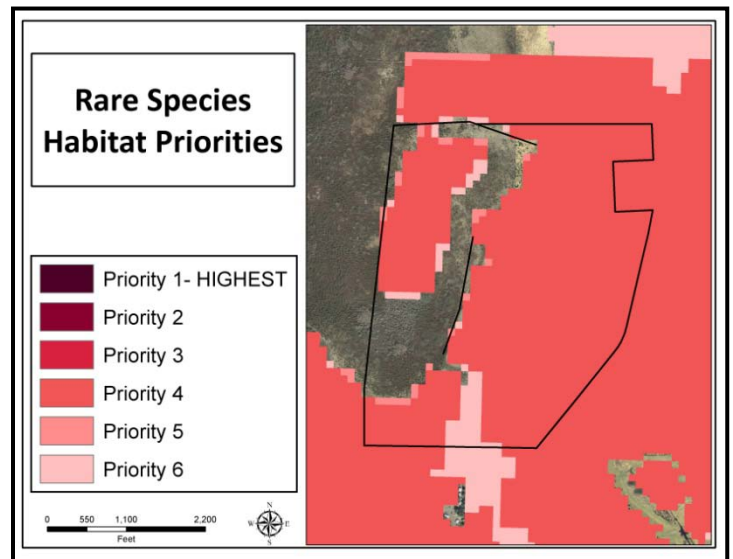
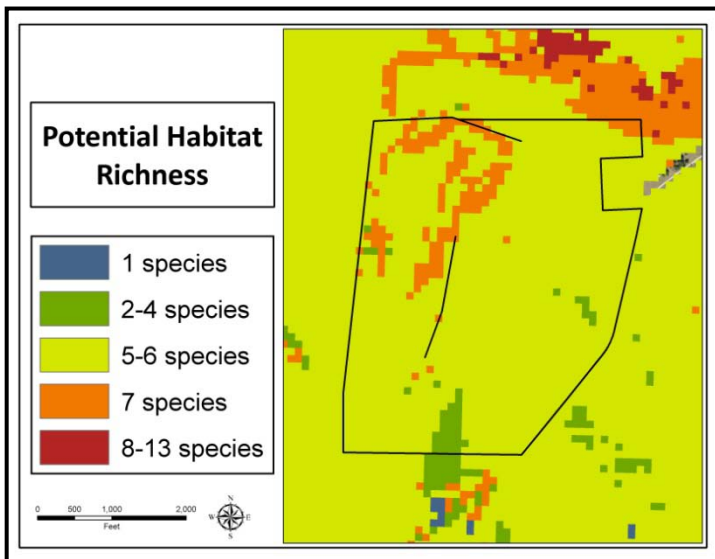
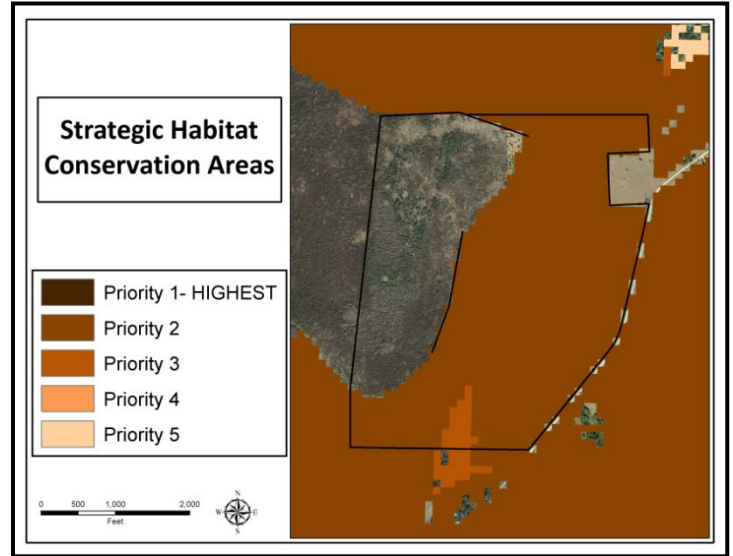
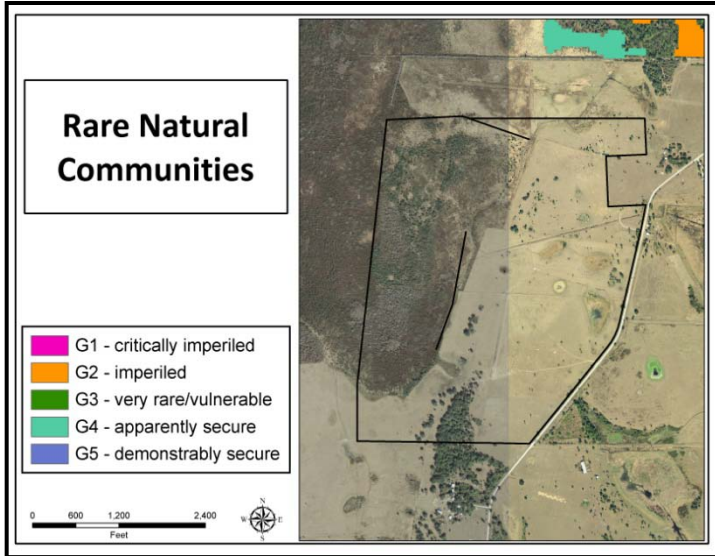


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Chandler Slough, Lofton Road Frontage: Land Character
(Continued)



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**Lamb Island Dairy, CR 68 Residential Lots,
Photos**

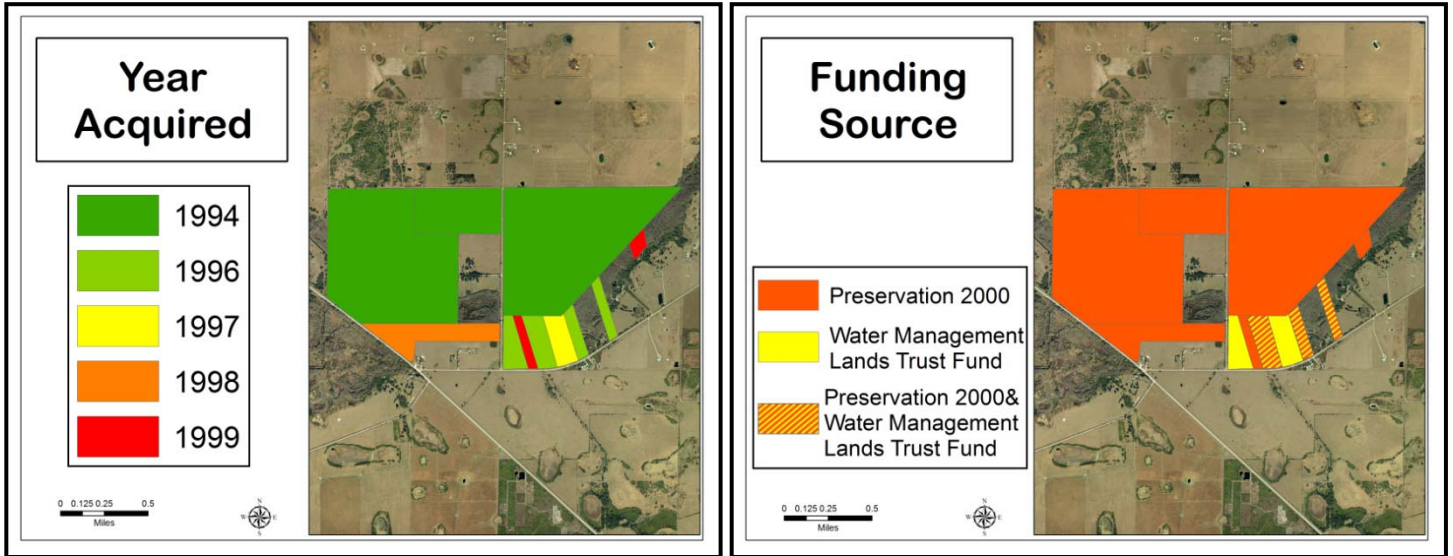


A residential lot on CR 68 that was acquired due to the low cypress slough that runs behind it.

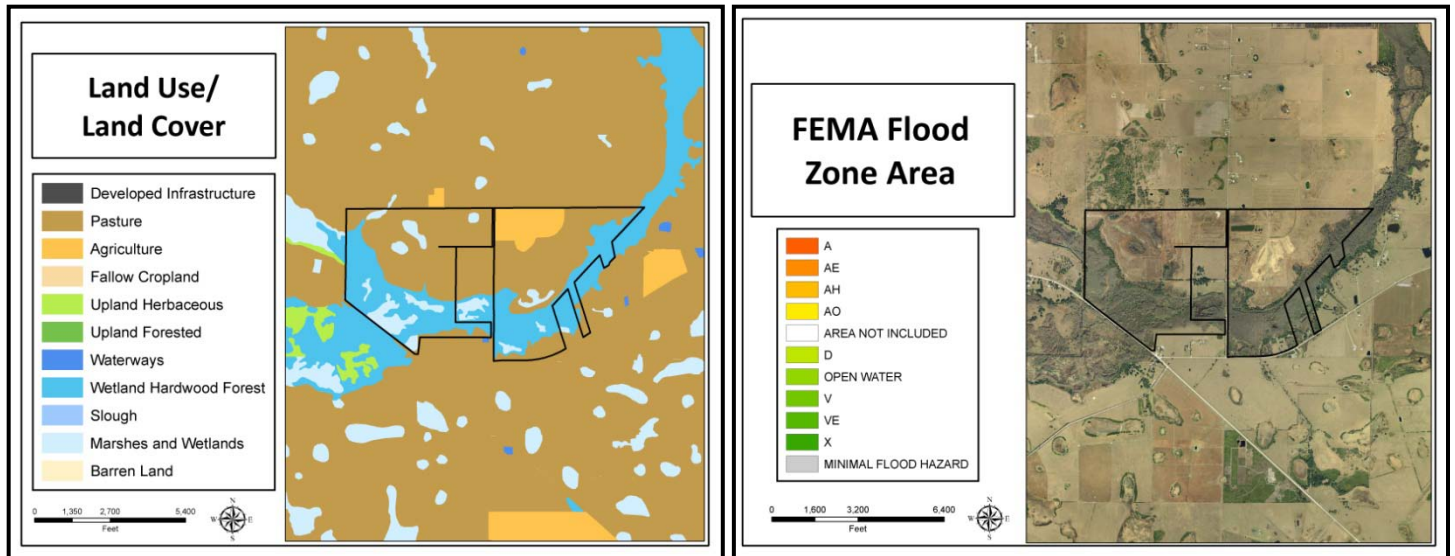


A shrubby lot on CR68.

