

Pineland Site Complex

Critical Historical Resources

Lee County

<i>Year Added to Priority List</i>	1996
<i>Project Acres</i>	211
<i>Acquired Acres</i>	74
<i>Cost of Acquired Acres</i>	\$1,355,000
<i>Remaining Project Acres</i>	137
<i>2023 Assessed Value of Remaining Acres</i>	\$15,846,467

Purpose for State Acquisition

The Pineland Site Complex project contains large mounds and canals that date back almost 2,000 years and document the presence of the Calusa and earlier peoples that lived around Charlotte Harbor. The project will protect one of the state's most significant archaeological sites and estuarine mangrove swamps on Pine Island. The project will provide ecological connectivity to the resources of Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park, provide the opportunity to continue archaeological research at the site and give the public an opportunity to learn about Florida's earliest inhabitants.

General Description

The internationally significant archaeological site was inhabited by the Calusa for over a thousand years and includes substantial midden mounds, a burial mound, remnants of an Indian-engineered canal and buried deposits containing organic remains. Natural habitats within the project area include tidal saltern, a tidal creek, an intertidal shoreline and a large tract of mangrove wetland. Ponds on the property are important to white ibis, egrets, herons and wood stork. The intertidal shoreline has an eastern oyster bar community, numerous species of gastropods and bivalves, and black and red mangroves. Shoreline shell mounds exhibit a distinctive plant community. A third of the project area is pastureland. There are several species of exotic plants in the project. It is threatened by residential construction. The project is adjacent to the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve and Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park.

FNAI Element Occurrence Summary

<u>FNAI Elements</u>	<u>Score</u>
Smalltooth sawfish	G1G3/S1S2

Public Use

The Florida Museum of Natural History plans to provide a research and educational center on the site.



Acquisition Planning

Essential parcels include all ownerships except American Bible Church, Sapp, Samadani and Celec. Several houses, built atop significant archaeological mounds, are included within the project boundary. These tracts with improvements should be acquired, if possible. If not, life estates should be pursued.

1997

On April 18, 1997, the BOT purchased 1 acre in the project area.

1998

On October 15, 1998, the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council revised the designation of the following parcels to essential: The Cloisters and Jessy Chris.

2000

On December 4, 2000, Lee County acquired Conservation 20/20 Site #48 (8.59 acres) in what is now the Randell Research Center.

2003

On February 26, 2003, the BOT acquired 0.29 acres from The Archeological Conservancy.

On July 31, 2003, DEP acquired the University of Florida Foundation tract (48.54 acres).

2011

On December 10, 2010, the Acquisition and Restoration Council voted to move the project from the Critical Natural Lands category to a new category, Critical Historical Resources.

Coordination

The Archeological Conservancy was an intermediary in the acquisition of the acreage that has been acquired. In addition, the University of Florida Foundation, Lee County and Calusa Land Trust are considered partners on the project.

Management Policy Statement

The primary objective of the management of the Pineland Site Complex project is to preserve the Pineland Site Complex, an archaeological site of national significance. Achieving this objective will allow further scientific research on the site and provide the public with scientific research on the site and give the public opportunities to learn about the prehistoric inhabitants of Pine Island.

The project should be managed under the single-use concept; management activities should be directed toward the preservation of the site's archaeological resources. Consumptive uses such as hunting or logging should not be permitted. Managers should control public access to the project; limit public motor vehicles to a small part of the area; thoroughly inventory the resources; and monitor management activities to ensure that they are protecting the archaeological resources and maintaining or improving the quality of natural communities, such as mangrove swamps. Managers should limit the number and size of recreational facilities, such as hiking trails, ensure that they avoid the most sensitive resources, and site them in already disturbed areas when possible.

The project area includes the known components of the Pineland Site Complex and therefore has the configuration to achieve its primary objective.





Manager(s)

The University of Florida Foundation is recommended as the lead manager.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for State Designation

The Pineland Site Complex is an internationally significant archaeological site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and qualifies as a state historic site.

Conditions Affecting Intensity of Management

Needs will include maintenance (fences, weed and exotic plant control, etc.) and site security including periodic patrol of the more remote wetlands areas and active surveillance of the central site area.

Management Implementation, Public Access, Site Security and Protection of Infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, initial or intermediate activities will concentrate on site security, resource inventory and property maintenance (cleaning up of dumped materials, exotic plant control, etc.). A master plan will be in place to guide a phased development process leading to a permanent research/education center open regularly to the public within five years. Initial development will concentrate on public safety, security and resource assessment, including an inventory of endangered and threatened species. A plan for the conservation and enhancement of significant habitats identified in this process will be developed.

