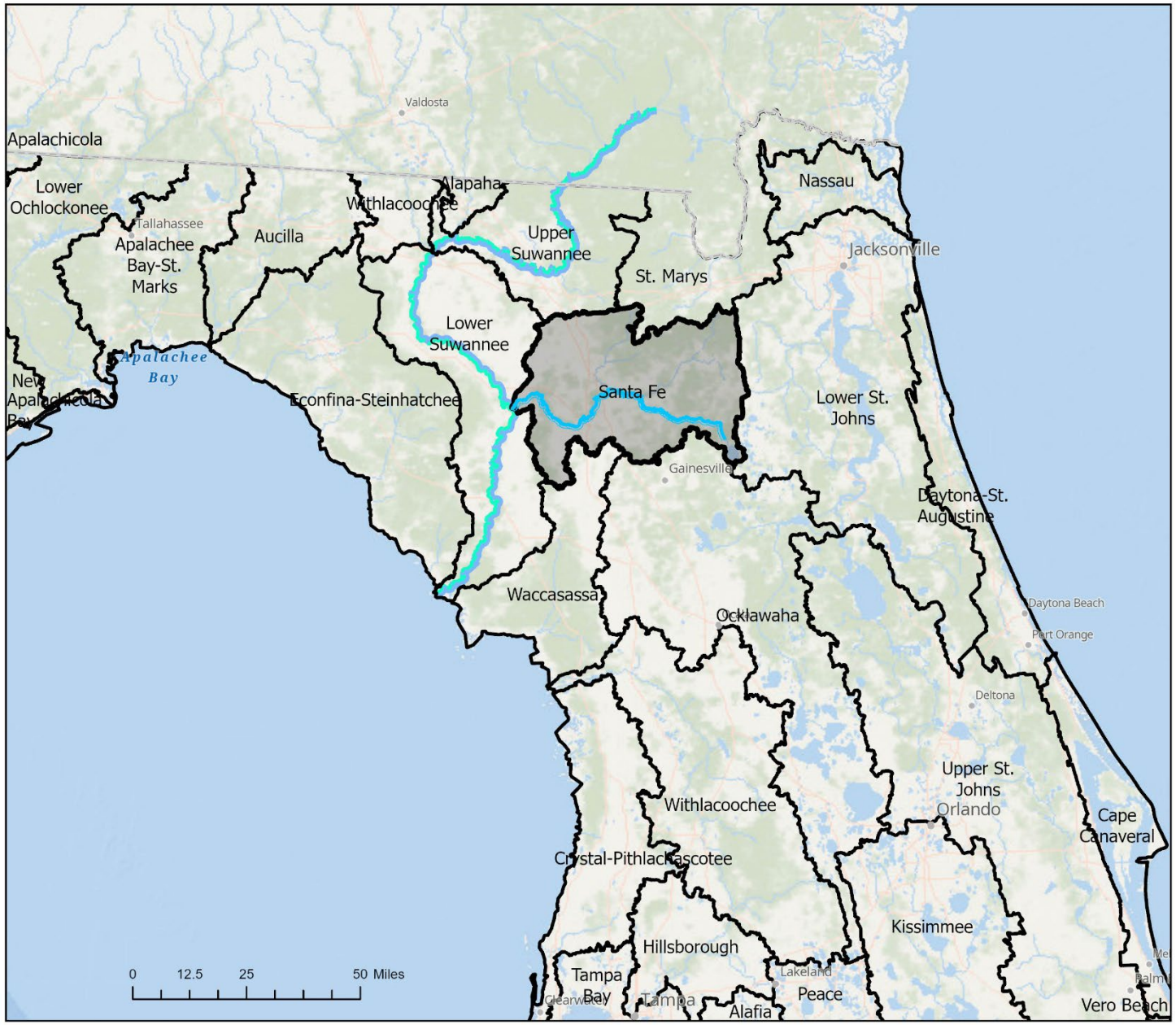
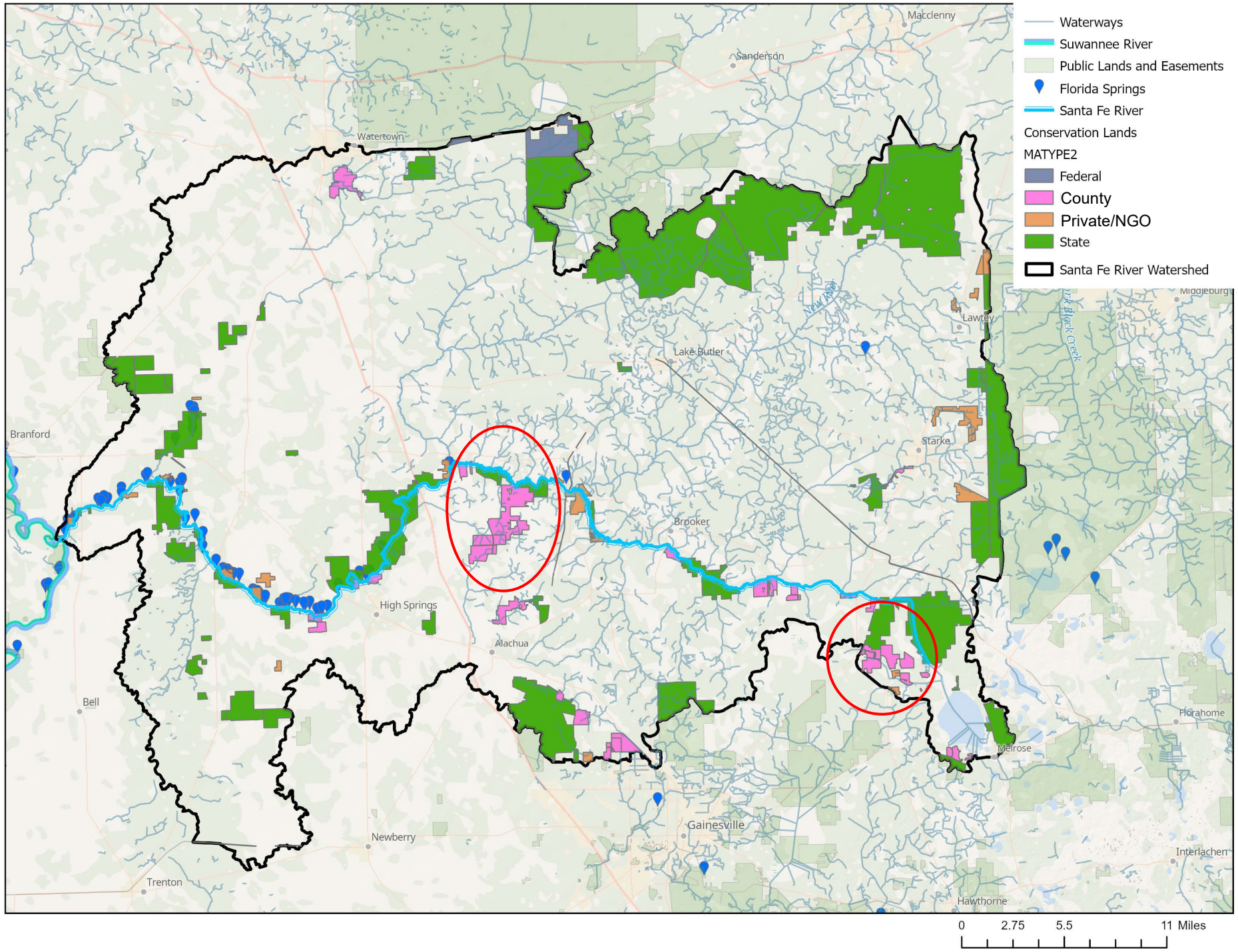