**Lamb Island Dairy, CR 68 Residential Lots:
Land Acquisition**



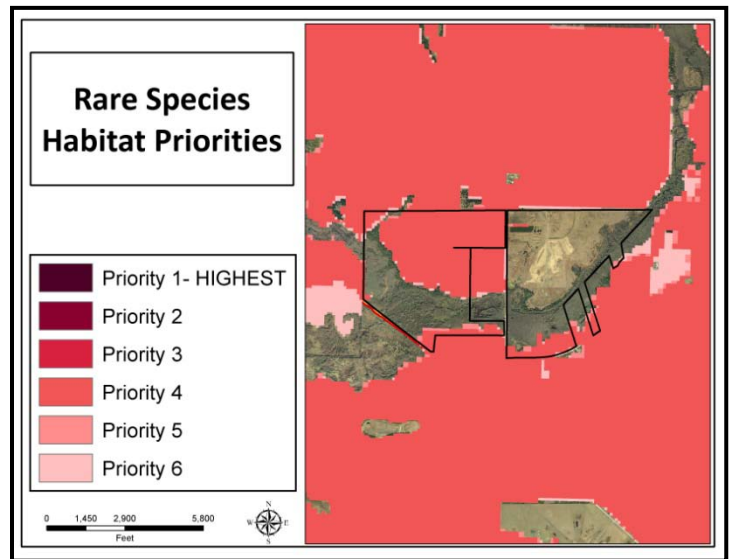
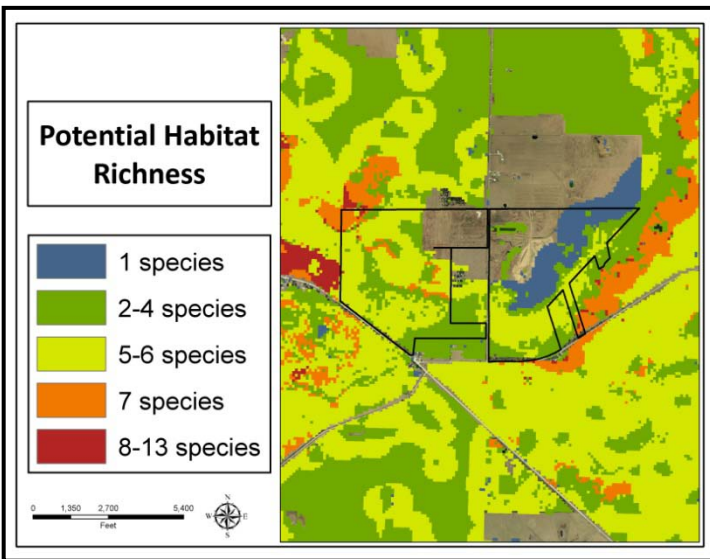
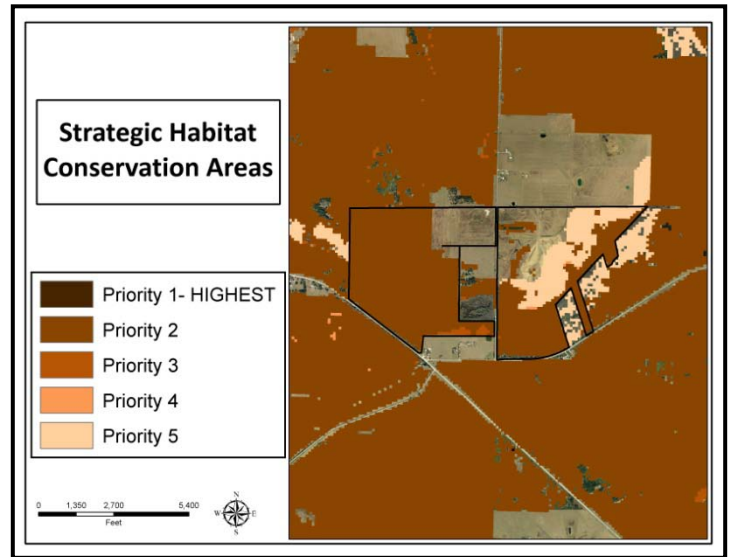
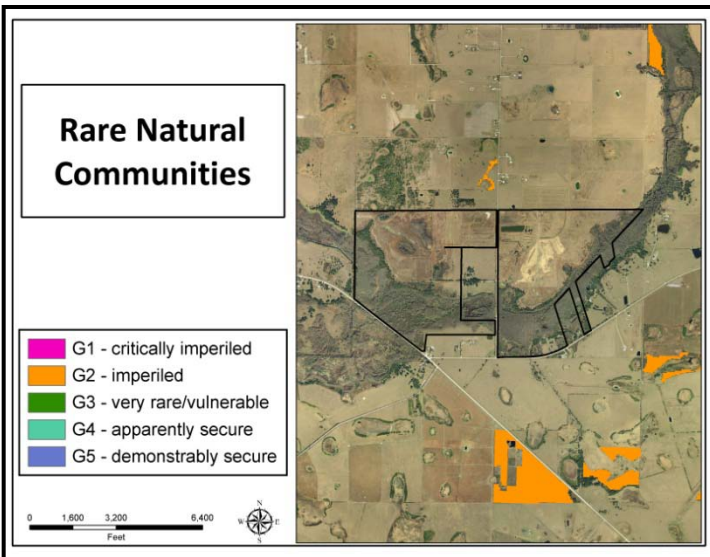
**Lamb Island Dairy, CR 68 Residential Lots:
Land Character**



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**Lamb Island Dairy, CR 68 Residential Lots:
Land Character (Continued)**



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Kissimmee River

Assessment Unit: Istokpoga Floodplain

Core Mission Value

The area within the 100 year floodplain was acquired for to accommodate increased periodic water stages due to the restoration of the Kissimmee River. Most of the parcel does not lie within the floodplain and is managed as improved pasture for cattle. The portion of the property within the floodplain is a linear oak hammock adjacent to the Istokpoga canal. The area within the floodplain supports the Kissimmee River Restoration, the portion outside of the floodplain does little to support the District’s core mission in its present condition, other than to limit the potential impact to water resources from development or an intensification in land use.

Other Resource Value

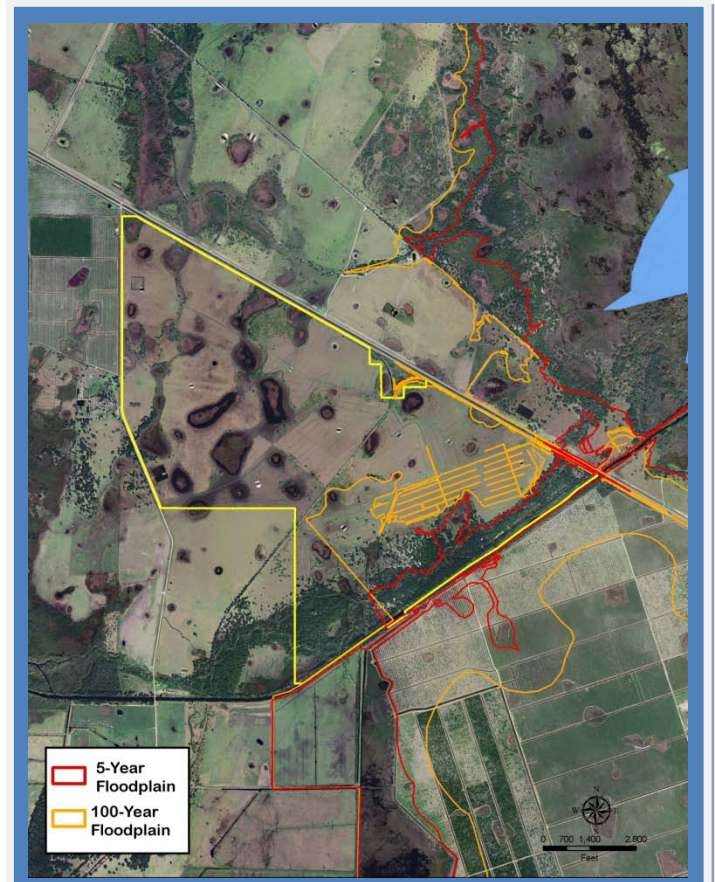
The State owns a large parcel of land to the west occupying much of the space between the District’s Istokpoga Floodplain property and Lake Istokpoga. The District owns most of the intervening land to the east, between U.S. Hwy 98 and the Kissimmee River. The location of the Istokpoga Floodplain parcel could potentially allow it to serve as a wildlife corridor link between the Lake Wales Ridge conservation lands to the west of Lake Istokpoga, and the Kissimmee River system to the east of the property.

Current Use, Management Issues

The area is currently under a cattle lease.

Public Use and Recreation Value

The district is evaluating the southern hammock portion of the property (about 200 acres) for potential public use access.

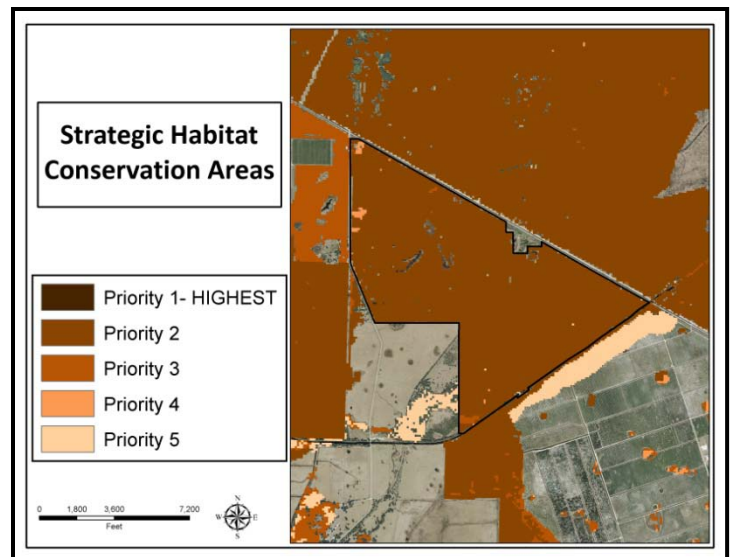
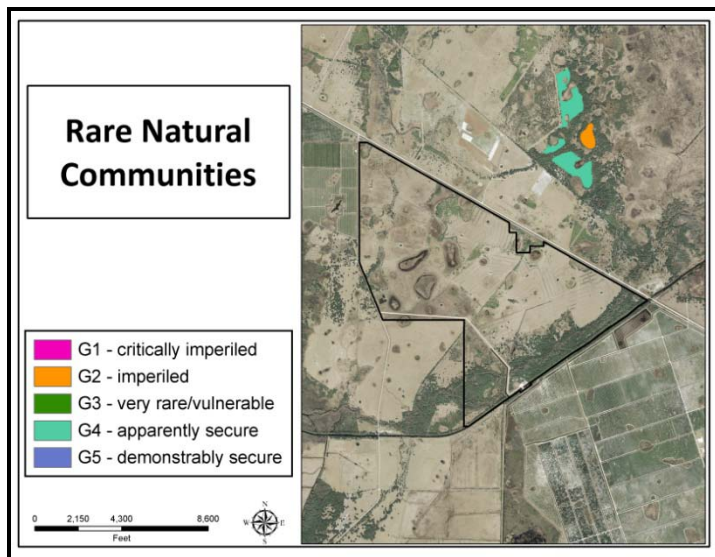
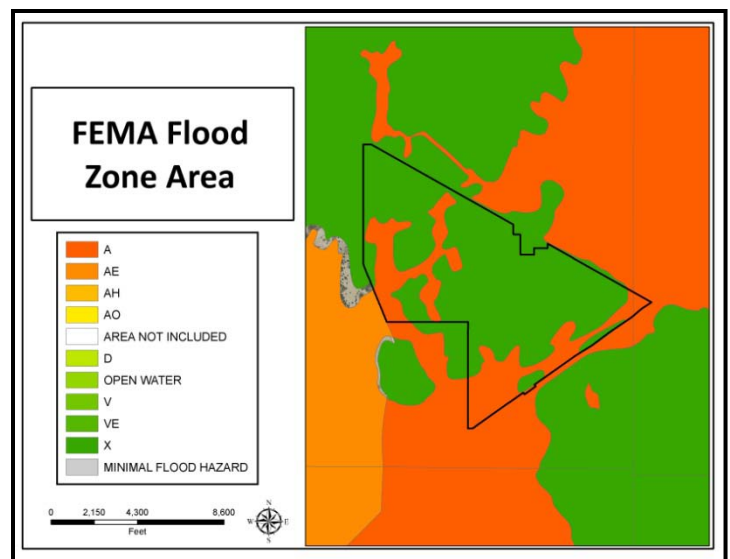
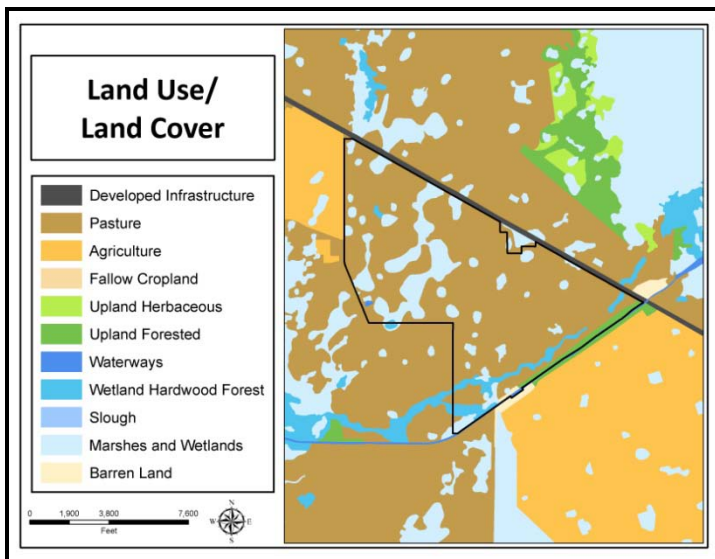


