



2023 Florida Legislative Wrap Up

1000 Friends of Florida

- Florida's leading nonprofit advocate of growth management since 1986
- Working with citizens, community and state leaders, conservation and business groups to advance our goals
- Our mission:
 - Prioritize infill and redevelopment to accommodate growth in urban areas already served by transit, roads, water and sewer lines, schools, other infrastructure
 - Steer development away from Florida's natural lands to protect and preserve our state's environmental assets and protect our quality of life

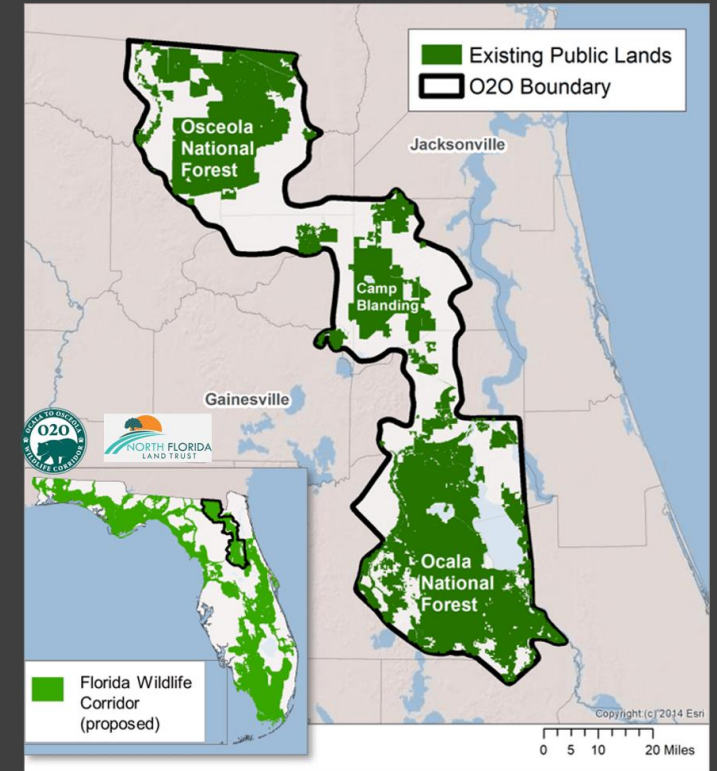




State budget

2023-24 budget: Land conservation highlights

- \$850 million for land acquisitions within the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Osceola to Ocala, Caloosahatchee/Big Cypress)
- \$200 million for expanded statewide bike/walking trails network and connections to the Florida Wildlife Corridor
- \$100 million for Florida Forever
- \$11.2 million for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program
- \$15 million for Florida Communities Trust
- \$12 million for “other acquisitions”



O2O/North Florida Land Trust

Why land conservation is a great investment

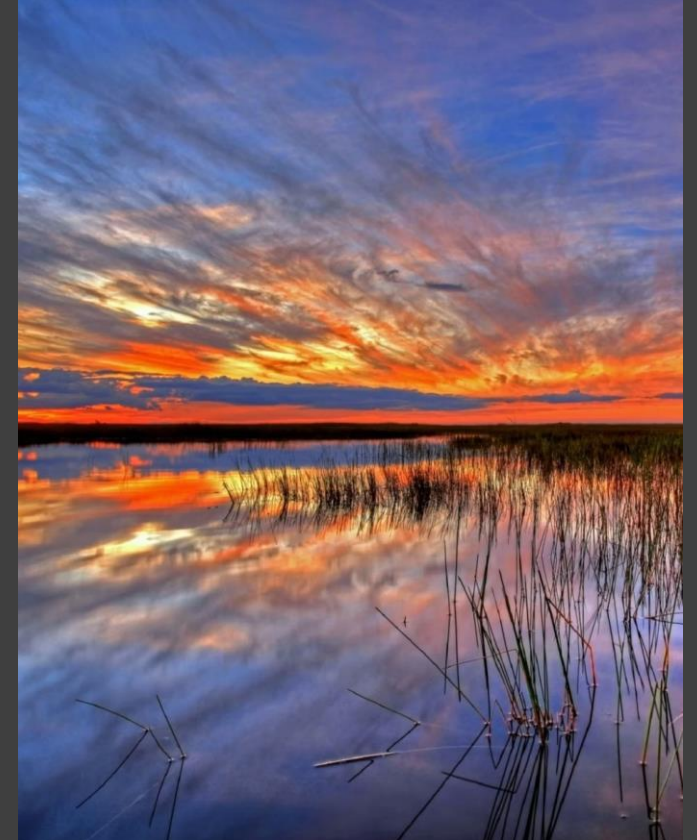
- Multiple benefits for Florida
 - Protects environmentally valuable land from being lost to sprawl
 - Holds, naturally cleanses runoff, protecting waterways, water supply
 - Absorbs carbon
 - Provides recreation for residents and tourists
 - Guards against flooding
 - Maintains land for agriculture
 - Preserves wildlife habitat and biodiversity, buffering against spread of diseases from animals to people