Conservation Lands Update

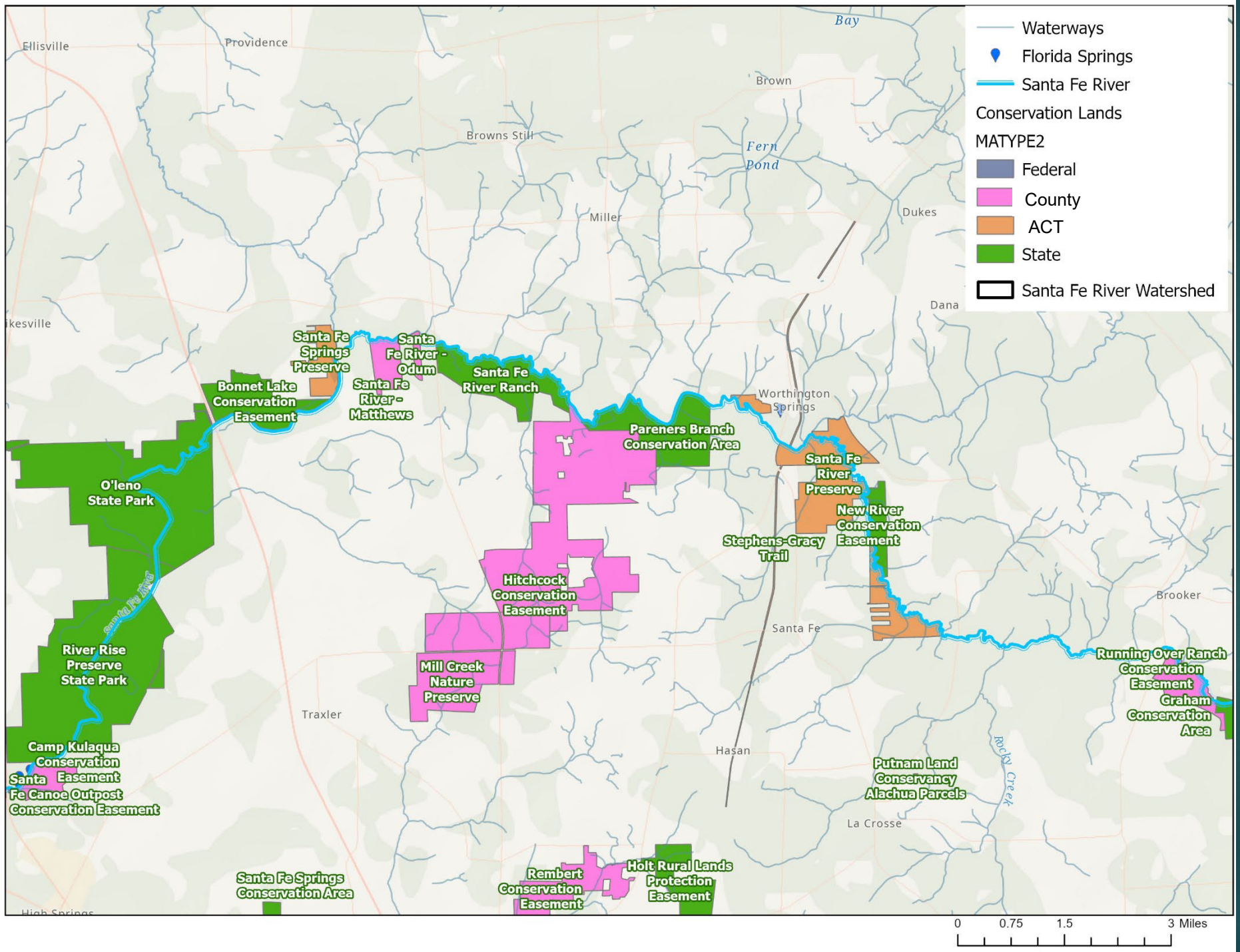
Santa Fe Watershed

Susan Carr
Putnam Land Conservancy



Santa Fe Watershed

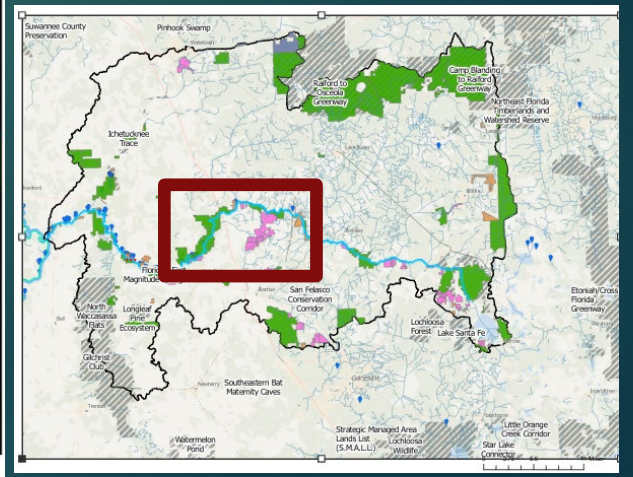
Public lands and Conservation Easements