Istokpoga Floodplain, District-owned parcels are outlined in yellow. Properties were purchased in 2005 with funds from the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund. District Right-of-Way fee interest is in blue, easement is in green.

Istokpoga Floodplain, Photos



Istokpoga Floodplain: Land Character

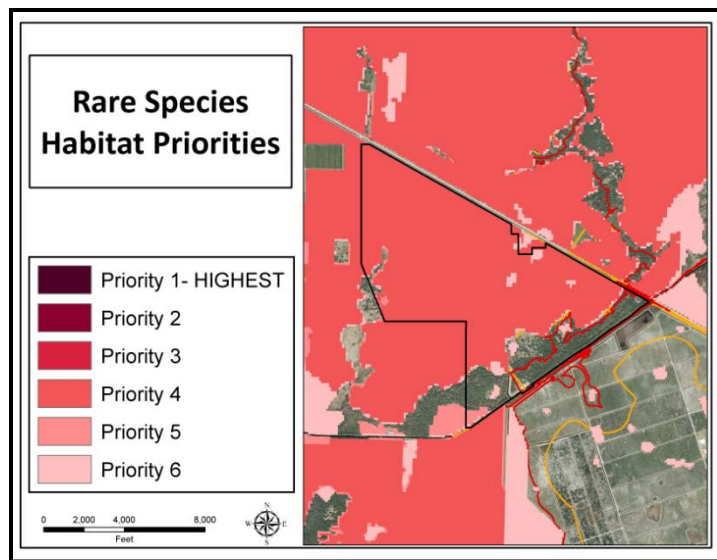
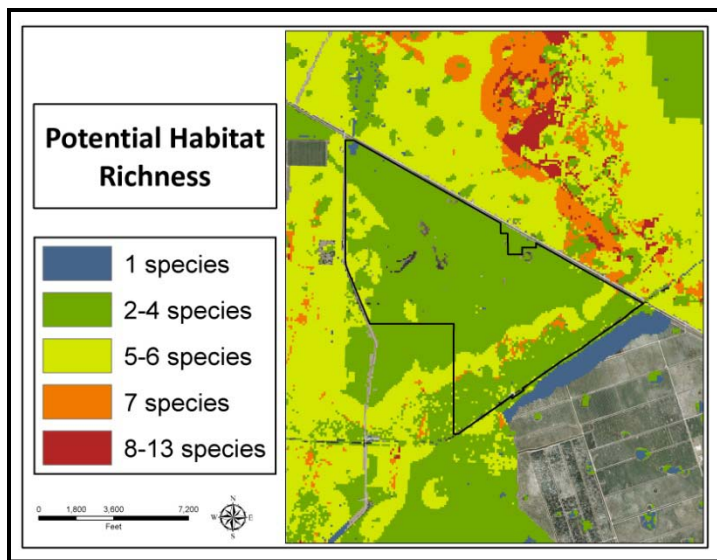


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Istokpoga Floodplain: Land Character

(Continued)



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Kissimmee River

Assessment Unit: Pool E and Paradise Run

Core Mission Value

This area occupies the historic river floodplain between the Kissimmee River restoration area and Lake Okeechobee. Some of these lands were purchased in the 1950s and 60s for the impoundment “Pools” that were created during the construction of the C-38 canal system. Additional areas of the historic floodplain were acquired under the Save Our Rivers program because of the value of the historic floodplain as a regionally significant wetland resource and as buffer land for flood control.

Other Resource Value

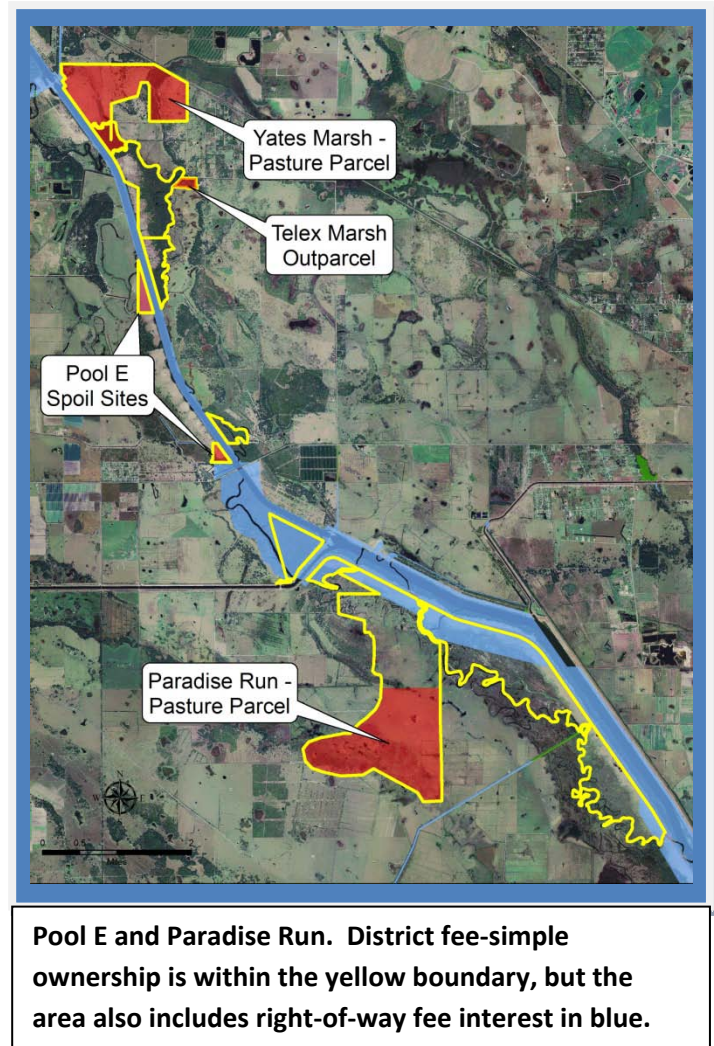
The area contains segments of old river runs and oxbow lakes surrounded by degraded wetlands. Most of the area is either too wet for too long, or over drained and too dry to support a healthy wetland system.

Current Use, Management Issues

The area is being managed in its current state and condition, as a degraded wetland system and as buffer lands to the C-38 canal / Kissimmee River system. Some of the over-drained floodplain had been converted to cattle pasture prior to acquisition by the District. Some of the parcels that were acquired were acquired for the floodplain, but extended well inland of that resource and so included large tracts of improved cattle pasture. These areas, portions of Yates Marsh and Paradise Run, are currently under cattle leases and are evaluated as separate parcels

Public Use and Recreation Value

Generally the District-owned parcels have been established as a Public Use Area and are open to hunting at certain times of the year under FWC public use regulations. Boating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, and tent camping are popular activities. The Florida National Scenic Trail goes through the area.



Pool E and Paradise Run, Photos



Typical views of the shrubby condition of the over-drained floodplain marshes (above, and also visible near the right side of the photo below). The S-65E water control Structure is visible in the foreground of the photo below.





**In some places the floodplain has been converted to improved pasture (above),
Other areas have residential lots or over drained and shrubby marshes (below)**

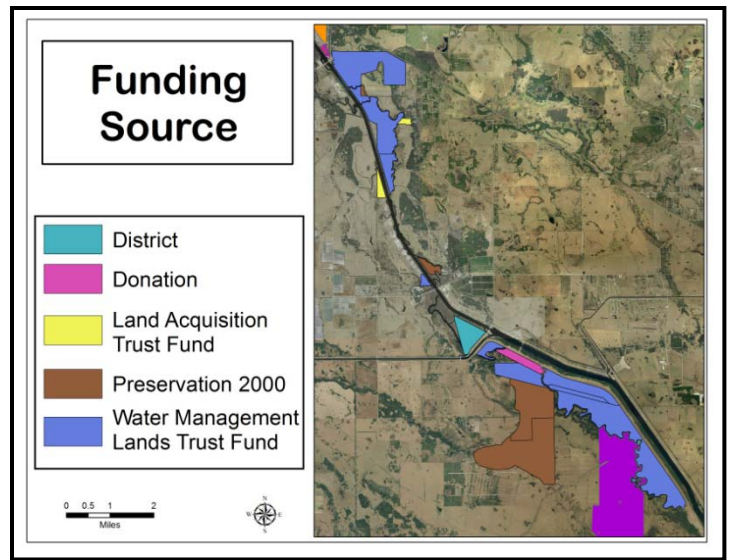
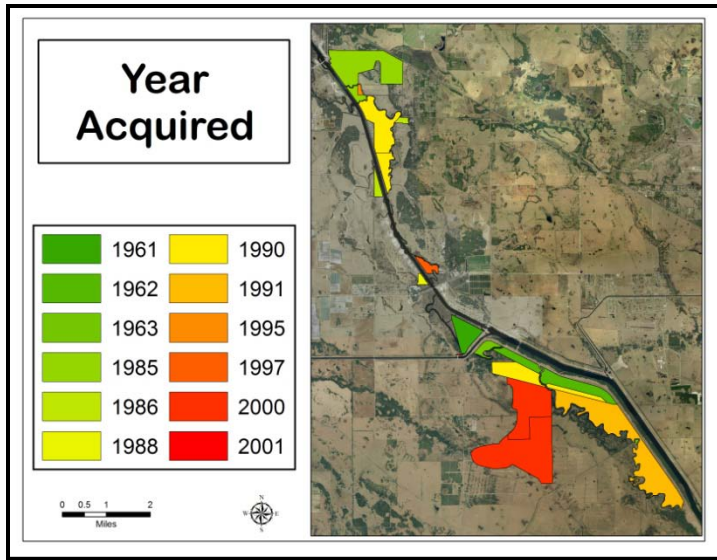