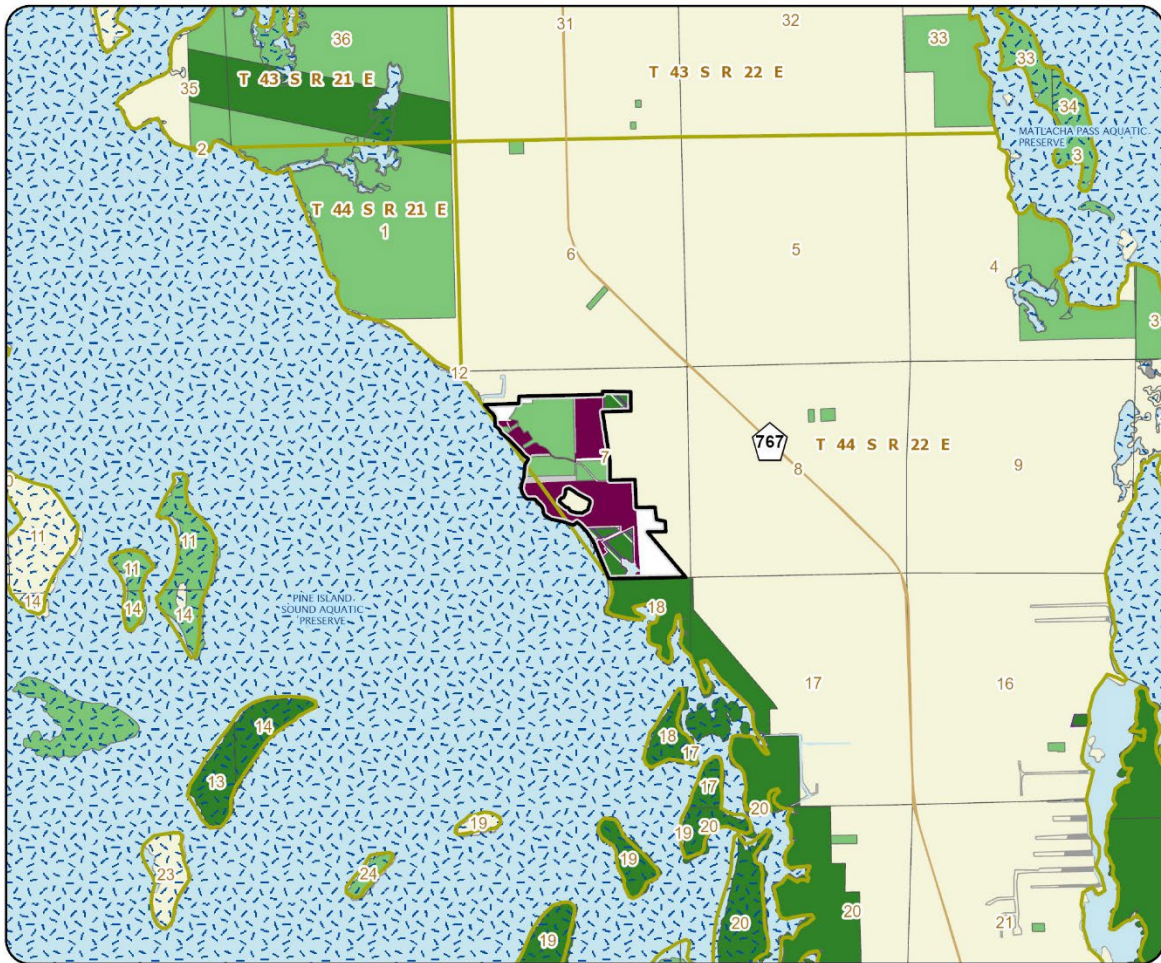
Revenue-generating Potential

In addition to the income produced by the invested endowed funds, the research and educational center's director will be responsible for bringing in grant funds from public and private sources and for establishing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with local and regional schools, colleges, universities, museums, nature centers and conservation societies. With the establishment of a visitor's center, bookstore and gift shop will be operated to offset the expenses of the center's operation and provide funds to enhance the center's programs. A local support organization has already been formed and is operating under the auspices of the University of Florida Foundation. It will continue to raise funds to support specific center programs and initiatives.

Cooperators in Management Activities

Activities to enhance natural resources will be undertaken in consultation with qualified conservation personnel, including staff from the Lee County's Division of Environmental Sciences and the cooperating managers, DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and the Division of Recreation and Parks.





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