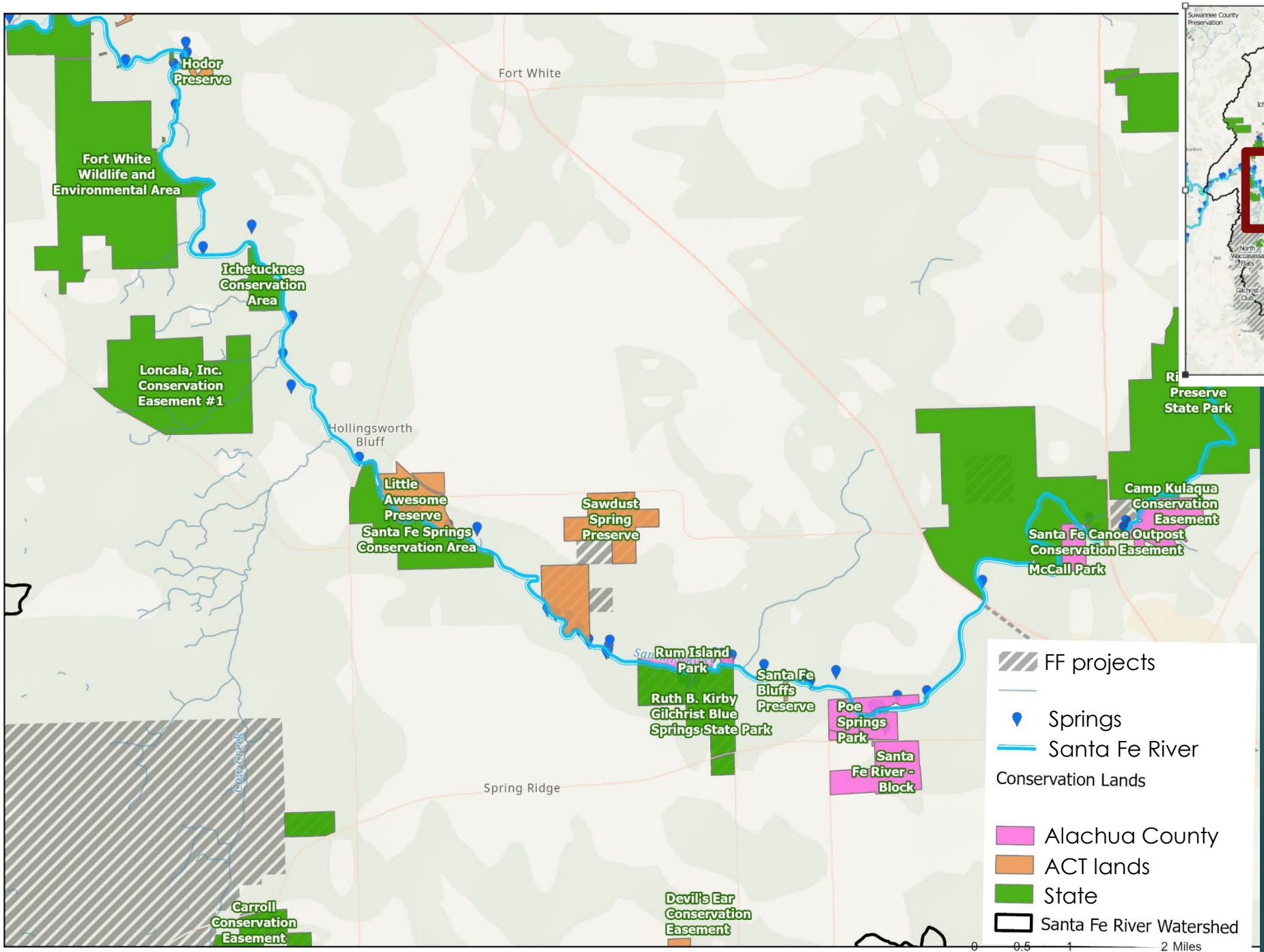


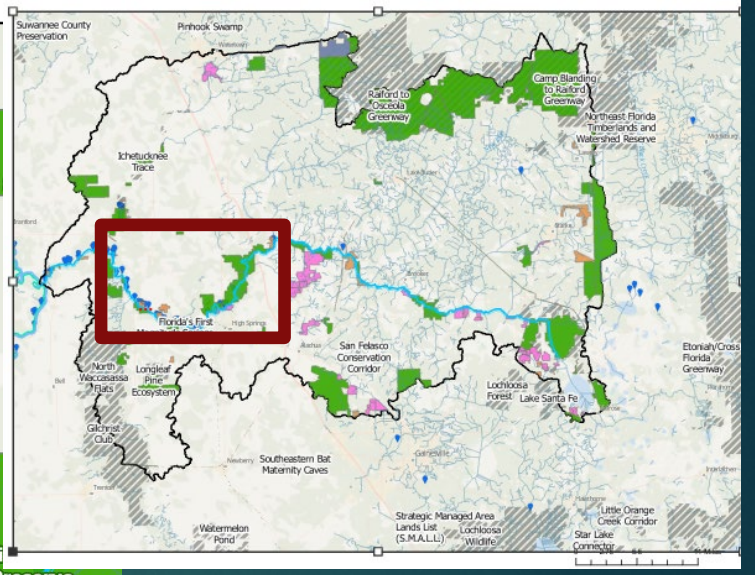
Santa Fe Watershed

Alachua County Conservation lands

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT)