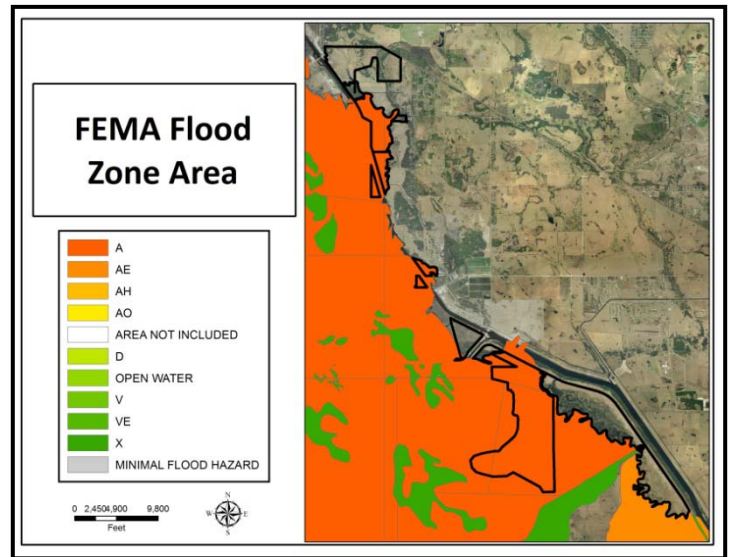
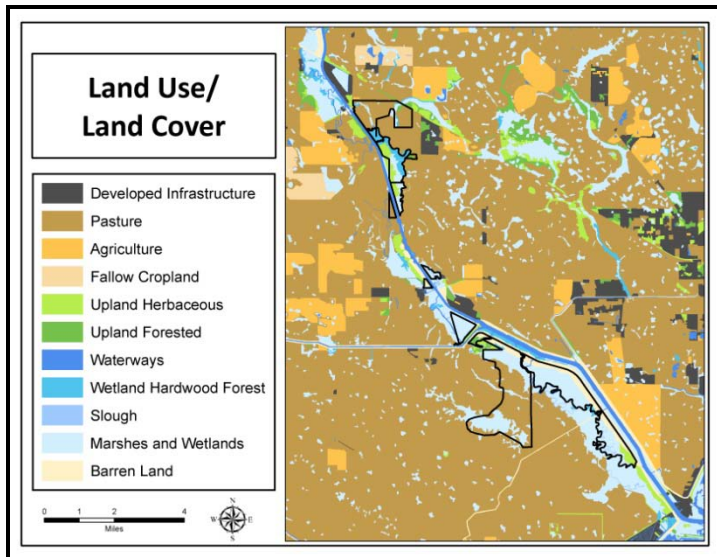
A view looking east towards the Telex Marsh area (above), and the floodplain just north of State Road 70 (below).



Pool E and Paradise Run: Land Acquisition



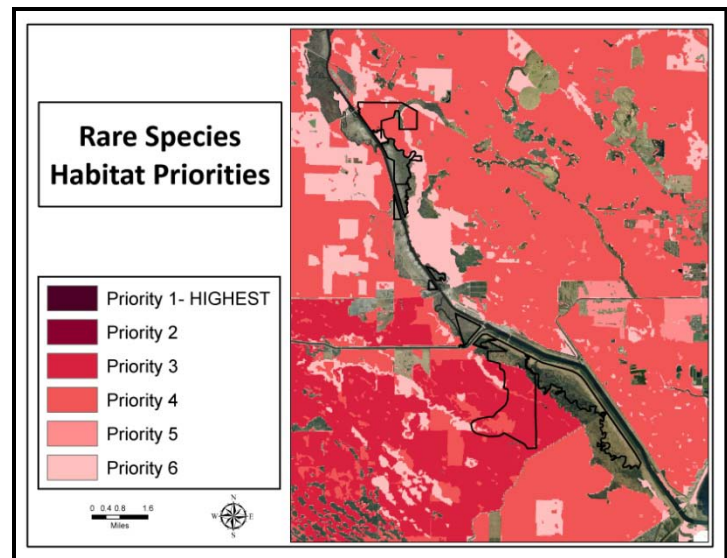
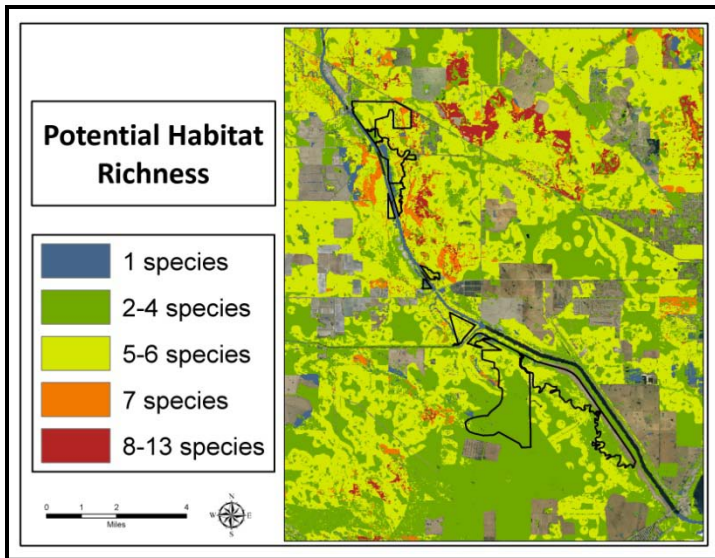
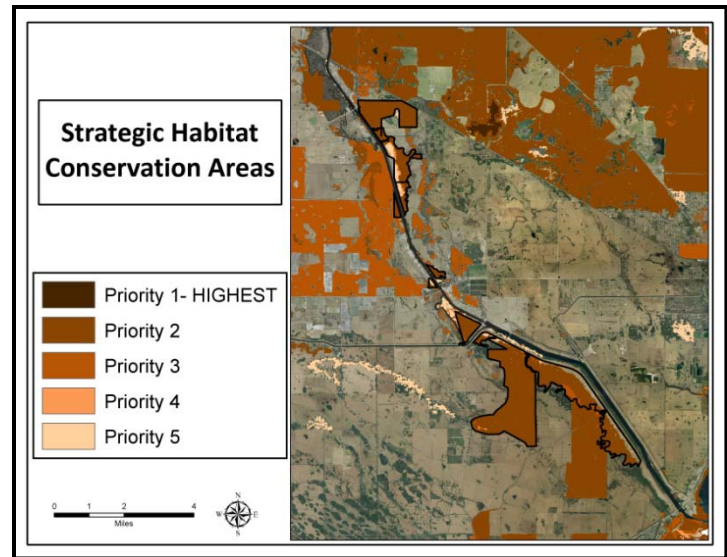
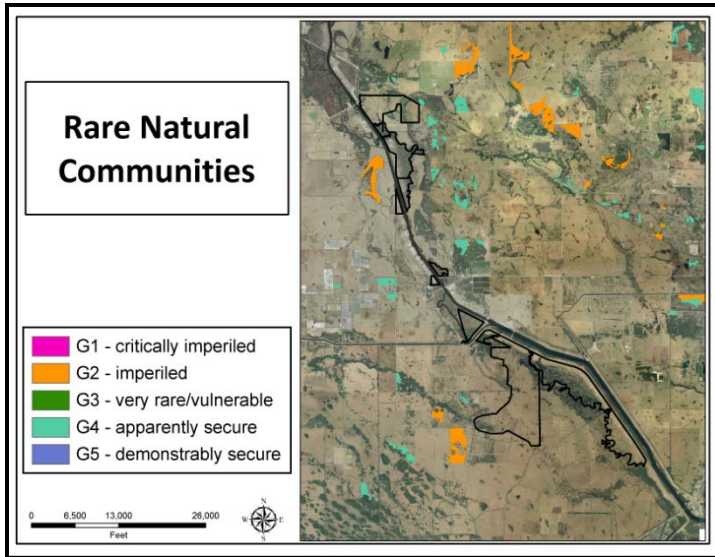
Pool E and Paradise Run: Land Character



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**Pool E and Paradise Run: Land Character
(Continued)**



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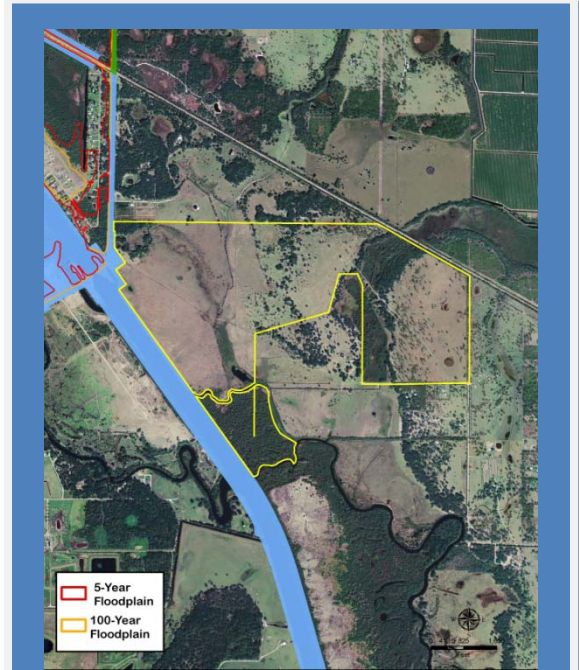
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Pool E and Paradise Run, Individual Parcel Assessments

Yates Marsh – Pasture Parcel

Yates Marsh lies partially within and partially outside the historic floodplain. The area lies outside, and southeast of, the Kissimmee River Restoration Area. The site consists of drained and disturbed marsh lands within the lowest parts of the floodplain, and improved cattle pasture throughout the remainder except for an oak hammock and wetland slough that runs through the northeastern portion of the site.

