

**ENVIRON. LANDS PROGRAM GUIDE
REVISED RANKING CRITERIA
(Approved by the BCC 4/5/05)**

NATURAL, CULTURAL, AGRICULTURAL, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES SECTION

(a) Outdoor Recreation and Open Space [10 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Will the project provide outdoor passive recreation areas or open space in the urban service area and within a substantially developed residential area? (5 points)
2. Will the project provide public access to a natural waterbody shoreline or beach and be managed for recreation uses? (5 points)

(b) Recreational Trail Systems and Greenways [10 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Will the project enhance or provide the opportunity to connect local or regional land-based recreational trail systems by extending an existing trail system or by providing trailhead or trailside facilities? (5 points)
2. Will the project enhance or provide the opportunity to connect local, regional or statewide network greenways by expanding existing greenways or blueways, such as wildlife corridors and canoe trails? (5 points)

(c) Educational Opportunities [5 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Has a non-profit agency expressed an interest in and committed to volunteering and staffing environmental or historical education programs on the project property if the property is publicly acquired? (5 points)

(d) Environmentally Significant Natural and Biological Resources [20 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Does the land cover on the project site consist of predominantly natural communities that have not been impacted by human disturbance or alteration? (5 points)
2. Does the project site contain one or more natural communities identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as “imperiled” or “critically imperiled?” (5 points)
3. Does the project site contain habitat recognized as typically suitable for one or more listed animal species? (5 points)
4. Does the project site contain critical habitat typically suitable for one or more listed animal species and is the site located in a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area, as identified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission? (5 points)

(e) Water Quality [20 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Is the project site adjacent to the Upper St. Johns River Basin, St. Sebastian River, Indian River Lagoon, or Atlantic Ocean such that the acquisition will provide a buffer to surface waters that might not otherwise occur if the property is not acquired or conserved? (10 points)
2. Is the project site located in the County’s Surficial Aquifer Primary Recharge Overlay District (SAPROD) (i.e., located partially or wholly on the Atlantic Coastal Sand Ridge) or in the Floridan Aquifer recharge area (i.e., west of Blue Cypress Lake)? (5 points)

3. Does the project site have characteristics, based on site conditions and location that make it conducive for a public storm-water treatment facility compatible with site resource protection? (5 points)

(f) Historic Resources [15 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Does the project site contain a site listed in the Florida Master Site File maintained by the Division of Historical Resources? (5 points)
2. Will acquiring the project site protect a resource that is listed or is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service? (5 points)
3. Does the project site contain significant historic and/or cultural resources recognized by a local historic board where said resources will be readily accessible to the public if the site is acquired? (5 points)

(g) Agricultural Resources [15 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Does the project site contain an existing viable agricultural operation located outside of the urban service area, with an owner willing to entertain an offer to sell development rights and sustain a viable agricultural operation on the site “in perpetuity”? (5 points)
2. Does the project site contain an existing viable agricultural operation located outside of the urban service area but east of Interstate 95, with an owner willing to entertain an offer to sell development rights and sustain a viable agricultural operation on the site “in perpetuity”? (5 points)
3. Does the project site contain active or inactive agricultural lands with altered ecosystems with reasonable potential for natural area restoration, adjacent to a wildlife corridor, greenway or blueway? (5 points)

HAZARD MITIGATION SECTION [10 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Flood Hazard Area. Will the project acquisition direct residential or commercial development away from a coastal high hazard area or a 100-year flood plain? (5 points)
2. Local Mitigation Strategy Priority. Is the project site located within an area identified in the County’s adopted Local Mitigation Strategy as a mitigation priority? (5 points)

MANAGEMENT AND COST-SHARE SECTION [10 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Are characteristics of the project site favorable for land management (i.e., site contiguous to other publicly managed lands; not small and isolated; adjacent land uses compatible with land management needs; landowner or other agency to manage land, etc.)? (5 points)
2. Is the project site contiguous to or a part of an existing federal or state land acquisition project, or does the site have characteristics such that cost-share funding availability or less-than-fee-simple county acquisition is likely? (5 points)

SPECIAL STATUS SECTION [5 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Special Status Area. Is the project site located within or contiguous to the boundary of a state or federally designated area not credited elsewhere in these criteria that protects or restores natural, historic or agricultural resources (e.g., National Scenic Byway, Front Porch Community, etc.)? (5 points)

PROJECT EXCELLENCE SECTION [10 POTENTIAL POINTS]

1. Does the project: have community-based support; have exemplary characteristics; help resolve land-use conflicts; or alleviate an impending development threat, in a manner that was not adequately evaluated by the criteria established elsewhere in this application? (Up to 10 points)

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