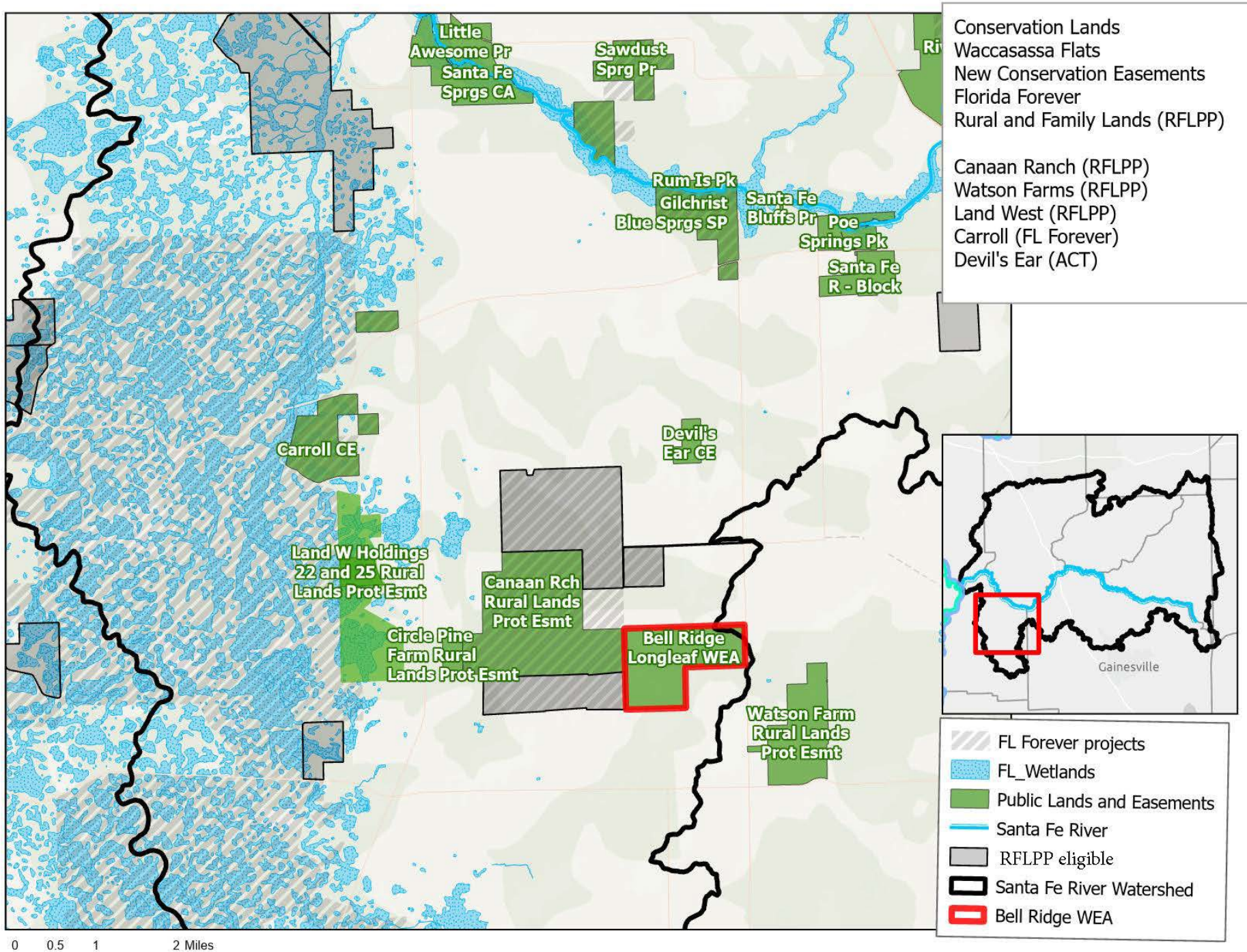




Santa Fe Watershed

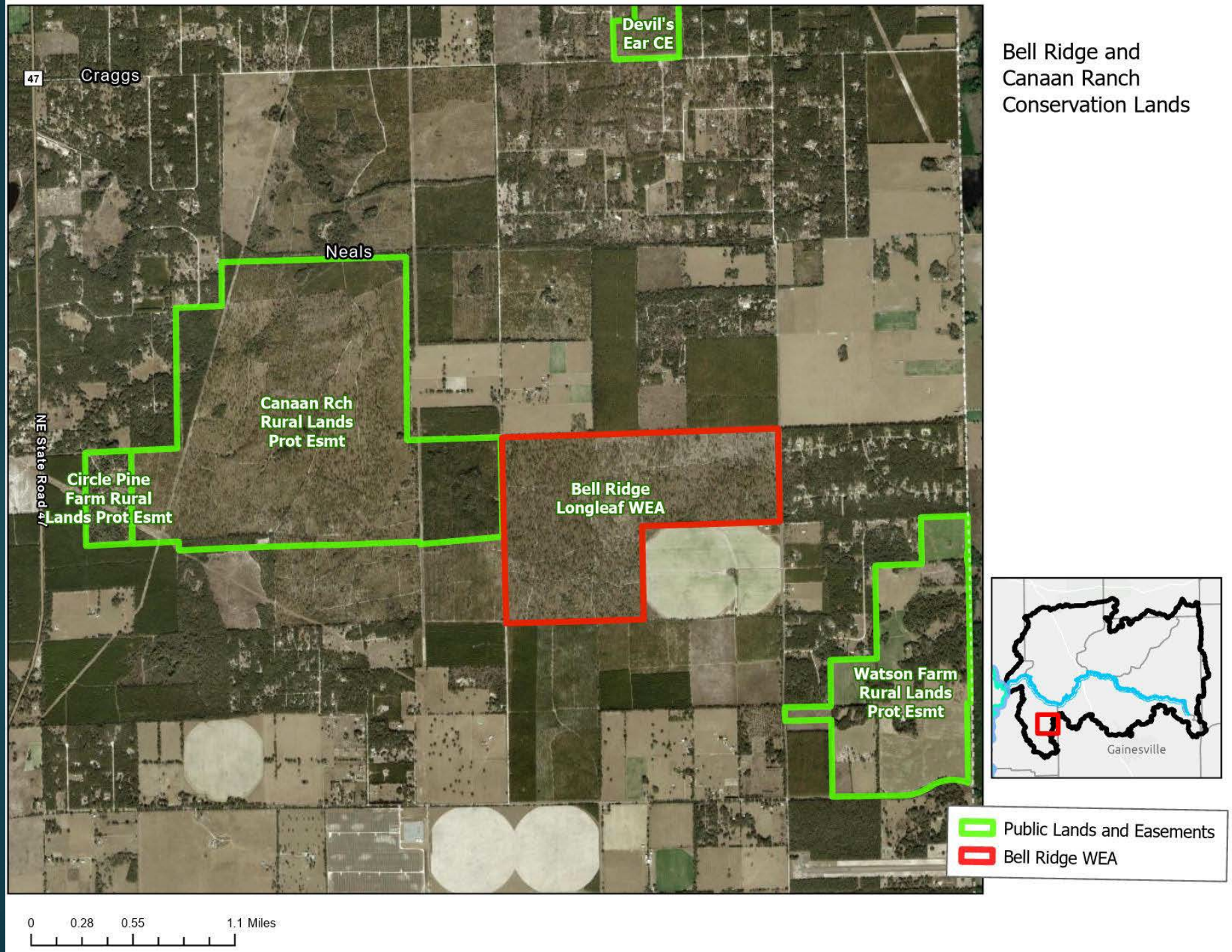
Alachua County Conservation lands

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT)



Conservation Lands North Waccasassa Flats

New Conservation Easements



Conservation Lands

Bell Ridge and Canaan Ranch

Rural and Family Lands Protection Program (RFLPP) and Florida Forever

Florida Forever (FDEP)

- Florida's flagship, science-based program for conserving natural areas and water resources
- Protects environmentally sensitive lands and waters
- Makes natural areas available for nature-based recreational enjoyment
- Most effective tool for protecting the Florida Wildlife Corridor

Rural & Family Lands (FDACS)

- Protects agricultural lands from development using easements
- Sustains private farms & ranches
- Easements do not allow public access
- Conservation of nature is secondary
- Natural areas can be converted to agriculture use, including row crops