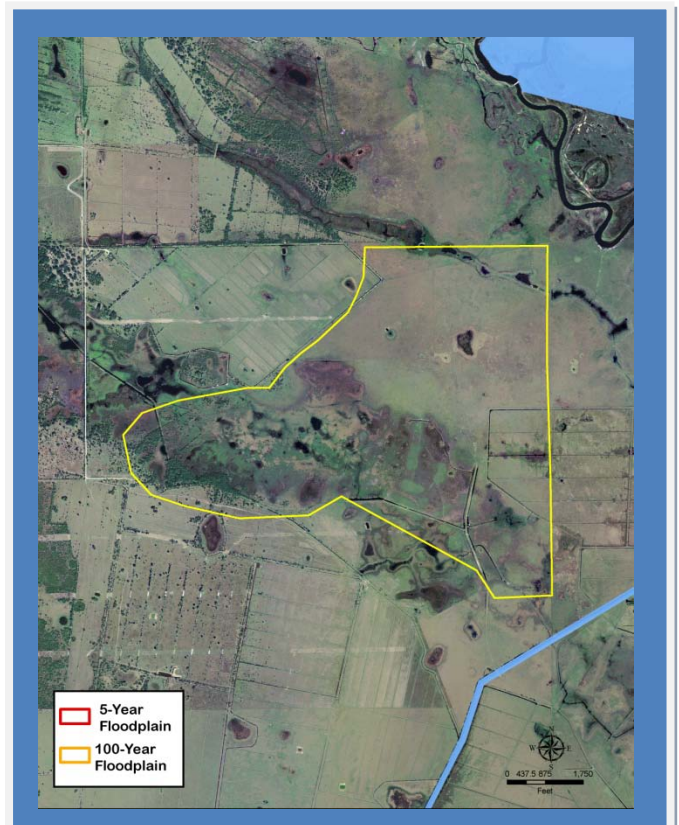
The entire site has been established as part of the Kissimmee River Public Use Area which provides public use and hunting opportunities under FWC rules. The area is also kept under a cattle lease. The Florida National Scenic Trail goes through this property.



Yates Marsh – Pasture Parcel. District fee-simple ownership is within the yellow boundary, Right-of-Way fee interest is in blue.

Paradise Run – Pasture Parcel

This parcel assessment is only characterizing that portion of Paradise Run that lies outside of the historic floodplain, and consisting of improved pasture. In order to acquire the wetlands within the floodplain, it was necessary to acquire the entire parcels that attached to them. This portion contributes little to the District’s core mission in its present state. It is improved pasture being managed as improved pasture for cattle. The area within the floodplain is part of the Public Use Area established by FWC, but the large pasture areas are not.



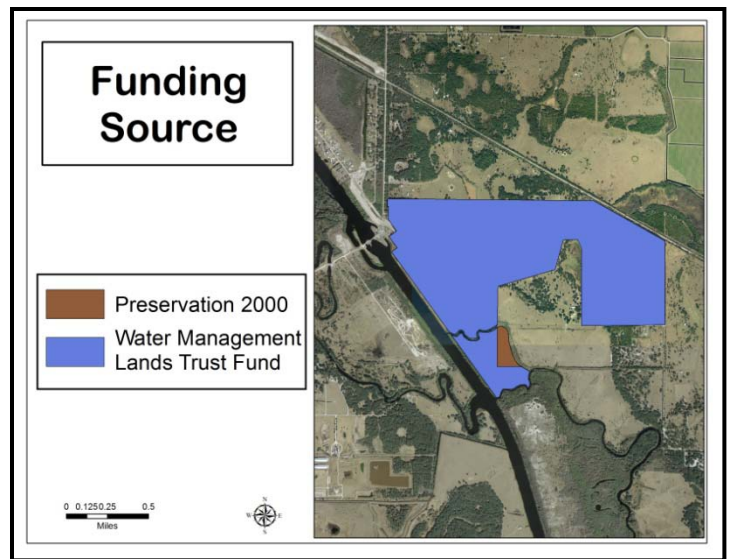
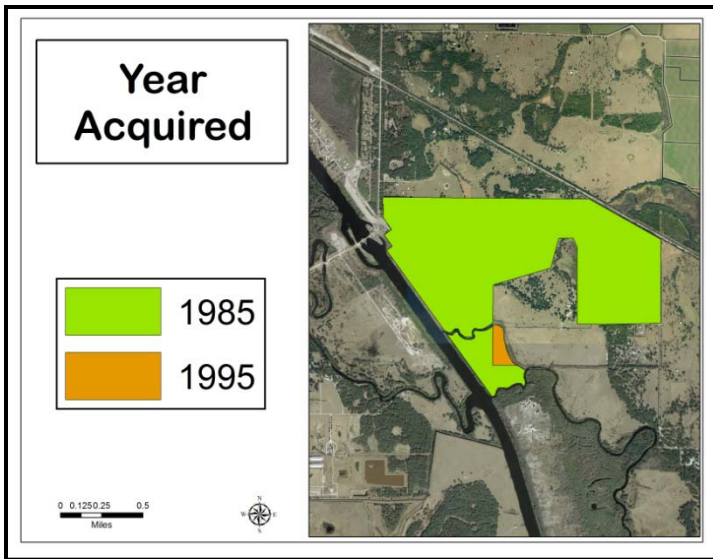
Paradise Run – Pasture Parcel, purchased in 2000 with Preservation 2000 funds.

Yates Marsh, Pasture Parcel, Photos

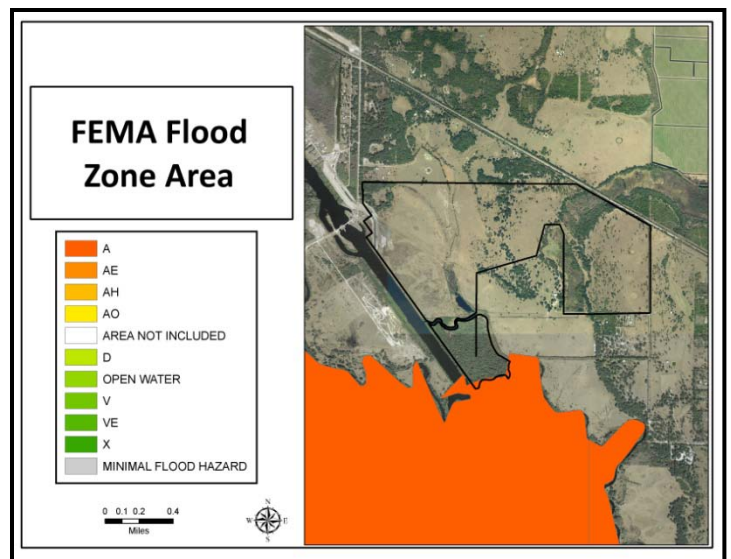
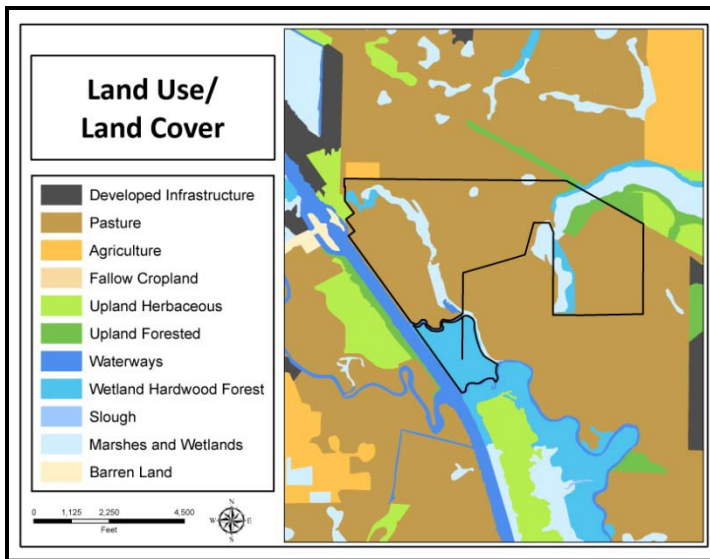


Ground views of Yates Marsh, a large cattle pasture with scattered pines, and a large oak hammock near the center of the site.

Yates Marsh, Pasture Parcel: Land Acquisition



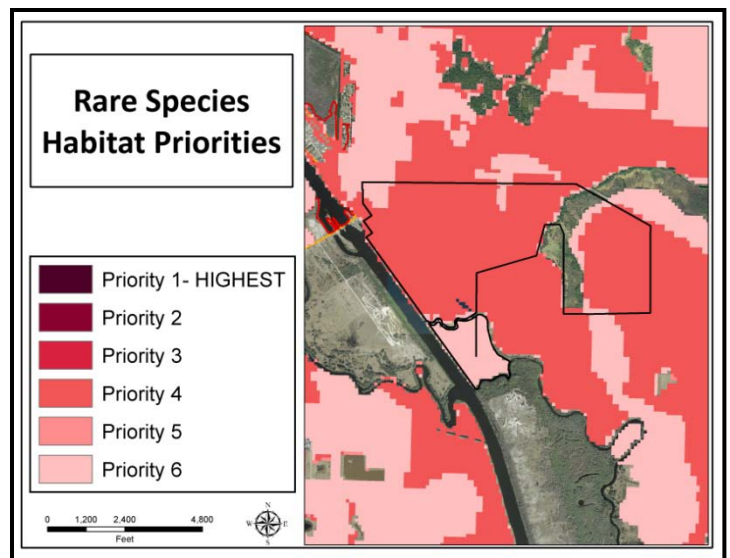
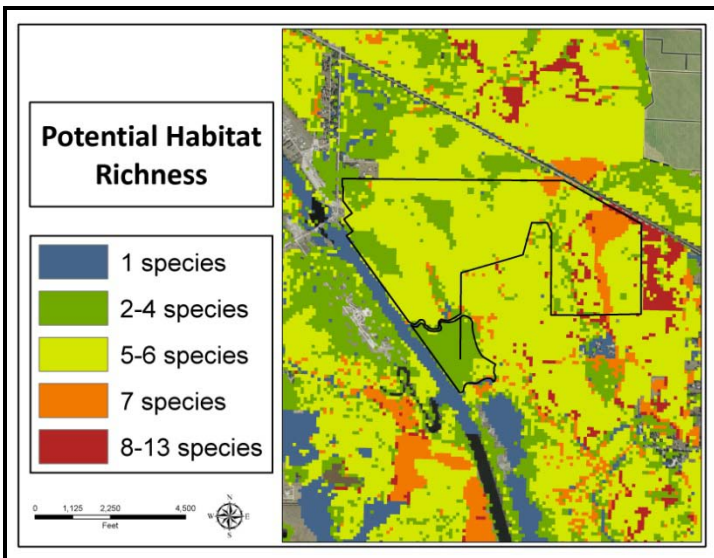
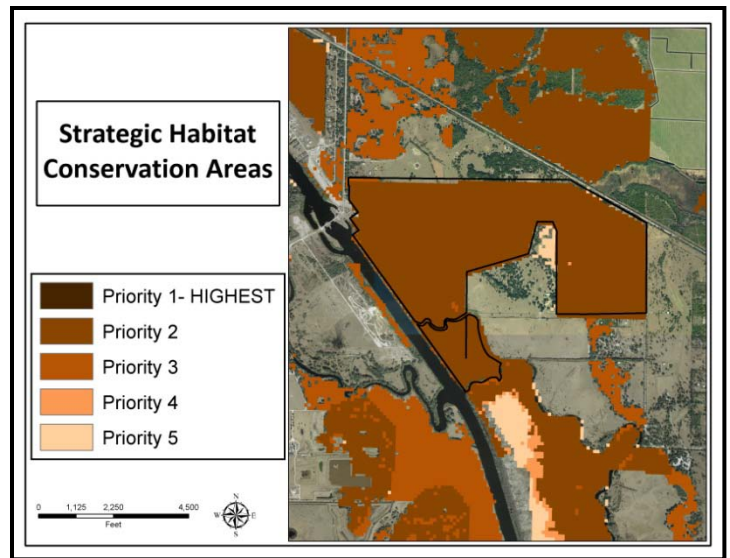
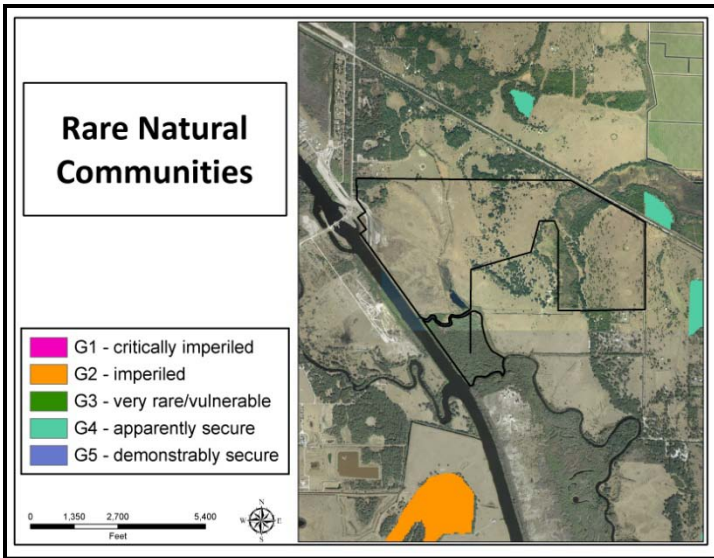
Yates Marsh, Pasture Parcel: Land Character



