

Forest Resources

Identify, acquire, and protect lands to maintain representatives of the various forest or timber types; and to conserve and maintain Brevard County's forests so as to perpetuate their environmental values.

Plants

Identify, acquire, and protect sites which contain endangered, threatened, rare, or species of special concern (as identified and listed by local, state, and federal agencies). Priority should be given to those sites that are critical to the survival of these plant species, or are not critical but contain important assemblages of rare, endangered, or threatened species or those species of special concern.

Animals

Identify, acquire, and protect lands that are: critical to the survival of rare, endangered or threatened species or species of special concern (as identified and listed by local, state, and federal agencies); represent significant colonial bird nesting sites; migratory bird feeding and resting sites; or lands that are necessary to maintain native animal species diversity.

Wetlands and Coastal Resources

Identify, acquire, and protect undeveloped coastal areas to conserve significant natural and aesthetic attributes. Identify, acquire, protect, and manage upland and wetland buffers to preserve significant commercial and recreational saltwater and brackish fisheries designated as State Aquatic Preserves, National Estuarine or Marine Sanctuaries, Special Water Category of Outstanding Florida Water, or Department of Environmental Protection Class II Waters. Identify, acquire, and protect significant wetland areas. Identify, acquire, and protect the functional integrity of the upland-wetland-estuarine linkage.

Geological Features

Identify, acquire, and protect examples of geological exposures, formations, and outcrops that are inadequately represented on public lands or represent the best examples of those features.

Land Acquisition Duties and Responsibilities

Officials listed below are responsible for the functions indicated:

Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida (Board)

1. Approves land acquisition policies, procedures and priorities based upon recommendations from the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff as presented in the Land Acquisition Manual.
2. Approves in writing, as a Board response to an agenda item, land acquisition, land sale, and project development proposals made by the EEL Selection and Management Committee. The Board may approve or deny any acquisition contract or acquisition proposal proposed by the EEL Selection and Management Committee; however, the Board may not add or expand projects identified within the acquisition strategy or presented on the acquisition or sale list.
3. Reviews and authorizes the annual budget for the EEL land acquisition program.
4. Authorizes all bond issues, both public and private, for carrying out the purchase of land.
5. Appoints members to the Brevard County EEL Selection and Management Committee. The procedure for appointment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee shall be:
 - a. The qualifications of all applicants or nominees responding to a call by the County Commissioners for EEL Selection and Management Committee volunteers shall be reviewed by a Qualifying Committee consisting of the EEL Program Manager, the Chairman of the Procedures Committee (or their designee), and the Director of Human Resources (or their designee). Staff will present the list of all

applicants/nominees to the Qualifying Committee for review and an initial ranking based on their level of experience and education. Qualifications for EEL Selection and Management Committee members are outlined in this manual (pages 13 & 14).

Applicants/Nominees being recommended by the TDC and EDC will not be reviewed or ranked by the Qualifying Committee or the Procedures Committee, but will be presented to the County Commission for final ranking along with the list of science applicants/nominees.

The method of the initial ranking by the Qualifying Committee is as follows:

1. All applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as approved by the Qualifying Committee will be assigned one hundred (100) points.
2. Five (5) additional points are assigned for each graduate degree (Masters or Doctorate) in ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural areas sanctuary design.
3. And/or two (2) additional points for each year up to six (6) years for demonstrated professional expertise in biological or environmental sciences OR a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology, botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design.

The Qualifying Committee will provide the list of all applicants/nominees to the Procedures Committee including identification of those applicants/nominees that have been determined by the Qualifying Committee to be qualified. The qualified applicants will be identified by their initial ranking.

The Procedures Committee will review the list of applicants presented by the Qualifying Committee and will verify the final list of qualified applicants/nominees through a majority vote. County EEL staff will provide the list of the qualified applicants/nominees in ranked order from highest to lowest to the Board for review and final ranking.

Any Procedures Committee member who is applying for an open seat on the Selection and Management Committee, shall refrain from voting on the final list of qualified applicants or participating as a member of the Qualifying Committee.