Agricultural easements alone cannot protect Florida's natural heritage

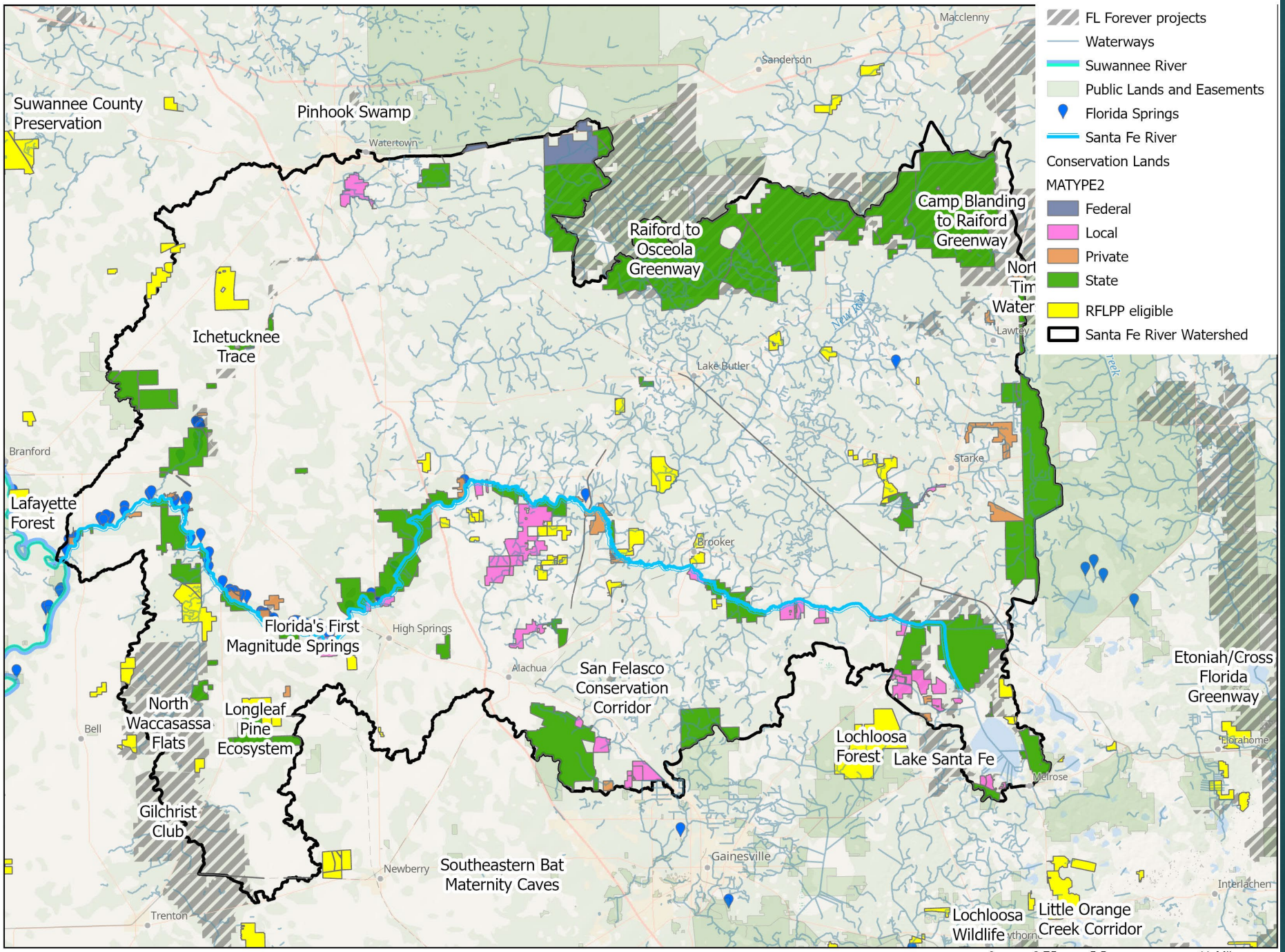
Florida Forever is the only state program that can purchase both fee-title ownership **and** conservation easements to protect natural areas and water resources

Land Acquisition

- Ensures permanent protection
- Provides public access for hunting, fishing, and recreation
- Connects parks and wildlife areas
- Protects rare species natural habitats

Easements

- Limited habitat protection
- Public access usually prohibited
- Can't replace public land



Santa Fe Watershed

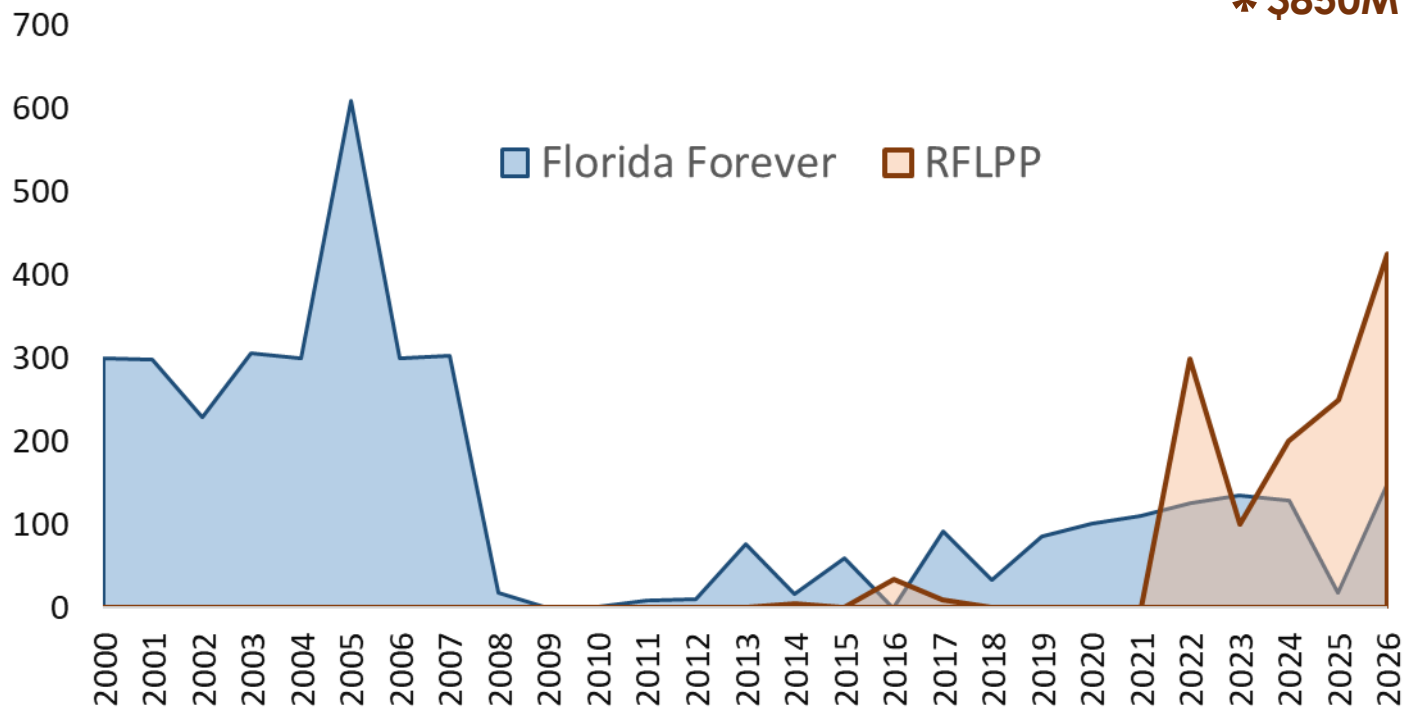
Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands