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**Yates Marsh, Pasture Parcel: Land Character
(Continued)**



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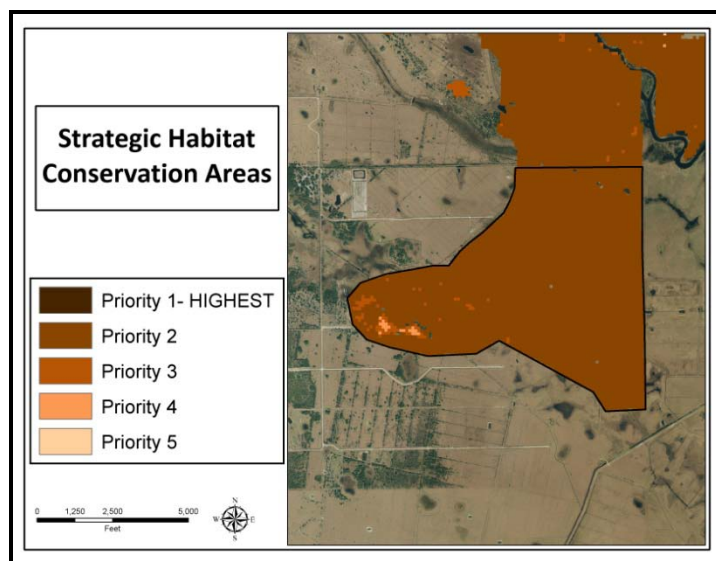
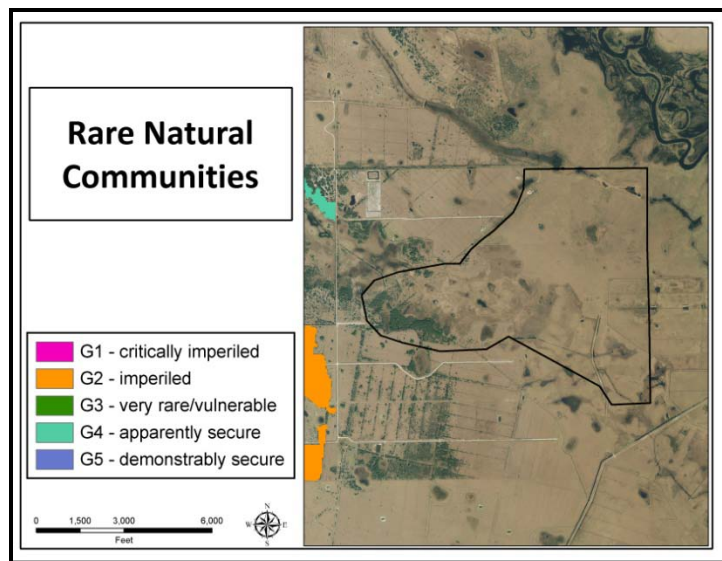
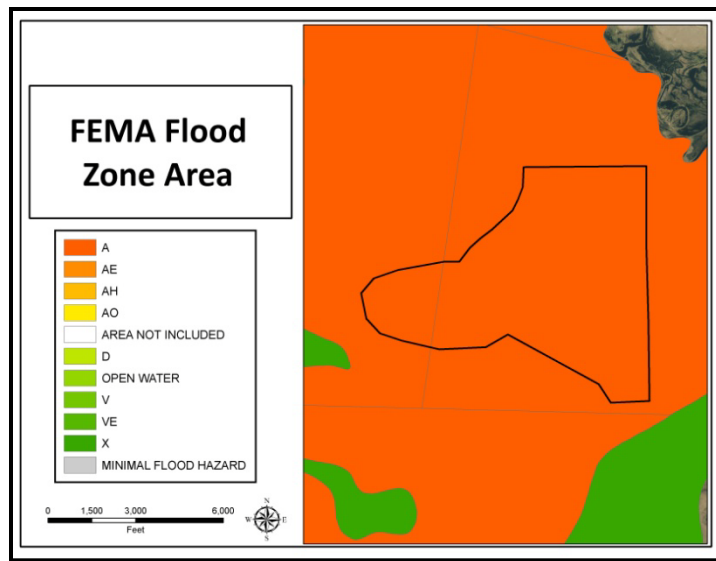
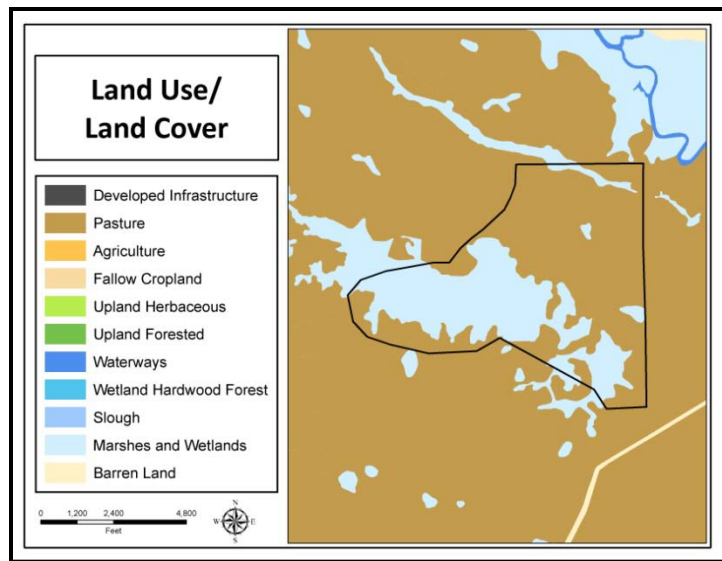
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Paradise Run, Pasture Parcel, Photos



Ground views of Paradise Run, a large expanse of improved cattle pasture

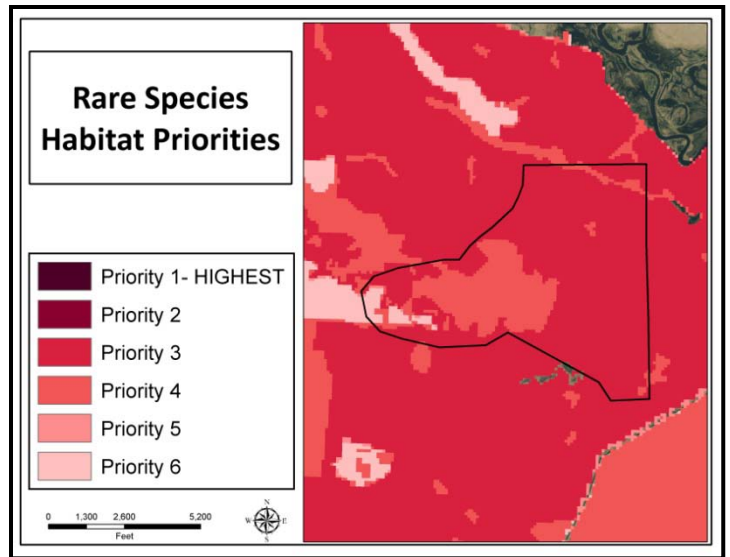
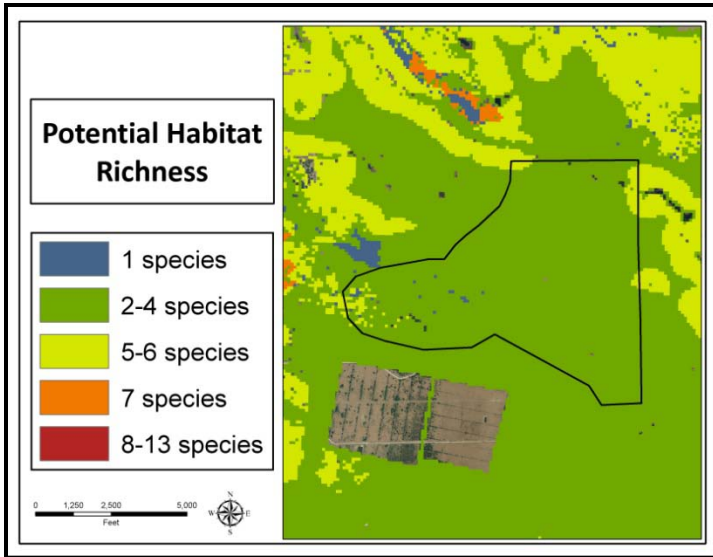
Paradise Run, Pasture Parcel: Land Character



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**Paradise Run, Pasture Parcel: Land Character
(Continued)**



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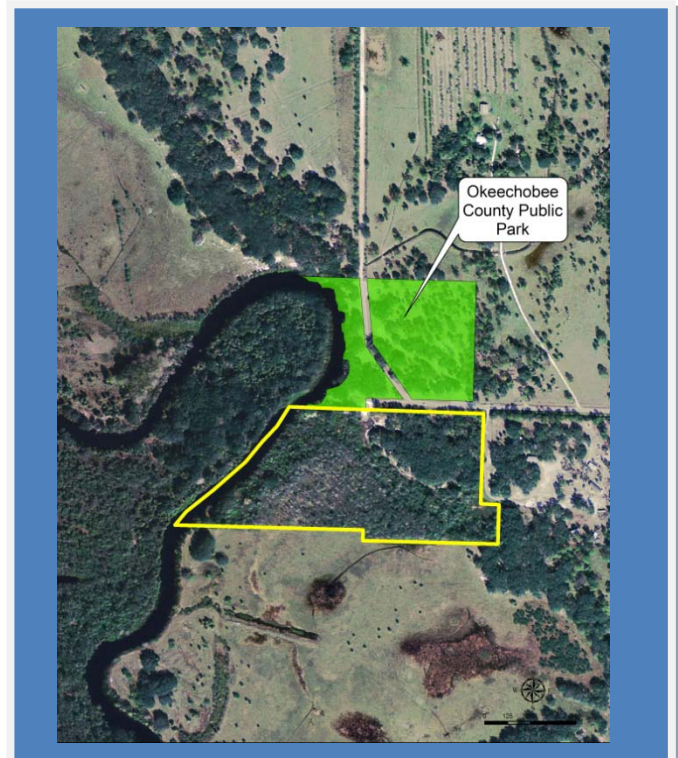
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Pool E and Paradise Run, Individual Parcel Assessments (continued)

