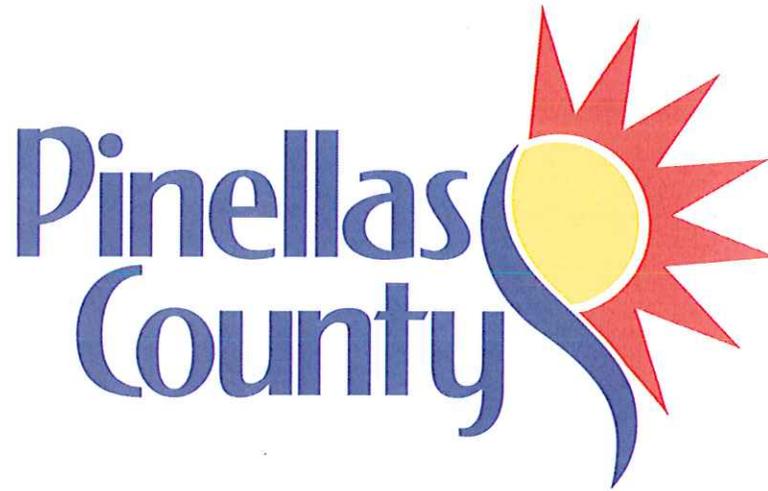


2012 Weedon Island Management Plan



2012 Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan Update



June 15, 2012

Prepared by
Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources

Approved by Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
March 13, 2012

Approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
Acquisition and Restoration Council, June 15, 2012



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
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Secretary

June 28, 2012

Ms. Pam Leasure
Environmental Program Manager
Office of Park Planning
Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774-3602

RE: Weedon Island Preserve - Lease numbers 3985 and 3376

Dear Ms. Leasure:

The Division of State Lands, Office of Environmental Services, acting as agent for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, hereby approves the Weedon Island Preserve land management plan. The next management plan update is due June 28, 2022.

Approval of this land management plan does not waive the authority or jurisdiction of any governmental entity that may have an interest in this project. Implementation of any upland activities proposed by this management plan may require a permit or other authorization from federal and state agencies having regulatory jurisdiction over those particular activities. Pursuant to the conditions of your lease, please forward copies of all permits to this office upon issuance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. S. Gengenbach". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marianne S. Gengenbach
Office of Environmental Services
Division of State Lands