Priority Areas

Florida State Funding for Land and Conservation Easements

Rural and Family Lands (RFLPP) and Florida Forever

Years 2000 - 2026



* In 2023, Florida committed a on-time $850 million appropriation for land protection in two specific portions of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The main source of this funding was federal COVID-19 recovery funds provided to Florida through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This one-off funding was separate from Florida Forever funds allocated in 2023.



Alachua County Forever is the county's premier land conservation program. Established by the citizens and voters in 2000, the program works to acquire and protect environmentally and agriculturally significant lands in the county through an open public process. As of 2025 the program has protected over 36,000 acres and manages a network of 23 county nature preserves.

ACT purchases land and Conservation Easement in Alachua County

New Agricultural Easement program

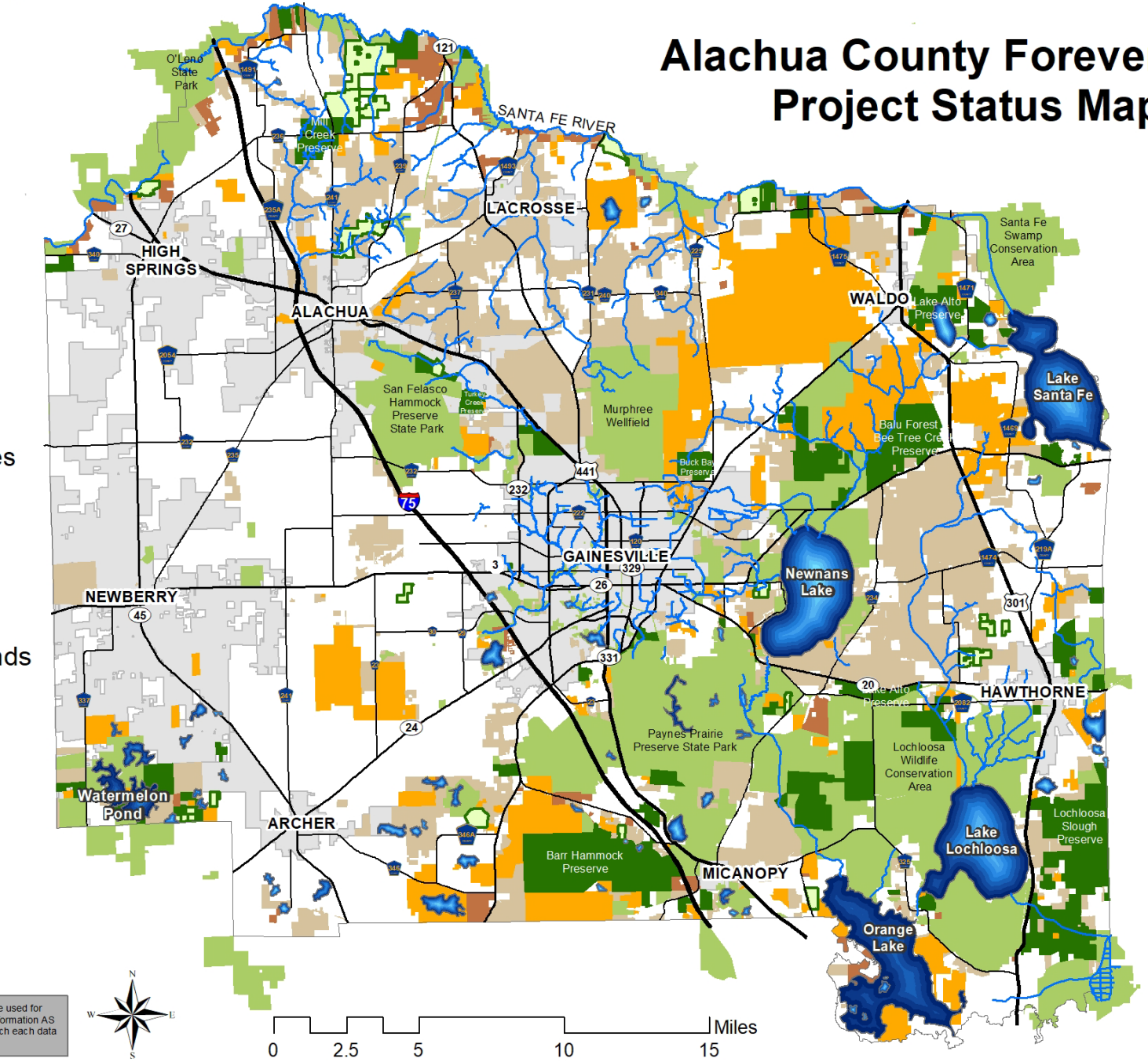
Priority conservation areas- Santa Fe River Corridor