Telex Marsh Outparcel

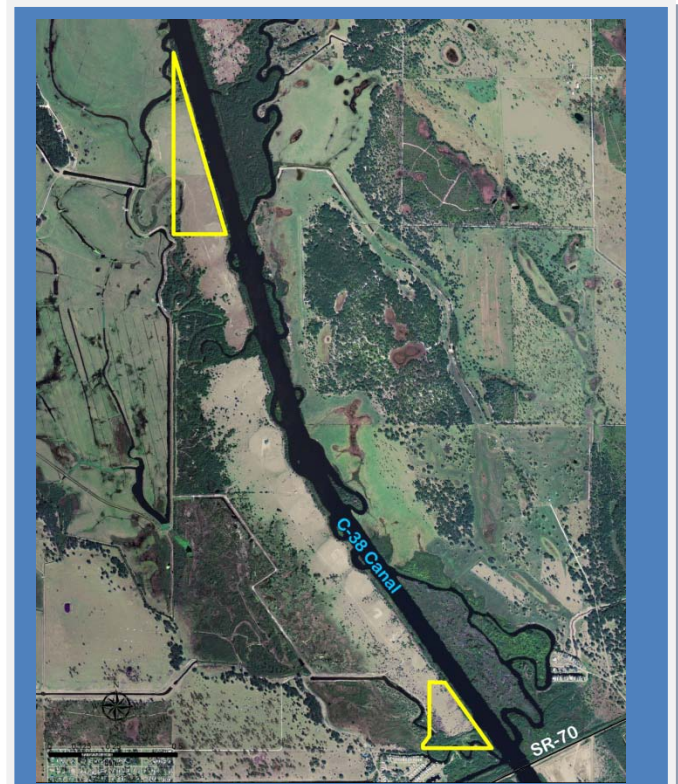
This parcel assessment is only characterizing the small 20 acre outparcel that lies near at the western end of 56th Street northwest of the City of Okeechobee. The County Parks Department owns the adjacent parcel to the north. There is a canoe / kayak launch located at the end of 56th street on the old river run that separates the outparcel from the District’s ownership within the historic floodplain.



Telex Marsh Outparcel, outlined in yellow. Property was purchased in 1986 through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

Pool E Spoil Sites

The District has two isolated parcels on the western spoil bank of the C-38 canal, north of State Road 70. These parcels were acquired before plans for the Kissimmee River had begun to hone in on a final plan. The areas consist of highly disturbed ground with covered by pasture grasses, Brazilian Pepper, and Cabbage Palms.



Pool E Spoil Sites

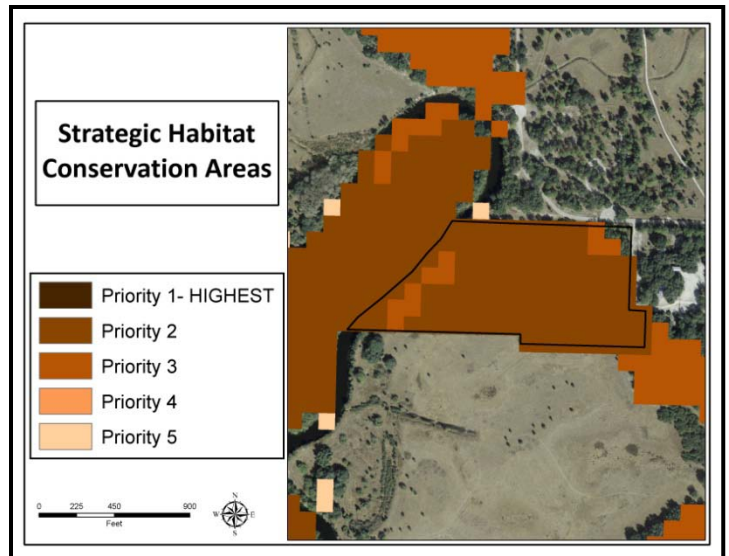
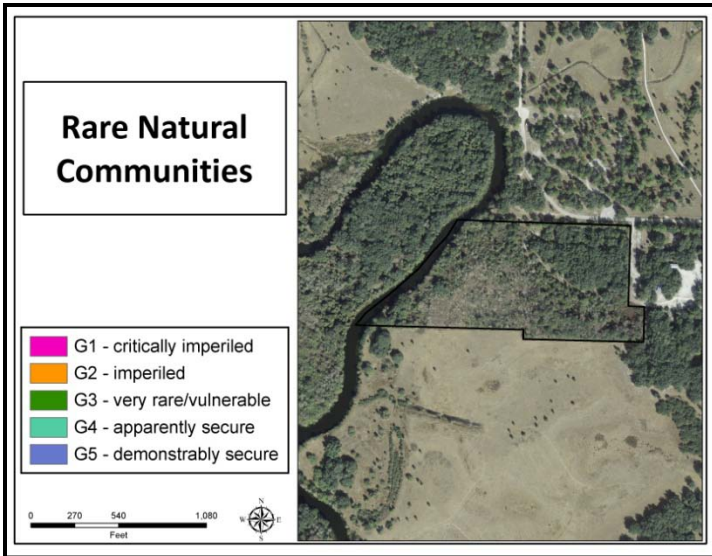
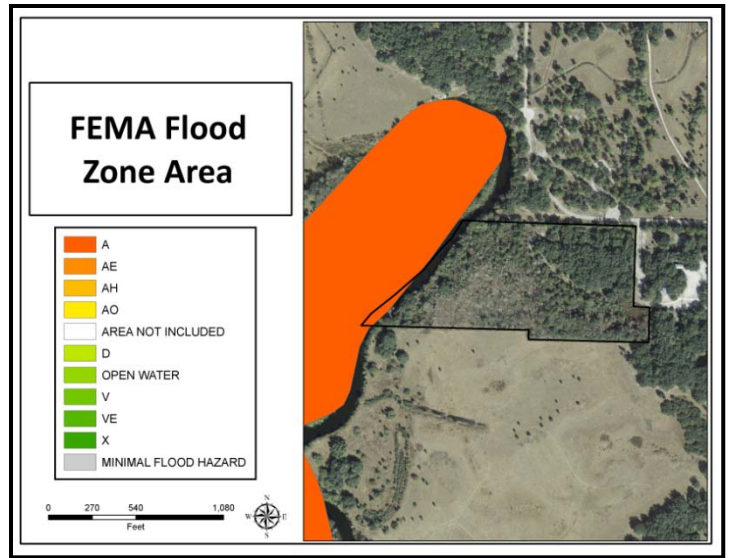
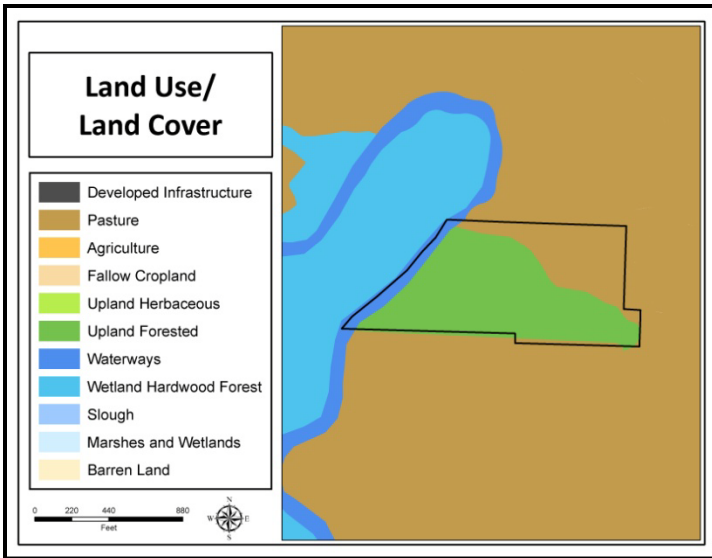
Telex Marsh, Outparcel, Photos



Photos of the small outparcel of Telex Marsh, looking towards the southwest where the canoe/kayak ramp is located. The area contains a mix of hardwoods and pines.



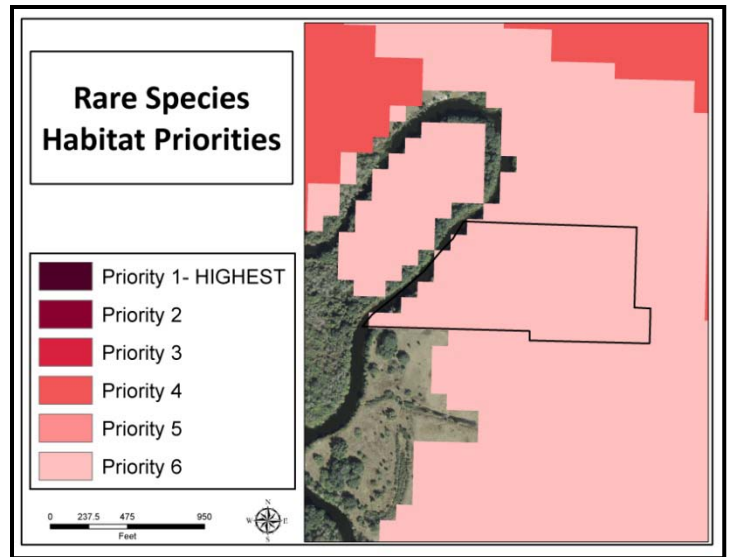
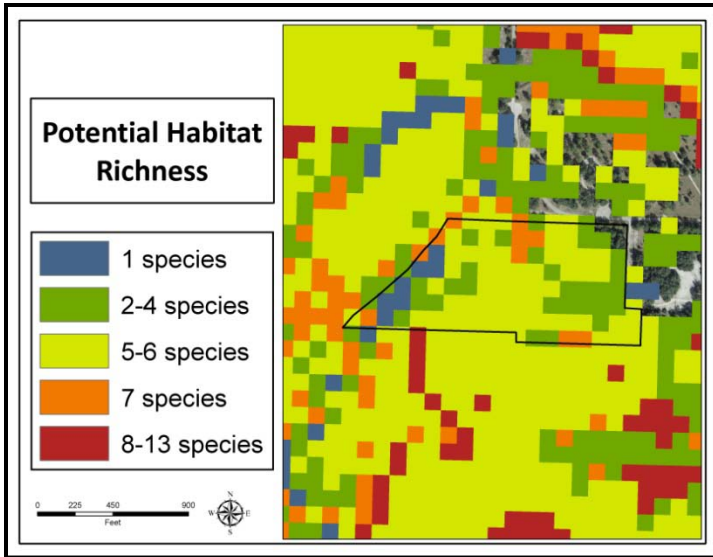
Telex Marsh, Outparcel: Land Character



