

**HERNANDO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTALLY
SENSITIVE LANDS (ESL) ACQUISITION
NOMINATION APPLICATION**



The County's ESL mission is to preserve the County's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, while enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations

Nomination Application Instructions

The nomination application is available via PDF. You will need Adobe Reader on your personal computer (PC) to access the application. If you do not have this program on your PC, it is available as a free download. The option for download will appear when you try to open the form (again if you do not already have it on your computer). You have the option of filling out the application on Adobe or printing it and filling it out by hand. You can also go to the local library to get help downloading the application and accessing the website; in addition you can come to the Hernando County Planning Department for a hard copy of the form.

1. The *Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Manual* provides guidance for the evaluation of parcels proposed for acquisition. Please review the manual online at the Hernando County Planning Department's website, and use it as a guideline for what the County is looking for in acquisition of lands for the program.
2. Upon submittal the application will be reviewed by County Staff. After Staff review the application will be submitted to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee (ESLC) for review.
3. Only those nominated properties that have willing sellers will be considered for acquisition.
4. Provide complete answers; incomplete applications may be declined from County review.
5. For assistance with information compilation please contact the Hernando County Environmental Planning Department Staff. (352) 754-4057

Complete the application and return the original and (2) two copies to:

Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program
Hernando County Planning Department
20 North Main St., Room 262
Brooksville, FL 34601

A. LEGAL DESCRIPTION

1. Property Name: _____ (example: Smith Property)

2. Property Location: Section _____, Township _____ SOUTH, Range _____ EAST.
Street Address of Subject Property:

3. Owner(s) of record of proposed property. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

4. If different from owner information, the applicant or contact person:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

5. County Key Number: _____

6. Is this nomination being made by an agency or a nonprofit organization? *YES or NO.* _____

7. Are there other funds available to assist in the purchase of the site? *YES or NO.* If yes, please explain (include any donation or transfer of property or property rights):

8. Are you aware of any liens against the property? *YES or NO.* If yes, please explain: _____

9. Have any easements or encroachments been established on the property? *YES or NO or UNKNOWN.* If yes, please explain:

10. Total Land Area: _____ acres. Total number of parcels: _____. Please indicate the acreage of each parcel: *PARCEL ACRES*

11. Please attach a legal description or property tax card and any available survey showing boundaries of the property, existing streets, buildings, watercourses, easements, section lines and any deed restrictions or encumbrances, as applicable. Applications made by property owners should include a copy of the deed.

12. Have any waste management or disposal activities been conducted on the property? *YES or NO or UNKNOWN.* If yes, please explain in the narrative required in Section C.4.

B. VALUATION

1. Do you have an estimated fair market value? *YES or NO*. Attach documentation such as an appraisal, if available.
2. Attach documentation of current assessed value from the Hernando County Property Appraiser's Office.
3. Attach any available documentation of owner's willingness to arrange transfer of the property.

C. SITE NARRATIVE

1. Provide a map with sufficient detail to locate the property in the field. Property boundaries must be clearly depicted. Recent aerial maps with landmarks depicted will be appropriate.
2. Photographs or videos depicting the characteristics of the property may be provided by the applicant.
3. Provide a brief narrative which discusses why the project should be considered as environmentally sensitive land. The narrative should address the attached ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND CRITERION GUIDELINES which apply to this property.
4. Provide a narrative which describes historic and current uses of the property. Such uses may include but not be limited to dredge and fill activities, structural improvements, mineral extraction, waste management activities, and agricultural development. Provide copies of any soil or farm management plans, if available.
5. Persons acting as an agent for the property owner must attach an affidavit to that effect.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS CRITERION GUIDELINES

The following criterion will be used as a guide for the evaluations of property upon receipt of a complete application for Nomination.

1. Located within an ecologically functional greenways/wildlife corridors.
2. Supports prime examples of ecological communities native to Hernando County and/or significant features as identified in Section (1) (C) of the Manual.
3. Supports exceptional biodiversity - sites which represent several ecological communities or exhibit high species diversity within an ecological community native to Hernando County.
4. Manageability - feasible to manage in a fashion that will protect and enhance the resource.
5. Feasibility of acquisition - ownership patterns, property restrictions or other conditions should not pose significant barriers.
6. Surrounding land use - the current land use of adjacent property should be compatible with the proposed management and preservation of the site as environmentally sensitive.
7. Development - When sites are in imminent danger of development, they should receive preference for purchase.
8. Size - large sites generally are preferable to small ones because they are better able to encompass a diversity of resources and a mixture of uses. Exceptions include smaller sites that support highly imperiled species that function as greenway/wildlife corridors or otherwise play an important role in maintaining physical connectivity among conserved lands. These exceptions are not required to be depicted on the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map.
9. Other methods of protection - sites which receive substantial protection by other strategies should be considered.
10. Rarity - vegetative communities which are poorly represented in public ownership should receive preference. These communities include those species which, while not currently listed, are known to be poorly represented in the state or county.
11. Consistency with Comprehensive Plan - the property satisfies a goal, objective, or policy of the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

12. Location - the site has proximity to other resources which would heighten its value as a sensitive land or is within an area of long range planning with the objective of preserving greenway/wildlife corridors between existing protected resources. The property is within the mapped designation of environmentally sensitive lands as described in Section 2.
13. Historical/archaeological/paleontological resources - must satisfy the criteria provided in Section 1.
14. Hydrology - the property is critical to preserving hydrologic integrity of significant natural systems and/or contributes substantially to recharge of the Floridan Aquifer.
15. Adjacent to existing conservation lands.