- b. The Board shall review the qualifications of the qualified nominees and give each nominee a ranking score from 1-3. The Assistant County Administrator (or designated county staff) shall tabulate the ranking scores. Those nominees with the highest scores shall be appointed to the EEL Selection and Management Committee, those nominees with the second highest scores shall be appointed as alternates to the EEL Selection and Management Committee. In cases of tied scores, the Board Chairperson will choose members or alternates by drawing names of those with tied scores from a box.

The Board will also select one (1) nominee from a list of recommended appointees provided by the TDC and EDC to fill the eighth voting seat on the Committee.

- c. If replacement of EEL Selection and Management Committee members are required, the Board has the option to choose from the existing pool of qualified alternates (as defined by 6.b. above) or the Board can request that staff prepare a public advertisement as a call for qualified citizen volunteers (EEL Selection and Management Committee qualifications are established in the LAM on pages 13 & 14, and will be the basis for identifying qualified applicants). The process outlined in Sections a. and b. above shall be utilized for any new appointments to the EEL Selection and Management Committee.
- d. Reappointments of EEL Selection and Management Committee members can occur at the discretion of the Board without additional review or new rankings. New appointments can be made as outlined in a, b, and c above or by selecting from the most recent (not exceeding two (2) years) pool of qualified

applicants/nominees. Appointment procedures will be consistent with County policies for advisory board appointments, as specified in the Uniform Advisory Board Ordinance, Ordinance 95-31.

6. Approves all land acquisition contracts and documents provided to the Board by EEL staff, as recommended by the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

EEL Procedures Committee

- a. Membership shall consist of eight (8) members appointed by the Selection and Management Committee for a term of two years. Each of the nominees above will be chosen by a majority vote of the Selection and Management Committee.

Each member shall have knowledge of environmentally sensitive lands and have participated in activities to acquire or protect such lands. A Chair and Co-Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the Procedures Committee. A voting seat will be designated on the Selection and Management Committee for a Procedures Committee member selected by a majority vote of the Procedures Committee for a two-year term.

EEL Procedures Committee Duties and Responsibilities

1. Thoroughly evaluate the Volusia County Land Acquisition Plan for the purchase of environmentally endangered lands. (Task completed – 1990)
2. Modify the Volusia County plan to meet the needs of Brevard County. (Task completed – 1990)
3. Present to the Board for their approval a recommended program for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands following the Volusia County model. (Task completed – 1990)
4. Establish rules of procedures for the EEL Selection and Management Committee. (Task completed – 1990)
5. Reconvene, at least one time each fiscal year, to review EEL Program compliance to the LAM, discuss procedural issues as they relate to the implementation of the EEL Program, and review modifications to the LAM, as necessary.
6. Advise the EEL Selection and Management Committee and EEL staff regarding opportunities and recommendations for outside funding for acquisition and management of acquired lands.

EEL Selection and Management Committee

Membership shall consist of ten (10) members. Eight (8) members are appointed by the Board for a minimum term of two (2) years. Two additional voting seats are designated for one member of the Procedures Committee and one member of the Recreation and Education Advisory Committee as appointed by a majority vote from each member's committee. The Board of County Commissioners shall strive to maintain a committee membership that possesses a diversity of demonstrated expertise or experience to enhance the land acquisition and management goals of the EEL Program. The Board may appoint members that do not reside in the respective Commissioner's District. A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

All EEL Selection and Management Committee members shall:

1. Have a willingness to serve in a voluntary capacity.
2. Be willing to make a long-term commitment to the EEL Selection and Management Committee.

No further qualifications will be required for the member appointed through the TDC, EDC, Procedures Committee or Recreation Education Advisory Committee

All remaining EEL Selection and Management Committee members shall:

3. Have a four-year post-secondary academic degree (B.S. or equivalent) in biological or environmental sciences or demonstrated professional expertise (minimum six (6) years) in a closely related conservation field such as ecosystem management, natural resources conservation, aquatic biology, field ecology, marine biology,

botany, geology, hydrology, fire ecology, natural areas management, human use and recreation in natural areas, science education, or natural area sanctuary design.

4. Have demonstrated knowledge of Brevard County ecosystems and specific knowledge of the habitat types and conservation land management techniques.