MSG/ci

Management Plan Compliance Checklist - Conservation Lands

Requirements	Page Numbers
18-2.021 Acquisition and Restoration Council.	
1. Executive Summary (Example #1) This should be included in the packet and should be the first page. Management Plans. Plans submitted to the division for ARC review under the requirements of Section 253.034 F.S. should be in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the board and in accordance with the provisions of S. 259.032 and should contain where applicable to the management of resources the following:	i,ii
2. The common name of the property.	i
3. A map showing the location and boundaries of the property plus any structures or improvements to the property. (Example #2)	3,31,50
4. The legal description and acreage of the property.	Appendix 2
5. The degree of title interest held by the Board, including reservations and encumbrances such as leases.	1,5,6,11
6. The land acquisition program, if any, under which the property was acquired.	1,5
7. The designated single use or multiple use management for the property, including other managing agencies.	6
8. Proximity of property to other significant State/local/federal land or water resources. (Example #3) May be included in the map in item #2.	3
9. A statement as to whether the property is within an Aquatic Preserve or a designated Area of Critical State Concern or an area under study for such designation. If yes, make sure appropriate managing agencies are notified of the plan.	11
10. The location and description of known and reasonably identifiable renewable and non-renewable resources of the property including, but not limited to, the following:	
A. Brief description of soil types, using U. S. D. A. maps when available;	19,21,22,23
B. Archaeological and historical resources*;	28,29
C. Water resources including the water quality classification for each water body and the identification of any such water body that is designated as an Outstanding Florida Waters;	11
D. Fish and wildlife and their habitat;	Appendix 13 & 14 23-28
E. State and federally listed endangered or threatened species and their habitat;	Appendix 13 27
F. Beaches and dunes;	N/A
Swamps, marshes and other wetlands;	23-26
Mineral resources, such as oil, gas and phosphate;	N/A
I. Unique natural features, such as coral reefs, natural springs, caverns, large sinkholes, virgin timber stands, scenic vistas, and natural rivers and streams; and	19,20,26
J. Outstanding native landscapes containing relatively unaltered flora, fauna, and geological conditions.	N/A
11. A description of actions the agency plans, to locate and identify unknown resources such as surveys of unknown archeological and historical resources.	10,45,46
12. The identification of resources on the property that are listed in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Include letter from FNAI or consultant, where appropriate.	pages 23-28 Appendix 13
13. A description of past uses, including any unauthorized uses of the property. (Example #4)	28,29
14. A detailed description of existing and planned use(s) of the property. (Example #5)	Section 3&4
15. A description of alternative or multiple uses of the property considered by the managing agency and an explanation of why such uses were not adopted.	49,51
16. A detailed assessment of the impact of planned uses on the renewable and non-renewable resources of the property and a detailed description of the specific actions that will be taken to protect, enhance and conserve these resources and to mitigate damage caused by such uses.	46,47,51,52 Appendix 5
17. A description of management needs and problems for the property.	32-47
18. Identification of adjacent land uses that conflict with the planned use of the property, if any.	6
19. A description of legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of such property.	6,11
20. A finding regarding whether each planned use complies with the State Lands Management Plan adopted by the Trustees on March 17, 1981, and incorporated herein by reference, particularly whether such uses represent "balanced public utilization", specific agency statutory authority, and other legislative or executive	49,51
21. An assessment as to whether the property, or any portion, should be declared surplus.	32
22. Identification of other parcels of land within or immediately adjacent to the property that should be purchased because they are essential to management of the property. Clearly defined map of parcels can be used.	32
23. A description of the management responsibilities of each agency and how such responsibilities will be coordinated, including a provision that requires that the managing agency consult with the Division of Archives, History and Records Management before taking actions that may adversely affect archaeological or historic resources. (Example #6)	46
24. A statement concerning the extent of public involvement and local government participation in the development of the plan, if any, including a summary of comments and concerns expressed. (Example #7)	Pg.1 & Appendix 1

