

# VOTERS APPROVE

## PUBLIC-LANDS REFERENDUM

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On Nov. 2, 2004, Lake County voters approved a public-lands referendum by more than 70 percent. The citizens of Lake County voted for up to an additional one-third millage to allow the County to issue \$36 million in bonds for the acquisition and improvement of land to protect drinking water, improve water quality of rivers and lakes, protect open space and provide passive recreation areas.

Lake County is home to many natural resources, which carry a significant environmental importance locally and regionally, such as the Wekiva River and Green Swamp. The Public Lands Program ensures the availability and protection of these resources for future Lake County generations.



## LAKE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

For more information about the Lake County Public Lands Program, call (352) 253-4971 or log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword: public lands.

*Mission, vision and value statements of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners*

### MISSION:

*To Provide Excellence in Service*

### VISION:

*Lake County offers an unsurpassed quality of life for its citizens*

### VALUES:

*Diversity, Innovation, Excellent Service, Integrity, Accountability, Professionalism and Teamwork*

REV 04.16.08

## LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM



*“Protecting Lake County’s natural resources for future generations”*

### Lake County Department of Public Works

31150 Industry Drive, Tavares, FL 32778  
Phone: (352) 253-4971 / Fax: (352) 253-4981  
[www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov)



## ADVISORY COUNCIL GUIDES PROGRAM

The Public Lands Management Program was created in September 2005 to assist the Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council with preparing and recommending policies to guide the acquisition and management of public lands, both environmental and recreational. The creation of the program is a direct result of Lake County voters approving a public-lands referendum on Nov. 2, 2004.

Along with the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, oversight of the Public Lands Program is provided by the 11-member Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council. The committee includes individuals knowledgeable in the fields of geology, biology, local history, archaeology, recreation, business, and Lake County's geography and culture. With the direction provided by the Board of County Commissioners and the recommendations from this committee, Lake County ensures the land-selection process is fair and strictly follows the bond's guidelines.

## COOPERATIVE PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED

The Public Lands Program only purchases land from willing sellers. Lake County property owners are encouraged to submit land and easement opportunities for possible acquisition.

Interested property owners can submit their properties for consideration by filling out an application. To obtain application, call (352) 253-4971, e-mail [dhansen@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:dhansen@lakecountyfl.gov) or log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword: public lands.

Applications are reviewed by the Public Lands Program. If the proposed properties meet the criteria, the Public Land Acquisition Advisory Council can consider recommending purchase of the property to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

## CRITERIA ADDRESSES PRIMARY CONCERNS

Applications must meet four of the 13 established criteria for the program. The list of criteria encompasses three areas of primary concern: enhancing water resources, protecting environmentally sensitive lands and providing potential recreational lands.

### THE CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- Significant area of documented high-recharge rates
- Water bodies or wetlands capable of protecting natural floodplain functions and preventing or reducing flood damage
- Aquifers, springs and/or significant geological features are present
- Potential for water-resource enhancement
- Protects, maintains or enhances populations of listed species
- Protects one or more biological communities
- Maintains or enhances natural systems corridors
- Connects two or more otherwise unconnected conservation lands
- Potential for resource-based, public-use opportunities, including, but not limited to, greenways, blueways and trails
- Connects two or more otherwise unconnected greenways, blueways, parks, public facilities or trails
- Multiple-use potential for resource based and user-oriented recreational facilities and programs
- Contributes to green space, scenic vistas or acts as a development buffer
- Contains significant historical, archeological and/or cultural sites