Big Cypress National Preserve/Alliance for Florida's National Parks

2023-24 budget: Everglades, water quality/supply

- \$625 million for Everglades restoration
- \$508 million for water, wastewater revolving loans
- \$433 million for member water projects
- \$200 million for wastewater grants
- \$156 million water infrastructure improvements
- \$150 million for water quality improvements in Indian River Lagoon (\$104.9 million), Caloosahatchee River (\$25 million), Biscayne Bay (\$20 million)
- \$60 million for alternative water supplies
- \$50 million for springs restoration
- \$40 million to comply with total maximum daily loads
- \$22.8 million for harmful algal blooms



Everglades National Park/National Park Foundation

2023-24 budget: Other highlights

- \$300 million for resilience grants to communities to prepare for sea level rise
- \$811 million to expand affordable housing
 - \$150 million, 1st installment of \$1.5 billion, 10-year commitment to State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program to affordable housing developers for infill, mixed-use, housing in rural areas or near military bases, units for elderly or adults aging out of foster care
 - \$361 million from affordable housing trust funds for SAIL and SHIP (State Housing Initiative Partnership) program
 - \$100 million for expanded Hometown Heroes program
 - \$100 million to make up for inflation in SAIL deals in the pipeline
 - \$100 million for Live Local corporate tax donations to fund SAIL



Fort Lauderdale/Jo Owens



Fort DeSoto State Park/Anja Weigelt

Conservation bills





HB 1489/SB 1686 Brevard Barrier Island

- Designates 16 miles of the southern Brevard barrier island as an area of critical state concern
- Provides more protections to discourage incompatible development
- 1000 Friends helped draft and supported
- First ACSC in decades
- Model for other environmentally fragile areas

Photo credit: Nancy Smith



PASSED

SB 106/HB 915 Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network

- Establishes Trail Towns program with \$200 million appropriation in Office of Greenways and Trails to promote ecotourism and economic opportunity to local communities
- Requires Greenways and Trails Council to prioritize trails connected to Florida Wildlife Corridor
- Requires state Department of Transportation to include Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Network in work program and prioritize projects recommended by Greenways and Trails Council
- Increases annual funding for SUN Trail Network from \$25 million to \$50 million
- Priority of Senate President Passidomo
- 1000 Friends supported
- Passed unanimously in Senate's first week, and unanimously in House's fifth week
- Signed into law by Governor



Senator Jason Brodeur



Representative Adam Botana

HB 7047 State Land Acquisition

- Sets annual funding floor of \$100 million for Florida Forever
- Requires Florida Forever's Acquisition and Restoration Council to prioritize properties within Florida Wildlife Corridor and those in "imminent danger of development"
- Applies same priorities to Rural and Family Lands Protection Program
- Raises threshold requiring approval for acquisition from Governor and Cabinet from \$1 million to \$5 million
- Passed unanimously by House
- Contents amended into HB 1379, passed unanimously by House, Senate