Management Plan Compliance Checklist - Conservation Lands

Requirements	Page Numbers
Additional Requirements—Per Trustees	
25. Letter of Compliance of the management plan with the Local Government Comprehensive Plan. Letter from local government saying that the plan is in compliance with local government's comprehensive plan.	Appendix 17
253.034 State-Owned Lands; Uses. —Each entity managing conservation lands shall submit to the Division of State Lands a land management plan at least every 10 years in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the Board.	
26. All management plans, whether for single-use or multiple-use properties, shall specifically describe how the managing entity plans to identify, locate, protect and preserve, or otherwise use fragile nonrenewable resources, such as archaeological and historic sites, as well as other fragile resources, including endangered plant and animal species.	8-10,30-47
27. The management plan shall provide for the conservation of soil and water resources and for the control and prevention of soil erosion.	32,33
28. Land management plans submitted by an entity shall include reference to appropriate statutory authority for such use or uses and shall conform to the appropriate policies and guidelines of the state land management plan.	1,6,11
29. All land management plans for parcels larger than 1,000 acres shall contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the parcel, which analysis shall include the potential of the parcel to generate revenues to enhance the management of the parcel.	56
30. Additionally, the land management plan shall contain an analysis of the potential use of private managers to facilitate the restoration or management of these lands.	30
31. A physical description of the land.	Section 2
32. A desired outcome	Section 3
33. A quantitative data description of the land which includes an inventory of forest and other natural resources; exotic and invasive plants; hydrological features; infrastructure, including recreational facilities; and other significant land, cultural, or historical features.	Section 2, Section 4, Section 5
34. A detailed description of each short-term and long-term land management goal, the associated measurable objectives, and the related activities that are to be performed to meet the land management objectives. Each land management objective must be addressed by the land management plan, and where practicable, no land management objective shall be performed to the detriment of the other land management activities.	8,9,10
35. A schedule of land management activities which contains short-term and long-term land management goals and the related measurable objectives and activities. The schedule shall include for each activity a timeline for completion, quantitative measures, and detailed expense and manpower budgets. The schedule shall provide a management tool that facilitates development of performance measures.	8,9,10
summary budget for the scheduled land management activities of the land management plan. For state lands containing or anticipated to contain imperiled species habitat, the summary budget shall include any fees anticipated from public or private entities for projects to offset adverse impacts to imperiled species or such habitats, which fees shall be used solely to restore, manage, enhance, repopulate, or acquire imperiled species habitat. The summary budget shall be prepared in such a manner that it facilitates computing an aggregate of land management costs for all state-managed lands using the categories described in s. 259.037(3).	56,57
37. Each management plan shall describe both short-term and long-term management goals, and include measurable objectives to achieve those goals. <i>Short-term and long-term management goals shall include measurable objectives for the following, as appropriate:</i>	
(A) <i>Habitat restoration and improvement;</i>	8,9
(B) <i>Public access and recreational opportunities;</i>	10
(C) <i>Hydrological preservation and restoration;</i>	8,9
(D) <i>Sustainable forest management;</i>	N/A
(E) <i>Exotic and invasive species maintenance and control;</i>	8,9
(F) <i>Capital facilities and infrastructure;</i>	10
(G) <i>Cultural and historical resources;</i>	9
(H) <i>Imperiled species habitat maintenance, enhancement, restoration, or population restoration</i>	8,9

Management Plan Compliance Checklist - Conservation Lands

Requirements	Page Numbers
253.036 Forest Management. —	
For all land management plans for parcels larger than 1,000 acres, the lead agency shall prepare the analysis, which shall contain a component or section prepared by a qualified professional forester which assesses the feasibility of managing timber resources on the parcel for resource conservation and revenue generation purposes through a stewardship ethic that embraces sustainable forest management practices if the lead management agency determines that the timber resource management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the parcel. (Example #8)	N/A
259.032 Conservation And Recreation Lands Trust Fund; Purpose. —	
(10)(a) State, regional or local governmental agencies or private entities designated to manage lands under this section shall develop and adopt, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, an individual management plan for each project designed to conserve and protect such lands and their associated natural resources. Private sector involvement in management plan development may be used to expedite the planning process.	
39. Individual management plans required by s. 259.032(10)(b), for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from an advisory group - Management plan should list advisory group members and affiliations.	Appendix 1
40. The advisory group shall conduct at least one public hearing in each county in which the parcel or project is located. Managing agency should provide DSL/OES with documentation showing date and location of public hearing.	Appendix 1
41. Notice of such public hearing shall be posted on the parcel or project designated for management, advertised in a paper of general circulation, and announced at a scheduled meeting of the local governing body before the actual public hearing. Managing agency should provide DSL/OES with copy of notice.	Appendix 1
42. The management prospectus required pursuant to 259.032 (9)(d) shall be available to the public for a period of 30 days prior to the public hearing.	Appendix 1
43. Summary of Advisory Group Meeting should be provided to DSL/OES.	Appendix 1
44. Individual management plans shall conform to the appropriate policies and guidelines of the state land management plan and shall include, but not be limited to:	6
A. A statement of the purpose for which the lands were acquired, the projected use or uses as defined in s. 253.034, and the statutory authority for such use or	6
B. Key management activities necessary to achieve the desired outcomes, including, but not limited to, providing public access, preserving and protecting natural resources, protecting cultural and historical resources, restoring habitat, protecting threatened and endangered species, controlling the spread of nonnative plants and animals, performing prescribed fire activities, and other appropriate resource management activities.	30-53
A specific description of how the managing agency plans to identify, locate, protect, and preserve, or otherwise use fragile, nonrenewable natural and cultural resources.	30-47
D. A priority schedule for conducting management activities, based on the purposes for which the lands were acquired. (Example #10) The schedule must include a goal, an objective, and a time frame for completion.	8,9,10
E. A cost estimate for conducting priority management activities, to include recommendations for cost-effective methods of accomplishing those activities. Using categories as adopted pursuant to 259.037, F.S., is suggested. These are: (1) Resource Management; (2) Administration; (3) Support; (4) Capital Improvements; (5) Visitor Services/Recreation; and (6) Law Enforcement.	56,57
F. A cost estimate for conducting other management activities which would enhance the natural resource value or public recreation value for which the lands were acquired. The cost estimate shall include recommendations for cost-effective methods of accomplishing those activities. Using categories as adopted pursuant to 259.037, F.S., is suggested. These are: (1) Resource Management; (2) Administration; (3) Support; (4) Capital Improvements; (5) Visitor Services/Recreation; and (6) Law Enforcement.(Example #10) Include approximate monetary cost and cost effective methods. Can be placed in the appendix.	56,57
45. A determination of the public uses and public access that would be consistent with the purposes for which the lands were acquired.	49-53
259.036 Management Review Teams.—	
46. The managing agency shall consider the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in finalizing the required 10-year update of its management plan. <i>Can be addressed in the body of the plan or addressed in an appendix. If not in agreement, the managing agency should reply in a statement in the appendix.</i>	Appendix 4 <small>Also Included in the body of the Plan</small>
Other Requirements	
47. This checklist table at front of plan (pursuant to request of ARC and consensus agreement of managing agencies.)	iii
48. Accomplishments (implementation) from last plan (format variable by agency)	30-47
49. FNAI-based natural community maps (may differ from FNAI in some cases)	24
50. Fire management plans (either by inclusion or reference)(259.032)	33-36
51. A statement regarding incompatible uses [ref. Ch. 253.034 (9)]	49,51
Cultural resources, including maps of all sites except Native American sites*	28,29,45,46
53. Arthropod control plan	Appendix 9

**Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan
Executive Summary
State of Florida Form**

Lead Agency: Pinellas County (Florida) Department of Parks and Conservation Resources

Common Name of Property: Weedon Island Preserve

Location: Pinellas County, Florida

Acreage Breakdown:

<i>Land Cover Classification</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Mangrove Swamp	2188.6
Bays and Estuaries	372.5
Seagrass	214
Scrubby Flatwoods	94.6
Xeric Hammock	83.8
Salt Marsh	71.4
Maritime Hammock	69.5
Developed	42.5
Impoundment	14.9
Coastal Berm	10.4
Saltern	9.8
Shell Mound	5.5
Marine Unconsolidated Substrate	4.9
Freshwater Pond	4.1
Mollusk Reef	1.9
Ruderal	1.5
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>3190.0</i>

Leases: No. 3985 Florida Internal Improvement Trust (1396 acres), No. 3376 Florida Internal Improvement Trust (1768 acres)

Use: Single use for conservation and protection of natural resources and for resource-based public outdoor activities and education that are compatible with the conservation and protection of this public land

Management Responsibilities: Pinellas County (Florida) Department of Parks and Conservation Resources, law enforcement by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, facility management of WIPCNHC by Department of Real Estate Management

Designated Use: Preserve

Sublease(s): None

Contract(s): Florida Progress Energy

Encumbrances: None

Type of Acquisition: Fee Simple for County-owned properties

Unique Features: Weedon Island Preserve is a dominant natural feature covering 5 miles along the western shoreline of Tampa Bay. This Preserve provides for over 3000 acres of natural and cultural resources while also supporting compatible public use.