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**Telex Marsh, Outparcel: Land Character
(Continued)**



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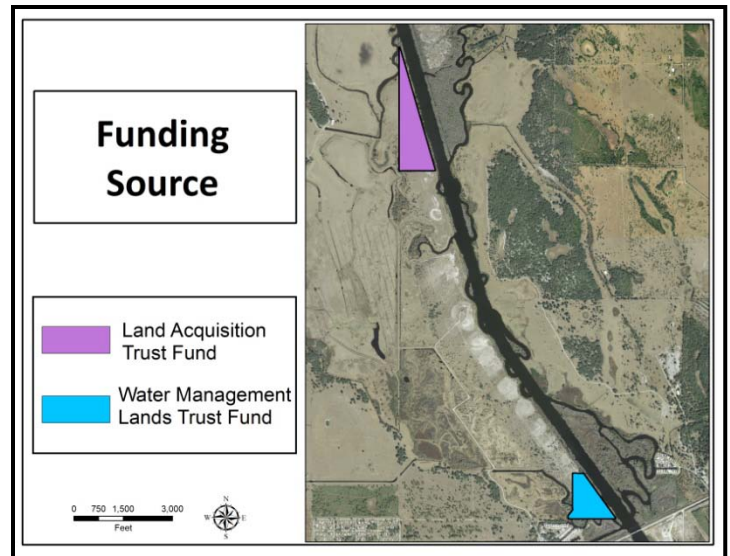
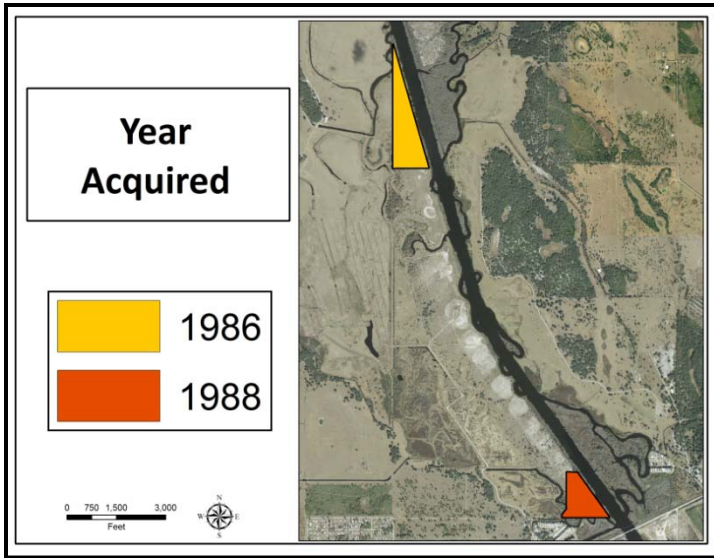
Pool E Spoil Sites, Photos



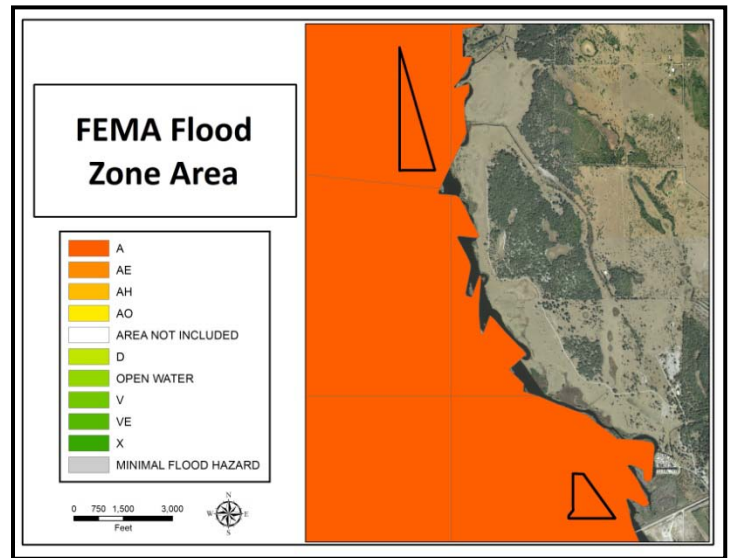
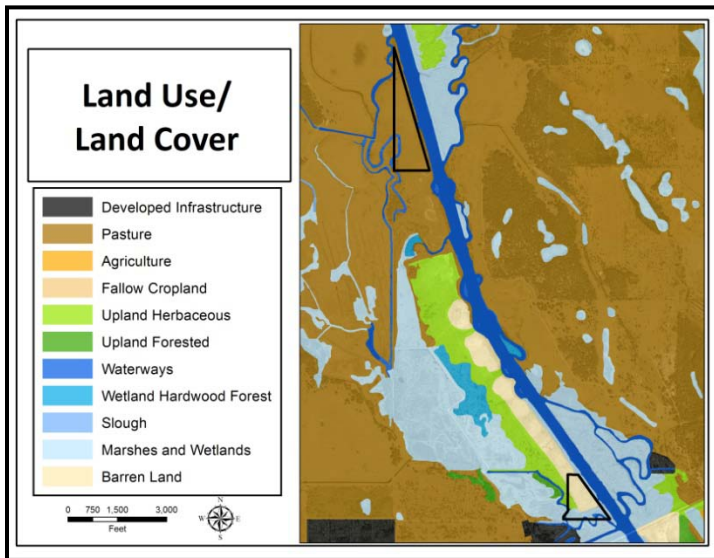
**The southern spoil site, with treated Brazilian pepper (above)
And the northern triangle parcel (improved pasture)(below).**



Pool E Spoil Sites: Land Acquisition



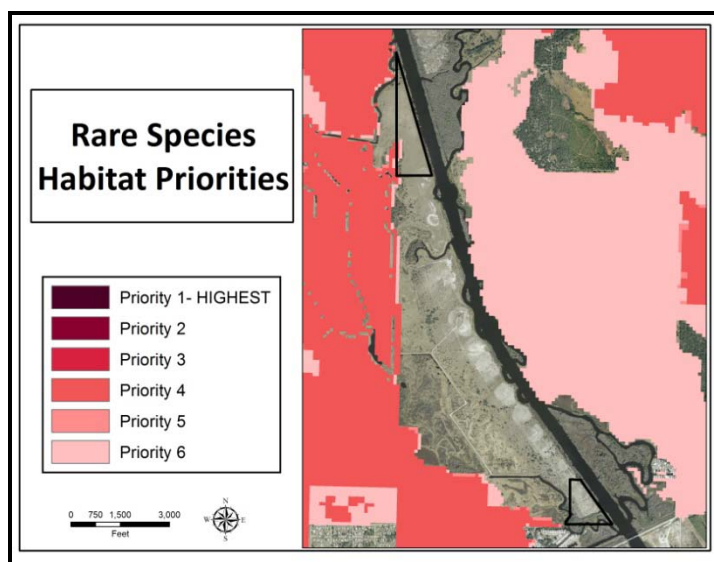
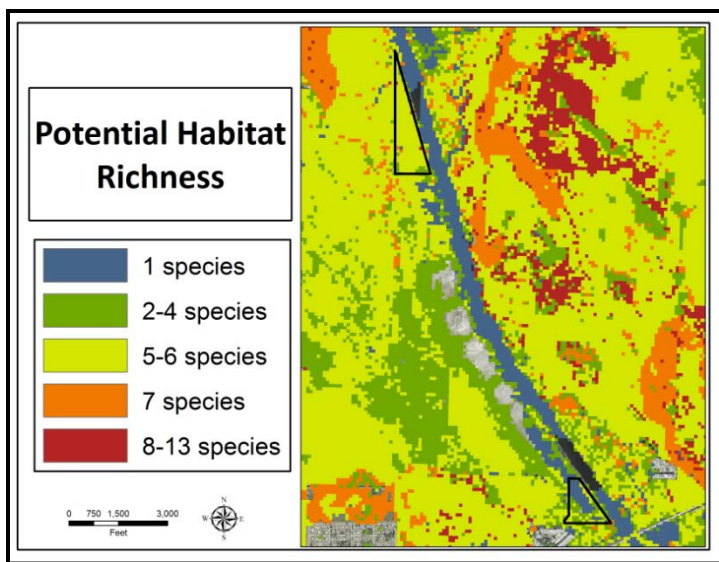
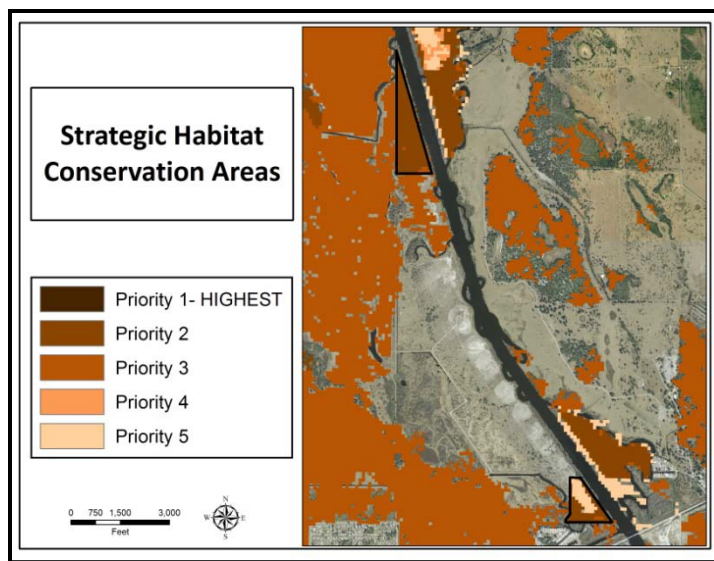
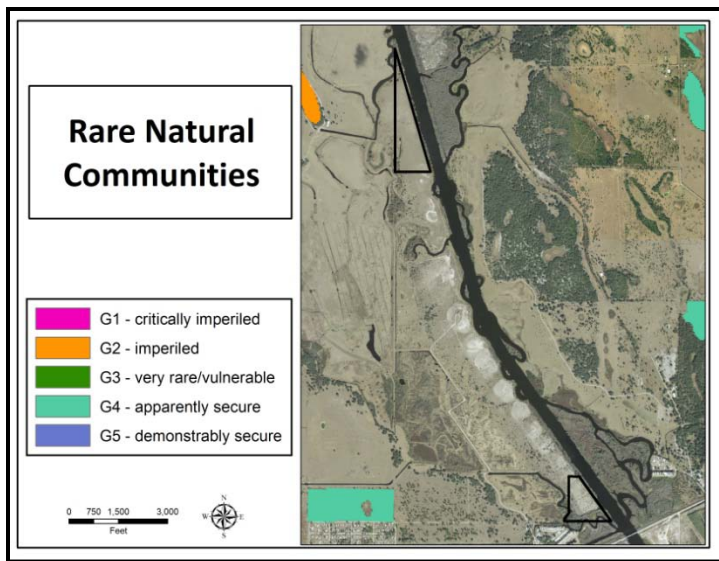
Pool E Spoil Sites: Land Character



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Pool E Spoil Sites: Land Character (Continued)



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