Representative James Buchanan

A landmark
year for
affordable
housing



Fairlawn Village/Orlando Sentinel

PASSED

SB 102/HB 627

Live Local Act

- Priority of Senate President; unanimously passed in Senate; passed 103-6 in House; signed by Governor
- Provides automatic property tax exemptions for multifamily developments of more than 70 affordable units or for developments on land owned by nonprofits and leased for at least 99 years for affordable housing
- Authorizes local governments to provide property tax exemptions for housing developments of at least 50 units with at least 20% affordable
- Provides up to \$5,000 refund for sales taxes paid to build affordable unit
- Reinforces current requirement for local governments to make appropriate publicly owned lands available for affordable housing
- Codifies Hometown Heroes Program, expands eligibility beyond select occupations



Senator Alexis Calatayud



Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera

Live Local Preemptions

- Prohibits rent control ordinances
- Prevents regulating use, density or height of affordable housing developments, or requiring zoning, land-use change or comprehensive plan amendment, in commercial, industrial or mixed-use zoned area if at least 40% of units are affordable
- Permits density at highest allowed within jurisdiction's residential zones
- Allows highest height currently allowed for commercial or residential development within a mile, or 3 stories – whichever is higher
- Exempts workforce housing development in the Florida Keys from the Keys' 24-hour evacuation standard.

Public participation produces better planning

WE HAVE LONG ADVOCATED FOR

THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE

TO CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING.

ENGAGED CITIZENS IMPROVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS ENHANCED, OUR
ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED AND OUR COMMUNITIES
ARE STRENGTHENED WHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PLANNING RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE.





Vivian Young

Community planning legislation

Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06

Directs agencies and local governments to improve local government long-term comprehensive planning that ensures sustainable growth while protecting our natural resources.

1000
FRIENDS
of FLORIDA



PASSED

SB 540/HB 359 Local Comprehensive Plans

- Limits legal basis for comprehensive plan amendment challenges
- Allows loser in challenge to be forced to pay legal costs for winners
- Financial risk will end challenges to legally flawed amendments
- 1000 Friends opposed



Senator Nick DiCeglie



Rep. Wyman Duggan

PASSED

SB 170/HB 1515 Local Ordinances

- Requires local governments to prepare business impact statements before enacting range of ordinances, including measures to protect environment and quality of life
 - Exemptions include development, emergency, budget ordinances
- Allows businesses that legally challenge local ordinances as “arbitrary or unreasonable” and win to collect up to \$50k in attorney fees; no corollary provision for local governments
- Single business can suspend widely supported local ordinance through challenge
- Another Senate President priority
- Similar bill died before passage last year
- **1000 Friends opposed**
- Approved in Senate, House on party-line votes



Senator Jay Trumbull



Rep. Robbie Brackett

PASSED

SB 1604/HB 439 Local Ordinances

- Extends planning periods from 10 to 20 years and from 5 years to 10
- Prohibits local governments that fail to update their comp plans per the EAR process from initiating or adopting any public plan amendments (privately initiated plan amendments are acceptable)
- Prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing land development regulations for electrical substations, allowing them in all land-use categories
- Became Governor's vehicle to regain control over Reedy Creek Improvement District



Senator Blaise Ingolia



Rep. Stan McClain

PASSED

SB 250/HB 7057
Natural Emergencies



Preempts ability of local governments within a disaster declaration area for Ian and Nicole from adopting “more restrictive or burdensome procedures” to their comprehensive plans or land development regulations





SB 718 Local Government

- Revises procedures to streamline the municipal annexation and contraction process and gives consent authority to landowners not registered voters within the jurisdiction
- Prohibits local initiatives or referendums on land development regulations