The three-story Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center built in 2002, was designed with the help of Native Americans and keeps with their traditions. For example, the orientation of the Center in the Preserve is along the cardinal points of the compass (north, south, east, and west) with the entrance facing east. The Center supports the applied management and ecological monitoring objectives of the division through educational programming and volunteerism. The education program at the Center interprets the natural, cultural and archaeological history of the Preserve through interpretive tours and hikes, education programs, exhibits and public outreach activities, presentations and workshops, and other events

Archaeological/Historical: The islands, adjacent shoreline and uplands that comprise the Preserve are dotted with an impressive array of cultural features, including artifacts, which illustrate the land's significant role in virtually all historical cultures that define Florida's anthropological history. Some of these cultural features include a Native American burial mound and shell middens. Historic sites on Weedon Island are prevalent with many building remains and imprints from past activities such as airport runways and tower remains. Early settlers once occupied several of the islands and pilings from the buildings constructed during the 1920s are intact.

Management Needs: Restoration needed to improve the hydrology in mosquito ditched mangrove swamps. Continue control of exotic species and completion of prescribed burns. Boundary posting in the northern Preserve.

Acquisition Needs/Acreage: None

Surplus Lands/Acreage: None

Public Involvement: Management Plan Advisory Group and Public Hearing, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

**Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan
2012 Update**

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APPENDIX 7.	BOCC Strategic Plan & Strategic Business Plan 2007-2012
APPENDIX 8.	Pinellas County Recreation, Open Space and Culture System Master Plan
APPENDIX 9.	Arthropod Management Plan
APPENDIX 10.	Friends of Weedon Island Agreement
APPENDIX 11.	Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education Agreement
APPENDIX 12.	Site Use Agreement and Site Uses 2004 through 2011
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- R. Spencer Curtis, Sr. Extension Specialist, Pinellas County Extension
- Lyle Fowler, Operations Manager, Department of Parks and Conservation Resources
- Sandra Burton, Finance Manager, Department of Parks and Conservation Resources
- Mark Flock, Senior Environmental Specialist, Department of Environment and Infrastructure
- Keith Fischer, Fisheries Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

INTRODUCTION

Weedon Island Preserve is a 3190-ac. preserve that extends along Tampa Bay in central Pinellas County (Figure 1). It is the second largest preserve in Pinellas County and a dominant natural feature along the western shoreline of Tampa Bay (Figure 2). The Preserve extends in a northerly direction approximately five miles to the north of the Howard Frankland Bridge. The islands, adjacent shoreline and uplands that comprise the Preserve are dotted with an impressive array of cultural features, which illustrate the land's significant role in the historical cultures that define Florida's anthropological history. Some of these cultural features include a Native American burial mound and shell middens.

Weedon Island Preserve is managed by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) through the Department of Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR). Pinellas County entered into three lease agreements with the Board of Trustees of the Florida Internal Improvement Trust Fund (FIITF) of the State of Florida. It is most efficient to manage all adjacent preserved lands comprehensively. Therefore, this management plan recognizes Weedon Island Preserve as consisting of lands leased by the State (Leases #3985 and #3376), parcels owned by Pinellas County, and parcels licensed by agreement with Progress Energy Florida (PEF) to provide for the management of natural and cultural resources (Figure 3).

The southern part of the Preserve, approximately 1672 ac., is comprised of land owned by the State (Lease #3985), the County, and PEF. This portion of the Preserve offers recreational opportunities compatible with the conservation of the natural and cultural resources. The northern part of the Preserve, approximately 1518 ac., is comprised of land owned by the State (Lease #3376), and is predominantly mangrove forest that has been altered with a network of mosquito ditches.

The initial Weedon Island Preserve Management Plan was written by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Recreation and Parks and approved in March 1990. The first update was written by the Pinellas County Park Department and approved in February 1993. The second update was written by the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Lands Division and approved in April 2002. As part of current update the Weedon Island Preserve Advisory Group was established in accordance with 259.032(10) (b), Florida Statutes (F.S.) to provide final public input for the Plan. Appendix 1 lists all participants and provides minutes from the public hearing. This update to the plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction in the management of the Weedon Island Preserve by PCR.