Alachua County Forever Project Status Map

Alachua County, Florida
Environmental Protection

Legend

- ACF Preserves
- ACF Conservation Easements
- Active Acquisition List Properties
- Eligibility Pool Properties
- Nominated Properties
- Municipal Boundaries
- Other Public Conservation Lands
- Lakes
- Creeks



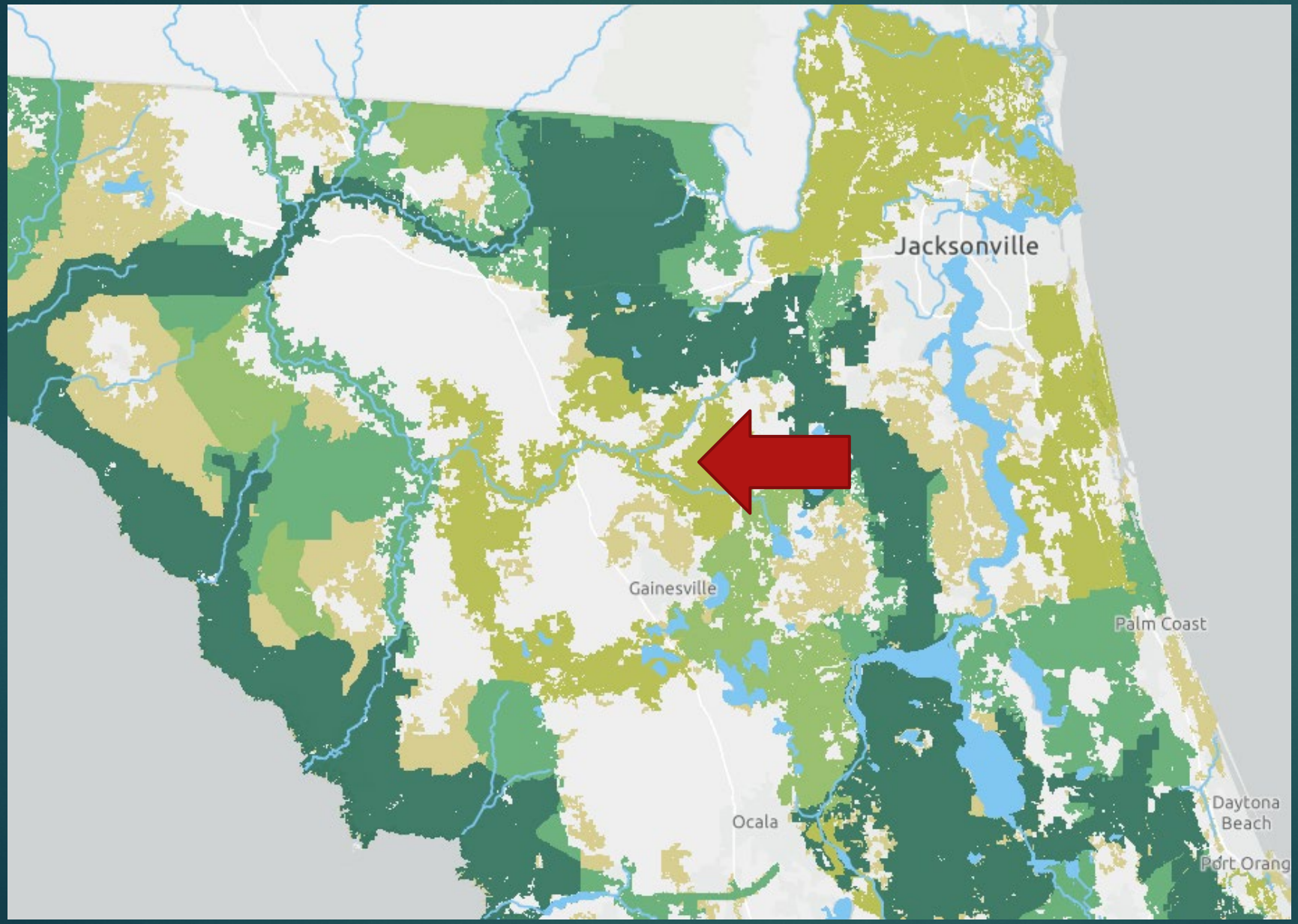
Alachua County FOREVER

WILD SPACES & PUBLIC PLACES
This Land Conservation Project Funded by Your Local Taxes

DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.

7/6/2026

Hot off the presses: Florida Ecological Greenways Network Priorities



Santa Fe River
Priority 3 FEGN

Higher priority for State and Federal land acquisition