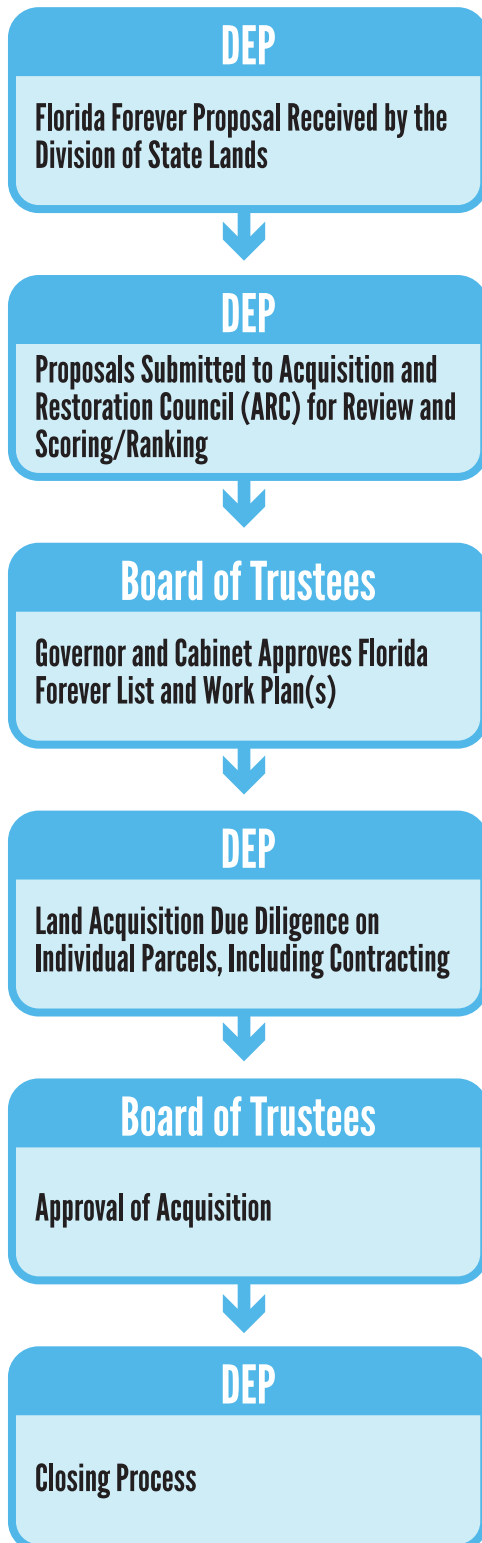




FLORIDA Forever



Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conserving our natural resources. It replaced the highly successful Preservation 2000, the largest program of its kind in the United States. Preservation 2000 acquired more than 1.78 million acres of land for protection. The Florida Forever Act, implemented in 2000, reinforced Florida's commitment to conserve its natural and cultural heritage, provide urban open space, and better manage the land acquired by the state.

Florida Forever is more than an environmental land acquisition program. The Division of State Lands is currently working to acquire land from our statewide list of Florida Forever projects. These projects provide a host of ecosystem benefits including; water quality and quantity, resiliency from storm impact, habitat and species protection and outdoor recreation.

The state's land acquisition programs have a long history of cooperative partnerships with local and national land trusts, water management districts, counties, cities and other local governments, as well as the federal government. The successful acquisition of many state projects is the direct result of these partnerships. Many of the projects on the Florida Forever list have partners.

The 10 member Acquisition and Restoration Council makes recommendations about acquisition, management and disposal of state-owned lands. This important advisory group includes four state agency representatives; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of State, Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In addition, citizen members with backgrounds in scientific disciplines of land, water, or environmental sciences as well as wildlife management, forestry management and outdoor recreation are included.

The Governor and Cabinet, as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, are responsible for acting on ARC's recommendations. The Board also approves acquisition under Florida Forever for the workplan and priority list.

To subscribe to the Acquisition and Restoration Council email notification list, send "Subscribe" to ARC_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us