Figure 1. Location of Weedon Island Preserve, Pinellas County, Florida



Figure 2. Weedon Island Preserve Boundary Map

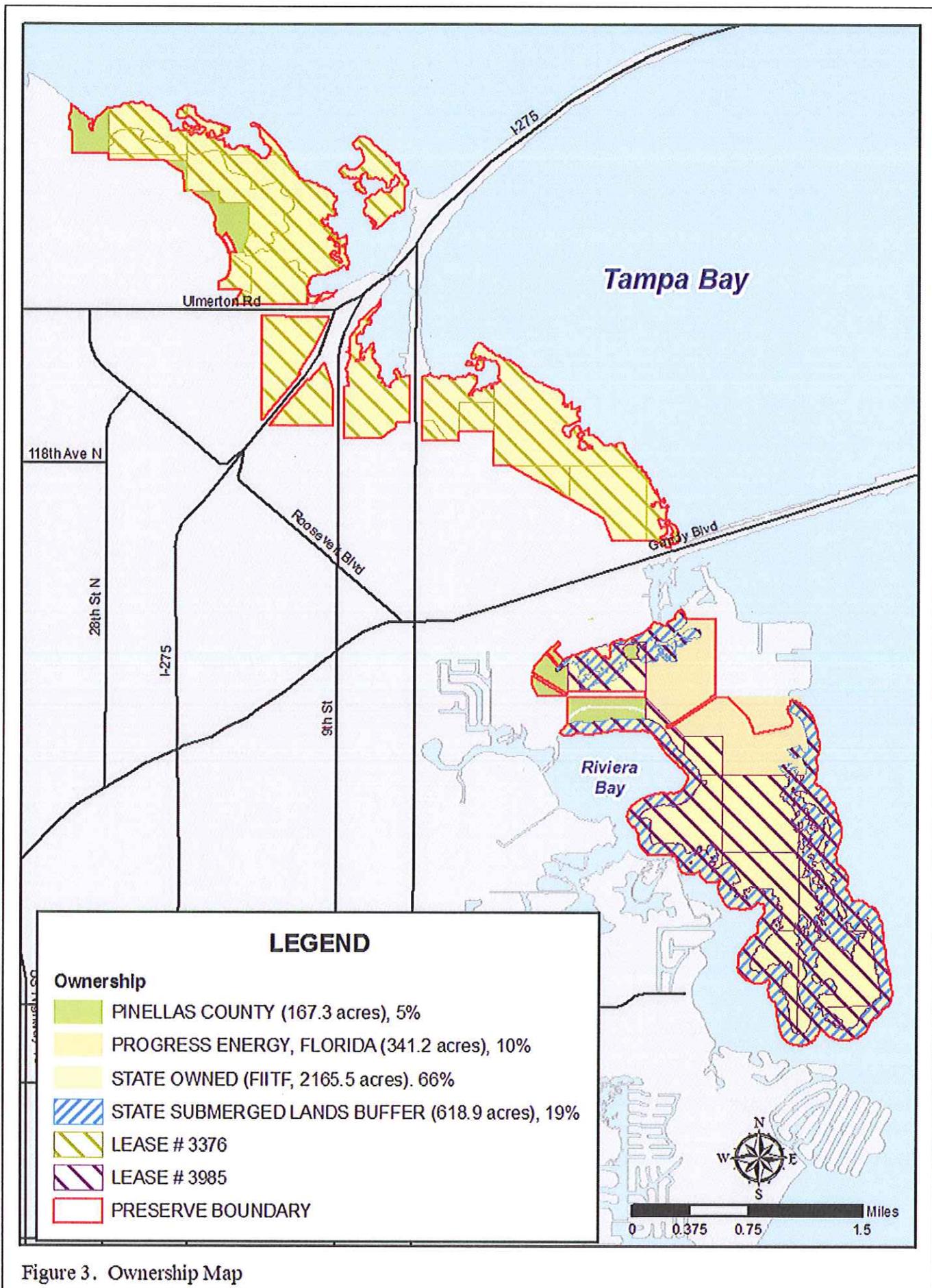


Figure 3. Ownership Map