Sen. Yarborough



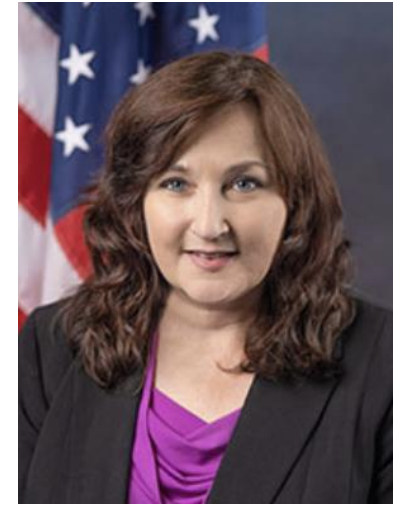
PASSED

SB 1170/HB 111 PUBLIC FINANCING OF POTENTIAL AT-RISK STRUCTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Expands SLIP statute to include ALL areas at risk due to Sea Level Rise
- 1000 Friends supported



Sen. Calatayud



Rep. Hunschofsky

The St. Johns River flooding homes
In DeLand. Photo credit: Chris Fau



NOTABLE PLANNING BILLS THAT DIED



SB 192/HB 175 Everglades Protection Area

- Any comprehensive plan amendment changes that apply to land within 2 miles of Everglades Protection Area would have required more state scrutiny, including from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for adverse impacts
- 1000 Friends supported



SB 288/HB 499 Florida Main Street Program and Historic Preservation Tax Credits

- 1000 Friends supported
- Senate included in tax cut package; House did not
- Not included in final package



SB 1346/HB 1317 Local Regulation of Nonconforming or Unsafe Structures

- This preemption bill would have superseded any local government limits on demolishing structures in coastal areas that don't comply with FEMA standards for new construction or are deemed dangerous
- Would have left many historic buildings vulnerable to demolition, replacement
- 1000 Friends opposed





Anja Weigelt

Water quality legislation

PASSED

SB 1632 / HB 1379 – Environmental Protection

- Amends comprehensive planning process to achieve Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) goals; prioritizes sewer connections over new septic tank installations; bars new septic tanks within a BMAP area; requires septic tank remediation plan for Outstanding Florida Spring BMAPs
- Establishes Indian River Lagoon Protection Program
- Increases contract price of Florida Forever land acquisition agreement requiring Board of Trustees approval from \$1 million to \$5 million
- Dedicates \$100 million annually from Land Acquisition Trust Fund to Florida Forever program
- 1000 Friends supported

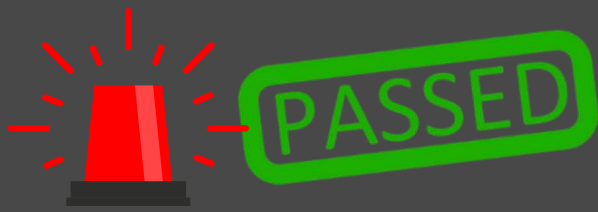


PASSED

HB 1181 / SB 724 Seagrass Restoration

- Establishes the Seagrass Restoration Technical Development Initiative within the Department of Environmental Protection as a partnership between Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida to develop technologies to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems





BUDGET LINE ITEM 146: LOCAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE PREEMPTION

- SB 2500 included \$250,000 line item for study “to evaluate the effectiveness of timing of seasonal fertilizer restrictions” and preempted local governments from adopting or amending fertilizer ordinances with prohibited application periods, weakening their ability to protect their local water supplies from nutrient pollution
- Requests from 1000 Friends, other organizations for veto not heeded by Governor



FAILED

HB 423 / SB 1538 - Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force

- Required 5-year septic system inspection program and county-specific implementation plan in critical springsheds
- Would have strengthened BMAPs to more effectively reduce nutrient pollutant loading, account for future pollutant loading due to population growth
- Would have required BMAP projects exceeding \$1 million to undergo comprehensive monitoring for effectiveness
- 1000 Friends supported
- Senate delete-all amendment scrubbed septic-tank inspection provision; House version stalled





HB 1425 - Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System Inspections

- Would have directed the Department of Environmental Protection to create and administer a septic tank inspection program and require inspections once every five years, with priority given to areas within a BMAP
- 1000 Friends supported
- Never received committee hearing or Senate counterpart



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www.1000friendsofflorida.org

